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**TIMBER DUTIES.**

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**COPIES**

*of*

**DESPATCHES from the Governor of Nova Scotia,  
and the Governor of Lower Canada, relating  
to the Duties on FOREIGN TIMBER imported  
into Great Britain.**

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*Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,  
10 March 1831.*

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TIMBER DUTIES.

COPIES of DESPATCHES from the Governor of *Nova Scotia*, dated 17th January 1831, enclosing, AN ADDRESS of the Council and Assembly of *Nova Scotia*, praying that the discriminating DUTIES on FOREIGN TIMBER imported into *Great Britain*, may not be withdrawn ; and, from the Governor of *Lower Canada*, dated 8th January 1831, enclosing, A MEMORIAL from certain Gentlemen engaged in the TIMBER TRADE in *Lower Canada*, praying, that no Alteration be made in the DUTIES on TIMBER.

Colonial Department, Downing-street, }  
9 March 1831.

R. W. HAY.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,  
10 March 1831.

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COPY of Despatch from Sir *P. Maitland*, K. C. B. to Lord Viscount *Goderich*; dated  
Government House, Halifax, 17th January 1831 - - - - - p. 3

COPY of Despatch from Lord *Aylmer* to Lord Viscount *Goderich*; dated Castle of  
Saint Lewis, Quebec, 8th January 1831 - - - - - p. 4

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TIMBER DUTIES.

— 1. —

COPY of Despatch from Sir *P. Maitland*, K. C. B. to Lord Viscount *Goderich*,  
&c. &c. &c.

Government House, Halifax,  
17th January 1831.

MY LORD,

AT the request of His Majesty's Council and the House of Assembly, I have the honour, herewith, to transmit to your Lordship, and to recommend to His Majesty's favourable consideration, their humble Address to The King, praying, that the protection which has hitherto been afforded to the Timber Trade of these Colonies, by the discriminating Duties on Foreign Timber imported into Great Britain, may not be withdrawn.

I have the honour to be,  
&c. &c. &c.

(signed) *P. Maitland.*

TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY,

WE, Your Majesty's Council and House of Assembly, now convened in general Assembly of Your loyal Province of *Nova Scotia*, humbly approach the Throne, to state to Your Majesty the alarm and uneasiness which has been excited among Your Majesty's Subjects in this Province, by the Report that it is the intention of the Imperial Parliament to withdraw the protection upon our Timber Trade, which it has heretofore received from the duty upon foreign timber.

We beg leave to call to Your Majesty's recollection, that after years of unsuccessful solicitation on the part of the Colonies, this protection was at length afforded, and fully realized the expectations of its most sanguine advocates. That it not only accelerated the internal Improvement of British North America, but increased its Trade with the mother country, and caused the Colonists to consume a much greater quantity of British Manufactures than they could have done if they had not been enabled to pay for them with timber.

That the amount of Imports from Great Britain into this Province has, consequently, been augmented in a great degree, and now annually exceeds the sum of £. 500,000. Should the policy of the Parent State lead to a reduction of the present duties on foreign timber and deals, a Diminution in the consumption of British Manufactures to a great extent, must inevitably take place, as the export of timber constitutes one of our main sources of payment for those manufactures.

That not only the Export of timber from the colonies, and the consumption of British goods would be affected by the adoption of such a measure, but the Fisheries also would become greatly injured thereby, as the supply of Salt, and other articles for the fisheries, is principally obtained from Great Britain in return for the timber exported thither, and is brought to British North America in ships which would otherwise be unemployed.

That the very existence of trade in these Northern Colonies, depends upon the prosperity of the fisheries, which are the principal support of the trade to the West Indies. We could not supply the Islands with timber, and numerous other articles, if our fisheries failed, as that staple article affects directly or indirectly every other branch of commerce from these Atlantic colonies.

That the recent measure of the British Government, whereby the Ports in the British West Indies have been opened to the Vessels of the United States, has

caused the most serious injury to our Merchants, many of whom have been extensively engaged in the transportation of flour and other American products to the southern colonies. In consequence of a firm reliance that no concession of such a nature would have been made by our Government, these persons have made large investments in warehouses, wharves and shipping, the value of which will now be greatly diminished in consequence of this sudden and unlooked-for change in this branch of our trade. The protection hitherto afforded to Colonial Timber and Deals in the British market, is therefore more imperiously called for at this time, in consequence of the loss of a great portion of our carrying trade to the West Indies. That the amount of capital vested in British Shipping in the mother country and the Colonies, has been progressively increasing under the fostering aid of those protective duties, which if now withdrawn must be productive of the most ruinous consequences, in the depreciation of the value of Shipping, and the various other important interests connected therewith.

