

the dealer in this Province cannot be apprised until his purchases have been prepared and perhaps even shipped, according to the old regulations, must necessarily occasion him loss and damage. Instances of injury of this kind are known to have heretofore occurred. All that is strictly needful on the part of Lower Canada, for the future protection of our speculators in Ashes and produce, is to suspend the operation of new laws relating to inspection for twelve months, or other reasonable time; and in the mean while transmit copies of such laws to the Government of this Province, for publication in the Gazette. It is a fair presumption that the information and knowledge which may be got from the exporting merchants at the sea ports relative to foreign markets, will always enable the Legislature of Lower Canada to enact the most judicious and proper regulations for the inspection of our produce, and it is under such circumstances for the common benefit that our shipments should remain subject to such legislative control on the part of Lower Canada. We shall only have cause of complaint when that province proceeds to the revisal of her inspection laws without regard to the immediate effects on Upper Canadian interests.

6. The Revisal of the Tariff of Duties levied on goods imported by the Saint Lawrence.

The alterations in the general trade of Canada, and in the consumption of dutiable commodities in each of the Provinces, may possibly, be found, on due enquiry, to call for a modification of the specific duties.

For the protection of Upper Canada, a particular manner of proceeding in the abolition of existing duties levied under provincial authority, and in the imposition of other duties, is provided by the statute 3rd Geo. IV. ch. 119.

The 28th Section enacts that the existing duties "shall be payable and shall be levied according to the provisions contained in any such (Provincial) acts, until any act or acts for repealing or altering the said duties or any part thereof respectively, shall be passed by the Legislative Council and assembly of the said Province of Lower Canada, and until such act or acts repealing or altering such duties, shall after a copy thereof has been transmitted to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor or Person administering the government of the Province of Upper Canada, be laid before both Houses of the Imperial Parliament according to the forms and Provisions of 31st. Geo. 3rd. ch. 31. and the Royal assent thereto proclaimed within Lower Canada."

By the 29th. Section, it is provided that no act of the Legislature of Lower Canada imposing new duties on articles imported by Sea, whereby this Province may be directly or indirectly affected, shall be valid, until laid before the Imperial Parliament and communicated to the Government of this Province within one month from the time of presenting the same for the Royal assent, it being at the same time declared that if the Legislature of this Province should signify its concurrence in the act, before it shall have been presented for the Royal assent, it shall not be necessary to lay it before the Imperial Parliament.

Much stress was on a former occasion laid by the Arbitrator for Lower Canada on the matter contained in a petition by the Quebec Committee of Trade to the Legislature of that Province in the Year 1832. From the manner in which the Committee itself urged the reduction of the duties on certain descriptions of Merchandize, an inference was perhaps intended that the Upper Canadian trader alone was induced by the State of the law to "derive part of his supplies of certain articles from the United States." Considering that such an inference would not be warranted at least by the present actual circumstances of the trade, I have endeavoured to procure authentic information respecting the recent importations into both Provinces of the articles particularly adverted to in the Quebec Petition. The paper marked (Q) exhibits the total importations from the United States into this Province of Coffee, Molasses and Sugar in the Years 1833, 1834, 1835. By reference to the papers marked P. J. & N. it will be seen that with respect to Coffee especially, the importation into Lower Canada is in a state of rapid increase, and that it is at the present time nearly equal to the importation of that article by sea.

The Quebec Committee of Trade, naturally anxious for the prosperity of the Gulf trade, proceed in their Petition to set forth the advantages which they conceive would be derived from a reduction, wholly or in part, of the following duties.

- 1st. Taking off the whole of the Provincial duty on coffee.
- 2nd. Taking off the whole of the Provincial duty on Molasses.
- 3rd. Taking off the whole of the Provincial duty on Salt, the produce of, and direct importation from the United Kingdom or her colonies.
- 4th. Reducing the Provincial duty on Muscovado Sugar from 4s. 8d. currency per cwt to 2s. 6d. currency.
- 5th. Reducing the Provincial duty on Refined Sugar from 1d. to ½d per lb.
- 6th. Taking off the duty on Tea.

Were all the alterations in the duties thus prayed for by the Quebec Committee to be determined on, they would certainly occasion a very material diminution of the public income. The probable effect therefore