

CANADA.

No. 7.

(No. 249.)

No. 7.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Earl GREY to Governor-General the Right Hon. the Earl of ELGIN AND KINCARDINE.

MY LORD,

Downing-street, July 7, 1848.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's Despatch of the 15th June, No. 81, reporting the apprehension which is generally entertained in Canada, lest the proposed measure for the amendment of the Navigation Laws should not ultimately receive the sanction of Parliament.

I hasten to assure your Lordship, that Her Majesty's Servants are fully sensible of the extreme importance to Canada of the measure which is now under the consideration of the Legislature, and that they entertain a confident hope that it will pass into a law.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) GREY.

The Earl of Elgin and Kincardine,
&c. &c. &c.

No. 8.

(No. 82.)

No. 8.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor-General the Right Hon. the Earl of ELGIN AND KINCARDINE to Earl GREY.

Government House, Montreal,
June 15, 1848.

MY LORD,

(Received July 6, 1848.)

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the purpose of being presented, addresses to Her Majesty the Queen and the two Houses of the Imperial Parliament, on the subject of the Navigation Laws, adopted at a public meeting, held on the 13th instant, of the inhabitants of Montreal.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) ELGIN AND KINCARDINE.

The Right Hon. Earl Grey,
&c. &c. &c.

Encl. in No. 8.

Enclosure in No. 8.

TO HER MAJESTY VICTORIA, QUEEN OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND, &c. &c.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY,

WE, your Majesty's loyal subjects, the citizens of Montreal, in the province of Canada, in public meeting assembled,

DO MOST HUMBLY REPRESENT,

That, in the opinion of your petitioners, all protection being shortly to be withdrawn from Canadian grain and flour in the British markets, it has become a matter of absolute necessity to the future prosperity of Canada, to endeavour to obtain, without delay, from the Imperial Authorities the abrogation, so far as regards this colony, of the restrictive policy of the British Navigation Laws, and the removal of every obstruction in the free navigation of the St. Lawrence by foreign vessels.

That the restriction under which the colonist has hitherto been placed of employing British or colonial craft exclusively for the transport of his produce from one Canadian port to another, or from Canada to any part of the British dominions, has, in the peculiar circumstances of this province, greatly enhanced the cost of freight, and thus operated as a heavy tax on the producer; and, although it was not objected to so long as it was deemed the equivalent for advantages enjoyed by him over the foreigner in British markets, yet now that those advantages have been materially reduced, and in some instances entirely removed, or are on the eve of being so, the continuance of such restrictions would be viewed by your petitioners as an excessive hardship.

That the permanent abrogation of the Navigation Laws would highly conduce to the welfare of Canada, and assist in the developement of its resources, is clearly evinced by the new branches of commerce which sprang up simultaneously with their temporary suspension last year, but which have altogether ceased with their revival, numerous foreign vessels having during that brief period of suspension arrived, loaded with foreign emigrants, who availed themselves of the St. Lawrence as the most convenient route to their destination, whereby the rates of ocean freights were reduced, the revenue from public works increased, and every class of the community benefited.

That there is the strongest ground for apprehension, should the British Navigation Laws continue in force after the protection to Canadian grain and flour in Great Britain is with-