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TIMBER DUTIES.

COMMUNICATIONS from the Governor General and Lieutenant Governors of the *North American Colonies*, relating to an Alteration of the TIMBER DUTIES ; also, Memorials or Representations from Individuals or Bodies of Persons in the Colonies on the same subject.

(*Sir Howard Douglas.*)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
3 June 1842.

TIMBER DUTIES.

RETURN to an ADDRESS of the Honourable The House of Commons,
dated 31 May 1842 ;—for,

COPIES or EXTRACTS of COMMUNICATIONS received by Her Majesty's
Government from the Governor-General of the *North American* Colonies,
and the Lieutenant-Governors of either of those Colonies, relating to an
ALTERATION of the TIMBER DUTIES ;—also, Copies of any MEMORIALS or
REPRESENTATIONS received by Her Majesty's Government, from any
Individuals or Bodies of Persons in the Colonies, on the same subject.

(*Sir Howard Douglas.*)

Colonial Office, Downing-street, }
3 June 1842. }

G. W. HOPE.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
3 June 1842.

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C A N A D A.

CANADA.

— No. 1. —

(No. 110.)

No. 1.
Lord Sydenham to
Lord John Russell.
26 August 1841.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Sydenham* to Lord *John Russell*.

My Lord, Government House, Kingston, 26 Aug. 1841

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith, in compliance with the request of the Legislative Council and House of Assembly of this province, an Address to Her Majesty, and Addresses to the two Houses of the Imperial Parliament, on the subject of the Timber Duties. I have to request that your Lordship will lay at the foot of the Throne the Address to The Queen, and will entrust the Addresses to the two Houses of Parliament to Members of those bodies, to be presented to them respectively.

In transmitting these Addresses, I am bound to remark that, notwithstanding the authority from which they proceed, I am not disposed to attach very great importance to them.

The section of the province of Canada west of this city is very little, if at all, interested in this question, as the staple of that part of the country is wheat and not timber; and it is chiefly in the lumbering districts about the Ottawa, and at the port of Quebec, that the subject really excites interest. Far greater and more general indeed is the interest which is taken in the question of the admission of grain or flour, the produce of Canada, into Great Britain duty free.

But it is only natural, although such is the case, that a representation in favour of the protection at home of any article of Canadian produce should find ready and warm supporters in the Legislature, where the protection is beneficial in any degree, however small, to the colony, and the burthen of it is borne by the mother country alone.

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

Enclosure in No. 1.

To The QUEEN'S Most Excellent Majesty.

May it please Your Majesty,

WE, Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly of the Province of Canada, in Provincial Parliament assembled, most humbly represent,

Enclosure in No. 1.

That we have learned with serious apprehension that Your Majesty's servants have recently proposed to the Honourable the House of Commons an alteration unfavourable to the colonies in the relative scale of duties levied on foreign and colonial timber and deals, on their importation into the United Kingdom, which scale has remained nearly the same during the last 30 years.

That the discriminating duty in favour of colonial timber and deals was originally established without any solicitation on the part of the inhabitants of the colonies, and was considered by them as connected with objects of national policy, and, therefore, likely to be permanent, and they accordingly embarked their capital and industry in the trade of preparing and bringing to the home market the produce of the forests of Canada, which trade during the continued encouragement of the relative scale of duties, has grown from the loading in part of a few vessels frequenting the St. Lawrence, to the loading of more than a thousand large ships annually.

That the competition in the trade in timber and deals in the colony is free to all Your Majesty's subjects; and that under an unfavourable alteration of the existing duties the trade must almost altogether cease, and a great part of the capital vested in the trade

CANADA.

trade and in lumbering establishments, be lost, while a very large portion of the inhabitants must be deprived of their usual employments, the agriculturists be, to a great degree, deprived of a near and advantageous market for their produce, importations be greatly diminished, and the province left without a sufficient revenue for the support of its local government, the discharge of its existing engagements, and providing for the public wants.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that Your Majesty will be graciously pleased to maintain the inhabitants of this province in the privileges and protection which their trade now enjoys.

And Your Majesty's petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

Legislative Council, Friday, 6th August 1841.

Robert S. Jameson,
Speaker.

Legislative Assembly, Province of Canada, Kingston, 29th July 1841.

Austin Cuvillier,
Speaker.

No. 2.

Lord Stanley to
the Officer administering the
Government of
Canada.

1 October 1841.

— No. 2. —

(No. 12.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Stanley* to the Officer administering the Government of Canada.

Sir,

Downing-street, 1 October 1841.

I HAVE received Lord Sydenham's despatch (No. 110) of the 26th August, enclosing joint addresses to The Queen, the House of Lords, and the House of Commons, from the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly of Canada, on the subject of the timber duties.

I have had the honour to lay before The Queen the address to Her Majesty, and Her Majesty has commanded me to instruct you to inform the Council and Assembly that it will be referred for the consideration and report of the Lords of the Committee of Her Privy Council for Trade. The result of their Lordships' deliberations on this important subject, when notified to me, will be communicated to you for the information of the Provincial Legislature.

The petition to the House of Lords will be presented by the Earl of Ripon; that to the House of Commons has already been presented by Mr. Hope.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Stanley.*

No. 3.

Secretary of the
North American
Colonial Association to Ld. Stanley.
25 Sept. 1841.

— No. 3. —

COPY of a LETTER from the Secretary of the North American Colonial Association to Lord *Stanley*.

My Lord,

No. 11, Leadenhall-street, 25 Sept. 1841.

By direction of the committee of this association, I have the honour to place in your Lordship's hands a petition to Her Majesty, signed by 8,966 inhabitants of the district of Quebec in Canada, praying that the duties now payable on the importation of timber into the United Kingdom may not be altered; and I am most respectfully to request that you will be pleased to lay the same at the foot of the Throne; and I take the liberty of enclosing a copy of the petition for your Lordship's information.

I have, &c.

(signed) *R. Carter, Honorary Secretary.*

Enclosure in No. 3.

To The QUEEN'S Most Excellent Majesty.

The Petition of Your Majesty's Loyal and Dutiful Subjects, the Inhabitants of the City and District of *Quebec*. Enclosure in No. 3.

Humbly sheweth,

THAT your petitioners have heard with great alarm that Your Majesty's Ministers intend proposing to Parliament, during its present Session, an alteration in the scale of duties now levied in the United Kingdom on timber and deals.

That these duties, as they stand at present, afford no more than a bare protection to colonial timber and deals in the British market; that any alteration in favour of foreign articles of the same description, would involve in ruin many of Your petitioners, and others of Your Majesty's loyal subjects who, on the faith of the Imperial Parliament, by whose acts the colonial timber trade was created, are now deeply engaged therein, and would have an equally injurious effect on other great and important interests which have grown up under the encouragement thus given to the trade.

That the colonial timber trade had its origin in the necessities of the empire, during a time of war, when there was reason to fear that the safety of the country might be endangered, were it left dependent upon foreign powers for the supply of an article of such primary importance.

That the country may be again placed in similar circumstances, and that a trade which, under the fostering care of Government, has taken more than 30 years to attain its present magnitude, could not, if destroyed, be suddenly revived upon such an emergency.

That in the year 1821, peace having been restored and consolidated in Europe, an inquiry was instituted into the timber trade, to ascertain how far the scale of duties then in force would bear modification, and after a long and laborious investigation by a Select Committee of the House of Commons, and after maturely weighing the evidence brought forward on all sides of the question, the present scale of duties was determined on. It was considered an equitable adjustment, enabling competitors from all quarters to meet on equal terms in the British market; and on the faith of its permanency, large numbers of British subjects have continued to embark in the trade.

That in the year 1831 a new scale of duties was proposed, and, having been submitted by Ministers to the House of Commons, was rejected by a large majority.

That Your Majesty's subjects in the colonies then thought the question finally set at rest, and considered that they might safely embark in the trade to a larger extent than ever. In four years afterwards, however, a Select Committee of the House of Commons was again appointed to inquire into the expediency of altering the duties; but although a great majority of that committee consisted of persons opposed in opinion to the protective principle, and although no pains were spared to bring forward a preponderance of evidence in favour of their views, the result of the inquiry was so favourable to the colonists, that Ministers abandoned their intention of proposing any alteration in the duties, as adjusted in 1821.

That, notwithstanding the uncertainty and suspense to which the staple trade of the British North American colonies has thus from time to time been exposed, in consequence of the changes which have been proposed therein, Your Majesty's petitioners and their fellow colonists, relying on the justice of the British Parliament, and confident of being able, provided a fair opportunity were afforded them, to rebut any evidence that could be adduced unfavourable to their cause, have gone on enlarging and extending their investments and operations, until the annual exports from this port alone exceed 1,200 cargoes (mostly of timber and deals), affording the chief means of paying for our imports of British products and manufactures, the value of which exceeds 2,000,000*l.* annually.

That on all former occasions of legislative inquiry affecting their interests, Your Majesty's subjects in the colonies have had an opportunity afforded them of refuting any incorrect statements that might be made to their prejudice; and it is with the deepest alarm that Your petitioners now make known to Your Majesty that on the present occasion they have had no such opportunity; that the persons called before the Select Committee of the House of Commons, appointed last Session to inquire into the duties levied on imports, for the purpose of being examined on the timber trade, were exclusively such as were known to entertain opinions adverse to Your petitioners, or to be interested in the timber trade of foreign countries, and that the evidence given by these persons contains statements and assertions highly injurious to the interests of this province, and entirely unfounded in fact.

That the people of Canada have been greatly misrepresented by those who have asserted in their name that they would be willing to be deprived of the protective duties on their timber and deals, provided the existing restrictions on their import trade were removed. These restrictions are few and unimportant, being mostly intended to protect British products and manufactures from foreign competition, and these Your petitioners believe require no such protection; but if they did, Your petitioners beg humbly to assure Your Majesty that it would be cheerfully submitted to, their desire being to perpetuate the connexion between the mother country and her colony, by making it mutually beneficial.

CANADA.

