

Appendix
(O.)

12th October.

The rate of duty which the Canadian Legislature has fixed upon American wheat is that which was originally proposed by the Vice President of the Board of Trade on the introduction of the Colonial Customs Bill. It is not excessive, nor likely to be burthensome on the Canadian consumer, while it exceeds the average of the duty now payable by Canadian wheat in England. * * * *

(Enclosure.)

TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

The Petition of the President and Council of the Quebec Board of Trade, incorporated by Act of the Legislature of Canada,

HUMBLY SHEWETH:—

That during the last Session of the Imperial Parliament, a Law was passed imposing a duty of two shillings per barrel on all foreign Flour imported into any of the British Possessions in North America, after the fifth of July next; and that the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly of this Province have since passed an Act, to impose a duty of three shillings per Imperial quarter on all wheat imported into Canada, after the same date, which Act was reserved for the signification of Your Majesty's pleasure thereon.

That hitherto foreign wheat and flour have been permitted to be imported into this Colony free of Duty, and that by far the greater part of the Flour consumed therein, and exported therefrom, has been so imported, or manufactured from wheat the growth of those parts of the United States bordering on the great lakes and rivers of Canada.

That the transport of such wheat and flour has afforded the chief means of employment to the vessels and craft belonging to Your Majesty's subjects on the Lakes, Rivers and Canals of this Province, extending more than three thousand miles above Quebec, as well as to the vessels engaged in the intercolonial trade; and that the whole of such vessels and craft are owned and manned by Your Majesty's subjects.

That in the humble opinion of Your Majesty's Petitioners, the vast improvements made, and now in progress, in the internal communication of the Province, would be rendered unproductive and nearly useless were this trade destroyed or materially interrupted.

That the commercial interests of the Province are now depressed and suffering to an unprecedented extent, chiefly in consequence of the measures lately adopted by the Imperial Parliament withdrawing or greatly limiting that protection which its principal products formerly enjoyed in competing with foreigners in the markets of the Mother Country, and Your Majesty's other Colonies.

That in consequence of these measures, Your Majesty's Subjects in this Province, from their greater distance from these markets, can only now successfully compete with foreigners therein under the most favorable and rare circumstances; and should Your Majesty assent to the said Act of the Legislative Council and Assembly of Canada, without, at the same time, conferring on Your Majesty's subjects in this Province some counter-vailing privilege in their trade with other parts of the Empire, Your Majesty's Petitioners, firmly believe that the result will be the utter prostration of the trade of the Country, and the ruin of those engaged in it.

That it appears from the preamble of the said Act, that it was enacted upon an express assurance, by persons representing Your Majesty's Government in the Legislature, that some such counter-vailing privilege would be granted, and that without such an assurance, it would not have been passed.

Wherefore Your Majesty's Petitioners humbly pray that Your Majesty may be graciously pleased to withhold the Royal Assent to the said Act, until a Law shall have been passed by the Imperial Parliament, authorizing the admission into the United Kingdom and other Colonies, free of duty, of all grain and flour exported from this Province.

WM. WALKER, Pres. WM. PRICE,
G. H. PARKE, JAMES DEAN,
J. W. LEAYCRAFT, H. J. NOAD,
JAS. GIBB, P. LANGLOIS,
HENRY W. WELCH, W. STEVENSON.

Copy of a Despatch from Lord Stanley to Sir C. Bagot.

(Copy.)

Downing-street,

SIR,

1st February, 1843.

Your Despatch of the 11th November last, No. 234, enclosing authenticated copies of the Acts passed by the Legislature of Canada during its last Session, and assented to by you, in Her Majesty's name, together with copies of two Bills reserved for the signification of Her Majesty's pleasure, intimated your intention of transmitting, by the next Mail, an explanation of the grounds of those measures. Especially with regard to the Wheat Duty Bill, you expressed your intention of transmitting to me such information as might assist Her Majesty's Government in forming an opinion upon it.

I am aware that, since the date of that Despatch, the state of your health has furnished but too conclusive an impediment to your execution of the purpose which you thus announced to me. But, as the time within which Her Majesty's decision on these laws ought to be pronounced is rapidly passing away, and as it is scarcely possible for me to proceed to that decision unaided by the information which you have led me to expect, I would suggest to you that, if the state of your health should still prevent, as I fear it will prevent, the fulfilment of your intention, you should request the Executive Council of Canada to enter upon the consideration of the subject, and to furnish me with such information as to these enactments as may assist Her Majesty's Government in forming their decision.

I would particularly direct your attention, in reference to the Wheat Duty Bill, to the exemption contained in the second clause; and request that you will consider how far that exemption might facilitate the commission of frauds upon the revenue, and especially report what security may be taken, that, under it, foreign wheat may not be landed, converted into flour, and fraudulently re-shipped for importation, free of duty, into the United Kingdom.

I have, &c.,

(Signed,) STANLEY.

The Right Hon. Sir C. Bagot, G.C.B., &c. &c. &c.

Extract of a Despatch from the Right Honorable Sir Charles Bagot, G.C.B., to Lord Stanley, dated Government House, Kingston, 24th February, 1843.

I have had the honor to receive your Lordship's Despatch of the 1st instant, No. 320, desiring to be furnished with a Report, in explanation of the grounds upon which the Wheat Duty Bill was passed by the Canadian Houses of Assembly, during the past Session.

Your Lordship will have already received a Despatch upon this subject, which I transmitted by the last Mail, accompanying Reports upon the other Bills of the same Session.

To these I have now to add a Copy of a Minute of my Council, drawn up on this document.

The Minute of the Committee of Council, will furnish Your Lordship with the information required in the concluding paragraph of your Despatch, relative to the possible effect of the exemption con-

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