That the capacity of the North American Colonies to supply the mother country with Timber to an almost unbounded extent, will, it is presumed, be fully admitted by all who are acquainted with them, and with the annual imports of the various descriptions of wood from thence into Great Britain.

That the sound and enlightened Policy which has heretofore encouraged the importation and consumption of British productions in preference to those of foreign countries, having been recognised as the great bulwark of British prosperity, and adhered to at the present day in all the leading commercial arrangements with other nations;—we therefore confidently rely upon the justice and parental regard of His Majesty's Government to continue to Your loyal Subjects in these Colonies, that favour and protection which has hitherto been afforded by the discriminating Duties on Foreign Timber imported into Great Britain.

11 January 1831.

These passed in the House of Assembly:

(signed) V. W. Archibald,  
Speaker.

11 January 1831.

These passed in Council.

(signed) S. Blowers,  
President.

—2.—

COPY of a Despatch from Lord *Aylmer* to Lord Viscount *Goderich*,  
Sec. &c. &c.

Castle of Saint Lewis, Quebec,  
5th January 1831.

MY LORD,

THE circumstances stated in the accompanying copy of a Letter or Memorial which I have just received from gentlemen engaged in the Lumber Trade in this Province, requiring immediate attention; I lose no time in forwarding it to your Lordship *via* New York, by the post for that place, which will leave Quebec in less than an hour, a circumstance which I trust will serve as my excuse with your Lordship for any inaccuracy or want of order which may be found to exist in this despatch.

It would be highly presumptuous on my part to intrude on your Lordship's notice any Observations of my own regarding the policy of the measure to which the enclosed Memorial adverts; but it becomes my duty, as Governor of this Province, and consequently the peculiar advocate of its interests, respectfully, and at the same time most earnestly, to solicit your Lordship to exert your influence in protecting the Interests of the Memorialists on the occasion alluded to by them, in so far as this advantage may be afforded consistently with your Lordship's view of the general interests of the empire.

I am well assured that the Interests engaged in the Lumber Trade in *Canada*, are by no means confined to the gentlemen who are parties to the enclosed Memorial, but that the great mass of the Inhabitants of the extensive and important possessions of His Majesty are, all of them, more or less interested in the result of the measure which appears to have caused the alarm, or rather the panic (for such it may truly be called) which has been excited in the minds of the Memorialists on becoming acquainted,

THE DUTIES ON TIMBER.

acquainted, by the recent arrivals from England, with the announcement by Mr. Stanley in the House of Commons, of his proposed measure regarding the Lumber Trade.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *Aylmer.*

(Enclosure.)

LETTER from Mr. *William Price* to Lord *Aylmer*, &c. &c. &c.

MY LORD, Quebec, 8 January 1831.

I AM directed by the Committee of Trade, earnestly to entreat your Lordship that you will have the kindness to address a Despatch to His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, to represent the extreme anxiety and consternation which exists in these Provinces, in consequence of its having been proposed in the Imperial Parliament to make alteration in the Duties on Lumber, to the prejudice of the North American Trade; that any such change will be attended with the most disastrous consequences to the Colonies; but more particularly I am directed to implore that your Lordship will warn His Majesty's Government, in the strongest terms, of the overwhelming Ruin and Misery which an immediate and sudden change would spread, far and wide, throughout the country; and to entreat, that if the Imperial Parliament, in its wisdom, should consider the proposed change necessary for the general welfare of the empire, that it will, in its mercy, grant a continuation of the protection which the trade at present enjoys, for a term of five, or at least of three years, that those, who, relying on the existing laws, have invested their capital in lumber establishments, in saw-mills, in stocks for spring shipment, and in preparations for new supplies, may be enabled to realize some portion of their property, so fearlessly embarked, which, in the *Canadas* alone, cannot amount to less than £. 1,250,000. at the present moment, and which a sudden or immediate change would render almost a total sacrifice.

Your Lordship must feel how dreadful would be the consequences to this young Colony of such a visitation and loss of capital; and the Committee rely with confidence on your Excellency's representations and intercession in their behalf, and in the justice and mercy of His Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *William Price,*  
Acting Chairman.