

Had I been aware that it was the intention of the Finance Minister to propose any alteration in the timber duties, I should have considered it incumbent upon me, as entrusted with the government of a province whose interests are deeply at stake, to represent forcibly to the Government, in a timely manner, that no alteration could be made in the ratio of duties, whether by raising those on British timber, or by lowering those on the foreign article, or in any way destroying the present scale, without injuring, or totally ruining the British North American timber trade; but as such an intention was not suffered to transpire, it would have been unnecessary, and indeed out of place, to renew the representations which I had previously made to the Colonial Department on this important matter. The measure being now, however, brought forward for discussion, there is no alternative, short of my neglecting to advocate those interests, but to submit, forcibly, in this shape, whether any financial or fiscal measures can be considered paramount to the great objects, in national policy, which we should pursue, by a continued protection of the Colonial Trade.

It will occasion me infinite regret should any member of His Majesty's Government, and particularly the Noble Secretary in whose department I was serving, consider that this