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CORRESPONDENCE between the SECRETARY
OF STATE for the COLONIAL DEPARTMENT
and the GOVERNORS of the BRITISH POSSES-
SIONS in *North America*, relative to the proposed
Alteration in the DUTIES on TIMBER, &c.

(*Mr. Vernon Smith.*)

(Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
27 August 1841.)

TIMBER DUTIES, &c.

RETURN to an ADDRESS of the Honourable The House of Commons,
dated 25 August 1841 ;—*for*,

COPIES of any CORRESPONDENCE between the SECRETARY OF STATE for the
COLONIAL DEPARTMENT and the GOVERNORS of the BRITISH POSSESSIONS
in *North America*, relative to the proposed Alteration in the DUTIES on
TIMBER, &c.

(*Mr. Vernon Smith.*)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
27 August 1841.

SCHEDULE.

THE CANADAS.

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THE CANADAS.

— No. 1. —

THE CANADAS.

(No. 53.)

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from the Right Hon. *C. Poulett Thomson* to
Lord *John Russell*, dated Toronto, 15 Feb. 1840.

No. 1.
Right Hon. C. P.
Thomson to Lord
John Russell,
15 Feb. 1840.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship, in order that they may be laid at the foot of the Throne, the following addresses to Her Majesty, adopted by the House of Assembly during their last session :

1. On Importation of Tea.
2. On Importation of Foreign Wheat, and Regulation of Trade by the Local Legislature.

Enclosures in No. 1.

(1.)

TO The Queen's Most Excellent Majesty.

Encls. in No. 1.

Most Gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of Upper Canada, in Provincial Parliament assembled, humbly pray that your Majesty may be graciously pleased to recommend to your Imperial Parliament, that the Act prohibiting the importation of tea into this province from the United States of America may be amended in such manner as to enable the same to be imported upon the payment of a certain duty.

Allan N. MacNab, Speaker.

Commons House of Assembly,
24 December 1839.

(2.)

TO The Queen's Most Excellent Majesty.

Most Gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of Upper Canada, in Provincial Parliament assembled, most respectfully represent that a large proportion of the inhabitants of this province are agriculturists ; that the principal staple article grown for exportation is wheat.

That in most countries this branch of wealth and industry receives the first consideration of the Government ; with us it has been wholly neglected ; and they beg most earnestly to call the attention of your Majesty's Government to the practical operations of the Canada Trade Act, which has a tendency to confer advantages to the growth of wheat in the United States which can never be realized by the grower in Canada ; and so long as the grower in the United States is protected by a duty for home consumption, from all foreign competition, and so long as the grower in Canada is liable to such competition, without a protecting duty, so long will this inequality of prices exist, operating as a direct bounty to the farmer residing in the United States, and a drawback on the farmer residing in Canada.

As a practical illustration of this principle, they beg leave to represent that whenever bread stuffs are higher in America than in Europe the price of wheat in the United States is nearly twenty-five per cent. higher than in Canada, which has been witnessed for the last four or five years ; during this period wheat has been introduced from Russia at the port of Quebec at a less rate of freight than the same article can be sent from Upper Canada.

That whenever bread stuffs are cheaper in England than in America, and an export demand takes place, the agriculturist in Canada derives no additional advantage from a home consumption, inasmuch as wheat and flour from the neighbouring states is introduced without duty, and must always have a tendency to keep the article grown in Canada at the lowest prices, thus depriving agriculturists of the benefit of home consumption, for the timber trade, shipping interest, troops, or any adventitious circumstances, to increase the products of the soil.

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For instance, during the present year, one half of the crops in Canada was destroyed by the rust, still the remainder commanded no higher price than if the grower had obtained a full crop, 3s. 9d. to 5s. being the highest price the article can command at this moment.

Your Majesty's faithful Commons are aware that the products of these colonies are admitted into the ports of the mother country at a duty of 5s. per quarter, when wheat is below an average of 67s. per quarter; but from the expenses of transportation from the interior to the sea, and thence to the United Kingdom, experience proves they derive very little advantage from this protection.

A preference is also given to our products when admitted into the West India colonies, but from the causes above stated, and their proximity to the southern ports on the American continent, no practical benefit is derived.

