

CORRESPONDENCE FROM NEW BRUNSWICK ON

In compliance with the above requisition, I do hereby request the inhabitants of this city to attend a Public Meeting, at the Court-house, on Monday next, the 26th instant, at one o'clock, for the purposes set forth in said requisition.

St. John, 20 June 1848.

(signed) *J. R. Partelow*, Mayor.

A Public Meeting was held this day at the Court-house.

In the absence of his Worship the Mayor, his Honor R. L. Hazen, the Recorder, took the Chair, when the following Resolutions were moved by the Hon. John Robertson, seconded by James Kirk, Esq., and after discussion were adopted by a large majority.

Resolved, That in the opinion of this meeting, the measures now under consideration of the House of Commons relative to the alteration or revision of the Navigation Laws, will prove destructive to ship-owners, ruinous to ship-builders, and will generally affect the welfare and prosperity of the British Empire, as there is no reciprocity or equivalent to be found in the scheme introduced by Mr. Labouchere for the sacrifice of so great a boon to the foreigner; and, moreover, that this province particularly being largely interested as ship-owners, extensively engaged in ship-building, furnishing employment to thousands of artizans, emigrants and labourers, would suffer most seriously if the alterations now contemplated are carried, without immediately opening other channels in some measure to compensate for the ruinous consequences that must inevitably follow.

Resolved, That this meeting consider the abandonment of a system under which Great Britain has so successfully been enabled to compete with all the world in her mercantile navy for so long a period, as unwise in principle, unsound in theory, and dangerous in practice, unless reciprocal advantages are obtained from foreign countries for such a boon conferred upon them by the sacrifice of the British shipping interest, created, fostered and cherished by the most able and celebrated statesmen that ever wielded the destinies of Great Britain, of every political creed.

Resolved, That this meeting feel deeply the influence that such a measure would produce upon the feelings and attachment of the people of this province, if left entirely unprotected, and required to compete with foreign countries in the main staples of their export, at a distance so much greater from their only market at present, and which must lead to the abandonment of the province by a very large portion of its inhabitants, leaving behind them as valueless the result of the labour of a lifetime, and destroy the prosperity of this once flourishing province of the British Empire.

Therefore *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this meeting that if the Navigation Laws are altered as contemplated, nothing will prevent such a calamity to this province, as heretofore referred to, but the opening of other markets for their exports, the privilege of selling their ships in any market, the right of procuring registers in foreign countries, perfect freedom in the employment of foreigners in the navigating of their ships, the privilege of trading to and with all countries, coastwise as well as foreign, and the removal of all restrictions in the conduct of their ships.

Resolved, That the Chairman (Hon. R. L. Hazen), John Robertson, F. A. Wiggins, John Owens, Lewis Burns, J. V. Thurgar, Edward Allison, John Wishart and John Duncan, be a Committee to prepare an humble and dutiful Petition to Her Majesty, the House of Lords, and the House of Commons, in conformity with the foregoing Resolutions, and that the Chairman do sign the same on behalf of this meeting.

St. John, 26 June 1848.

(signed) *R. L. Hazen*,
Recorder of the City of St. John,
Chairman.

(signed) *R. Jardine*,
James Robertson, } Secretaries.

Enclosure 2, in No. 3.

Encl. 2, in No. 3.

TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

May it please Your Majesty,

The humble and dutiful Petition of the Magistrates, Merchants and other Inhabitants of the City of *St. John*, Province of New Brunswick, duly convened at a Public Meeting within the Court-house of the City and County of St. John, held on the 26th day of June 1848.

Humbly sheweth,

THAT the occasion of this our humble petition is one of vital importance to the present and future interests of this province; and confident in the hope that their claims, as now preferred for Your Majesty's royal consideration, will receive that due deliberation which they conceive themselves justly entitled to, before the measure now under discussion by Your Majesty's Commons in Parliament convened shall have passed into a law:

Your