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WHEAT (CANADA).

FURTHER RETURN

OF

COPIES or EXTRACTS of CORRESPONDENCE
relating to the DUTIES on WHEAT imported
from the United States into *Canada*, or from
Canada into the United Kingdom, since the
1st January 1842.

(*Mr. Charles Wood.*)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
28 April 1843.

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Under 3 c2.

WHEAT (CANADA).

FURTHER RETURN to an Address of the Honourable The House of Commons,
dated 9 February 1843:—for,

COPIES or EXTRACTS of any COMMUNICATIONS which have taken place
between Her Majesty's Government and the Authorities of *Canada*, respecting
the DUTIES levied on WHEAT imported from the United States into *Canada*,
or from *Canada* into the United Kingdom, since the 1st day of January 1842;
—(In continuation of the Papers ordered by The House of Commons to
be printed, 13 February 1843, No. 18.)

Colonial Office, Downing-street, }
26 April 1843.

G. W. HOPE.

(*Mr. Charles Wood.*)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
28 April 1843.

SCHEDULE.

No.	DATE.	SUBJECT.	PAGE
1. Sir Charles Bagot to Lord Stanley.	27 Jan. 1843	Respecting the Bill for imposing a Duty on Foreign Wheat.	3
2. Sir Charles Bagot to Lord Stanley.	27 Jan. 1843	Transmitting Petition addressed to Her Majesty by the Board of Trade at Quebec, respecting the Wheat Duty Bill; also, Report of a Special Committee of the House of Assembly, on the subject of a Free Trade with Great Britain in Agricultural Products.	3
3. Lord Stanley to Sir Charles Bagot.	2 Mar. 1843	In reply to the preceding Despatch - -	16
4. Sir Charles Bagot to Lord Stanley.	24 Feb. 1843	Acknowledging Despatch of 1st inst., desiring to be furnished with a Report in explanation of the ground upon which the Wheat Duty Bill was passed by the Canadian House of Assembly, and transmitting Minute of a Committee of the Executive Council on the subject.	16
5. Sir Charles Bagot to Lord Stanley.	20 Mar. 1843	Referring to Despatch of 2d inst., and transmitting copy of a Communication from the Board of Trade at Quebec, pointing out the importance of an early decision on the subject of the Wheat Duty Bill.	17

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WHEAT (CANADA).

— No. 1. —

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from the Right honourable Sir *Charles Bagot*, G.C.B., to Lord *Stanley*, dated Government House, Kingston, 27th January 1843, No. 20.

No. 1.
Extract of a Despatch from the Right hon. Sir Charles Bagot to Lord Stanley, 27 January 1843.

THE BILL for imposing a duty on Foreign Wheat will form the subject of a separate Despatch.

(No. 19.)

— No. 2. —

EXTRACTS of a DESPATCH from the Right honourable Sir *Charles Bagot*, G.C.B., to Lord *Stanley*, dated Government House, Kingston, 27 January 1843.

No. 2.
Extracts of a Despatch from the Right hon. Sir Charles Bagot to Lord Stanley, 27 January 1843.

I HAVE the honour herewith to transmit a Petition addressed to Her Majesty by the Board of Trade at Quebec, praying that the Royal Assent may be withheld from the Bill passed in the last session of the Canadian Legislature, by which a duty was imposed on the importation of foreign wheat into Canada, until the Imperial Parliament shall have passed a law authorizing the free admission into the United Kingdom of all grain and flour exported from this province.

As the preamble of this Bill asserts, and the proceedings in both Houses attest, this measure was passed under the expectation, that if the Canadian Legislature consented to lay a tax upon American produce, the British Government would be willing to recommend to the Imperial Legislature to remove all duty upon grain and flour received from Canadian ports.

To this anticipation they were led by the statements made by Ministers in the House of Commons during the discussions upon the Corn Laws and the Colonial Customs Duties Bill, and by your Lordship's despatches upon this subject, particularly that of the 2d March 1842, No. 83.

It is a boon for which the producers and merchants of this province have long sought, and they hoped that when a change was made in the duty in England on foreign produce, they might, as far as Canadian produce was concerned, look to such an amount of favour as would keep undisturbed their relation to the foreign producer.

When they found that the chief obstacle to such an arrangement was the free admission of American produce into the province, they did not delay passing the measure which had been suggested and was deemed necessary to obtain it.

* * * * *

The attention which your Lordship and Her Majesty's Government have so lately given to this subject, renders it almost unnecessary for me to offer any observations or arguments upon it; I will, therefore, rather endeavour to supply such information with regard to prices and cost of transport as will enable you to judge whether any injury can arise to British interests from the desired concession.

Herewith I transmit a copy of a Report of a Special Committee of the House of Assembly of last session, upon a free trade with Great Britain in agricultural products.

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.

* * * * *

For Lord Stanley's Despatch, 2 March 1842, No. 83, vide Papers ordered by the House of Commons to be printed, 13 Feb. 1843, No. 18, p. 3.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE RELATING TO

Enclosure 1, in No. 2.

Encl. 1, in No. 2.

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 favourable 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 countervailing 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 countervailing 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 the other colonies, free of duty, of all grain and flour exported from this province.

W^m Walker, President.
G. H. Parke.
J. W. Leazcraft.
Ja^s Gibb.
Henry W. Welch.

William Price.
James Dean.
H^r J. Goad.
V. Langless.
W. Stevenson.

Enclosure 2, in No. 2.

Encl. 2, in No. 2.

REPORT of a SPECIAL COMMITTEE of the LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY of Canada, on the subject of a Free Trade with Great Britain in the Agricultural Productions of British North America, and of a Protection to those Productions from the Competition of Foreigners in the Colonial and Home Markets.—Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed, 10th October 1842.

The Special Committee to which was referred the Petition of the Right honourable the Earl of Mount Cashell and others, Members of the North American Committee of the Colonial Society in London; the Petition of the Municipal Council of the District of Niagara; and the Return to the Address of the House of the 22d September last; with the several Despatches on the subject of the Importation of Wheat and Wheaten Flour, with power to report from time to time, have the honour to report:—

THAT they have examined the several documents referred to, and feel gratified to witness the interest manifested by their fellow-subjects in Britain in the prosperity of Canada. (See Appendix, No. 1.)

Originating

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Originating any measure relating to the alteration of duties, as recommended by the despatch of Lord Sydenham (*see Appendix, No. 2*) in the Provincial Assembly, by Bill, subject to the approval of the Imperial Parliament, as pointed out under the provisions of the forty-second clause of the Union Act, would remove the practical inconvenience and uncertainty which attend the practice heretofore adopted by Addresses.

The despatch from Lord Stanley, No. 83, dated 2d March 1842, has also engaged their attentive consideration.

