

Together with the amount of duty levied at the same time upon any similar articles, the produce of and imported from the United Kingdom and other British possessions. Connected as our fisheries were with our own prosperity, if any protecting duty was justifiable, it would be one on foreign fish ; in removing the prohibition on the importation of foreign fish into the West Indies, therefore, he should impose a duty of not less than 25 per cent. Tea, the importation of which was prohibited in the West Indies and British North America, except direct from England, would be admitted on payment of a duty equal to one-tenth of the duties imposed in the colony into which it was imported. This would prevent the smuggling which the present system created in Canada. Owing to a blunder, he believed, in an act of Parliament, West India rum paid 6d. a gallon higher duty than that brought from the East Indies : Mr. Labouchere was for equalizing the duties on East India rum in all places. And he should allow the Channel Islands, which could at present export their produce to this country free of duty, to take it on the same terms to the Colonies, where it was prohibited. Mr. Labouchere believed that no interest would suffer by the change proposed. Those connected with the provision-trade in the South of Ireland, had made abundance of representations to the effect that they should be injured ; but great alterations had taken place in the condition of that trade since the regulations now in force had been established ; formerly the stock-grower of the South of Ireland could only dispose of it in the shape of salt meat ; but since the increased facility of steam communication, he could dispose of his live stock in South Wales, and even in London. Pork, which used to be sold at 25s. the hundred-weight, had risen to 30s. and 35s. ; and beef had risen from 10s. to 15s. It would therefore be a hardship still to confine the West India consumer to that market. Nor did Mr. Labouchere think that the interest of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick would suffer ; they would not suffer from the competition of the United States, because so far from the wood goods of the States having any superiority over those of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, the United States were the best market for the produce of those Colonies ; and it would be of great advantage to the West Indian to be able to avoid the additional expense caused by his having to procure his wood through the United States.

The sentiments expressed by Mr. Labouchere in the preceding speech will be received with great pleasure in these Colonies, and the proposed changes in the duties will be on the whole advantageous to their interests. The duty on tea will be too high to prevent smuggling, in fact the duty at present levied on tea imported

from England is that, considering that tea is imported into the United States free. The whole duty in Canada must not exceed 8d. per pound if smuggling is to be stopped ; indeed at that duty it would almost pay to smuggle tea from the United States, where they pay none. At 1d. per lb. the duty on a box of tea would amount to from 15s. to 27s. 6d., according to its quantity, and would therefore pay the smuggler. It will be impossible to maintain higher duty on tea in Canada while the United States import it free, than 3d. per lb.

The West India Islands will receive their supplies of flour, and probably of pork and beef, from the United States under the proposed tariff, but the North American Provinces will still supply them with lumber and fish. Altho' part of the West India trade will be diverted, yet we think that the other advantages of the new scale of duties will far more than compensate for that difference.

A deputation from the Montreal Board of Trade waited on His Excellency the Governor General, with Memorials and Petitions from Montreal, Quebec, and Bytown on the subject of a rumoured alteration of the Timber Duties in England, to which His Excellency was pleased to make the following reply :—

} GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
} Montreal, 21st April, 1841.

Sir,

I am commanded by the Governor General to acknowledge the receipt of a Memorial from the Board of Trade of Quebec, which you have transmitted, upon the subject of the timber duties levied in the United Kingdom ; and His Excellency further directs me to take this opportunity of formally acknowledging two Memorials upon the same subject—one from the Board of Trade of this City, and the other from Bytown, which have been presented to him at interviews at which you were present.

No official intelligence has been received by the Governor General of an intention to propose to Parliament a change in the Duties affecting Timber, but it is not unlikely that the information communicated to the Memorialists is correct, as from the state in which the question has been for some years, it is likely to attract public attention.

His Excellency will not fail, however, to represent to Her Majesty's Government, the feelings with which the subject is viewed by the Memorialists, and he will be prepared to express his opinion that in any alterations which Parliament may determine upon, due consideration should be given to the existing interests,