That timber and deals are the chief articles of export which this country produces, and must continue to be so till a large portion of it shall have been brought under cultivation by a greatly augmented population. This, the lumber trade is eminently calculated to produce, by the cheap means of conveyance across the Atlantic which it provides for the poor emigrants in ships coming out in ballast; by the ready means of employment which its various operations of sawing, shipping, and preparing for shipment, afford him on his arrival; by the relief and support which the old as well as the new settlers derive from it, in consequence of its furnishing them with occupation during a long and severe winter, when agricultural operations in this country are impracticable; and by the market it furnishes to the farmer for his produce at his own door.

That the lumber trade gives employment and the means of subsistence to a large portion of the population of this province, and that the interests and prosperity of the whole are in a very great measure dependent upon it; that its value, when shipped, is the produce exclusively of the labour of British subjects, and paid for in British goods; that in its transport it gives employment to more British shipping, and more British seamen, than any other trade within the whole range of British commerce, with the single exception of the home coasting trade; and that should the protective duties be reduced, all these advantages will be reversed in favour of foreigners, who will not receive British goods in payment, but require money, and unrestrained by competition, will then charge their own price, the consumer paying in price to foreigners what he now pays in duty into Your Majesty's Treasury.

That a large portion of the capital of the colony is invested in saw-mills, wharfs, and other fixed property necessary for carrying on this trade, and that a very slight alteration in the protective duties would entirely destroy their value.

That Your petitioners abstain from entering upon so extensive a subject as the effects which the dreaded measure would have upon the prosperity of the empire at large, but they cannot too strongly express to Your Majesty their conviction, that, to the British North American Colonies its effects would be most disastrous.

Wherefore, Your petitioners humbly pray that Your Majesty, taking the premises into Your favourable consideration, will be graciously pleased to maintain Your petitioners, and the province at large, in the privileges and protection which their trade now enjoys.

And Your Majesty's petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

— No. 4. —

No. 4.
Right Hon.
Sir C. Bagot to
Lord Stanley.
28 April 1842.

(No. 91.)

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

My Lord,

Government House, Kingston, 28 April 1842.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a memorial addressed to your Lordship by the Board of Trade of the city of Montreal, praying that the operation of the changes proposed in the protective duties on Canada timber may be delayed for a space of at least four years, and may then be brought into operation gradually.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Charles Bagot*.

Enclosure in No. 4.

Enclosure in No. 4. To the Right Honourable Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Managing the Affairs of the Colonies.

The Memorial of the *Montreal* Board of Trade,

Humbly sheweth,

THAT your memorialists have been informed, that certain changes are under consideration in the United Kingdom affecting the duties now levied on wood goods, much to the disadvantage of the trade in those articles with this country, and which it has been stated will be proposed to take place in about a year from the present time.

That although not actively engaged in the shipment of wood goods, the merchants of Montreal are highly interested in the success of the trade in those articles, as the chief part of the supplies to those engaged in the cutting and preparing timber and deals for the Quebec market are furnished from hence; any sudden alteration, therefore, by ruining their customers, would as much injure the trade of Montreal as that of Quebec.

That so considerable a proportion of the exports of Canada consisting of lumber, the sudden alteration of duties unfavourable to that trade would, by depriving importers of manufactures of the means of remittance, destroy the greater part of the import trade in British goods, to the great injury of the manufacturer.

That

ALTERATION IN THE TIMBER DUTIES.

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CANADA.

That in the infant state of agriculture in this country, the manufacturer of timber and deals, by affording a home market for the farmer's produce, gives the greatest encouragement to an occupation which, in the course of a few years, may much augment the exports of provisions, but which, if suddenly destroyed by the withdrawal of the favourable markets now enjoyed, will probably never revive.

That in changing in so great a degree the whole trade of an extensive country, at least four years' notice should be given, and then alterations be made gradually, to enable the discharged labourers to be employed by agriculturists unconnected with the trade; and also, that emigrants may not be induced to come out, expecting that occupation in the woods which may, when they arrive, be abandoned.

That although, by altogether throwing open the British markets duty-free to the bread stuffs, and other agricultural produce of Canada, some compensation would be afforded for the loss of part of the lumber trade, still it must be borne in mind that no branch of industry can be changed at once, and that the withdrawal of all duty from the one ought to precede the withdrawal of protection of the other, by a period sufficiently long to allow of the one branch of industry being taken up, and carried out, before the other be lost.

The Board need scarcely advert to the cheap passages that lumber ships afford to the emigrant, to the large proportion of the British mercantile navy employed in the trade, to the great facility the carrying on of the trade affords for the exploration and settlement of the Ottawa River, where most of the timber is obtained, and which river will some day be the great means of communication with the fertile regions of the west; nor will the Board enlarge on the probability of so great a rise taking place in Baltic timber as to defeat the object of those who propose to lower the duties on wood goods from the north of Europe, owing to their inability to furnish all the timber required, such having also been so often repeated; but the Board cannot help noticing a point of some moment, the danger of throwing out of employ so large a body of men as the lumbermen of Canada.

Wherefore your memorialists humbly pray, that your Lordship will use your influence, so that if any reduction be deemed necessary in the amount of protection at present afforded to Canadian timber, the same may be gradual, and at least four years' delay be granted before any change whatever shall take effect.

And your memorialists, as in duty bound, will ever pray,

J. T. Brondgiest,
President of the Montreal Board of Trade.

Frederick Willson,
Secretary Montreal Board of Trade.

Montreal, 18 April 1842.

— No. 5. —

(No. 155.)

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

Sir,

Downing-street, 31 May 1842.

I HAVE received your despatch (No. 91) of the 28th April, forwarding a memorial addressed to me by the Board of Trade of Montreal, praying that the operation of the changes proposed in the protective duties on Canadian timber may be delayed for the space of at least four years, and may then be carried into effect gradually. I have in answer to instruct you to acquaint the Board of Trade, that, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, the prayer of their petition could not be acted on without producing the greatest inconvenience to all parties interested in the trade and consumption of timber.

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

No. 5.
Lord Stanley to
Right Hon. Sir
C. Bagot,
31 May 1842.

— No. 6. —

(No. 109.)

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from The Right Hon. Sir *Charles Bagot*, G.C.B.
to Lord *Stanley*.

Government House, Kingston, 12 May 1842.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copies of two memorials which have been addressed to me, the first by the Board of Trade of Quebec, the second by the principal lumberers on the Ottawa, praying my intervention with Her Majesty's Government relative to the proposed alteration in the timber duties. I also enclose a memorial to your Lordship on the same subject, from the lumberers on the Ottawa.

No. 6.
Right Hon.
Sir C. Bagot to
Lord Stanley.
12 May 1842.

CANADA.

The intelligence which has reached this province of the intentions of Her Majesty's Government, in regard to the duties on timber, has produced very great alarm among all classes connected with that trade. Considering the amount of capital invested in it, they would naturally desire that no alteration should take place; but, upon the present occasion they seem to have satisfied themselves that the change is inevitable, and accordingly they seek only to make that change as gradual as possible.

Enclosure 1, in No. 6.

Encl. 1, in No. 6. To his Excellency the Right Hon. Sir *Charles Bagot*, G.C.B., Governor-General of British North America, &c. &c. &c.

The Memorial of the *Quebec* Board of Trade,

Humbly sheweth,

THAT the capitalists, the merchants, and the large portion of the active population of this province who are engaged in the timber and deal trade, and those who are indirectly interested in it by the heavy advances in British goods and money which they have made to those immediately employed, have been thrown into the utmost consternation and anxiety by the accounts brought out by the last mail, of resolutions which had been introduced into Parliament by Her Majesty's Ministers suddenly to reduce duties on foreign timber and deals levied under Imperial Acts, which had been enacted expressly to encourage the colonists to embark in the trade, for national objects at the time, and to protect them in it.

That this change, while it is proposed to be suddenly visited upon them with their hands full of the produce of their labours and outlays during the last autumn and winter, which is the extreme severity of the case, is at the same time to a degree which will render totally valueless fully half of that produce, and reduce the value of the other half to two-thirds or more of its cost, thus annihilating at once an immense amount of the capital in the colony, and reducing thousands from respectability of situation to bankruptcy and ruin, who, in the progress of their apparently prudent and legitimate business, have made contracts and arrangements on the closest calculation for competition, founded on existing laws.

That your memorialists, for the information of your Excellency, annex a printed copy of a petition, presented to the Imperial Parliament at its last Session from the city and district of *Quebec*, which was signed by upwards of 9,000 persons, without distinction of party or origin, which, together with the petitions from the Provincial Legislature, from *Montreal*, and other parts of the province, will satisfy your Excellency that your memorialists are not representing the case of a limited number of individuals, and that it can require no exaggeration to show that thousands will be involved in ruin by a sudden change upon a trade of such magnitude, which has now been engrafted in the colony for a period of 33 years.

That however destructive the proposed change would be to the value of a vast amount of fixed property, and generally injurious to the industry of the country, as set forth in the annexed petition, your memorialists nevertheless feel that it is the duty of the inhabitants of this province, as an integral part of the empire, to submit to any permanent changes in the import duties which the supreme authority in its wisdom may judge necessary for the general interest; but it is humbly suggested that, under the circumstances, a distant colony is entitled, in justice, to a sufficient notice before changes are made so ruinously to affect so many of Her Majesty's loyal subjects engaged directly and indirectly in a commerce built up to its great extent by the encouragement and protection of the Imperial Government, and which changes would involve so large an amount of pecuniary interests, and all the social interests connected therewith.

That any material change to take effect in less than three years, must be a sudden change upon a trade of such extent, occupying 2,200 sail of ships of heavy tonnage, requiring so much preparation beforehand, and from difficult and distant streams, expending two years in the manufacture and transport to the shipping port, that the late Governor-general, Lord *Sydenham*, who, as a Member of the Imperial Parliament, always advocated a change in the duties, nevertheless, as Governor-general of this province, advised in his public despatches, "the justice as well as the policy of making the change gradually, and no alteration whatever until the year after the passing of the Act." Your memorialists would, however, humbly submit to your Excellency, that a notice of one year of any material reduction in the protective duties, in a trade of so great an extent, would be insufficient, and it is to be feared equally ruinous as an immediate change, because merchants in Great Britain and Ireland would not import nor purchase there, to pay duties which would be so shortly lost to them by a reduction of the Tariff; and while ruin would be spread far and wide among Her Majesty's subjects in this province, no real object would be gained for the consumer in England, as a sudden increased demand in the north of Europe would immediately raise the prices there, and thus would the British consumer pay in price to foreigners what he now pays in revenue into Her Majesty's Treasury, and the revenue and the colonist would suffer to no other end than to benefit the foreigner.

