

Liverpool Chamber of Commerce should address any communication on the subject to the Colonial Government direct.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) ROBERT G. W. HERBERT.

To the Secretary to the Liverpool Chamber  
of Commerce.

No. 6.

### COLONIAL OFFICE to the BIRMINGHAM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

SIR,

Downing Street, May 21, 1887.

I AM directed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to acknowledge the receipt of your letter \* (undated) calling attention to the reported intention of the Government of Canada to increase the import duties on iron and steel manufactures, and inquiring whether Her Majesty's Government could take any action in the matter.

In reply I am to refer you to the answer given by the First Lord of the Treasury on this subject in the House of Commons on the 19th instant, and to suggest that the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce should address any communication on the subject to the Colonial Government direct.

The Secretary to the Birmingham  
Chamber of Commerce.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) JOHN BRAMSTON.

No. 7.

### BRITISH IRON TRADE ASSOCIATION.

MEMORANDA as to the PROPOSED INCREASE of CANADIAN TARIFF DUTIES (given to the Secretary of State for the Colonies by Deputation in the House of Commons on the 22nd of May.)

1. A proposal is now pending to increase the rates of duty paid on iron and steel imported into Canada as follows:—

Pig iron from 8s. 4d. to 16s. 8d. per ton, or 100 per cent.  
Puddled bars from 8s. 6d. to 37s. 8d. per ton, or 350 per cent.  
Bar iron from 17s. 6d. to 45s. 10d. per ton, or 155 per cent.

2. This increase is so enormous that it is manifestly designed for protection, and not for purely revenue purposes.

3. In so far as any increase of duty on manufactures imported into Canada is protective and prohibitory it must be so almost exclusively as against England, whence Canada receives by far the largest proportion of her imports of this description.

4. The proposal to increase the duties on iron and steel to the extent indicated, if carried into effect, must operate very detrimentally as against both Canada and England. Against Canada, because it would create an artificially high range of prices for one of the most necessary of all commodities; and as it would thereby entail the payment of higher charges for the metals chiefly employed in the construction of railways, gas and water works, bridges, and other structures, the material progress of the country would be impeded; against England, because Canada is now, and has for many years been, one of our principal markets, exclusion from which would be certain to withdraw a large part of our trade, and to intensify the existing depression and distress.

5. The exports of iron and steel from this country to Canada during the last three years have been as under:—

1884	-	-	-	-	162,542 tons.
1885	-	-	-	-	170,679 „
1886	-	-	-	-	228,039 „

6. The value of the exports in 1886 may be roughly taken at about a million sterling. This sum, expended by Canada in the mother country in respect of material progress,