

Despatch.

had taken full effect before the end of 1843. I sub-join a statement of the number of loads of Timber brought to *England* from the Colonies in each of the last ten years, and of the number of loads of Deals brought hither in each of the last three years, during which period alone, that mode of computation has been pursued, so far as relates to this branch of Wood Trade.

The increased facilities of internal transit in this country, independently of the very great temporary demand connected with the construction of the Railways that are to effect this great improvement, promise a considerable and permanent extension of the market for foreign Wood, an extension likely to be accelerated, unless it be as to *Scotland*, by the progressive diminution of the home growth of Timber through the United Kingdom.

The description of Wood supplied by the British North American Colonies—the Yellow Pine—is not chiefly to be regarded as competing with the Wood of the *Baltic*, but rather as available for different, though concurrent uses. For example—the increase of *Baltic* Timber, tending to encourage the construction of new buildings, by supplying the best material for particular portions of them, has an effect, not in limiting, but in extending the demand for Canadian Timber, as furnishing the cheapest and most convenient material for other portions,—namely, the inward fittings of the very same fabrics.

Her Majesty's Government are not indeed prepared to assert, that the question of the relation between the Duty on Foreign Timber, and the Colonial Wood Trade ought to be adjusted with reference to this consideration alone, and you will perceive that they propose to retain a duty of 15s. per load upon Foreign Timber, which I apprehend may be considered as, upon the average, nearly covering the differ-

ence between Freights from the *Baltic*, and those from British *North America* to the United Kingdom.

Not only are they free from the apprehension that the proposed remission of 10s. per load on Foreign Timber, and 12s. on Foreign Deals, will cause a contraction of the Trade from British *North America*, but they are sanguine in the anticipation that that Trade will continue, notwithstanding the proposed change, to extend itself.

The reduction of the Duty on Colonial Timber and Deals to a nominal amount, which took place in 1842, involved the sacrifice of a considerable Revenue, and that sacrifice may, I trust, have tended and may still serve to convince the inhabitants of *Canada*, that it has been the earnest desire of Her Majesty, in affording relief to Her people at home, by the changes effected in the Commercial Laws of the Empire, to obviate, as far as possible, the inconveniences, and to extend the benefits which those changes might tend to produce for other portions of Her Subjects.

This country has taken upon itself the serious task of reforming its own Commercial System, in opposition to what appears to be the prevailing disposition among other nations, and to bear testimony to the world, and to put in action the powerful influence of example in favour of sound principles of Trade. Her Majesty's Government trusts that the efforts of the British Legislature in this respect may be seconded, their range extended, and the example rendered yet more impressive, not only by the acquiescence, but by the approval and the active co-operation of the Legislatures and the inhabitants of the Colonies.

I have, &c.

(Signed,) W. E. GLADSTONE.

Lieut. General

The Earl Cathcart, K. C. B.,
&c. &c. &c. *Canada*.

SCHEDULE of certain ARTICLES of AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE OF THE BRITISH DOMINIONS ABROAD,
with the present and proposed Duties thereon, on Importation into the United Kingdom.

				Present Duty.	Proposed Duty.
				£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Pearled Barley	...	per cwt.	...	0 2 6	0 0 6
Butter	...	do	...	0 5 0	0 2 6
Buckwheat	...	per quarter	...	6d. to 0 2 6	0 1 0
Cheese	...	per cwt.	...	0 2 6	0 1 6
Hams	...	do	...	0 3 6	0 2 0
Hops	...	do	...	4 10 0	2 5 0
Maize or Indian Corn	...	do	...	From 6d. to 0 2 6	0 1 0
Do (Meal)	...	do	...	Prohibited, ...	0 0 4½
Potato Flour	...	do	...	...	0 1 0
Skins, manufactured	...	...	...	10 per cent. ad valorem,	5 per cent. ad valorem.
Starch	...	per cwt.	...	0 5 0	and after the 1st Feb., 1849, 0 2 6
Tallow	...	do	...	0 0 3	0 0 1
Tongues	...	do	...	0 2 6	0 2 0
Seeds, Canary	...	per bushel	...	0 2 0	per cwt ... 0 2 6
Seeds, Carraway	...	...	...	...	...
Do Carrot	...	per cwt.	...	0 5 0	0 2 6
Do Clover	...	...	...	...	...
Do Leek	...	...	...	0 10 0	0 2 6
Do Onions	...	...	...	...	...
Mustard	...	per bushel	...	0 0 6	per cwt ... 0 7 2
Other Seeds	...	...	...	5 per cent. ad valorem	2½ per cent. ad valorem.
Animals, living	...	...	...	Various rates ...	Free.
Bacon	...	per cwt.	...	0 3 6	...
Beef	...	do	...	0 2 0	...
Cranberries	...	per gallon	...	0 0 1	...
Hay	...	per load	...	0 8 0	Free.
Salted Meat not otherwise described	...	per cwt.	...	0 2 0	...
Pork, salted, (not Hams)	...	do	...	0 2 0	...
Potatoes	...	do	...	0 0 1	...
Other Vegetables	...	...	...	2½ per cent. ad valorem	...