The duties in the maritime ports in the North American colonies are equally unavailing, from their being evaded by the clause protecting the fisheries.

Your Majesty's faithful Commons therefore pray, that the Canada Trade Act may be so amended, as to place the same duty on foreign grain and flour imported for home consumption into British North America, which wheat, the growth of those colonies, pays when introduced into the ports of the United States, which will place the grower in those colonies on a footing of perfect reciprocity with the grower in that country. Not, however, to interfere with the introduction of grain passing through our waters to foreign ports as at present. The inhabitants of this province are and must continue to be consumers of British manufactures; their trade is naturally directed to her ports; their exports and imports are conveyed by British shipping, and whatever increase of price we derive from the products of our soil will in like proportion enable us to increase the amount of our importations in her fabrics, without materially interfering with the agriculturists of Great Britain.

Your Majesty's faithful Commons therefore pray, that wheat and flour, the growth and manufacture of these provinces, may be admitted into the ports of Great Britain on the same terms as from Ireland, or other integral parts of the empire.

While on this subject your Majesty's faithful Commons beg to call the attention of your Majesty's Government to the operation of the Canada Trade Act, on various articles introduced for consumption from beyond sea. From the peculiar geographical situation of those colonies, any restriction or higher duty imposed on any one article at the port of Quebec than at the port of New York, has a tendency to introduce the article through the latter, thus conferring greater advantages on our rivals than they could effect by any enactment of their own; the fluctuations in their tariffs render it necessary they should be counteracted from time to time by a reduction in duties at Quebec, and increasing them in the interior, so as not only to confine the trade to our waters, but enable the Provincial Government to secure a revenue now lost by an illicit trade.

Your Majesty's faithful Commons therefore pray your Majesty will be pleased to recommend to your Parliament to amend the 46th clause of the Constitutional Act, to enable the local Legislature to originate duties, or reduce them from time to time, as they may deem necessary and advisable, subject, however, to restrictions similar to those of 42d section of 31st George 3, c. 31, respecting certain local Acts.

Commons House of Assembly,
4 January 1840.

Allan N. MacNab, Speaker.

No. 2.

Right Hon. C. P.
Thomson to Lord
John Russell,
1 May 1840.

— No. 2. —

(No. 98.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Hon. C. Poulett Thomson to Lord
John Russell.

My Lord,

Government House, Montreal, 1 May 1840.

AMONG the addresses to the Queen adopted by the House of Assembly of Upper Canada during their last session, and transmitted to your Lordship in my despatch of February last, was one relative to the present position of the tea trade. This is a subject which has latterly engaged much attention in Canada, and in which repeated addresses to the Crown have been passed by the House of Assembly of the Upper Province. I would especially call to your Lordship's notice those adopted in the years 1836, 1837, and 1838.

These addresses having come under my consideration, as President of the Board of Trade, and having felt it my duty then, in consequence of their having failed to satisfy my mind, not to recommend a compliance with their prayer, I have devoted a good deal of time to a full inquiry into the subject since I have been in these provinces, in order to confirm, or if necessary to correct, my judgment in a matter which is undoubtedly of the greatest importance to the trade as well as to the moral habits of the people.

The result of that investigation has been to convince me, that although the statements contained in these memorials were not quite accurate, and the reasoning far
from

from correct, there exist good grounds for the conclusion to which the memorialists come, and that the system requires alteration at the earliest possible period. THE CANADAS.

The statement made by the memorialists, and repeated in a despatch from Sir George Arthur, written after I left England, of the 10th September, declare that the smuggling of teas from the United States is carried on to a great extent. Of this my inquiries have satisfied me: indeed, the extent is greater than was stated. The enclosed report from Mr. Macrae, the collector of customs at St. John's, will exhibit the extent to which it is supposed that the contraband trade in this article is carried on in this province, whilst in Upper Canada I am persuaded that between one-half and three-fourths of the whole amount of teas consumed is smuggled in from the United States.

But even this fact, appalling as it is, might not be caused by the provisions of the Imperial Act which it is sought by the Upper Canada Legislature to induce Her Majesty's Government to vary. It might be desirable from the improvident nature of the provincial duties, which hold out a premium to the smuggler, and this, I believe, is partly the case.

