

OPERATION OF THE NAVIGATION LAWS.

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CANADA.
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Quebec, on the other hand, the exporter is compelled to rely on the regular traders to the port, so that when an unusual accumulation of produce takes place, vessels cannot be procured, and freights immediately rise to most exorbitant rates; that no means exist of engaging British shipping to meet the sudden demands which the nature of the trade causes, as such shipping is seldom to be met with at American ports, unless under specific orders, or the engagements of a charter; that the early closing of the navigation of the St. Lawrence renders it difficult, if not impossible, to obtain shipping from England to supply the sudden demands which, from the nature of the trade, are constantly arising, and which could readily be supplied at the American seaports whence vessels would at any time come round to the St. Lawrence if assured of remunerative freights; that the uncertainty which at all times prevails as to the route by which the products of the West will be transported to the sea-board, must operate to prevent British vessels coming to the St. Lawrence in sufficient numbers to ensure moderate freights during the shipping season, while the scarcity of shipping and the immediate rise of freights to England, whence a large supply of products is sent by the St. Lawrence, has the effect of diverting those products through the Erie Canal to New York. That the Navigation Laws have likewise had a most injurious influence on the import trade of the province; that it has not unfrequently happened that Canadian importers of sugars being unable to procure British vessels on any terms at Havanah and other foreign ports, have been compelled to import their cargoes in American bottoms to New York, and thence through the American canals to Canada, when, but for the restrictions imposed by the Navigation Laws, they would have imported them by the St. Lawrence in foreign bottoms, which could have been readily procured. That this House has observed with much satisfaction that a Bill was introduced into the House of Commons during the last Session of the Imperial Parliament, for the repeal of the Navigation Laws, and this House being of opinion that the provisions of that Bill are calculated to remove those restrictions from which the trade of this province is now suffering, most humbly pray that Your Majesty will be graciously pleased to recommend the subject of the repeal of the Navigation Laws to the favourable consideration of the Imperial Parliament. And this House would further humbly pray, that Your Majesty will be graciously pleased to authorize the Governor of this province to permit foreign vessels to navigate the St. Lawrence above Quebec, under such restrictions as his Excellency may in his wisdom see fit to impose.

Hon. Mr. *Cayley* then moved the following amendments thereto:—

After the first word "subject," insert "of protection to Colonial products and."

After all the words after "remain unchanged, that" to the words "materially reduced," be struck out, and the following substituted:—

"This province, relying on the continuance of the protection enjoyed up to a very recent period by colonial products in the English market, and assisted by a loan raised on the credit of Great Britain, has constructed a chain of ship canals to connect its inland waters, and extend the carrying trade of the St. Lawrence; that the withdrawal of that protection, more especially whilst the St. Lawrence continues closed to foreign vessels, must render these works comparatively useless, and impose a heavy unproductive debt on the limited resources of the province."

After the first words "New York," strike out "but" and insert "and."

Yeas.—Messrs. Badgley, Cayley, Christie, Dickson, Gagy, Macdonald, (Kingston,) Malloch, McLean, Prince, Robinson, Seymour, Sherwood, (Brockville,) Smith (Frontenac,) Stevenson,—14.

Nays.—Messrs. Baldwin, Beaubien, Bell, Blake, Boulton (Norfolk), Boutillier, Burritt, Cameron (Kent), Cartier, Cauchon, Chauveau, Davignon, DeWitt, Duchesnay, Dumas, Egan, Flint, Fortier, Fournier, Fourquin, Guillet, Hall, Hincks, Holmes, Jobin, Johnson, La Fontaine, La Terriere, Laurin, Lemieux, Macdonald (Glengary), McConnell, McFarland, Merritt, Méthot, Morrison, Notman, Papineau, Polette, Price, Richards, Sauvageau, Scott (Bytown), Scott (Two Mountains), Smith (Durham), Taché, Thompson, Viger, Wetenhall,—49.

The Resolution was then agreed to, and a Select Committee appointed to draw up an Address in conformity thereto.

Honourable Mr. *Hincks* then reported the Address, which was agreed to, ordered to be engrossed, and to be communicated to the Legislative Council, requesting their concurrence thereto.

The remaining orders of the day were postponed till to-morrow.

And at midnight the House adjourned.