

The duty on molasses now in force, and the duty on sugar, tea and coffee, to come in force in July and January next, will thus give a manifest advantage to the importer and help to centralize the trade in our own country. At the present time every respectable dealer in Upper Canada imports his groceries from New York or Boston, and the wholesale trade of Toronto and even of Montreal is comparatively small. In tea, for example, the cities of Toronto and Hamilton imported £90,638 worth in 1857, while the city of Montreal imported only £84,028 worth, the three together importing only a little over one-half the entire quantity imported.

That Montreal will gain any permanent advantage over the commercial cities of Upper Canada more than will naturally result from her physical position, we do not believe. Were some of the leading articles of consumption admitted free from the place of growth, if imported by the St. Lawrence, then indeed would her commerce be built up at the expense of Upper Canada; but so long as Western merchants can import through the United States, in bond, and enter their goods at the original cost on the same terms as their Eastern competitors using the St. Lawrence, there is little danger of either Hamilton or Toronto losing their trade, unless through their own fault. For ourselves, we regard the recent changes as calculated to turn nearly the whole trade of Western Canada to Hamilton, Toronto and Montreal, and the success of each in securing a large share of that trade will depend upon its own energy and enterprise. Already we hear of arrangements being made to import to Toronto from the place of growth. New York houses will speedily have part of their importations consigned to their agents in Canada; the country merchants hitherto attracted to that market will come to Toronto, and being here, will not confine themselves to the purchase of groceries alone. Before two years, if the new Tariff remain in force, we shall see auction sales of teas and sagars in Toronto, equal in extent to those of Montreal. At the present time the country west and northwest of Toronto is passing through that ordeal which Eastern Canada passed through when the wheat crop failed in that section; but the great advantages which this part of the country enjoys will speedily enable it to surmount its difficulties and to pour into Toronto a larger and healthier stream of business than it has ever before enjoyed.

That both the St. Lawrence Route and the Grand Trunk Railroad will be greatly benefitted by the change, there is no doubt. The merchants of Whitby, Oshawa, Bowmanville, Belleville, Kingston, Ottawa, Brockville, and other towns will go to Montreal or Toronto instead of to New York. The passenger and freight travel will be increased, but the business of the lower St. Lawrence will not, in our opinion, be benefitted in the same