The provincial duties on teas on importation into these provinces are on

Hyson	-	-	-	6 d.	currency per lb.
Green and Souchong	-	4 d.	—		
Bohea	-	-	-	2 d.	—

No bohea is consumed, and the sort usually preferred is hyson; so that a duty of 6 d. is the general one, or at the lowest 4 d. per lb., one which unquestionably must afford a premium to the smuggler along so extensive and so necessarily an unguarded line of frontier as that which exists between these provinces and the states.

Accordingly, in examining this subject in England with the information afforded by the memorialists alone before us, we have been led to think that the remedy lay with the Provincial Legislatures, and not in the alteration of the Imperial Act; for in the absence of particular information upon the subject, it appeared extremely difficult to understand why, when the British and American merchant both came into the Chinese market upon equal terms, one should be able to afford tea delivered in Canada *via* New York, at a cheaper rate than the other could *via* London. The charges of freight, insurance, and transhipment are nearly the same both ways, and therefore it was but natural to suppose that it could only be the duty which enabled the smuggler successfully to compete with the fair trader.

The inquiry which I have made, however, has satisfied me that there exists another and more powerful cause, which we had altogether overlooked, and which whilst it will account for a part at least of the smuggling trade, renders a change in the Imperial Act absolutely necessary, even although the provincial duties should be so reduced as to take away all inducement to smuggling arising from them.

This is the peculiar quality of the tea consumed in these provinces.

Here, as in the United States, the taste of the inhabitants is entirely different from what it is in Great Britain. The great consumption of tea consists of the lower qualities of green tea, especially young hyson, a kind scarcely imported into Great Britain. The consequence is, that instead of the London market being, as it is for other descriptions, an extended market, it is a most contracted one for the taste and supply of Canada, whilst that of New York is directly the reverse, and owing to this circumstance the general reasoning which would lead one to believe that the American could not enjoy any advantage over the London importer in the supply, fails altogether. As a proof of this, I may mention that I know of numerous instances in which teas have been shipped from New York to Liverpool, then to be transhipped for Canada, in order to comply with the conditions of the law, an unanswerable proof that these qualities of tea range permanently at lower prices in the New York market than in the London.

To meet this, therefore, it is absolutely necessary that the Imperial Act which prohibits the importation of any tea into these provinces through the United States should be repealed; and I must hope that your Lordship will, in conjunction with the President of the Board of Trade, introduce a measure to Parliament to that effect. I do not desire that in this alteration in the Tea Act the indirect trade should be placed on a better, or even on an equal footing with the British. What I would propose is, that as a substitute for the prohibition which at present exists, tea should be admitted by land or inland navigation from the United States at 10 per cent. above any duty payable by law in the provinces upon importation through England or direct from Canton.

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If this be done, the smuggling will be partially put down, even under the present high rates of duty; and it will be wholly so when it becomes possible for the Provincial Legislature, as will be the case under the Union, to reduce their duties so as not to offer any premium to the smuggler through them.

That this is an object of the deepest importance, not merely to the fair trade, but to the moral feeling of these provinces, I need hardly say; nor will it be unimportant to the revenue. There is no doubt that under a proper system of duty here, and with the power of importing from the States at the moderate advance I have recommended, the revenue derivable from tea might be trebled or quadrupled. That consideration, however, is unimportant when compared to the other. I have reason to know that the smuggling of this article is not confined to the lower grades of society, but is avowedly carried on by magistrates, officers of militia, and others of the same class, whose example is most pernicious to the tone of moral feeling in the country; and I am besides persuaded that it is the cause likewise of a good deal of contraband trade in other articles, which would be dropped if this, the principal source of profit were destroyed.

Under these circumstances, I trust that a measure to the effect which I have ventured to recommend may, without any delay, be introduced into Parliament.

I have, &c.
(signed) *C. Poulett Thomson.*

Enclosure in No. 2.

Sir,

Custom-House, St. John's, 3 April 1840.

Encl. in No. 2.