Similar to the Petition to Her Majesty at page 5.

That

That your memorialists are confident that were Her Majesty's Government informed of all the destructive and ruinous consequences which would ensue in this province from so sudden and great a reduction of the protective duties, they would not adopt the measure; but your memorialists humbly take the liberty of observing, that in the discussions on the subject in the Imperial Parliament there appeared to be no information as to the calamitous effects on the interests of the colonists, but the contrary. Your memorialists were discouraged to find it said, "that the guarantee of Government for the loan to Canada would be a compensation for the loss of the timber and deal trade;" and, "that the admission of wheat from the United States, free of duty, would be a set-off;" while no advocate rose for their interests, to make it understood that new speculation and prospective advantages to one portion of the community and interests, could not compensate another portion for sudden loss of capital, and ruin and desolation to thousands.

Your memorialists, therefore, humbly pray your Excellency, that you will take the premises into consideration; that you will advocate the cause and represent their situation to Her Majesty's Government; and that should it be deemed indispensable for the general interests of the empire that the protection to colonial timber should be reduced, that your Excellency will interest yourself on behalf of the colonies, to avert from them the serious calamity of a sudden change, and obtain for them at least three years' notice before any change whatever shall take effect, and then that any reduction in the protection which may be deemed necessary, shall be gradual.

And your memorialists will ever pray, &c.

(signed) *George Pemberton*, Vice-President,
(and Ten others.)

Enclosure 2, in No. 6.

To the Right Hon. Sir *Charles Bagot*, G.C.B. Governor-General, &c. &c. &c.

Encl. 2, in No. 6.

The Memorial of the undersigned Lumber Merchants in the Districts of *Ottawa*,
Dalhousie, *Bathurst*, &c. &c. &c.

Humbly sheweth,

THAT your memorialists have, under sanction of the colonial revenue laws in Great Britain, embarked large capital in the timber trade, which cannot be immediately realized or diverted to other channels without great sacrifice.

That your memorialists dread the effects of an immediate change in the revenue laws of Great Britain affecting timber, which they see is contemplated, and which your memorialists deeply deplore, as rendering valueless the main or only article which the colony has to offer as exchange in her commercial intercourse with the mother country.

That the practice hitherto adopted by enlightened statesmen in England, when any great change was decided upon, which affected capital, has been, or is likely to be lost sight of in the proposed law for admitting Baltic timber to be imported at a reduced duty, without allowing time for the withdrawal of the capital embarked in the trade, which is likely to be annihilated by the change.

That your memorialists, upon every principle of justice, should be allowed three years, at the least, to withdraw their capital from the timber trade (which they were encouraged to enter into under the protection of Great Britain), whenever this protection is withdrawn.

That your Excellency's predecessor, the late lamented Lord Sydenham, entertained similar sentiments, and recommended to the Home Government the propriety of allowing time to the colonists to withdraw or limit their capital by protracting the period when the law which was to regulate the importation of timber came into operation.

Your memorialists therefore humbly pray, that your Excellency will take this important matter into your consideration, and recommend to the Home Government such extension of time as in your Excellency's wisdom may seem meet, for enabling your memorialists to withdraw their capital now engaged in the timber trade, and your memorialists, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.

Enclosure 3, in No. 6.

To the Right Honourable Lord *Stanley*, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonial Department. Encl. 3, in No. 6.

The Memorial of the Lumberers and Agriculturalists in the Districts of *Ottawa*, *Dalhousie*,
Bathurst, &c. &c. &c.

Humbly sheweth,

THAT your memorialists recently used the freedom, as practical men, to state to your Lordship some of the fatal effects to the colony which would inevitably follow any alteration in the revenue laws of England which regulate the importation of timber.

CANADA.

That your memorialists presumed that the present Government, as was the practice of its former great leader, Mr. Pitt, would never sanction any great or sudden change in laws of commerce or revenue, without deliberately hearing the opinions of practical men as opposed to theorists.

That your memorialists now see that a very decided alteration is determined on; and as they view the measure as one which will annihilate the trade in timber betwixt Great Britain and this colony, they are naturally anxious to withdraw the heavy capital engaged therein, and to ward off the ruin which would follow any sudden change in the existing laws, a period of two years being frequently required to transport the timber, when manufactured, to the shipping port.

May it therefore please your Lordship to take the premises into your serious consideration, and to use your influence to avert the impending evil, by getting the period protracted for the term of three years at the least when the new law, as regards the duty on timber, comes into operation.

And your memorialists, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.

(signed) *Daniel Fisher, J. P.*
(And 307 other Signatures.)

NEW BRUNSWICK.

— No. 1. —

(No. 22.)

Copy of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir *W. M. G. Colebrooke* to Lord *Stanley*.

NEW
BRUNSWICK.

No. 1.

Lieut.-Governor
Sir *W. M. G. Colebrooke* to Lord
Stanley.
4 March 1842.

My Lord,

Fredericton, New Brunswick, 4 March 1842.

THE enclosed address, from the Legislative Council and Assembly to The Queen, on the subject of the duties on wood imported into the United Kingdom, has been entrusted to me for transmission to your Lordship, with a request that it may be laid before Her Majesty. Copies of the addresses to the Houses of Lords and Commons are also enclosed.

I have, &c.

(signed) *W. M. G. Colebrooke*.

Enclosure in No. 1.

To The QUEEN's most Excellent Majesty.

The humble Address of Your Majesty's Legislative Council and House of Assembly of the Province of New Brunswick, in General Assembly convened.

Encl. in No. 1.

May it please Your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most faithful subjects, the Legislative Council and Assembly of New Brunswick, having heard with great alarm that Your Majesty's Ministers contemplate such alteration in the duties upon wood imported into the United Kingdom as will lessen the protection now afforded to colonial over foreign wood, a measure involving consequences so ruinous to all Your Majesty's North American colonies, and especially to New Brunswick, beg permission to lay at the foot of the Throne this their humble representation.

By the protecting system, originally adopted for the purpose of rendering the mother country independent of foreign nations for a supply of wood, a trade of vast importance has been created, in which British capital and British enterprise alone are engaged, and British interests alone promoted.

That the wood trade is the staple of this country, employing a numerous population of emigrants and lumberers, a large amount of capital invested in saw-mills, wharves, warehouses, and other establishments; and that while it encourages the settlement of the country it affords to the agriculturist a ready and convenient market for the produce of his labours.

That the province of New Brunswick has always been distinguished for the sound constitutional principles of its inhabitants, and its unshaken loyalty to the British Crown.

That, from the combined advantages of its wood trade and the cultivation of its soil, this province has, in the course of a few years, sprung from helpless infancy to vigorous manhood, and achieved for itself a high station among the colonies of Great Britain, the real worth of which can scarcely be appreciated during a period of tranquillity.

That any alteration in the present scale of duties, already so nearly equalized as barely to afford such protection to colonial over foreign wood as enables the trade to be prosecuted with the most rigid economy, would, in the opinion of Your Majesty's petitioners, be ruinous to this province; because, notwithstanding its rapid growth, it is yet too young to exist by its agriculture alone; because its capital, invested in saw-mills, wharves, stores, ship-yards, and every other variety of fixed property necessary for prosecuting an extended commerce and ship-building, would, under any change of duty, or even in the present mode of collecting the same, be not worth the ground they stand upon, and because its rapidly increasing marine will be at once without employment and disastrously deteriorated in value.

That free foreign trade, and the abrogation of all fiscal restraints, propounded by speculative theorists as an equivalent for the destruction of the staple trade of the country, Your petitioners look upon as chimerical and delusive.

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The North American portion of the British empire, and particularly New Brunswick, is not yet in a position advantageously to avail itself of a foreign trade, nor of any commercial intercourse which is not based upon an exchange of its staple commodity.

It is to Great Britain alone that New Brunswick can look for the preservation and protection of its commerce, and the upholding of its prosperity and importance.

That an amount of capital greater than the entire commercial wealth of its inhabitants is invested in that description of real estate which, in the event of the dreaded measure being carried, could find no purchasers; in ships and lumber depreciated to one fourth of their cost, and in stocks on hand of British merchandise which must become nearly valueless.

That the prosperity and improvement of this colony is not the only consideration pressing upon the minds of Your petitioners; Your Royal Navy would lose its best nursery for seamen; the British manufacturer, one of the most extensive and profitable markets; Great Britain, a most promising receptacle for her redundant population; the outpost of all the North American colonies demolished by the depopulation of New Brunswick, and the fairest portions of Your Majesty's colonial dominions exposed to the cupidity of a rival and most ambitious neighbouring power.

Nor is this all; the ability to raise the means of paying the recently established civil list of this province, so cheerfully granted to Your Majesty, depends entirely upon the demand for its staple export, and the settlement of its wilderness lands; that the debts due to the British merchants by the people of New Brunswick must be nearly, if not wholly, unredeemed.

That the property and capital created by the steady industry of an enterprising and loyal people will be wasted, and the commerce of the province become annihilated, as no capitalist would be found so deficient in sagacity as to invest money in a country without trade, agriculture, or any other channel from which a return might be expected.

That no amount of Parliamentary compensation to the people, thus stripped of what they deem to be their just and equitable rights, could alleviate the distresses assuredly to follow the adoption of the contemplated measure.

In conclusion, Your people of New Brunswick are essentially British; they consume no other manufactures; they possess no other trade; they desire no other connexion; and, as they look to the home of their fathers for succour and support, so are they ever ready to shed their blood in defence of their Sovereign and of her dominions.