From our peculiar geographical position; from the relative and nearly balanced advantages possessed by the two rival communications with the Atlantic—the St. Lawrence and the Hudson Rivers; from the magnitude of the object and the various interests involved, your Committee have availed themselves of such statistical information as would enable them to comprehend the practical operation of the proposed duty.

First, with regard to the protection of the English grower:—

From the Statement in Appendix, No. 4, it appears that the cost of conveying a barrel of flour from the Welland Canal to any port in the United Kingdom, by way of the St. Lawrence, is 14s. 6d. It also appears that wheat must command from 4s. to 5s. currency, or 4s. 6d. sterling, per bushel, to remunerate the Canadian grower. (*See Appendix, No. 6.*)

After the completion of our communications, a reduction will be made in the transit of 2s. 6d. per barrel. Flour must still command, in Britain, 33s. sterling, per barrel, to ensure our growers a remunerating price, which will afford ample protection to the English grower, and as it is entirely the result of natural causes, it can only be effected by Imperial legislation.

As it respects the admission into Canada of American products from the Western States, it appears that the freight of a barrel of flour from Cleveland, Ohio, to Lake Ontario, is 1s. 6d., which, added to the above, with the proposed duty, will sufficiently protect the home producer against all American competition from this quarter, through the channel of the St. Lawrence.

With regard to the carrying trade:—

All the grain grown in Canada will not supply the consumption of British North America, and, if it were all shipped to England, and the population of our commercial towns were supplied from the United States, the quantity of our own so exported would be very limited for many years to come.

By reference to Appendix, No. 5, it will be seen that the cost of transit on a barrel of flour to Liverpool, through the Erie Canal, is 3s. 1½d. less than by the way of the St. Lawrence; when this is added to the proposed duty, it will give 5s. 1½d. in favour of New York. By reference to the table of duties, it will be found that this difference only accrues when wheat averages between 61s. and 62s. per quarter. (*See Appendix, No. 7.*) And whenever prices in Britain exceed that average, the products of the Western States will be conveyed by the Erie Canal. After the enlargement of the Erie Canal shall have been completed, which is our most formidable rival, notwithstanding the reduction heretofore mentioned by the St. Lawrence, the cost of transportation through the two channels will be so nearly equal, that to the transit through the latter a decided encouragement should be given by the Home Government for at least a few years. If grain cannot be exported to England at a profit to our grower, unless flour reaches 33s. per barrel, and wheat from 60s. to 61s. per quarter, the transit of Western flour will be diverted through the Erie Canal, and it follows that unless prices in England steadily range from 55s. to 61s. per quarter, our growers cannot benefit by the home market, and our carrying trade will become so uncertain, that few, if any, will embark in it, and the vessels and craft now engaged must be continued at a hazard of employment.

By reference to the despatch, it will be seen that the loss of this trade has never been contemplated by the Home Government: its preservation and encouragement must, then, become a subject of both Imperial and Colonial legislation.

It is most desirable to place this branch of commerce on a certain and permanent footing, which, in the opinion of your Committee, can be effectually accomplished, as far as this Legislature is concerned, by allowing a drawback at Quebec or Montreal, whenever the price of flour exceeds 30s. sterling, per barrel, at the ports of Quebec and Montreal, which, by adding the price of transportation, will bring the average in Britain, at 77s. 11d. per quarter.* By this arrangement both the English and Canadian grower will be effectually protected, without hazard, loss or injury to any other interest.

With regard to the agricultural interest of Canada:—

One of the most striking advantages which this measure confers upon the Canadian grower is, that although he cannot, for reasons already assigned, successfully compete with the grower in England, still he will realize the full benefit of the home market, as well as that of British

* Note.—The Imperial quarter is equal to 9 bushels and 20 lbs. wheat, at 60 lbs. to the bushel.

	£.	s.	d.
The barrel of flour of 5 bushels in Montreal or Quebec	-	-	1 10 -
Freight thence to England	-	-	- 7 11
<hr/>			
Would bring the barrel to	£.	1	17 11
or 3½ 10s. 9d. sterling per quarter of wheat.			

For Lord Stanley's Despatch, 2 March 1842, No. 83, vide Papers ordered by the House of Commons to be printed, 13 Feb. 1843, No. 18, p. 3.

British North America, from which he has hitherto, under the existing system, been too successfully excluded by his more fortunate rival—the American grower.

It appears from the Minutes of Evidence, as well as from the numerous Addresses of the Legislature to the Home Government, that the agricultural interest, as well as the trade of the country, is in a very depressed state.

The protection which will be afforded by the proposed duty will ensure to the Canadian grower a higher price for his products, and induce the investment of capital for agricultural purposes in this province in preference to the United States. It will transfer the duties on the articles when imported from the mother country to articles which compete with what he produces. It will also preserve our carrying trade, by securing the transportation through Canada when prices are high in England, when otherwise it would be directed through the Erie Canal. It will have a direct tendency to create an extensive home market, by the increasing employment in navigating our waters; and it will materially lessen the price of transportation, by diminishing the price of tolls and conveyance through our canals by the increased trade thus created.

The value and importance of the trade with the Western States:—

From the despatch alluded to, it is evident that the value of this trade, together with the advantages to Canada of every manufacturing process which it might undergo in the transit, has been under consideration.

The proposed duty of 3s. sterling, per Imperial quarter, on wheat, is equal to 4½d. per bushel of 60lbs. The duty of 2s. per barrel on flour imposed by the British Possessions Act, is equal to 5¼d. per bushel; this difference is insufficient to secure this advantage we now possess, but may be provided for in the scale of duties hereafter to be proposed. If the raw material, say wheat, shipped in Cleveland, is worth 3s. 9d. per bushel, or 18s. 9d. per barrel of flour, the remainder of the cost to the consumer in Britain is secured by this trade to British subjects, in the shape of duties, labour, milling, transit, shipping and profit.

If the colonies of the British Empire are maintained at a great expense for the sake of their trade, the securing and controlling that of the Western States, and making them in effect colonies for the like purposes, is an object of no ordinary moment, particularly when it can be obtained without expense or even negotiation. The removal of all existing duties between the ports of the mother country and Canada, so soon as sufficient revenue can be raised from duties on foreign articles, tolls on our canals, and other sources, will not only secure this trade, but supply the Great Western States with the manufactures of Great Britain, and by reducing the price of outward freight, it would enable us successfully to compete with any other channel of trade to Great Britain from the Continent of America.