HAVING, in compliance with directions received from his Excellency the Governor-general, obtained all the information I could relative to the illicit introduction of teas into this province from the United States of America,

I have now the honour to report to you, for the information of his Excellency, that I have endeavoured, from many sources, to collect as accurate statements as the nature of such a clandestine trade would enable me to obtain.

I have every reason to be satisfied that, for many years previous to the troubles which distracted this province in 1837, upwards of 2,000 chests (I have even heard it stated to be as high as 5,000) were annually smuggled into this province from the states of New York and Vermont, three-fourths of which was of the quality designated Young Hyson, a tea little inferior to Hyson, and varying in price from the latter about 2*d.* or 3*d.* per pound; the remaining fourth of Hyson Skin and Twankay, in about equal proportions.

It would appear that very little of the best descriptions of teas, such as Hyson and Gunpowder, are smuggled into the province.

Taking it for granted that 2,000 chests were the number smuggled in each year, and each chest weighing 80 pounds, we should have had, at the lowest computation, 160,000 pounds, which, at the present rate of duty imposed on tea imported by sea 4*d.* per pound, would have yielded a revenue of 2,666*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* per annum; a considerable sum to be added to the collections of this port, which would have remained in the province instead of replenishing the pockets of the smuggler. Besides the quantity known to have been illegally imported from the northern parts of the states of New York and Vermont, large quantities are landed at Plattsburgh, and transported across the country to the River St. Lawrence, and thence brought down to Lower Canada.

I am credibly informed that the quantity introduced into Upper Canada is about five times greater than in the Lower Province, causing a loss to the revenue of that province of upwards of 11,000*l.*

As no preventive could be suggested or adopted to suppress such a contraband trade, it would become the policy of the Imperial Government, in a moral point of view, as well as creating a source of revenue to the respective provinces, to legalize the importation of tea from the United States, by land or inland navigation, on paying a duty similar to what is levied at the ports of Quebec and Montreal, on teas imported by sea; viz. on Bohea 2*d.* currency, on Hyson 6*d.*, and on all other teas 4*d.*, or an additional discriminating duty of 1*d.* per pound might be added thereto.

Large quantities of teas imported from China into the United States are annually shipped from New York and Boston to Liverpool in England, and reshipped from thence to Quebec, giving the American shipping the benefit of the carrying trade to England, and imposing an additional expense on the consumers of tea in Canada, by paying for two useless and expensive freights across the Atlantic, independently of charges for warehousing, brokerage, &c. &c.

The same tea might be imported direct from New York to Montreal, by inland navigation, at an expense not exceeding 2*s.* 6*d.* per chest; while, by the circuitous route of a double sea voyage, the expense would, at the lowest calculation, be quadrupled, besides avoiding the injury done to tea, which is known to be depreciated in quality by long exposure to sea voyages.

On comparing the prices of teas in New York and Montreal in the month of October last, before the late accounts of disturbances in Canada reached America, I find—

Hyson

	s.	d.	s.	d.	
Hyson tea quoted in New York from	2	6	to	3	- currency.
— Montreal	-	3	6	3	9 —
Young Hyson in New York	-	-	2	6	2 9 —
— Montreal	-	-	3	4	3 6 —
Hyson Skin in New York	-	-	1	3	2 — —
— Montreal	-	-	2	4	2 6 —
Souchong in New York	-	-	1	-	1 9 —
— Montreal	-	-	3	-	— .
Twankay in New York	-	-	1	10	2 1 —
— Montreal	-	-	2	9	2 10 —
Bohea in New York	-	-	-	10	1 — —
— Montreal	-	-	1	5	1 8 —

From the above quotations, were teas legally admitted by inland navigation from the United States, sufficient inducement would be held out to the regular trader to embark in the trade, the prices would afford ample remuneration, after paying duties and other charges, and tend to the entire suppression of smuggling; for, as long as the prohibition continues, a great portion of the tea consumed in Canada will be introduced in a clandestine manner from the United States, in spite of the vigilance of custom-house officers, aided by any force which might be placed at their command. All which I have the honour to submit for his Excellency's consideration.

Thomas C. Murdoch, Esq.
 &c. &c. &c.

I have &c.
 (signed) W. Macrae, Collector.

— No. 3. —

(No. 115.)

