

So far as revenue merely is concerned, I submit to your Lordship, that it would be far more convenient that the duties should be imposed by one set of enactments only, and that as they would affect colonial interests only, or at least as far as that would be the case, they should be imposed by colonial enactments.

Any legislation in the colony, with this view, must of course be preceded by a change in the Imperial enactments. But if such change were made, the recommendation of Her Majesty's Government, as to the principles on which a colonial tariff should be based in the present state of affairs, would, I am sure, be gratefully received by the Canadian Parliament. While a tariff is on the one hand indispensable to Canada as a source of revenue, until canal tolls and other present or future sources yield an amount equal to the public exigencies, it is most desirable that its character should be such as will be least burdensome to the agriculturists, the principal consumers, and least discouraging to the commercial portion of the province. The experience of Her Majesty's Ministers on such important points would be a safe and desirable guide for any measure that the Provincial Government might bring before the Legislature.

In considering the subject of duties as heretofore existing, I have had occasion to observe that there are some articles of import being foreign produce, the cost of which is materially enhanced by the necessity of importing them, either in the vessels of the country of which they are the products, or in British vessels; and I would, in connexion with the foregoing remarks, invite your Lordship's attention to the propriety of a modification of existing laws in this respect also, as tending to increase the consumption of such articles in Canada, by reducing their cost, and thereby adding to the provincial revenue.

Some of the suggestions which I have thus offered to your Lordship would, if carried out, have a direct tendency to counteract the American policy of drawing the trade of Canada through their territory, while they would also render imposition of duties merely for the purpose of excluding foreign products, less wished for by particular classes of Her Majesty's Canadian subjects.

I have, &c.

(signed) Cathcart.

— No. 6. —

(No. 131.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor the Earl Cathcart, K. C. B. to Earl Grey.

My Lord,

Government House, Montreal,
16 September 1846.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, at the request of the Toronto Board of Trade, a memorial to Her Majesty, which the memorialists are desirous of having laid at the foot of the throne, praying for the repeal of the Imperial differential duties on the imports of Canada, and of the Navigation Laws, so far as regards the River St. Lawrence, and the inland waters of Canada.

No. 6.
Governor Earl
Cathcart to Earl
Grey.
16 Sept. 1846.

I have, &c.

(signed) Cathcart.

Enclosure in No. 6.

TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

May it please Your Majesty,

The Petition of the Toronto Board of Trade,

Most humbly sheweth,

THAT by the provisions of the Navigation Laws of Your Majesty's kingdom, the carrying trade of the exports and imports of Canada to and from Great Britain and Ireland, or any British possession in Asia, Africa or America is confined to British ships; in consequence of which restriction serious loss and inconvenience are at present imposed upon the inhabitants of this province.

Your petitioners having carefully considered the operation of the said laws upon the commercial and agricultural interests of Canada, feel called on to state, that prior to the alterations

Encl. in No. 6.