To accomplish this great object, and to secure Her Majesty's subjects in Canada the full benefit of the declaration of the enlightened statesman who presides over the Councils of the United Kingdom, your Committee recommend the following Resolutions for the consideration of your Honourable House, with a view, if approved, to form an Address to Her Majesty, thereon:

Resolved,—That this House feels every confidence that the public declaration made by the enlightened Statesman who presides over the Councils of the mother country will be carried into effect, and that Canada will hereafter be treated as though she were an integral part of the empire.

Resolved,—That this desirable object can only be attained by removing all duties on the products of Canada, particularly all descriptions of grain and meal, when admitted into the ports of the mother country; and in strict conformity to that principle, the Legislative Assembly will take the earliest opportunity, so soon as the finances of the province for the support of the Government and its engagements for the security of the public debt will admit, to recommend the removal of all duties on the manufactures of the mother country when admitted into the ports of Canada from sea.

Resolved,—That they have every confidence that the revenue arising from foreign commerce and the tolls on our canals will enable the Provincial Government to make this reduction in a few years after our great leading communications to the ocean are opened.

Resolved,—That with a view of securing the transit of the Western States of America through those waters, it is indispensable to allow a drawback on all grain and flour shipped to Britain from the ports on the St. Lawrence whenever the price of flour exceeds 30s. sterling per barrel at the ports of Montreal and Quebec.

Resolved,—That an humble Address to Her Majesty be founded on the above Resolutions.

All which is respectfully submitted.

8th October 1842.

Wm. Hamilton Merritt, Chairman.

THE DUTIES ON WHEAT (CANADA).

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MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

WILLIAM HAMILTON MERRITT, Esquire, in the chair.

Friday, 30 September 1842.

The following QUESTIONS were submitted to several gentlemen engaged in the forwarding Trade, and their joint replies thereto are annexed :—

1. What is the present price of wheat on the shores of Lake Ontario and Lake Erie?
2. What is the expense of transportation of a bushel of wheat to Montreal?
3. What are the charges from thence to Britain including all charges?
4. Notwithstanding American grain has been admitted free from duty and exported as colonial, has the capital invested in milling and purchase of grain yielded a profit?
5. What should be the price of wheat on Lake Erie to remunerate the grower?
6. Do you think the statement of cost of transportation on a barrel of flour (Appendix Nos. 4 & 5) correct?
7. After the completion of the St. Lawrence Canal, what reduction will take place in freight?
8. At the present rate of duties on flour in Britain, what must be the average price of wheat to ensure the transit from the Western States through the St. Lawrence?
9. What is the price of a bushel of wheat from Cleveland to Liverpool, *via* New York?
10. Is there a sufficient quantity of bread stuffs grown in Canada to supply the consumption of British North America?

ANSWERS to the preceding QUESTIONS.

1. The present price of wheat on the shores of Lake Erie, 2s. 9d.; Ontario, 3s. 1½d.; freight from Chicago, Michigan, to St. Catherine's, Welland Canal, 9d.; from Cleveland, Ohio, to St. Catherine's, Welland Canal, 6 cents, thence to Kingston, 2 cents.
2. Freight from Kingston to Montreal, 7½d. per bushel.
3. Freight from Montreal to England of a bushel of wheat, 2s. to cover all charges.
4. Milling and wheat speculations with very few exceptions within our knowledge, for the last 20 years, have been unprofitable.
5. The price of wheat on Lake Erie, to remunerate the grower, ought not to be less than 4s.
6. The statement of transport, as shown in Nos. 4 and 5, we consider correct.
7. The completion of the St. Lawrence Canal must reduce the rate of freight to Montreal 33½ per cent.
8. The averages in England must be 60s. per quarter, to ensure the trade by the St. Lawrence; when over that, the Americans can send their own wheat more advantageously to England, *via* New York.
9. The freight of a bushel of wheat from Cleveland to Liverpool, *via* New York, is 1s. 8d. per bushel.
10. No.

Macpherson & Crane.
Hooker, Henderson & Co.
Sanderson & Murray.
McGibbon, Ferguson & Co.

H. C. S. Jones.

Mr. W. S. McDonald, of Gananoque, being interrogated, answered :—When the average of wheat in England is 57s. sterling per quarter, our duty advances to 2s. sterling per quarter.

		£.	s.	d.
At 57s. per quarter, 60lbs. of wheat is worth	-	-	-	6 1
Add exchange and difference of currency	-	-	-	1 2
Value in currency	-	-	-	7 3
		£.	s.	d.
One bushel wheat free on board in Montreal at	-	-	5	-
Freight and other charges to Britain	-	-	2	-
		-	-	7 0
Only a margin of	-	-	-	3

Now, at 5s. per bushel, free on board in Montreal, the farmer on the shores of Lakes Erie and Ontario cannot obtain more than 3s. to 3s. 6d. currency per bushel for his wheat; a price at which it cannot be grown and pay the producer.

The above statement is made to show that the present duty in Britain is not of serious consequence, as we cannot export wheat when the price in England is so low as to bring a duty on colonial.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE RELATING TO

STATEMENT showing the effect upon the Canadian Miller as compared with the American, when the Duties both on Flour and Wheat are levied.

AMERICAN.

5 bushels wheat at Circleville, Ohio, at 50 cents	- - - -	\$ 2 50
Freight of 1 barrel flour to Cleveland	- - - -	62½ cents.
Ditto - - ditto - - Kingston	- - - -	37½ "
Ditto - - ditto - - Montreal	- - - -	40 "
		<u>1 40</u>
Duty proposed	- - - -	50
		<u>\$ 4 40</u>

Equal to 22s. per barrel, delivered in Montreal.

CANADIAN.

5 bushels wheat at Circleville, at 50 cents	- - - -	\$ 2 50
Freight of 1 bushel wheat to Cleveland at 20 cents	- - - -	1 -
Ditto - - - ditto - - Kingston at 8 cents	- - - -	40
Freight of 1 barrel flour to Montreal	- - - -	40
Duty per bushel at 5d.	- - - -	41
		<u>\$ 4 71</u>

Equal to 23s. 7d. per barrel, delivered in Montreal.

Difference in favour of the American miller, 1s. 7d. currency.

When the average in England of wheat is 66s. sterling per quarter, which is about the price at which the trade can be carried on profitably to all parties in Canada, the following shows the comparative cost of a barrel of flour taken at Cleveland, and sent to England, *via* New York, and of five bushels of wheat, taken at same place, sent to Gananoque, ground, and the flour shipped *via* Montreal.

AMERICAN ROUTE.

1 barrel flour, freight to Oswego	- 37½ cents.
Ditto to New York	- 50 "
	<u>87½ cents.</u>
New York to England	- £. - 4 4½
Duty 3s. 7d. sterling	- - - 1 1½
	- - - 4 4
	<u>£. - 9 10</u>

CANADIAN ROUTE.