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable C. Poulett Thomson to Lord John Russell, dated Government House, Montreal, 26 May 1840.

No. 3.
 Right Hon.
 C. P. Thomson to
 Lord John Russell,
 26 May 1840.

IN my despatch, No. 53, I transmitted different addresses from the House of Assembly of Upper Canada, and stated that I should take an opportunity of referring more particularly to their contents.

I have already addressed a despatch to your Lordship upon the subject of the importation of tea, to which one of these addresses refers.

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

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

The second point is an extremely important one. I am undoubtedly of opinion that the regulation of the principles on which colonial trade is to be conducted ought to be reserved entirely to the Imperial Parliament. The power of regulating it is one of the principal advantages resulting from colonial possessions, and, if justly exercised, affords one of the main compensations for the expenditure which the mother country is compelled to incur for the defence and protection of the colony.

But whilst I admit this to its fullest extent, I have at the same time been obliged to observe the great inconvenience, and even loss, which results to the colony from the necessity which now exists for all changes in this respect originating in England. There are a vast number of small points seriously affecting the interests of colonial trade, and not at all disturbing the general principle or objects sought to

THE CANADAS. be established by Imperial legislation, in which a change is frequently found to be desirable. Great difficulty exists in the first place in explaining these points at home, and next, in proving that they are of sufficient importance to demand legislation there; but even if this be done, I know myself, from experience in that department, how much difficulty and delay unavoidably arise in carrying such measures through Parliament. I am, therefore, very much disposed in favour of the middle course now suggested by the Assembly. If the local Legislature be permitted to originate measures of this description, I entertain no doubt that they would be able to introduce many improvements very beneficial to the trade of the colony, and not at all injurious to Imperial interests. These, when sent home, could receive the assent of the Crown and Parliament, whilst, if they meddled improperly with matters affecting the general interests of trade, their work would be without effect, and be open to immediate rejection. If your Lordship shall concur in this view of the case, and shall be inclined to grant this extension of power to the colony, subject to the restriction I have stated, it would be better perhaps to pass an Act specially for the purpose, than to incorporate it in the Union Bill.

—No. 4.—

(No. 171.)

No. 4.
Lord J. Russell
to the Right Hon.
C. P. Thomson,
1 July 1840.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Lord *John Russell* to the Right Honourable *C. Poulett Thomson*; dated Downing-street, 1 July 1840.

“I have received your despatch, No. 115, of the 26th May, reporting upon the contents of the different addresses to Her Majesty, which had been adopted by the House of Assembly of Upper Canada during these last session. I proceed to acquaint you with the course which, on laying these addresses at the foot of the throne, Her Majesty was pleased to command should be taken with them respectively. It has been my duty on a late occasion to apprise you that the address on the tea trade had been referred to the consideration of the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury. I also communicated to their Lordships the despatch which you wrote to me specially on this subject. I understand it to be the intention of the Board of Trade to propose a provision on this subject in the Customs Bill of the present session.

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

—No. 5.—

(No. 194.)

No. 5.
Lord John Russell
to the Right Hon.
C. P. Thomson,
31 July 1840.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *John Russell* to the Right Honourable *C. Poulett Thomson*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 31 July 1840.

I ENCLOSE, herewith, for your information, a table containing the new duties which it had been proposed to introduce into the Customs' Act this year. By the 2d. Resolution, you will perceive that it was intended to give effect to your recommendation in favour of a duty on tea imported into Canada from any foreign country. Circumstances, however, have prevented the adoption of this Resolution, and the Bill by which the alteration was intended to have been effected has been withdrawn this Session.

I am, &c.
(signed) *J. Russell.*

OF DUTIES ON TIMBER, &c.

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Enclosure in No. 5.

THE CANADAS.

CUSTOMS.

Enclosure in No. 5.

PROPOSED NEW DUTIES, 1840.