We therefore humbly and earnestly implore Your Majesty to take this our petition into Your most gracious consideration, assuring Your Majesty that it is only by a rigid adherence to the present protective policy in favour of the North American colonies, that Your Majesty's subjects resident therein will be preserved from ruin.

(signed) *Ward Chipman,*
President of the Legislative Council.

Charles Simonds,
Speaker of the Assembly.

[The Petitions to the Houses of Lords and Commons were similar to the foregoing.]

— No. 2. —

(No. 48.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Stanley* to Lieutenant-Governor Sir
W. M. G. Colebrooke.

No. 2.
Lord Stanley to
Lieut.-Governor
Sir W. M. G. Cole-
brooke.
4 April 1842.

Sir,

Downing-street, 4 April 1842.

I HAVE received your despatch (No. 22) of the 4th ultimo, enclosing an address to The Queen, from the Legislature of New Brunswick, deprecating the changes contemplated in the duties levied on timber imported into this country.

Having laid that address before The Queen, Her Majesty has been pleased to command that it should be referred for the consideration of the Lords of the Committee of Her Privy Council for Trade. When their Lordships' report shall have been made, I will communicate further with you on the subject.

The originals of the petitions on the same subject, from the legislative bodies to the Houses of Lords and Commons, were not received with your despatch; I presume therefore that they have been forwarded to this country through some other channel.

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

— No. 3. —

(No. 28.)

Copy of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir *W. M. G. Colebrooke* to
Lord *Stanley*.

No. 3.
Lieut.-Governor
Sir *W. M. G. Cole-*
brooke to Lord
Stanley.
29 March 1842.

My Lord,

Fredericton, New Brunswick, 29 March 1842.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship a petition addressed to Her Majesty by the mayor, aldermen, and commonalty of the city of St. John.

The sufferings and trials of the inhabitants through the winter, occasioned by the commercial distress, which still continues, and the calamitous fires which occurred in the last year, have been borne with exemplary patience; and I beg leave very earnestly to represent to your Lordship, that any sudden alteration in the duties, and without affording time and aid in developing new resources, will seriously aggravate the distress now prevailing, and which it was my hope to have alleviated by the application of the public credit in raising funds for the execution of public works in St. John's, and in other parts of the province. Without this or some other resource to create employment, I am led, from the number and amount of the recent commercial failures, to apprehend a decline of the public revenue and in the value of property, and a dearth of employment leading to the emigration instead of the settlement of the most valuable mechanics, and an increase of pauperism amongst the more indigent of the labouring class, with diminished means of providing for their support.

With such anticipations I am bound to observe, that the expected arrival at this season of a number of indigent emigrants from Europe, and chiefly from Ireland, is regarded with great apprehension as calculated to aggravate the public distress so generally prevailing.

I have, &c.

(signed) *W. M. G. Colebrooke*.

P. S.—In addition to the relief temporarily afforded by me to the people of St. John in the last year, the House of Assembly granted to me, at the beginning of the session, a sum of 2,000 *l.* to continue the employment of the mechanics and labourers, and I enclose to your Lordship a recent report which I have received from the commissioners I have appointed to disburse this fund. I have to add, that a considerable number of the principal mechanics have proposed to charter a ship to enable them to proceed to Australia, there being no immediate prospect of employment in the United States, and that proposals have been made to me by many of the more respectable who possess houses in St. John, to mortgage their funds to enable them to settle upon wilderness lands, which proposals I am unable to entertain.

There are at present mechanics who have earned 10 *s.* a day, who are now labouring for 3 *s.*, and others who have joined the parties in the new settlements, where they have funds to maintain themselves, till the lands can be made productive. Without public employment, however, the prospects of these settlers are precarious, and to require them to pay for their lands would absorb their available resources.

W. M. G. C.

Enclosure 1, in No. 3.

To The QUEEN'S most Excellent Majesty.

The Humble Petition of the Mayor, Aldermen, and Commonalty of the City of *St. John*, in the Province of *New Brunswick*, in Common Council convened, most respectfully sheweth—

Encl. 1, in No. 3.

THAT by the Charter of his most gracious Majesty King George the Third, your petitioners are the constituted guardians of the rights and interests of the city of *St. John*, and under that guardianship and the fostering care of the British Crown and Imperial Parliament, it had until very lately been rapidly advancing in population and opulence.

That the prosperity of the city has chiefly arisen from its central position as the principal port of the province for the export of timber and deals to Great Britain, and timber and fish

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to the West Indies ; and as the commercial resources of the province are almost wholly confined to the trade in these articles and a return in British West India goods, whatever occurs in the mother country bearing on these interests necessarily affects the trade of the colonies, and if the measures adopted there happen to be injurious, the city suffers more in proportion than any other part of the province.

That Your petitioners learn with the deepest regret and uneasiness the intention of Your Majesty's Ministers to make such changes in the existing duties on timber and lumber as must have a direct tendency, along with the existing commercial embarrassments, to destroy the remaining trade of the province, and bring on a general bankruptcy.

That suffering immense losses by repeated calamitous fires, and participating extensively in the lamentable depression which has taken place in the trade of the mother country, this city, instead of being prepared to encounter this sudden and alarming change in the system of protective duties now existing, is scarcely able to bear up under its present evils, and Your petitioners can anticipate no other result from the proposed change than the utter ruin of its trade, and that of the whole province.

Your petitioners are sensible that Your Majesty's Ministers, in proposing these measures, are endeavouring to relieve the general embarrassments of trade throughout Your Majesty's dominions ; but they would humbly submit whether in so doing it would not be just at least to give sufficient time to turn the extensive establishments of mills, wharves, and other erections, completed on the faith of a well-tryed and well-understood protective system, to some other profitable investments, if in this infant colony any other can be found. And Your petitioners cannot at all understand why the West India ports should be thrown wide open to an ambitious and powerful neighbouring country, with whose wealth and capital it is impossible for this young colony to compete, however their industry and enterprise may not exceed those of the people of this province.

That Your petitioners, in the full confidence of a continuance of the protective system, have within the last few years caused extensive wharves to be erected at very great expense on the flats at Carleton, within the city, and long streets or bridges leading from the main land to these wharves, all of which are eminently calculated for the safe accommodation and loading of ships, storing of goods, and preservation of timber and lumber, but which must become useless to the corporation, and to the enterprising merchants and shipowners interested therein, if the contemplated change in the scale of duties is to become the law.

That Your petitioners believe it to be unnecessary to enter more minutely into details, the same having already been done by the legislature and other public bodies, in their addresses to Your Majesty. They will therefore content themselves with humbly praying that Your Majesty will be graciously pleased to consider their petition, and avert those evils which threaten ruin to one of the finest and most loyal of Your Majesty's colonial possessions.

And, as in duty bound, Your petitioners will ever pray.

W. B. Kinnear, Recorder,

In the absence of the Mayor of the city of St. John.

Enclosure 2, in No. 3.

Sir,

St. John's, New Brunswick, 17 March 1842.

Encl. 2, in No. 3.

FOR the information of his Excellency, we have to say, that the applicants for employment increased last week, and we fear that they will not diminish, as there appears to be very little prospect of much employment when the spring opens. The number of men, women, and children sustained from what we paid the labourers last week were 2,700, beside the cartmen and their families. This is in addition to those who receive support from the overseers of the poor, as we give nothing to those who are under the care of the overseers of the poor. As we have paid something exceeding 300 *l.* per week, his Excellency will see the necessity of making further provision. Should we be mistaken in our apprehension of the want of employment, the money can be repaid into the treasury.

We have, &c.

(signed) *H. Gilbert.*
L. H. Debeber.

The Hon. William F. Odell,
Provincial Secretary, &c. Fredericton.

— No. 4. —

(No. 30.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir *W. M. G. Colebrooke*,
to Lord *Stanley*.

No. 4.
Lieut.-Governor
Sir *W. M. G. Cole-*
brooke to Lord
Stanley.
30 March 1842.

My Lord,

Fredericton, New Brunswick, 30 March 1842.

REFERRING to my despatch No. 28, dated March 29th, transmitting a petition from the mayor and aldermen and commonalty of *St. John*, I have now the honour to enclose a petition to The Queen from the magistrates, shipowners, millowners, and other inhabitants of that city, praying that the duties which protect the trade of this province may not be altered.

I have, &c.

(signed) *W. M. G. Colebrooke*.

Enclosure in No. 4.

To The QUEEN's most Excellent Majesty.

The humble Petition of the Magistrates, Merchants, Shipowners, Millowners, and other
Inhabitants of the city of *St. John*, in the province of *New Brunswick*. Enclosure in No. 4.

May it please Your Majesty:—

YOUR petitioners have learned with great regret and sincere alarm, that several propositions have lately been brought forward in the British Parliament, showing that Your Majesty's Ministers contemplate not only seriously to affect, if not destroy, the long existing, mutually beneficial, and highly important trade, carried on between the United Kingdom and the British North American colonies, but also to affect in quite as great a degree the trade between these colonies and the British West Indies:—and to avert, if possible, a measure so fraught with ruin to all the North American colonies, but more especially to New Brunswick, we beg leave to submit this our humble representation.

The wood trade now so long established between the mother country and these colonies, has been of vast moment to Great Britain in many respects, more particularly as a vast and almost endless nursery for seamen for the navy; as the means of affording a large and beneficial market for British manufactures—for these nearly alone are the returns taken in the trade; a means of affording a free vent for the emigration of an increasing population, still retaining their fealty and allegiance to the land of their birth; a nucleus for the expansion of the North American fisheries, so much to be valued as a great nursery for seamen; and affording at all times, in war and in peace a supply of nearly all descriptions of wood goods required in Great Britain: thus keeping the nation free and independent of all foreign powers for the supply of an article, the manufacture of which engages alone British capital and British enterprise, and the interests promoted thereby purely and solely British.

The protective duties now in force have been the means of creating a very heavy investment of capital throughout the whole of this province, in the various and numerous requirements of the trade, such as warehouses, mills, wharves, ships, ship-yards, and other establishments requisite for carrying on an extensive commerce and ship-building; which capital would, on any change of duties taking place, be totally and completely valueless, and the whole property of the country be brought to ruin, and the increasing marine, lately becoming so much improved in character, be at once unemployed and exceedingly deteriorated in value.