Freight 5 bushels wheat to Gananoque,	40 cents
1 barrel flour to Montreal	- - 40 "
	<u>80 cents.</u>
Montreal to Britain	- - - £. - 4 -
Duty 7d. sterling	- - - - 4 6
	- - - - 9
	<u>£. - 9 3</u>

Difference in favour of the Canadian route only 7d. per bushel; this may be increased to 1s. 9d. to 2s. when our improvements are finished, but completely destroyed by the imposition of the proposed duty.

THE DUTIES ON WHEAT (CANADA).

LIST OF APPENDIX.

- No. 1.—Petition of the Right honourable the Earl of Mount Cashell, and others.
- No. 2.—Extract from a Return to an Address of the Legislative Assembly of the 22d September 1842.
- No. 3.—Extract from the same, being copy of a despatch from Lord Stanley to Sir Charles Bagot, G. C. B., dated 2d March 1842.
- No. 4.—Freight and charges on one barrel of flour from Cleveland to Liverpool, *via* Montreal.
- No. 5.—Statement of charges on a barrel of flour from Cleveland to Liverpool.
- No. 6.—Question submitted to the Members of the Legislative Assembly, as to the price wheat should command in their respective districts to yield an interest on the capital invested in land, or to remunerate the grower.
- No. 7.—Extract of the scale of Duties under the late Corn Law passed in the last Session of the Imperial Parliament.

Appendix, No. 1.

PETITION of the Right honourable the Earl of Mount Cashell, and others.

To the Honourable the Commons House of Assembly of Canada, in Provincial Parliament assembled.

WE, the undersigned Members of the North American Committee of the Colonial Society, having recently addressed a memorial, of which the annexed is a copy, to the Right honourable Lord Stanley, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, setting forth the importance of a free trade with Great Britain in the agricultural productions of British North America, and of a protection to those productions from the competition of foreigners in the colonial and home markets, humbly entreat the consideration of your Honourable House to the importance of such protection, so that objections may no longer be urged to the admission of those productions free from any duty, in the home market, and that there may be but one imperial interest between the British American provinces and the mother country.

The memorial hereto annexed contains the opinions of the petitioners on this very important subject; and in submitting it to the consideration of your Honourable House, the object of the undersigned is to pray for the adoption of such legislative measures in the Provincial Parliament as may be deemed best adapted to promote the most intimate union of interests between Great Britain and British North America, which the undersigned consider particularly deserving of attention at this time, when a very extensive emigration is taking place to Canada. It appears to the undersigned that the only certain means of enabling this large population to establish themselves in Canada, with advantage to themselves and the province, and of insuring a full stream of emigration to the colony hereafter, is to give every possible encouragement to the cultivation of the soil, by the measures recommended in the annexed memorial.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Mount Cashell, Chairman. | A. J. Robertson. |
| Dunmore. | W. G. Ouseley. |
| Macdonald. | Neill Malcolm. |
| Augustus D'Este. | David Urquhart. |
| Pringle Taylor, Lieut.-Colonel. | D. McDougall. |
| Charles Franks. | Rt. Montgy. Martin. |
| R. F. Maitland. | Robt. Gillespie, jun. |
| William Ifill. | D. M. Chisholm. |
| C. Shirreff. | C. F. Head, Lieut.-Colonel. |

COPY of the MEMORIAL referred to in the preceding Petition.

To the Right Honourable Lord Stanley, Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies.

My Lord,

THE North American Committee of the Colonial Society considering the extensive emigration now proceeding from this kingdom, which has existed for many years past, and which may be expected still to increase in consequence of the superabundant population beyond the means of employment, and considering the infinite importance to the empire that this surplus of its population should be so directed as to increase its general wealth and prosperity, have ascertained the amount of emigration in the last two years, and the different countries to which it has proceeded, by referring to the Parliamentary Returns for the years 1840 and 1841, from which it appears that a very large proportion, amounting to 156,116 out of 209,335 persons, who emigrated in 1840 and 1841, proceeded to North America, of which 85,659 went to the United States, and 70,457 to the British provinces. The fact of the great number going to North America, amounting altogether to three-fourths of all those who emigrated, and that without public assistance, serves to show that North America is considered to offer greater advantages to British emigrants than any other part of the world, which may be ascribed to its vicinity, the cheap and easy communication with this country, its soil and climate, so well adapted to the health and enjoyment of the inhabitants of this kingdom, and the identity of its language. It appears, also, that the proportion of persons who proceed to the United States is much larger than of those who establish themselves in the British American provinces; and as

this proportion consists in great degree of the class of persons having capital, the Committee have been anxious to ascertain the causes which lead to a result so injurious to the best interests of the empire. There appears to be no reason for supposing that the Government, laws or manners of the United States offer any temptation to Britons; or that the climate or soil have any advantage over those of the British Provinces. They have taken every pains to ascertain whether any real causes exist in Her Majesty's North American Colonies to prevent the introduction and settlement therein of emigrants, particularly those having capital.

In pursuing this inquiry they find that great dissatisfaction has long existed in Canada on a subject which appears not to be correctly understood by the British public. In the Address to Her Majesty from the Legislative Assembly of Upper Canada, dated 4th January 1840, reasons are assigned for the depression of agriculture, which, if well founded, as we believe they are, deserve the most serious attention. It appears that not only the principle of protection extended to the growers in Great Britain is withheld from the agriculturists in Canada, but that whilst the market in Canada is open to the whole world, including the neighbouring States of America, for the importation of agricultural productions, free from any duty, the productions of Canada are subject to a heavy duty on importation into the United States and into the mother country, being the only markets upon which they can depend, as they are deprived of the advantage of the intercolonial markets, particularly that of the West Indies, which was formerly of great importance to Canada, by the alteration of the colonial duties of late years. The natural advantages of situation possessed by the United States, for supplying the British West Indies, were always greatly in favour of the United States, which, added to the alteration of duties, will destroy the trade of British North America with those Colonies.

In 1833, the Commons House of Assembly of Canada addressed the Home Government, praying for relief; and among other reasons assigned for the free admission of their products in the markets of Britain, were the great distance of the wheat-growing districts in Canada from the sea, and the high price of transportation, always affording a natural and certain protection to the British grower, which is fully borne out by the annexed statement marked (A.), showing the expense to the Canadian grower of the transportation of wheat to this country, to be 26s. 2d. currency, or 23s. 7d. sterling, per quarter. A further expense attends the transmission of wheat from the Western parts of the United States, and this natural protection the inhabitants of Canada are desirous of increasing, by imposing a duty on American grain and other produce, on their frontier, so as to protect their own home growth in their own as well as the British market. Strong expressions of this opinion have been made recently in Canada, for which reference may be made to the petition from the merchants of Montreal, and to that from a very large body of agriculturists in Western Canada, recently forwarded through the Canada Company; the sentiments contained in which have been brought under your Lordship's notice very recently; and similar addresses and representations have been repeatedly sent home of late years, all tending to show the importance attached by the inhabitants of Canada to an open trade with Great Britain, and to protection in their own market from the competition of the rest of the world, and of the United States in particular, who themselves protect their home growth by duties.