		£.	s.	d.
ALOEES	- - - - - the lb.	-	-	2
the produce of and imported from any British Possession	the lb.	-	-	1
COFFEE	- - - - - the lb.	-	-	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
the produce of and imported from any British Possession	the lb.	-	-	5
imported from any British Port within the limits of the East India Company's charter	the lb.	-	-	9
LACE—thread or pillowed Lace, for every 100 <i>l.</i> of the value	- - - - -	15	-	-
MAHOGANY—the produce of and imported from the Bay of Honduras or the Mosquito Shore	- - - - - the ton	-	15	-
MUSTARD SEED	- - - - - the quarter	1	10	-
Flour of, for every 100 <i>l.</i> of the value	- - - - -	30	-	-

Together with the additional Duties imposed by an Act passed in the present Session of Parliament, intituled, "An Act for granting to Her Majesty Duties of Customs, Excise, and Assessed Taxes."

That Coffee, the produce of the British Possessions within the limits of the East India Company's charter, brought into the British Possessions of the West Indies, or into the Island of Mauritius, may be imported from thence into the United Kingdom at the low duty.

That Tea may be imported into the British Possessions in North America from any Foreign Country, on payment of a duty of 10*l.* for every 100*l.* of the value of such Tea, together with the duties on Tea when imported from the United Kingdom.

That certain differential duties on Wine, imported from Foreign Countries into the British Colonies and Plantations in America, imposed by 4 Geo. 3, c. 15, shall be repealed.

— No. 6. —

(No. 267.)

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

No. 6.
Lord John Russell
to Lord Sydenham,
1 Dec. 1840.

My Lord,

Downing-street, 1 December 1840.

I ENCLOSE the copy of a letter which I have received from Mr. R. Gillespie, containing an extract from the letter of his correspondent at Montreal, in which a suggestion is offered with respect to the admission into this country, free of duty, of Canada wheat, flour, and other agricultural produce; and I request that you will give this subject your consideration.

I have, &c.
(signed) J. Russell.

Enclosure in No. 6.

Encl. in No. 6.

My Lord,

York-place, 28 November 1840.

PERMIT me to state that an absence from town of some months has prevented me making any communication to your Lordship on Canadian affairs; but having returned last night, and received this morning, per the steamer President, a letter from Montreal, of date the 6th instant, I presume to submit extract of same for your Lordship's consideration.

Should your Lordship think well of the suggestion of my correspondent, the Governor-general of British North America might be advantageously advised of your Lordship's intentions by the Halifax mail steamer on the 4th proximo.

Despatches by the Britannia, up to the 20th ultimo, reached Quebec by the Unicorn on the 4th current.

Trusting that your Lordship will pardon the liberty I have taken,

I have, &c.
(signed) Robert Gillespie.

The Right honourable the
Lord John Russell.

EXTRACT of LETTER dated Montreal, 6 November 1840.

SOME excitement prevails through the country in preparing for the election of members of the new legislature. I do not observe that there is any additional cause for anxiety, as to the result of the union measure, beyond what was apparent at the time of its enactment. The strenuous efforts of the French party to defeat it were of course counted upon. The Governor-general certainly appears to have acquired increased popularity with most parties during the last two months, by making show of an intention to seek the true welfare of the colony.

THE CANADAS. colony, in so far as that is to be done by local improvements ; and probably it might be better were he to pursue this line of policy a little farther, and to augment the number of his friends still more, previously to his making the eventful attempt to carry the Union Bill into effect.

It seems to me, that whatever success might attend his efforts, were he to recommend urgently and publicly to Her Majesty's Ministers, and otherwise to employ his influence at home in accomplishing such popular measures, as, for instance, the admission of Canada wheat, flour, and other agricultural produce, into Great Britain free of duty, and especially were he to succeed in accomplishing such beneficial changes as these, he could scarcely fail of becoming popular with all who have any stake in the country ; and, considering how very little revenue has ever been derived from the payment of the present colonial duties on these articles, it is a pity that a boon which would cost the donor so little, and at the same time would carry with it so important an influence in favour of the Imperial Government, should not be conceded at the present juncture.

No. 7.

Lord Sydenham to
Lord John Russell,
21 January 1841.

— No. 7. —

(No. 220.)

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

My Lord,

Government House, Montreal, 21 Jan. 1841.

IN reply to your Lordship's despatch of the 1st December, No. 267, I have the honour to state that there can be no doubt of the great effect which would be produced in these colonies if Parliament could be prevailed upon to admit the agricultural produce of the Canadas free of duty, for consumption in the United Kingdom.