The comparative recent settlement of the province has enabled agriculturists to clear and cultivate but a very small portion of the soil—such cultivation being only encouraged by the demand of the lumbering part of the population; and destroy, as the proposed alteration in duties undoubtedly would, that principal part of the business of the country, and the greater part of the agriculturists will lose the whole of the demand for their limited produce, the cultivation of the soil will be abandoned, the country depopulated, the tide of emigration to this province and to the other North American colonies at once at a stand, and the finest portion of Your Majesty's colonial dominions left to the mercy of an ambitious rival and threatening neighbouring power.

This province has a large amount of tonnage engaged in the trade with the British West India colonies, supplying these colonies with boards and lumber of various descriptions, fish, pork, &c. taking their produce in return, which produce they must, so long as the business of the province exists, procure from some quarter.

The protective duties, both in Britain and the West Indies, on the staple exports of these North American colonies, and particularly New Brunswick, are at present barely sufficient

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to allow them carrying on the trade at even a nominal saving. The alteration, therefore, in the scale of duties to anything whatever more unfavourable than they at present are, would at once be the ruin of thousands within this province, by destroying the value of their investments, and doing other incalculable injury by the destruction of their business; and would also at once put a stop to the fisheries on our coasts, lumber and fish being nearly our whole export to the West Indies; and opposed as we would at once be by the supply from the United States (more contiguous as that country is to the West Indies), our trade would be annihilated.

The heavy duty now levied in the United States on sugar and other products of the British West Indies, totally prevents the importation of such into the United States; consequently a drain would thus be established upon the British West India colonies for specie to pay for their purchases of lumber, fish, and salted provisions, &c. from the United States, and a valuable trade be lost, both to this province and the British West Indies.

The province of New Brunswick, and the North American colonies generally, are in no state at present to take advantage of that free foreign trade so mistakenly advanced by mere speculative theorists, whose views show no real knowledge of the principles of that sound policy which has spread the colonies of the empire over the whole known world, and thereby placed Great Britain in the enviable state it now is, the greatest nation on the earth. And this province must inevitably be ruined if obliged to depend on any commerce but that which is formed by an exchange of its staple commodity.

The people of this province have been induced to invest their capital, and in fact their all, in the lumbering business, relying on the continued protection of the British Government: they are wholly British; they consume no other manufactures; they possess no other trade; they desire no other connexion; and they confidently look to that country, which at their first settlement and early exertions to open up and endeavour to cultivate the wilderness, afforded them their protection and support, that now when they have raised a trade highly important to Great Britain, the West Indies, and this province, and founded and established a colony now fast rising in importance, and embarked the whole fruits of their industry, as well as other capital, in the prosecution of it, they will not for a mere speculative theory have the whole of their interests destroyed, their property sacrificed without any remunerative return, the great public benefits resulting from the trade completely destroyed, and the whole of this fine province rendered valueless.

The very heavy responsibility lately also assumed by this province, in so cheerfully granting the payment of the Civil List, will also entirely depend on the continuance and support of the protection to the business in its staple export, and the settlement and improvement of its wilderness lands, and the debts due to the British merchants by the people of this province must be totally unredeemed.

That these views of these important matters are not entertained alone by us, but are seen and felt by every one within the limits of this, as well as the other North American provinces; and for proof of this, we refer to the petitions from the House of Assembly of this province, and from Your Majesty's Legislative Council, as well as the various other petitions and representations from all parts of these provinces, and now submitted to Your Majesty.

We, therefore, most humbly pray that Your Majesty will take this our petition into Your most favourable consideration; and that no change may be made in the scale of duties on wood goods, or other articles, so as to affect our trade with Great Britain or the British West Indies; as it is only by the most rigid adherence to the present scale of protective duties, that the entire province, and the inhabitants therein, can be saved from utter and complete ruin.

20 March 1842.

— No. 5. —

(No. 31.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir *W. M. G. Colebrooke* to Lord *Stanley*.

No. 5.
Lieut.-Governor
Sir *W. M. G. Colebrooke* to Lord
Stanley.
30 March 1842.

My Lord,

Fredericton, New Brunswick, 30 March 1842.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship a petition, humbly addressed to The Queen, from the magistrates, merchants, millowners, lumberers, agriculturists, and other inhabitants of the county of York, in this province, praying that no change may be made in the scale of duties on wood and other articles which may affect the trade of the province with Great Britain and Ireland and the British West Indies.

I have reason to believe that this petition expresses very generally the sentiments entertained at this time by the inhabitants of the other counties, but who, from the information of the proposed measures having only been received by the last packet, they have been unable to send up petitions in time to be transmitted by the present mail.

It

It is with great concern I have occasion to report, that my apprehensions of the probability that the commercial distress prevailing in St. John's would extend to other parts of the province have been realized by the embarrassment of the principal commercial and shipping establishment at Chatham, Miramichi. The loss of the West India trade would principally fall on the ports of St. Andrew's and St. Stephen's, in the St. Croix.

I have, &c.

(signed) *W. M. G. Colebrooke.*

Enclosure in No. 5.

To The QUEEN's most Excellent Majesty.

The humble and respectful Petition of the Magistrates, Merchants, Millowners, Lumberers, Agriculturists, and other Inhabitants of the County of York, in the Province of *New Brunswick.*

Encl. in No. 5.

May it please Your Majesty,

Your petitioners have learned with the deepest regret and consternation, that Your Majesty's Ministers have it in contemplation to effect such alterations in the duty on colonial and Baltic wood imported into the United Kingdom, and on the importations into the British West India Islands, as must have the effect of nearly annihilating the highly important trade carried on between the British Islands and Your Majesty's North American Provinces, and also have a similar injurious bearing upon the trade of those provinces with the British possessions in the West Indies, which measures if carried into operation would be most ruinous to your petitioners; and with the hope of contributing to avert the evil, they beg leave to submit this their humble and earnest representation and remonstrance.

The province of New Brunswick was principally settled by such inhabitants of the United States as left their comfortable homes from attachment to the British Constitution, and colonized what was then a bleak wilderness; the descendants of those loyalists, together with an accession of immigrants, principally from Great Britain and Ireland, form the present population of the province, and for loyalty and ardent attachment to their Sovereign, and to the glorious constitution of their father-land, they will not yield to the inhabitants of any portion of Your Majesty's extensive dominions.

The length of the winters in this province, the shortness of seed time and harvest, and the precariousness of the seasons, present serious obstacles to extensive agricultural operations, and will ever prevent a successful competition as exporters of flour and corn with the Canadas and the Western States of the American Union; our staple exports must therefore, from our climate and locality, for many years consist of wood for the British market, in exchange for British manufactures, and wood and fish for the West India market, in exchange for sugar, molasses, and other West India produce; and whatever measures tend to derange these branches of our commerce, must likewise tend to the ruin and depopulation of the country.

The protecting duties placed upon British North American timber, at a time when the mother country was opposed single handed to all the maritime powers of Europe, and which with slight modifications have continued to the present time, have had the effect of fostering a trade which has been of the greatest importance to Great Britain as a nursery for her navy, an outlet for her manufactures, an asylum for her redundant population, and a bulwark against her great commercial and political rival in the western hemisphere; it has at the same time induced heavy outlays of capital in shipping, ship yards, mills, warehouses, wharves, timber ponds, and other establishments necessary for carrying on an extensive commerce in the most bulky of all staples; it has furnished employment to thousands of British emigrants, as lumberers, mill men, mechanics, &c. and a ready home market to the provincial agriculturists, who, although unable to compete with the inhabitants of more favoured climates in a foreign market, are able to supply the home markets to a large and annually increasing extent: all which branches of industry must be seriously affected, and many of them entirely annihilated by any material alterations in the present protective duties, whilst our only remaining resource, the extensive fisheries on our coasts, will be ruined by any change which will affect our trade with the West Indies, as without protection we cannot compete with the more contiguous ports of the United States: whilst the heavy duties levied in those States on the product of the West Indies, will prevent a mutual exchange of commodities, and act as a heavy drain upon the precious metals.

The great moral, social, and political evils which must arise from these contemplated measures, should they go into operation, would in nowise be ameliorated by any pecuniary grant, however munificent, as the result would be, the withdrawal of capital, shipping, and commerce from the province; agriculturists would dispose of their lands at every sacrifice, or abandon them in default of purchasers, to seek more congenial climates; the mechanics, and the labouring classes in general, would proceed to other countries in quest of employment; our property would be greatly deteriorated in value, our mills, our warehouses,

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and our many valuable improvements would go to decay, and the country would rapidly retrograde toward its original wilderness state.

Convinced as we are that such must be the disastrous consequences to this portion of Your Majesty's dominions, of any material alteration in the present scale of duties affecting our commercial relations with the British and West India Islands, we beg that Your Majesty's Ministers will pause ere they sacrifice a loyal colony and a beneficial commerce to the speculative theories of the advocates of free trade; we seek for no new privileges or monopolies; we only ask for a continuation of those privileges under which we have arrived at our present state, and without which we could not have become what we now are, an important connecting link in the British Empire in America.

We therefore most humbly pray, that Your Majesty will take this our petition into your most favourable consideration, and that no change may be made in the scale of duties on wood, or other articles, which may affect our trade with Great Britain and Ireland, and with the British West Indies.

(412 Signatures.)

— No. 6. —

No. 6.

(No. 32.)

Lieut. Governor
Sir W. M. G. Cole-
brooke to Lord
Stanley.
30 March 1842.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir *W. M. G. Colebrooke* to Lord *Stanley*.

My Lord,

Fredericton, N.B., 30 March 1842.

I HAVE the honour to enclose to your Lordship a petition, addressed to Her Majesty the Queen by the Chamber of Commerce of St. John's, praying, for the reasons set forth, that no alterations may take place in the duties on wood imported into Great Britain, and on fish and lumber in the West Indies, which would injuriously affect the interests of the inhabitants of this province or of the North American colonies generally.

I have, &c.