The Committee believe that the great objection entertained in this country to the admission of the agricultural productions of Canada into the home market free of duty, is the fear that it would not be limited to the articles grown in the colonies, but that the grain and other productions of the United States would be introduced through the colony, as if they were Canadian. To obviate this, and to protect their own agriculture, the colonists are willing to impose a sufficient duty on their frontier forthwith; but doubts have been expressed whether this trade would not be conducted by smuggling across the frontier, notwithstanding any regulation in the Canadian ports. The Committee have made inquiry into this question, and they believe that no such smuggling would take place, for the following reasons:—

First. The inhabitants of Canada, whose prosperity depends entirely on agriculture, are very anxious for a protection which a duty levied on their frontier would afford them; and they would unanimously support the execution of a law for that purpose.

Secondly. The growth of wheat in the United States, the chief article respecting the introduction of which through Canada any anxiety exists, is confined to that part of the country bordering on Canada to the west, where the boundary line between the two countries is formed by the lakes; and the produce must necessarily therefore be shipped, and landed on the Canadian ports or shores; if in the former, which are few in number, the duty would always be levied; and if attempted on the latter, which would be difficult, the expense of transportation, the landing in boats, and taking up the country, would be attended with such expense, as to render it worth while to the parties to pay the duty at the ports in preference.

Canada has now become an exporting country, and will be capable gradually of supplying Great Britain with any quantity of corn that may be required, if the British market is open to her productions.

The Committee are desirous of drawing your Lordship's attention to the importance of encouraging the importation of corn from a country which will assuredly receive payment for it in British manufactures, and to the great advantage to this country of such an exchange; particularly considering that the cultivators in Canada are persons settled there, who were unable to maintain themselves at home, but have now become growers of food enough
for

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for their own support, and a surplus to exchange for the labour of their fellow-countrymen at home; and every part of this trade, from the cultivation of the farm to the navigation of the Atlantic with the produce home, directly supports the British manufacturer and mariner.

The Committee would, therefore, strongly recommend, that the agricultural productions of the North American Colonies should be admitted to the home market free of duty; that the colonists should be encouraged to impose such duties on foreign productions as they think desirable for the protection of their own growth, and the British agriculturists; and that the intercolonial duties should be so regulated as to give an advantage to the colonists in the intercolonial trade over the inhabitants of the United States and other foreigners. Canada and the British North American Colonies would then really become an integral part of the British Empire, and rise rapidly in wealth and importance, and the most beneficial effects be produced; perfect confidence would be reposed in the future prosperity, peace and welfare of those valuable colonies, and every British subject seeking a new settlement in North America would at once decide upon establishing himself in the British territories.

The present system of duties never gave satisfaction to Her Majesty's subjects, either in the colony or the mother country; their continuance must inevitably direct the attention and energies of the colonists to encourage manufactures for the purpose of creating a home market for the produce of their soil: this can only be effected by imposing increased duties on our manufactures, and must lead to the establishment of the same adverse interest which exists in the Eastern States of America.

If taxes were imposed by the colonists on foreign productions imported, particularly wheat and flour from the United States, for the purpose of raising revenue to defray the expenses of the local government; the taxation on manufactured or other articles imported from home might be reduced in a proportionate degree, and the coasting trade of Britain might be more easily extended to the utmost limits of Canada, without other restrictions than those which exist between London and Dublin, or Edinburgh.

Not only would the colonists receive their supplies of manufactured goods from the mother country, but the inhabitants of the Great Western Country of the United States would find it for their interest to obtain their supplies of goods by the Canadian frontier; and for all purposes of commerce, this country would derive the same advantages as if that Great Western land continued to be a colony of the empire.

Instead of the continued doubt and uncertainty which prevails in British North America, every inhabitant would be made to see and feel, from the increased value of his products and the diminished cost of the articles he consumes, as well as from the rapid extension of their internal trade, the full value of his connexion with the mother country, and a far more certain and permanent reliance might be placed on the connexion of those valuable colonies by such measures than by the expenditure of millions in the erection of fortifications and the maintenance of troops, as every man's hand and heart would be engaged in supporting the interests of the empire, and the colonists would set at defiance all the efforts of foreign opposition or ambition.

Your Memorialists, considering the whole subject of the greatest possible importance to the welfare of the empire, and entertaining the most sanguine expectation that the measures they have recommended would promote the mutual interests of the mother country and the North American Colonies, have transmitted a similar representation to the Legislature of Canada, urging them to adopt the measures herein recommended; and your Memorialists humbly pray that your Lordship will be pleased to take their opinions into consideration, hoping that you will think it right to recommend their adoption to the Cabinet so soon as in your Lordship's opinion a favourable opportunity arises for the purpose.

Statement (A.) referred to in the preceding Memorial.

From the printed Returns laid before Parliament, we find the following charges for conveying one bushel of wheat from Hamilton, the upper part of Lake Ontario, to Montreal, the nearest seaport:—

	£.	s.	d.
Storage and shipping at Hamilton	-	-	2½
Burlington Bay Canal toll	-	-	¼
Freight through Lake Ontario	-	-	3
Freight from Kingston to Montreal, River			
St. Lawrence	-	-	7½
Insurance 1d., storage in Montreal 2d.	-	-	3
Commission and guarantee	-	-	3½
Making in all for one bushel of wheat	-	-	1 7½
Eight bushels of wheat to the quarter gives	-	-	13 2
The charges from Montreal to London are estimated from 13s. to 16s. per quarter; by taking the least	-	13	-

It leaves a protection to the English grower of - 1 6 2 without adding the additional price of labour on the original cost of the article.

Appendix, No. 2.

EXTRACT from a Return to an Address of the Legislative Assembly of the
22d September 1842.

EXTRACT from a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable *C. P. Thomson*, late Governor-General of Canada, to Lord John Russell, dated Government House, Montreal, 26th May 1840, in as far as the same relates to the transmission of an Address from the Legislature of the late Province of Upper Canada, praying for the introduction of Canadian Corn into Great Britain, free from duty, and to empower the Legislature of this Province to originate measures relating to the Colonial Trade generally.