The Lower Province does not produce more than enough, if enough, for its own consumption, and the growth of wheat has been greatly diminished of late years, owing to the prevalence of fly ; but Upper Canada is, as you are aware, entirely dependant upon the sale of its agricultural produce, and especially of wheat, for the production of which it is eminently calculated.

Great excitement prevails in that province at the present time with regard to this subject. The abundant harvest, both there and in the western states, has greatly increased the quantity for exportation ; but the prices are so low, that the farmers and millers are unable to derive the advantage which they expected. The consequence is, that there is an outcry raised for what is termed " agricultural protection " in the shape of duties, upon the produce of the United States imported into Canada—a scheme, it is scarcely necessary to observe, which would, even if it were not objectionable in principle, be utterly useless to an exporting country for the end sought, namely, to raise the price, whilst it would diminish, if it did not destroy, one great branch of trade, the grinding United States corn for consumption in lieu of the native grain which is exported, or even for exportation.

The real means of affording an advantage to Upper Canada would be, to permit the importation of its produce, free of duty, into the United Kingdom, and the feeling which prevails upon the subject certainly renders it, at this moment, a matter of the utmost importance.

As such, I trust that it will meet the best consideration on the part of Her Majesty's Government.

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

— No. 8. —

No. 8.

Lord J. Russell to
Lord Sydenham,
3 March 1841.

(No. 320.)

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

My Lord,

Downing-street, 3 March 1841.

ADVERTING to your Lordship's Despatch, No. 115, of the 26th May 1840, in which you referred to an Address to the Queen from the House of Assembly of Upper Canada, respecting the trade regulations of the province, and the repeal of the duties levied upon agricultural produce imported from Canada into the United Kingdom—to my answer thereto of the 1st July, No. 171—and to your Lordship's recent proposition for altering the clause of the Royal Instructions, which prohibits the Provincial Legislature from legislating on subjects connected with the trade of the British empire, I have to inform your Lordship that the Lords of the Committee

Committee of Privy Council for Trade have considered the recommendations contained in your despatch, and the address, and I shall communicate to your Lordship, by the first opportunity, the decision of Her Majesty's Government thereupon.

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

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

I have, &c.
(signed) J. Russell.

RESOLUTIONS (WITH AMENDMENTS)

Intended to be proposed in Committee on Trade of British Possessions Abroad.

(MR. LABOUCHERE.)

1. Resolved, That, in lieu of the respective duties of 7 l. 10 s., of 15 l., of 20 l., and of 30 l., on every 100 l. of the value of certain of the articles specified in the Schedule contained in an Act of the third and fourth year of King William the Fourth, to regulate the Trade of the British Possessions Abroad, there shall be paid on goods, wares, and merchandise not being the growth, production, or manufacture of the United Kingdom, or of any of the British Possessions in America, and imported by sea or by inland carriage or navigation, a duty of 7 l. for every 100 l. of the value thereof, together with the amount of any duty levied at the same time upon goods, wares, and merchandize the growth or production of the United Kingdom, or of the British Possessions.

2. Resolved, That in lieu of the several duties payable under the said Act upon the following articles, not being the growth, production, or manufacture of the United Kingdom, or of any of the British possessions in America imported or brought into any British possession by sea, there shall be paid the following duties, viz.

	£.	s.	d.
Wheat Flour (except into Canada), the barrel - - - - -	-	-	2 -
Beef and pork, salted (except into Canada), the cwt. - - - - -	-	-	4 -
Wine of all sorts, whether in bottle or not, for every 100 l. of the value, in lieu of all duties now payable thereon, under the Acts 4 Geo. 3, c. 15, and 3 & 4 Will. 4, c. 59 - - - - -	-	7	10 -
The bottles - - - - -	-	-	Free.
Shingles (except into Canada), the 1,000 N ^o . - - - - -	-	-	2 -
Oak staves and headings (except into Canada), the 1,000 N ^o . - - - - -	-	-	7 -
Wood hoops (except into Canada), the 1,000 N ^o . - - - - -	-	-	2 6
Pitch pine, and other lumber, 1 inch thick (except into Canada), the 1,000 feet - - - - -	-	-	7 -
Now prohibited, but the prohibition whereon is to cease:—			
Fish, dried or salted, the cwt. - - - - -	-	-	2 6
Fish, pickled, the barrel - - - - -	-	-	5 -

Together with the amount of any duty levied at the same time upon similar articles, the produce of, or imported from, the United Kingdom or the British possessions.

