

## MEMORIAL OF MERCHANTS OF QUEBEC

To the Right Honourable LORD AUCKLAND, President, and the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Privy Council for Trade and Plantations ;

The MEMORIAL of the COMMITTEE of TRADE of *Quebec*, representing the Merchants thereof,

Humbly Showeth,

That your Memorialists have learned with the greatest alarm, that it has been proposed in the Imperial Parliament to take into consideration during the present session, the existing scale of duties on Lumber, with a view to an alteration prejudicial to the North American Trade :

That the duties as they stand at present afford but a bare protection to the trade, and that any such change must put an end to it :

That the Lumber-trade is the most valuable and extensive trade enjoyed by the North American Colonies, and that the loss of it will be attended with the most disastrous consequences to the inhabitants generally, and bring upon many utter ruin :

That capital to a very considerable amount has been invested in the trade, both by merchants in *Quebec*, and by inhabitants throughout every part of the country, to form the establishments indispensably requisite for carrying it on. In *Quebec* for the security of the Lumber, and of the ships while loading in the strong tideway of the river St. Lawrence, and throughout the country in erecting saw mills, forming log-ponds, and in building craft for the transport of deals ; most of which works are of great cost, many forming the only hope and dependence of their proprietors, and all useless for other purposes :

That the Lumber-trade is of the utmost consequence to the poorer inhabitants of the country, furnishing to a very large number their only means of support during the severity of our long winter, particularly after seasons of bad crops, (which in the lower province is of frequent occurrence,) and to the young men, and the new settlers, the most ready way of enabling them to establish themselves on lands :

That emigration from the mother country to the Canadas has been increasing annually :

That in the year 1829 it amounted to	- -	15,945 persons,
And in the year 1830	- - - -	28,100.

And that should the present state of extreme distress of the labouring classes of Great Britain and Ireland unhappily continue, emigration must go on increasing to a very considerable extent, offering as it does the most immediate and effectual means of relief :

That on this score the Lumber-trade is all important to the mother country, to the emigrants, and to the provinces, as affording prompt means of employment on their arrival to the poor emigrants for their immediate support, and enabling those who are frugal and industrious, in a short time to establish themselves on lands :

It is important to the inhabitants of the provinces, as relieving them from the severe pressure of a constant flow of needy strangers by the work so afforded them. And most important and consolatory to His Majesty's Government in their paternal care, and to the gentlemen of Great Britain and Ireland, in sending forth their poor countrymen to find an asylum in the Canadas, that such ready means exist of obtaining employment for them, and that it is in their power to maintain this desirable state of things. Every part of the country, but most especially, the new settlements in the neighbourhood of *Quebec*, and the River *Ottawa*, afford abundant proofs of the benefits which have been derived from the Lumber-trade.

That thus it is the means of retaining as settlers in the Canadas a vast body of emigrants, who would otherwise be driven for immediate occupation to the United States :

That moreover the extensive amount of tonnage employed in the Trade affords the means of cheap transport to emigrants, nor have they far to travel from  
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