

is much greater than is paid by the inhabitants of the United States; and that without a measure of protection, or some equivalent advantage, we cannot successfully compete with that country.

It therefore becomes our duty, as faithful subjects of your Majesty, to point out what we sincerely believe must be the result of measures which have for their object the repeal of the laws affording protection to the Canadian export trade. First, it will discourage those at present engaged in agricultural pursuits from extending their operations; secondly, it will prevent the influx of respectable emigrants from the mother country, who have for many years past settled in large numbers on the waste lands of the Province, and who by their industry and capital have materially contributed to that rapid advancement of the country which we have before noticed; and, lastly, it is much to be feared that, should the inhabitants of Canada, from the withdrawal of all protection to their staple products, find that they cannot successfully compete with their neighbours of the United States in the only market open to them, they will naturally and of necessity begin to doubt whether remaining a portion of the British Empire will be of that paramount advantage which they have hitherto found it to be. These, we humbly submit, are considerations of grave importance both to your Majesty and the people of this Province; and we trust we need not assure your Majesty that any change which would tend in the remotest degree to weaken the ties that have for so many years, and under trying circumstances, bound the people of Canada to that land which they are proud to call their mother country, would be viewed as the greatest misfortune which could befall them.

We would further remind your Majesty that while, in compliance with the recommendation of the Imperial Government, we have passed a law repealing all duty on American produce coming through our country for exportation, no similar advantage is accorded by the American Government to the people of this Province; but that duties, amounting in most cases to prohibition, are rigorously maintained by that Government on every article of ours entering into their ports. The disadvantage we must labour under in this respect is so apparent that we respectfully request your Majesty will be pleased to cause the necessary steps to be taken for opening a negotiation with the Government of the United States for the admission of our products into their ports on the same terms that theirs are admitted into those of Great Britain and this colony.

We also humbly request that your Majesty will favourably consider the justice of admitting the products of this Province generally into the Imperial ports free of duty, as the expense of transportation is in itself all the protection which our fellow-subjects in the United Kingdom can reasonably expect as respects the imports from a colony situated at such a distance from the mother country, and with ports closed to commerce for so large a portion of the year. And we the more confidently appeal to your Majesty's justice upon this point as the relief that we seek in this particular is in strict accordance with the very principles upon which the changes that we deprecate are based, as well as to the assurance received through your Majesty's Secretary of State, that it is the desire of your Majesty's Government that the trade of Canada should in all respects approach as nearly to perfect freedom as the wishes of its inhabitants and the exigencies of the public revenue may permit.

While the subject that we have thus brought under the notice of your Majesty embraces other points requiring the gravest deliberation, and calling for the most favourable consideration on the part of the Imperial authorities, your Majesty's faithful Commons have felt it to be their duty to your Majesty, to the Imperial Parliament and the mother country, and to their own constituents, to lose no time in at once approaching your Majesty with the declaration of their views upon that part of it embraced in their present address, and to which, renewing their assurance of devoted attachment to your Majesty's person and Government, they earnestly entreat your Majesty's most gracious and favourable consideration.

Legislative Assembly,  
Tuesday, 12th May 1846.

(signed) A. N. Morin,  
Speaker.

— No. 2. —

(No. 83.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable W. E. Gladstone, to  
Governor the Earl Cathcart, K. C. B.

No. 2.

Mr. Secretary  
Gladstone to  
Governor Earl  
Cathcart,  
3 June 1846.

My Lord,

Downing-street, 3 June 1846.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch, No. 54, of the 13th of May, transmitting to me, for presentation to Her Majesty, an address which has been voted by Her Majesty's loyal subjects the Commons of Canada. In this address it is set forth, that the Assembly of Canada regard the adoption of the principle of commercial intercourse now under the consideration of the Imperial Parliament with serious apprehension and alarm, and various grounds are stated for entertaining such impressions. Her Majesty has been pleased to receive this address with the fullest confidence in the loyalty and intelligence of Her faithful Commons of Canada; but it is with sincere concern that