“THE House of Assembly have transmitted another address, praying for the introduction of Canada corn into Great Britain, free of duty, and they further pray that the Local Legislature may be empowered hereafter to alter the trade regulations of the colony, in those cases in which they may be affected by the Imperial laws relating to colonial trade generally, subject however to the restriction that such laws shall not receive the assent of the Crown until they have been laid before both Houses of Parliament, and shall have been suffered to pass without address from either.

“Upon the first of these objects, it is needless for me to offer any remark. The question can only properly be considered with reference to the whole subject of the Corn Laws, and I certainly do not think that, looking to the average price of corn in ordinary years in Great Britain, the colonies have any right to complain of the footing on which they now stand.

“The second point is an extremely important one. I am undoubtedly of opinion that the regulation of the principles on which colonial trade is to be conducted ought to be reserved entirely to the Imperial Parliament. The power of regulating it is one of the principal advantages resulting from colonial possessions, and, if justly exercised, affords one of the main compensations for the expenditure which the mother country is compelled to incur for the defence and protection of the colony. But whilst I admit this, to its fullest extent, I have at the same time been obliged to observe the great inconvenience, and even loss, which results to the colony from the necessity which now exists for all changes in this respect originating in England. There are a vast number of small points seriously affecting the interests of colonial trade, and not at all disturbing the general principle or objects sought to be established by Imperial Legislation, in which a change is frequently found to be desirable. Great difficulty exists, in the first place, in explaining these points at home, and, next, in proving that they are of sufficient importance to demand legislation there; but even if this be done, I know myself, from experience in that department, too much difficulty and delay unavoidably arise in carrying such measures through Parliament. I am therefore very much disposed in favour of the middle course now suggested by the Assembly. If the Local Legislature be permitted to originate measures of this description, I entertain no doubt that they would be able to introduce many improvements very beneficial to the trade of the colony, and not at all injurious to Imperial interests. These, when sent home, could receive the assent of the Crown and Parliament, whilst, if they meddled improperly with matters affecting the general interests of trade, their work would be without effect, and be open to immediate rejection. If your Lordship shall concur in this view of the case, and shall be inclined to grant this extension of power to the colony, subject to the restriction I have stated, it would be better perhaps to pass an Act specially for the purpose than to incorporate it in the Union Bill.”

EXTRACT from a DESPATCH from the Right honourable Lord *John Russell*, of the 1st July 1840 (No. 171), to the late Governor-General of Canada, in as far as the same relates to the transmission of an Address from the Legislature of the late Province of Upper Canada, praying for the introduction of Canadian Corn into Great Britain, free from Duty.

“WITH regard to the address on the subject of the introduction of Canada corn into Great Britain, and regarding the proposal to invest the Provincial Legislature with the power of regulating, under certain restrictions, the trade of the empire at large, so far as it affects Canada, I have, in obedience to Her Majesty's commands, communicated that address, with your remarks upon it, to the Lords of Committee of Privy Council for Trade, for their Lordships' consideration.”

(No. 267.)

My Lord,

Downing-street, 1 December 1840.

I ENCLOSE the copy of a letter which I have received in which a suggestion is offered with respect to the admission into this country, free of duty, of Canada wheat, flour, and other agricultural produce; and I request that you will give this subject your consideration.

I have, &c.

The Right honourable Lord Sydenham.

(signed) *J. Russell.*

(No. 320.)

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(No. 320.)

My Lord,

Downing-street, 3 March 1841.

ADVERTING to your Lordship's despatch, No. 115, of the 26th May 1840, in which was enclosed an Address to the Queen from the House of Assembly of Upper Canada, respecting the trade regulations of the province, and the repeal of the duties levied upon agricultural produce imported from Canada into the United Kingdom, to my answers thereto of the 1st July, No. 171, and to your Lordship's recent proposition for altering the clause of the Royal instructions, which prohibits the provincial legislature from legislating on subjects connected with the trade of the British empire, I have to inform your Lordship that the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade have considered the recommendations contained in your despatch, and the Address, and I shall communicate to your Lordship by the first opportunity the decision of Her Majesty's Government thereupon.

The President of the Board of Trade will bring before the House of Commons on Friday, the 12th instant, several propositions connected with this subject, and I regret that they are not sufficiently matured to enable me to transmit them to you by the present mail.

It will be the object of the Queen's Government to free the trade of Canada from restrictions which are unnecessary, and at the same time to do justice to the industry and manufactures of the United Kingdom.

I have, &c.

(signed) J. Russell.

The Right honourable Lord Sydenham,
&c. &c. &c.

Appendix, No. 3.

EXTRACT from a Return to an Address of the Legislative Assembly of the 22d September 1842, being Copy of a Despatch from Lord Stanley to Sir Charles Bagot, dated 2 March 1842.

(For Lord Stanley's Despatch, 2 March 1842, vide Papers ordered by The House of Commons to be printed, 13 February 1843, No. 18, p. 3.)

Appendix, No. 4.

Freight and Charges on One Barrel of Flour from Cleveland to Liverpool, *via* Montreal.

	s.	d.
Cost of barrel and coopering - - - - -	1	10½
Freight from Cleveland to Kingston - - - - -	1	10½
Freight from Kingston to Montreal - - - - -	2	-
Insurance from ditto to ditto - - - - -	-	2
Shipping at Montreal - - - - -	-	6
Coopering at ditto - - - - -	-	2
	6	7
Charges to and in Liverpool, as per accompanying Account Sales - - - - -	7	11
	14	6

Pro formâ Account Sales of 1,000 Barrels Canadian Flour in Liverpool, by Gibb, Bright & Co.

	£.	s.	d.
Sold within three months after the arrival, payment three months, 1,000 barrels at 28s. - - - - -	1,400	-	-
CHARGES:			
Insurance on 1,150 l. at 40s. per cent., policy 6s. - - - - -	26	12	-
Town and dock dues - - - - -	11	9	2
Duty on 1,000 barrels at 7d. 7-32 - - - - -	30	1	6
*Freight 3s. per barrel, primage 5 per cent. - - - - -	157	10	-
Cartage, portorage and cooperage, 7½d. - - - - -	30	4	2
Storage three months, 1-6th of a penny per barrel per week - - - - -	9	-	6
Insurance from fire, 7 per cent. - - - - -	4	18	-
Interest on duties, 41 l. 10s. 8d., six months - - - - -	1	1	-
Interest on freight, 157 l. 10s., three months - - - - -	1	19	6
Bank commission on 41 l. 10s. 8d., ½ per cent. - - - - -	-	2	1
Commission and <i>del credere</i> on 1,400 l. at 4 per cent. - - - - -	56	-	-
	328	17	11
Net proceeds - - - - -	£.1,071	2	1

* This is charged at 4s., and the price of 7s. 11d. per barrel is taken from the above.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE RELATING TO

Appendix, No. 5.