(signed) *W. M. G. Colebrooke.*

Enclosure in No. 6.

To The QUEEN'S most Excellent Majesty.

Encl. in No 6.

The humble Petition of the Chamber of Commerce of the City of *St. John*,
New Brunswick,

Humbly sheweth,

THAT your petitioners, representing the mercantile and commercial interests of the city of St. John, approach Your most Gracious Majesty with profound respect, to submit an humble representation of the evils which they fear will overtake Your Majesty's loyal subjects in this city, and in New Brunswick generally, should the proposed alterations by Your Majesty's Ministers, in the scale of protective duties on the great staples of our export, timber, sawed lumber, and fish, on importation into Great Britain and the West Indies, submitted for the consideration of the Imperial Parliament, be favourably received by the Legislature and become a law.

That the industry of the inhabitants of New Brunswick has been principally directed to the manufacture and shipment of timber and deals to Great Britain, and to that of sawed lumber and the produce of our fisheries to the West Indies, the one enabling Your Majesty's petitioners to pay for their supplies of British manufactured articles imported direct from Great Britain, and the other for the sugar and molasses of their fellow-colonists of the West Indies, thus creating mutual benefits, and as it were fostering a family intercourse between portions of Your Majesty's subjects widely separated on the globe.

That the low prices obtained for our timber and deals in the home market, even under the present scale of duties, after deducting freight and charges of shipment, has not of late paid the cost of labour in procuring them, even admitting that the article itself was valueless in the forest, and consequently any alteration of duties in favour of the foreign grower or manufacturer of wood threatens the annihilation of this branch of our industry, and curtails, if not destroys, our ability to import and pay for British manufactures. In like manner the alteration

alteration of the imperial duties imposed on foreign fish and lumber imported into the West India islands will jeopardise, if not transfer our trade thereto in a great measure to our rivals, the people of the United States, whose ports lie more contiguous, and whose fisheries are so much fostered and encouraged by bounties from their government as to yield them advantages we cannot under a lessened scale of duties successfully contend against; besides, your petitioners will not only thus lose the European and West India markets for the products of their labour, but their mercantile marine, amounting in 1840 to 93,000 tons, navigated by 4,500 seamen, will be rendered useless and thrown out of employment; the nations of the north of Europe will at once become the timber-carriers to the British consumer, and the Americans will carry in their own vessels their lumber and fish to the West Indies, results alike ruinous to your petitioners, and affecting the general interests of the empire, by the suppression of a most prolific nursery for seamen, ready on any emergency to combat for their country and their Queen.

That your petitioners have expended vast sums of money in the erection of wharves, warehouses, saw-mills, machinery, ships, and ship-yards, suitable and alone fitted for the efficient prosecution of their commerce, while the bulky nature of the trade, and the consequent large amount of labour required by it, affords ready employment to thousands of emigrants from the British islands, who annually seek our shores, and thereby exchange a life of privation and penury for one of comparative comfort and independence; and that this favourable feature of the trade is farther increased to the benefit of the mother country, from the circumstance that the large-class vessels engaged in the timber trade yield to the poor emigrant, at a very reduced price, the opportunity of removing his family and himself from the crowded districts of his native land.

That 60 years have not yet elapsed since the forefathers of your petitioners landed in New Brunswick, and founded the city of St. John, now of no mean note among the colonial dependencies of Your Majesty, suffering many privations, and exposed to many difficulties in clearing the wilderness; they persevered, and a city of 30,000 inhabitants marks their indomitable and unwearied industry; this population, and through them that of New Brunswick, look up to Your Majesty for a continuation of that protection, which they have ever experienced from Your Majesty's royal predecessors, and which they are the more encouraged to do, when they can recall to the notice of Your Majesty the grant of the provincial legislature of 14,500 *l.* annually for the payment of the Civil List, a grant predicated on the expectation that the resources from which that amount of revenue could alone be derived, the stampage duty on timber logs, would be sustained by the protection of the staple trade of the province in its then state, but which revenue must necessarily fail if the dreaded alterations in our trade take effect: to this may be added the generous conduct of the same legislature, in placing the whole resources of the province at the disposal of Your Majesty, upwards of 100,000 *l.*, to repel the threatened invasion of our republican neighbours of the United States in 1839.

Your petitioners regard with affectionate reverence and pride the glorious institutions of Great Britain, and they fervently hope that the hour is far distant when the severance of their connexion with her is even hinted at; yet they feel assured that in proportion as the links which bind them to Your Majesty's Government are loosened, to an equal extent will they be enclosed in the embraces of the neighbouring republic, whose manufactures would speedily supplant those of Great Britain, and whose vessels would exclude all others from our coast. We seek not to become rich at the expense of our fellow-subjects in the parent isle; we seek merely a legitimate return of interest for our capital; the value of the raw material of our products, and such recompense for our labour and intelligence as we are justly entitled to. We are sensible that it is our duty to yield acquiescence to measures considered necessary for the general weal of the empire, but when our all of capital and property is perilled, when the sources of the supply necessary for the support of our families are endangered, we feel that this appeal to Your august Majesty's sense of justice to interpose in our behalf cannot be made in vain.

Your petitioners therefore humbly and earnestly plead that Your most gracious Majesty will be pleased to take their representations into consideration, avert the evils that threaten their very existence as a colony, and disallow all alterations of duties on wood, goods imported into Great Britain, or on fish and lumber imported into the West Indies, unfavourable to your petitioners, to the inhabitants of New Brunswick, or the North American colonies generally.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

28 March 1842.

W. Mackay, Acts Secy.

J. Donaldson, President.

NEW
BRUNSWICK.

No. 7.
Lieut.-Governor
Sir W. M. G. Cole-
brooke to Lord
Stanley.
30 March 1842.

— No. 7. —

(No. 34.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir *W. M. G. Colebrooke*
to Lord *Stanley*.

Fredericton, New Brunswick,
30 March 1842.

My Lord,

I HAVE just received the enclosed address to The Queen from the Legislative Council and Assembly of this province, on the subject of the changes which are understood to have been proposed in Parliament affecting the regulation of the trade of the British colonial possessions; and having already explained to your Lordship my apprehensions of the effect of those changes at this time on the inhabitants of this province, I have only to recommend the subject to the consideration of your Lordship and of Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.

(signed) *W. M. G. Colebrooke.*

Enclosure in No. 7.

To The QUEEN's most Excellent Majesty.

Encl. in No. 7. THE humble ADDRESS of Your Majesty's Legislative Council and House of Assembly of the Province of *New Brunswick*, in General Assembly convened.

May it please Your Majesty,

Your Majesty's loyal subjects, the Legislative Council and Commons of New Brunswick, beg leave most humbly to approach Your Majesty with sentiments of unaltered attachment to Your Majesty's person and government, and to lay at the foot of the Throne this their representation on a subject in which Your Majesty's possessions on this continent are vitally interested.

The Council and Assembly, during the present session, have had occasion to address Your Majesty, praying that no alteration might take place in the existing duties upon foreign and colonial wood imported into the United Kingdom, and pointed out the ruinous consequences that would inevitably ensue by the abolition of that protection, so long and so wisely afforded to the British commercial marine by the line of policy hitherto maintained; and the Council and Assembly did hope that their earnest solicitations would be favourably considered. But their anxiety on this subject has been deeply increased, by learning that resolutions have been recently laid upon the table of the House of Commons by one of Your Majesty's Ministers for a revision of the customs duties as applying to the British colonial possessions abroad, similar in their provisions to those introduced into the late Parliament by the Right Honourable his predecessor in office.

The effect of these resolutions, if adopted, will be to destroy the extensive and valuable trade hitherto carried on between Your Majesty's North American colonies and the British West Indies, to render entirely valueless the immense amount of tonnage and other capital and establishments invested in its prosecution, and to inflict a deadly blow on the commercial maritime superiority which the British nation now enjoys.

The Council and Assembly deem it unnecessary in this address to particularise the baneful effects which will be produced, because these have been brought most prominently under Your Majesty's most gracious consideration by the legislature and chamber of commerce of Nova Scotia, also by a petition from the magistrates, merchants, ship-owners and others of the city of Saint John, the commercial metropolis of this province, as well as by petitions from other parts thereof. The Council and Assembly, would however, beg leave specially to refer to these appeals to Your Majesty, and in doing so, they would solemnly confirm, with one voice, the position therein set forth, and on behalf of this colony humbly solicit Your Majesty's most gracious consideration.

That a measure fraught with such ruinous consequences to Her Majesty's North American provinces could for a moment be entertained by Your Majesty's present advisers, the Council and Assembly were not prepared to learn, much less to apprehend, because that great and influential party had hitherto, both in and out of office successfully resisted those sweeping changes in the colonial system, which the advocates of what is commonly called free trade had from time to time brought under the consideration of Your Commons House of Parliament.

Should those resolutions be sustained by that House, and their provisions become law, commercial evils are not the only ones which the Council and Assembly have reason to apprehend.

They very much fear that the ruin of the West India trade, followed up, as they apprehend it will be, by a revision of the wood duties in the United Kingdom would be viewed by the North American colonists as such an abandonment of their interests by Your Majesty's Councils as could not fail to excite discontent, and have a strong tendency to shake that

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loyal affection, which they have hitherto cherished with such honest zeal towards the parent state,—a political evil which the inhabitants of this province would most seriously deprecate, as weakening those ties to that country which they and their fathers before them have so steadfastly adhered to, through every change of fortune, prosperous or adverse.

The Council and Assembly yet cherish the hope that their fears cannot be realised, and that the North American colonies may still continue in the enjoyment of that which is most congenial to their habits, principles, and feelings, a British trade and British protection. Consumers almost exclusively of British manufactures, rapidly extending and increasing, exchanging their staple commodities for goods the produce of British skill and British labour, as well as for the productions of their fellow colonists in the West Indies,—a trade in importance to the mother country second only to the coal trade in the employment of so large a portion of the British commercial marine, and as a nursery for British seamen, whose services are always at command to maintain British superiority on the boundless ocean.

“Ships, colonies, and commerce!” is the sentiment under which Great Britain has been exalted to her present proud pre-eminence among the nations of the world; and the Council and Assembly assure Your Majesty that no indemnification which the well-known liberality and integrity of Your Majesty’s Government and the Imperial Parliament might suggest as an act of justice to the great colonial interests thus annihilated, could possibly avert the ruin of the British North American colonies as an integral portion of the British empire.

The Council and Assembly earnestly implore Your Majesty to take their humble representation into Your Majesty’s most gracious consideration, and adopt such measures as may quiet the apprehensions of Your Majesty’s faithful and loyal subjects, the people of New Brunswick.

Ward Chipman,
President Legislative Council.

Charles Simonds,
Speaker of the Assembly.

— No. 8. —

(No. 35.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir *W. M. G. Colebrooke* to Lord *Stanley*.

My Lord,

Government House, 30 March 1842.

HAVING at a late hour received the enclosed address from the Legislative Council and Assembly, I hasten to forward it to your Lordship by the present packet; and as the apprehensions entertained by them of the effects of the measures in contemplation, are fully participated in by all classes of the inhabitants of the province, and constitute a serious aggravation of their present unprecedented sufferings, I earnestly hope that those measures may not be persevered in at such a crisis; but that, on the contrary, the inhabitants may look for the support of the Government to sustain them through the commercial difficulties in which they are involved. It is to be recollected that the resources of society, which are available in rich and populous countries in seasons of distress, do not exist in colonies so imperfectly settled. The wilderness, even when reclaimed by the labours of the settlers, can afford them barely the means of subsistence, without anything in exchange for the conveniences of life; and as the land, however rich, can only contribute to the support of the people after an interval of time in which the settler must depend on other means, there is no immediate resource which can enable a distressed and unemployed labourer to transfer his labour to other pursuits.

That measures may be devised to retrieve the affairs of the province, I entertain no doubt; but this cannot be suddenly effected, nor without the fostering protection of the Government.

I have, &c.

(signed) *W. M. G. Colebrooke.*

No. 8.
Lieut.-Governor
Sir *W. M. G. Colebrooke* to Lord
Stanley.
30 March 1842.

NEW
BRUNSWICK.

Enclosure in No. 8.

Encl. in No. 8.

To His Excellency Lieut.-Colonel Sir *William Macbean George Colebrooke*, K. H., Lieut.-Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Province of *New Brunswick*, &c. &c. &c.

The humble Address of Her Majesty's Legislative Council and House of Assembly in General Assembly convened.

May it please your Excellency,

WE, Her Majesty's faithful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Council and House of Assembly of the Province of New Brunswick, beg leave to solicit your Excellency's best assistance in laying these our humble representations on the proposed alterations in the timber duties at the foot of the Throne.

We cannot avoid feeling that we make this request at the risk of appearing importunate, after having so recently forwarded to your Excellency our joint address on the subject of the proposed modification of the duties for regulating the trade of the colonies. The nature of the communication but just received from our provincial agent will, we trust, prove a sufficient apology to your Excellency, who has so recently and considerately come forward with means to alleviate the distresses of the labouring classes, and in whose deep sympathy in their present suffering the mercantile body feel so well assured.

The information just received leaves us little doubt but that the protection hitherto afforded the wood trade in the West India market will be done away with. Our alarm has been further increased by the certainty that a very material alteration is about to take place in the timber duties, under the sanction of Her Majesty's Ministers. We have further learnt, with, if possible, increased dismay, that a measure still more fatal to the industry of every class, will probably be brought forward; embracing, not only an alteration in the duty on deals, but in the mode of receiving the duty on them, by estimating it on the cubic contents, in lieu of the present ready and well-understood mode of receiving it by tale, thereby deranging the system so long established, and whereby this province was enabled to compete with those countries of the North of Europe in the immediate vicinity of Great Britain; a system which was most carefully considered by Her Majesty's Government in 1821, and under the confidence in which the inhabitants of this province have laid out all their available capital, in constructing saw-mills on almost every one of its streams; the advantages to be derived from which are not only about to be lessened most materially by the provisions of the Colonial Trade Act, but will be wholly lost to the country should the same become a law.

In the midst of an unparalleled commercial distress, now fearfully felt throughout every class of Her Majesty's subjects in this province, we humbly solicit your Excellency's influence in aid of this our representation, in the hope that a due consideration of them by Her Majesty's Ministers, may avert from this province the enactment of a series of measures so fraught with its ruin, even to the destruction of that hope which might otherwise support us under the heavy pressure of our present difficulties.

(signed) *Ward Chipman*,
President of Legislative Council.
Charles Simonds,
Speaker of the Assembly.

— No. 9. —

No. 9.
Lord Stanley to
Lieut.-Governor
Sir W. M. G. Cole-
brooke.
17 May 1842.

(No. 59.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Stanley* to Lieutenant-Governor
Sir *W. M. G. Colebrooke*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 17 May 1842.

HER Majesty's Government having had under their consideration the representations on the subject of the projected alteration of the import duties, both in the United Kingdom and in the Colonies, from the Legislature of New Brunswick, as well as from various bodies interested in the trade of the province, which accompanied your despatches of the numbers and dates noted in the margin, I now proceed to explain to you, for the information of the parties interested, the conclusion to which Her Majesty's Ministers have come in reference to those representations.

Her Majesty's Government cannot but regret the unfavourable apprehensions which are entertained by the petitioners as to the probable effect of these measures, and in which, to some extent, you appear to participate; but they trust that a closer examination of the changes which are proposed will lead to a more favourable estimate of their probable results; and although I do not feel called upon, on the part of the Government, to enter into a detailed and argumentative exposition of the subject, I am, nevertheless, induced to hope that the general observations

Nos. 27, 28, 30, 31,
32, 34 & 35, of the
29th & 30th March.

observations which I propose to make may be found useful in removing erroneous impressions, and allaying exaggerated fears.

The contemplated changes in the imperial and colonial tariffs appear to affect New Brunswick in three, and only three, important particulars, viz. the trade in wood with the West Indies, the trade in fish with the West Indies, and the trade in wood with the United Kingdom.

With respect to the trade in wood with the West Indies, I admit that, possibly, some falling off may take place in the export of shingles, staves, and headings, to the West Indies, but these appear to form a very inconsiderable portion of the New Brunswick wood trade, as appears from the following table:—

Value of Exports of Wood Goods from New Brunswick in the Years

	1837.	1836.	1835.
	£.	£.	£.
Shingles and staves - - -	22,279	21,195	20,336
Total export of wood goods -	454,391	454,236	478,453

The remainder of the wood exports from New Brunswick, as derived from information which I have no reason to doubt, is not likely to be affected by the competition of the United States, who are themselves obliged to resort to New Brunswick and Canada for this commodity, and who, from the gradual diminution of their own timber, will become more and more dependent upon the British North American provinces for their supplies.

With respect to the trade in fish with the West Indies, although Her Majesty's Government have, with a view to satisfy the just claims of the West Indian population, recommended the substitution of a duty upon fish, in lieu of the present prohibition, yet, in fixing that rate of duty, regard has been had to the protection and encouragement of the British North American fisheries, as well on account of their importance as a nursery for seamen, as also because of the monopoly hitherto enjoyed by British North American colonists; an abrupt transition from which, into an unprotected competition, might lead to much individual loss and inconvenience.

In estimating, however, the comparative facilities of the United States and New Brunswick for carrying on fisheries, I do not perceive anything either in reference to the proximity of the fishing grounds, the cost of building, or fitting out ships, the ordinary rate of wages, or the aptitude of the people for this species of employment, which would lead to the supposition that the United States have any superior advantages over New Brunswick, or that the proposed protection of 15 per cent. is not amply sufficient, or that there are any other circumstances which would call for a larger increase of protection to the British North American fishermen than is accorded to other branches of the industry of those Colonies.

I am aware that in the United States and France high duties are imposed upon the produce of the fisheries of this country, and that the system of bounties is still kept up, with a view to the support of their own fisheries. Her Majesty's Government, however, conceive that those high duties must be deemed to be an admission, on the part of the countries imposing them, that they are themselves apprehensive of the competition of the British fishermen in their own markets; and it has been stated by parties who have urged upon the Government the adoption of a higher rate of protection to the British fisheries, that such apprehensions are actually entertained. If there be any ground for such apprehensions, there can be little cause for the petitioners to fear lest foreign fish should to any serious extent compete with British fish in the West India markets, protected as it will be by the proposed duty, and notwithstanding the privilege in the nature of a bounty or protection, proposed to be continued to the British fisheries, of importing duty free the principal articles required for their employment.

With respect to the wood trade with the United Kingdom, I perceive that, whilst the petitioners have dwelt upon those portions of the proposed changes which they conceive to be unfavourable to the colony, namely, the diminution of

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the difference between the duties imposed upon Baltic and British North American timber, they have omitted to notice the reduction (amounting very nearly to abolition) of the duty upon colonial timber, which will necessarily give increased facilities to the importation of this article into this country, and by admitting of a reduction of price in respect of the reduced duty, will tend to increase the consumption, and thus cause a re-action upon the price, favourable to the importer, and keep up or increase the employment for the shipping engaged in this branch of commerce.

The advantage of this will be more especially felt in that class of wood which is more peculiarly the produce of British North America, the yellow deal, and which, in fact, meets with no very effective competition from the Baltic timber, in consequence of being applied to different purposes for which the yellow pine of New Brunswick is preferred, both from its superior fitness and its lower price to the consumer.

Her Majesty's Government consider also, that the addition of 2 s. per 50 cubic feet on foreign deals to the duty of 30 s., as at first proposed, and the five per cent. additional duty to which timber will be liable, and which, although inappreciable upon the colonial duty, amounts to 1 s. 6 d. per 50 cubic feet upon foreign timber, should not be lost sight of in the endeavour to form a just estimate of the tariff proposed to Parliament.

If the petitioners give due weight to these considerations, Her Majesty's Government trust that they will eventually be of opinion, that whilst the alterations in the timber duties will be found of very great advantage to the consumer in this country, the timber trade of New Brunswick will, so far from declining, be placed in a more sound condition, and with greater prospect of increase than under the existing tariff.