STATEMENT of Charges on a Barrel of Flour, 196 lbs., from Cleveland to Liverpool,		s.	d.
<i>Via Montreal.</i>			
Freight to St. Catherine's	- - - - -	1	3
Ditto to Liverpool, No. 5	- - - - -	14	6
		<u>15</u>	<u>9</u>
<i>Via New York.</i>			
Barrel lining, nailing, &c.	- - - - -	1	10½
Freight to Buffalo	- - - - -	-	7½
Storage and shipping	- - - - -	-	3½
Freight to New York	- - - - -	3	1½
Cooperage, 2d.; insurance, 2d.	- - - - -	-	4
		<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>
		s.	d.
Shipping charges	- - - - -	-	3
Freight to Liverpool	- - - - -	1	6
* Charges in Liverpool, per No. 4; less insurance	- - - - -	2	9
Insurance, 1 per cent. on 30s.	- - - - -	-	4
Interest on disbursements	- - - - -	-	3
Four months' interest on 20s., original cost	- - - - -	-	3½
		<u>5</u>	<u>4½</u>
		<u>11</u>	<u>7½</u>
Gain in favour of New York	- - - - -	3	1½

Appendix, No. 6.

QUESTIONS submitted to the Members of the Legislative Assembly, as to the price wheat should command in their respective districts, to yield an interest on the capital invested in land, or to remunerate the grower.

What price should wheat command per bushel in your district, to yield an interest on the capital invested in land, or to remunerate the grower?

NAMES.	DISTRICT.	Price per Bushel.	REMARKS.
		s. d.	
Boulton, Henry John	Niagara	4 -	- - But I think it should command 5s.
Boswell, G. M.	Northumberland, (South Riding)	5 -	
Boutillier, Thomas	St. Hyacinthe	5 -	- - Ours is not a wheat country.
Cameron, Malcolm	Lanark	5 -	
Chesley, S. Y.	Cornwall	6 3	- - There is not enough grown for home consumption on account of the fly.
Child, Marcus	Stanstead	5 -	
Christie, Robert	Gaspé	10 -	- - When it can be raised free from the fly.
Cook, John	Dundas	5 -	
Delisle, A. M.	Montreal	5 -	- - Even at that price the remuneration is small, as labour is higher in my district than in any other in the province.
Derbishire, S.	Bytown	5 -	
De Witt, Jacob	Leinster	5 -	- Not growing wheat on account of the fly.
Dunlop, William	Huron	5 -	
Forbes, C. J.	Two Mountains	5 -	- - Ours is not a wheat country.
Foster, S. S.	Shefford	5 -	

* Note.—The charges in Liverpool are equal; the difference between Montreal and New York and Liverpool arises in freight and insurance, the former being 4s. and 6d. 3-8; the latter 1s. 6d. and 4d.

THE DUTIES OF WHEAT (CANADA).

Appendix, No. 6.

QUESTION submitted to the Members, &c.—continued.

NAMES.	DISTRICT.	Price per Bushel.		REMARKS.
		s.	d.	
Gilchrist, John - - -	Northumberland (North Riding)	5	-	-- When wheat is at 5s. at Cobourg, only 4s. 6d. can be obtained with us, in consequence of transport.
Hale, Edward - - -	Town Sherbrooke - - -	5	-	
Hamilton, J. R. - - -	Bonaventure - - -	10	-	
Hincks, Hon F. - - -	Oxford - - -	5	-	-- To 6s. 3d.; this will merely pay in a good season.
Hopkins, Caleb - - -	Halton (East Riding) - - -	5	-	
Johnston, James - - -	Carleton - - -	5	9	
Kimber, René J. - - -	Champlain - - -	5	-	
Macdonald, J. S. - - -	Glengary - - -	5	-	
M'Lean, Alexander - - -	Stormont - - -	5	-	
Moore, John - - -	Sherbrooke - - -	5	6	-- It depends upon the quantity raised; and that depends upon the frost and the fly.
Parent, Etienne - - -	Saguenay - - -	-	-	
Parke, Thomas - - -	Middlesex - - -	5	-	-- But I think it ought to command 5s. 6d.
Roblin, J. P. - - -	Prince Edward - - -	5	-	
Smith, Henry - - -	Frontenac - - -	5	-	
Smith, Hermannus - - -	Wentworth - - -	5	-	
Sherwood, George - - -	Brockville - - -	5	-	
Steele, Elmes - - -	Simcoe - - -	4	6	
Taché, E. P. - - -	L'Islet - - -	5	6	
Taschereau, A. C. - - -	Dorchester - - -	5	-	
Thompson, David - - -	Lincoln - - -	5	-	
Turcotte, J. E. - - -	St. Maurice - - -	5	-	
Williams, J. T. - - -	Durham - - -	4	6	
Woods, Joseph - - -	Kent - - -	4	-	
Yule, John - - -	Chambly - - -	5	6	

Appendix, No. 7.

EXTRACT of the Scale of Duties under the late Corn Law, passed in the last Session of the Imperial Parliament.

	Wheat, per Imperial Quarter.		Flour, per Barrel.		Difference between Foreign and Colonial Duty on Flour.
	Duty on Foreign.	Duty on Colonial.	Duty on Foreign.	Duty on Colonial.	
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	
Under 51s.	20 -	5 -	12 $\frac{3}{4}$	3 -	9 $\frac{3}{4}$
51s. and ditto 52s.	19 -	5 -	11 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 -	8 5 $\frac{1}{2}$
52s. „ ditto 55s.	18 -	5 -	10 10	3 -	7 10
55s. „ ditto 56s.	17 -	4 -	10 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 9 $\frac{1}{2}$
56s. „ ditto 57s.	16 -	3 -	9 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 9 $\frac{1}{2}$
57s. „ ditto 58s.	15 -	2 -	9 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 9 $\frac{1}{2}$
58s. „ ditto 59s.	14 -	1 -	8 5	- 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 9 $\frac{1}{2}$
59s. „ ditto 60s.	13 -	1 -	7 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	- 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 2 $\frac{1}{2}$
60s. „ ditto 61s.	12 -	1 -	7 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	- 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 7 $\frac{1}{2}$
61s. „ ditto 62s.	11 -	1 -	6 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	- 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
62s. „ ditto 63s.	10 -	1 -	6 $\frac{1}{8}$	- 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 4 $\frac{3}{8}$
63s. „ ditto 64s.	9 -	1 -	5 5	- 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 9 $\frac{1}{2}$
64s. „ ditto 65s.	8 -	1 -	4 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	- 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 2 $\frac{1}{2}$
65s. „ ditto 66s.	7 -	1 -	4 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	- 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 7 $\frac{1}{2}$
66s. „ ditto 69s.	6 -	1 -	3 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	- 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
69s. „ ditto 70s.	5 -	1 -	3 -	- 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 4 $\frac{1}{2}$
70s. „ ditto 71s.	4 -	1 -	2 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	- 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 9 $\frac{1}{2}$
72s. „ ditto 73s.	2 -	1 -	1 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	- 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	- 7 $\frac{1}{2}$
73s. and upwards	1 -	1 -	- 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	- 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	-

— No. 3. —

(No. 330.)