It is, moreover, not immaterial to observe, that whilst the forests of the British North American provinces are as yet inexhausted, and to a great extent untouched, the great demand which has for a series of years existed for the fir timber of the forests on the Continent of Europe, particularly of Poland, has led to a material diminution of the supplies to be obtained in the immediate vicinity of the great navigable rivers; and that, consequently, it is becoming gradually necessary to derive them from the most distant points, thereby increasing the cost of bringing them to the point of shipment, and thus tending to create an additional demand for the cheaper article imported from British America.

With these views and anticipations, Her Majesty's Government cannot participate in the fears expressed by the petitioners in reference to the apprehended loss of value in wharves, mills, and other similar establishments in the colony, the want of employment for their labouring population, the decline of the maritime commerce, or the injury to the general welfare of the colony.

Her Majesty's Government are disposed to believe that these apprehensions are founded upon estimates of the probable prices of timber drawn from the prices of that article at the present moment, which are unusually low, in consequence of the depression in the timber trade, owing to general causes; and they venture to hope that the proposed opening of the British ports to foreign and colonial produce generally at much lower duties than heretofore, will materially tend to revive all branches of manufacturing and commercial industry; and that the timber trade will not only participate in that revival itself, but will derive collateral advantages from it, both as respects price and demand.

I would, in conclusion, remark, that the measures contemplated for the encouragement of various articles of the agricultural produce of the British Colonies, if passed into law, may be expected at no distant time to become of increasing importance and value to the growing population of New Brunswick, whose industry cannot permanently continue to be so exclusively applied to the business of lumbering, as at the present moment.

I have, &c.

(signed) Stanley.

— No. 10. —

NEW
BRUNSWICK.

(No. 51.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir *W. M. G. Colebrooke*
to Lord *Stanley*.No. 10.
Lieut.-Governor
Sir *W. M. G. Cole-*
brooke to Lord
Stanley.
14 May 1842.

My Lord,

Fredericton, New Brunswick,
14 May 1842.

HAVING just received the enclosed letter from the Chamber of Commerce of St. John's, with a petition to your Lordship's address, on the subject of the proposed modifications of the duties upon deals imported into the United Kingdom from these provinces, I forward it by the present packet, and I readily comply with the request of the Chamber of Commerce in drawing the attention of your Lordship and of Her Majesty's Government to the large capital invested in mills in this province, under the protection which has been hitherto afforded, and which it is apprehended will be injuriously affected by the proposed change in the duties.

I enclose also a petition addressed by the Chamber of Commerce to myself, proposing a modification of the Act of Parliament for preventing timber vessels from carrying deck loads, from the 1st of September to the 1st of May, alleging that if the colonial vessels are allowed to carry deck loads during the month of April, their superior construction would obviate any risk to life and property.

I propose to make inquiry on this subject; but full information can, doubtless, be obtained in England, for the guidance of the Government on this point.

I have, &c.

(signed) *W. M. G. Colebrooke*.

Enclosure 1, in No. 10.

Chamber of Commerce, St John, 12 May 1842.

I AM directed by the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce to forward the enclosed petitions; one to your Excellency on the subject of the deck-load law, and one to the Colonial Secretary on the subject of the duties on deals; this last being one of vital importance to the trade and interest of this province, they beg your Excellency's strong recommendation of its consideration to Her Majesty's Government. And I have farther to state to your Excellency, that a deputation of the merchants would have done themselves the honour of waiting on your Excellency with this petition, with the hope of particularly interesting your Excellency in recommending the prayer thereof, as one vitally affecting their interest, and that of the province generally; but that their presence here is indispensable at the moment of the departure of the mail for England, to attend to their correspondence.

I have, &c.

(signed) *L. Donaldson*.His Excellency
Sir *W. M. G. Colebrooke*, &c. &c. &c.To the Right Honourable Lord *Stanley*, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for
the Colonies, *London*.The Petition of the Chamber of Commerce of the City of *St. John*, *New Brunswick*,

Humbly showeth,

THAT your petitioners view with deep anxiety the contemplated alteration in the wood duties, fearful that the result of their enactment will be ruin to the trade of these North American colonies; and more especially to that of the Province of New Brunswick.

That deals are one of the principal exports of the province to Great Britain; that a vast amount of capital has been invested in saw-mills and machinery for their manufacture; that the spruce timber of our forest is only fitted to be so manufactured; and that the size of such timber will not admit, generally, of a larger deal being cut than 12 x 9 x 3; that the consumption of deals in the British islands is principally confined to that of 12 x 9 x 3; and that, under the proposed scale of duties, the foreign manufacturers and producers of deals of this size will be fostered, to the utter annihilation of this branch of the deal trade as prosecuted by the people of New Brunswick, and the North American colonies generally.

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BRUNSWICK.

That your petitioners respectfully submit the following calculations in support of their statement:—

120 pieces 12 × 9 × 3 colonial deals, pay a present duty of	-	-	-	£.	s.	d.
					2	10 6
Proposed duty on same quantity, say on 3,240 sup. ft., equal	£.	s.	d.			
to 5 ³⁰ / ₃₀ loads of 50 cubic feet, at 2s. sterling per load, is	-	-	10 10			
Add 5 per cent.	-	-	-	-	-	6
					-	11 4
Amount of Reduction in Duty on 120 Pieces 12 × 9 × 3 Colonial Deals, from the present Rates	}			£.	1	19 2
120 pieces 12 × 9 × 3 foreign deals pay a present duty of	-	-	-		19	10 6
Proposed duty on same quantity after 10th October 1843, say	£.	s.	d.			
3,240 sup. ft., equal to 5 ³⁰ / ₃₀ loads of 50 cubic feet, at 32 s.						
sterling per load, is	-	-	-	-	8	12 10
Add 5 per cent	-	-	-	-	-	8 7
					9	1 5
Amount of Reduction in Duty on 120 Pieces 12 × 9 × 3 Foreign Deals, from the present Rates	}			£.	10	9 1

The above exhibiting a difference of 8*l.* 9*s.* 11*d.* on every 120 pieces 12 × 9 × 3 deals, in favour of the foreign producer, as contrasted with the present scale of protection, and offering to him a premium of 31*s.* 6*d.* sterling per load, to compete with this colonial product in the home market.

Your petitioners deem it unnecessary to allude to the advantages possessed by the foreigners as regards freight and the costs of labour, or to recapitulate the many arguments so triumphantly adduced in favour of the trade with the colonies; they rest their claims upon the expressed declaration of Her Majesty's Premier, that the colonies, as an integral portion of the empire, shall be protected; and they therefore humbly and earnestly pray that an additional duty of 10*s.* per load be charged on deals of 14 feet length and under, imported from a foreign country into Great Britain, as the lowest scale of protection necessary to avert the utter destruction of this branch of the deal trade, now so extensively followed in New Brunswick, and the other North American colonies.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

St. John, New Brunswick, }
13 May 1842. }

L. Donaldson, President.
J. Woodward, Secretary.

Enclosure 2, in No. 10.

Encl. 2, in No. 10. To His Excellency Lieutenant-Colonel Sir William M. G. Colebrooke, K. H. Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of New Brunswick, &c. &c. &c.

The Petition of the Chamber of Commerce of the City of St. John,

Most respectfully sheweth,

THAT your petitioners, representing the mercantile community of this city, and anxious to promote the general interests of the province, beg leave to call the attention of your Excellency to the restriction that existed, under the 3d & 4th Victoria, c. 36, until the 1st May instant, on vessels laden with timber sailing from the North American colonies, and from the settlement of Honduras, not being allowed to carry deck loads from the 1st September until the 1st May in each year; and also an intimation, during the month of April last, on motion of Mr. Gladstone, that a Bill would be brought into Parliament to prevent vessels clearing out at any port in British North America from loading any part of their timber cargoes on deck, as the former restriction pressed heavily on the trade. Your petitioners respectfully suggest, that a measure less restrictive than that proposed by Mr. Gladstone, and yet securing as full protection to life and property, as was humanely intended by the late Act, might be passed; they view with alarm the contemplated regulation prohibiting the carrying of deck loads by vessels loaded with timber, as one very injurious to a trade at present in a most depressed state, and which, they fear, will eventually be destroyed by the proposed scale of duties on wood; and they would further state, that restricting vessels from the North American colonies from carrying deck loads, gives an additional advantage to the wood trade from the north of Europe over that of the colonies, as vessels in the Baltic trade are not by any law prevented from carrying as cargo such deck loads as they please, and at all times of the year, and generally amounting to at least 10 per cent. of the entire cargo.

The Chamber of Commerce would also beg leave to remark, that vessels from Great Britain may arrive at ports in this province, unobstructed by ice at an early period in the Spring.

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Spring. That vessels so arriving, and taking cargo, lose much time by waiting for the 1st of May, the period limited for carrying deck cargo. That vessels being so loaded might, with equal safety to life and property, be permitted to clear from the colonies at least on the 1st of April; and the benefit arising therefrom to the trade would be, the probability of obtaining two deck cargoes between the 1st of April to the 1st of September.

And your petitioners would further beg leave to remark, that the ships built in the colonies are constructed expressly for the purpose of carrying deck cargo, by having fixed staunchions, securely clamped with iron from deck to keel, at every beam; that the ships rated in England as unfit for dry cargoes, are thereon placed in the North American wood trade, a practice greatly detrimental to the character of colonial-built ships, as all disasters in our wood-carrying vessels are placed to the account of their being colonial built, though such is by no means the fact.

Your petitioners therefore pray that your Excellency will be pleased to bring under the notice of Her Majesty's Government the prayer of the merchants of this city; that the restriction of clearing vessels from the North American colonies with deck loads may be confined to the period from the 1st of September until the 1st of April in each year, which will give one month more in the Spring of each year than was allowed under the late law, and, in their opinion, would not increase the hazard or risk of the loss of life, which the said Act was no doubt humanely intended to prevent.

And, as in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Saint John, New Brunswick, }
12 May 1842. }

(signed) L. Donaldson, President.
J. Woodward, Secretary.