Copy of a DESPATCH from Lord Stanley to the Right honourable
Sir Charles Bagot, G.C.B.

No. 3.
Despatch from
Lord Stanley to the
Right hon. Sir
Charles Bagot,
2 March 1843.

Sir,

Downing-street, 2 March 1843.

I HAVE received your despatch (No. 19) of the 27th January, enclosing a petition addressed to the Queen by the Board of Trade at Quebec, praying that the Royal Assent may be withheld from the Bill passed in the last session of the Legislature of Canada, by which a duty was imposed on the importation of foreign wheat into that province, until the Imperial Parliament shall have passed a law authorizing the free admission into the United Kingdom and the British Colonies of all grain and flour exported from Canada.

I have to acquaint you, in answer, that I have laid this petition before the Queen, and that Her Majesty was graciously pleased to signify Her readiness to take the prayer of it into Her consideration when the proper time shall arrive for deciding upon the provincial enactment.

I have, &c.

(signed) Stanley.

— No. 4. —

(No. 35.)

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from the Right honourable Sir Charles Bagot, G.C.B.,
to Lord Stanley, dated Government House, Kingston, 24 February 1843.

No. 4.
Extract of a
Despatch from the
Right hon. Sir
Charles Bagot to
Lord Stanley,
24 February 1843.

For Lord Stanley's
Despatch, 1 Feb.
1843, vide Papers
ordered by the
House of Commons
to be printed,
13 Feb. 1843,
No. 18, p. 5.

I HAVE had the honour 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 season.

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 contained in the second clause of the Bill in admitting frauds upon the revenue, and an abuse of the privilege which may be accorded in the United Kingdom to wheat which shall have paid the provincial duty.

Enclosure in No. 4.

Encl. in No. 4.

EXTRACT of a REPORT of a Committee of the Executive Council, dated 23d February 1843, on the subject of the Bill passed last Session, for imposing a Duty upon American Wheat.

WITH respect to the inquiry contained in the last clause of his Lordship's despatch, regarding the exemption from duty of wheat and flour introduced by sea for the use of the fisheries, and the facility which such an exemption may give to the commission of frauds upon the revenue, which inquiry, the Committee observe, is not anticipated in your Excellency's despatch, the Committee beg respectfully to observe,

1st.—That Canada is very little concerned in the fisheries on the coast, as the fish taken there are exported directly to foreign countries; and the supplies are derived directly from England, in the shape of fishing-tackle, sails, rigging, and other like necessities; and the provisions are imported, by sea, from the ports in the United States.

2dly.—That the British fisheries trading with foreign countries and having no protection, would be absolutely ruined by any financial measure which would increase their expenses, and thus place them at a disadvantage as compared with the foreign fisheries, particularly as the former do not enjoy the encouragement of bounty on the exportation of fish, afforded by the eastern colonies and by the Americans.

3dly.—That the exemption was introduced to favour a trade in which British shipping and British capitalists are interested; and that the only possible interest which the interior of Canada could have in the question would be in favour of a duty on foreign supply

supply to the fisheries, and in forcing them thus to take the supplies from the provinces; but, for the reasons above stated, it is not desired to acquire such an advantage at the expense of the fisheries.

4thly.—That the exemption was introduced in accordance with the policy of all the Canada Trade Acts, which contain the same exemption in favour of the fisheries.

5thly.—That the geographical position of the fisheries is such as to prevent it from being the interest of persons disposed to defraud the revenue to import, by sea, wheat from a foreign country, and to send it illicitly into Canada, there to acquire the character of wheat or flour of Canadian growth, or of the same articles which had paid the duty.

6thly.—That wheat or flour introduced by sea for the use of fisheries not on the sea-coast, would not bear the expense of transportation to the interior for the purpose of avoiding the duty.

7thly.—As to the danger of wheat being introduced by sea at the fisheries on the coast, which may there be converted into flour, and thereby acquire the character of colonial produce or manufacture, the Committee would observe, that the country on the coast not being wheat growing, any importation or manufacture of wheat for exportation would immediately be observed by the officers of the Customs, and the traders in the article, on importing what evidently was not for the use of the fisheries, or on attempting to export it to England, would be liable to have the property seized, and would be subject to the pains and penalties of the British Trade Act, re-enacted by the Bill in question.

And, lastly, as the exemption was introduced into the Bill in favour of British interests, any act removing or lessening the duty on wheat and flour imported from Canada may contain any precautionary enactments regulating the details of importations for the use of the fisheries, which may be devised by the Commissioners of Customs, and which would effectually prevent the fraud of which his Lordship apprehends the probability.

—No. 5.—

(No. 43.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right honourable Sir Charles Bagot, G.C.B., to Lord Stanley.

Government House, Kingston,
20 March 1843.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's Despatch of the 2d March, No. 330, relative to the petition addressed to the Queen by the Board of Trade at Quebec upon the subject of the Wheat Duty Bill, passed by the Provincial Legislature in its last session, I deem it expedient, although I am confident that Her Majesty's Government will allow no unnecessary delay to occur in determining upon the course which they will adopt with regard to this measure, to transmit to your Lordship a copy of a communication from the same body, pointing out the importance of an early decision upon this matter with reference to the trade of the approaching season.

I have, &c.

(signed) Charles Bagot.

No. 5.
Despatch from the
Right hon. Sir
Charles Bagot to
Lord Stanley,
20 March 1843.

Enclosure in No. 5.

Office of the Council of the Quebec Board of Trade,
Quebec, March 4, 1843.

Sir,

I AM requested by the Council of the Quebec Board of Trade respectfully to inquire if any information has yet been received regarding the fate of a Bill passed in the last session of our Provincial Legislature, imposing a duty of 3s. per quarter on wheat imported into the British Possessions in North America from the United States, and which was reserved by his Excellency the Governor-general for Her Majesty's pleasure thereon. When the aforesaid Bill was passed by the Legislature, it seemed to be generally understood that it was the intention of the Imperial Government to permit the importation of wheat from Canada into Great Britain at merely a nominal duty; and as the season of business is now approaching, it is of great importance to the inhabitants of the province generally that they should receive authentic information on these questions with the least possible delay.

Encl. in No. 5.

I have, &c.

(signed) W. Walker, Chairman.