3. Resolved, That tea be permitted to be imported into British North America by inland carriage or navigation, on payment of the duty which may at that time be chargeable upon tea imported from the United Kingdom, together with 10 l. per centum on the amount of such duty.

4. Resolved, That rum, the produce of places within the limits of the East India Company's charter, and imported into British North America, shall pay the same duty as rum the produce of places in the British West Indies.

5. Resolved, That so much of the said Act as permits any sort of craft, food, and victuals, except spirits, and any sort of clothing, and implements and materials fit and necessary for the British fisheries in America, to be imported into the place at or from whence such fishery is carried on, duty free, shall be repealed, except so far as regards the following articles (that is to say), bread, flour, pork, beef, bacon, butter, lard, cheese, molasses, potatoes, oatmeal, pot barley, Indian meal, peas, rice, salt, corkwood, cordage, oakum, pitch, tar, resin, turpentine, varnish, spars, lumber, oak staves, shingles, wood hoops, leather and leatherware, and all sorts of fishing craft and bait, fishermen's clothing and hosiery, which shall be delivered duty free, for the use of the fisheries.

6. Resolved, That goods, the produce or manufacture of the islands of Guernsey, Jersey, Alderney, or Sark, imported from such islands, be admitted into the British possessions in America upon the payment of the same duty as the like goods the produce or manufacture of the United Kingdom, or of any of the said possessions.

THE CANADAS.

— No. 9. —

No. 9.
Lord Sydenham to
Lord John Russell,
13 March 1841.

(No. 30.)
COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Sydenham* to Lord *John Russell*.

My Lord, Government House, Montreal, 18 March 1841.

At the request of certain inhabitants of the township of North Sherbrooke, in the Bathurst district of the Province of (Upper) Canada, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for presentation to The Queen, a memorial which they have addressed to Her Majesty on the subject of the grain trade with the United States of America.

Having already, in my answer to your despatch (No. 267), expressed my opinion on the points treated in this address, I shall not trouble your Lordship with any further observations on the subject on the present occasion, beyond repeating my hope, that the proposed free importation of Canadian produce into the United Kingdom will receive every attention from Her Majesty's Government.

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

Encl. in No. 7.

Enclosure in No. 7.

TO Her Most Excellent Majesty VICTORIA, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland Queen, Defender of the Faith, &c. &c. &c.

WE, Your Majesty's faithful Subjects, the Inhabitants of the Township of North Sherbrooke, in the Bathurst District, in the Province of Canada, beg to approach Your Majesty with a Statement of the following Facts, viz.:

THAT an Act was passed last session of the Provincial Parliament of Upper Canada, imposing certain duties on the produce of the United States of America, on being imported into the said province, which Act has not received Your Royal assent:

That the agriculture of the said province is much depressed, by two causes,—the unreciprocal admission of such American produce, and the duty paid on the importation of grain and flour from Canada into the United Kingdom, by which access to the British market is rendered uncertain.

We, therefore, humbly and earnestly pray Your Majesty to give Your Royal assent to the said Act of the Provincial Parliament of Upper Canada, and prevent an overwhelming foreign competition; and also, that Your Majesty would be graciously pleased to recommend to the Imperial Parliament to pass an Act to allow the free importation into the United Kingdom of grain and flour, the actual growth and produce of the said province, and thus enable us to procure those articles of British manufacture which our situation and habits render necessary to our prosperity and comfort, as well as tending to promote that unity of feeling and of interest which ought to subsist between the parent state and this colony.

All which is most humbly submitted for Your Majesty's most gracious consideration.

North Sherbrooke, 12 January 1841.

(64 Signatures.)

— No. 10. —

No. 10.
Lord Sydenham to
Lord John Russell,
24 April 1841.

(No. 52.)
COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Sydenham* to Lord *John Russell*.

My Lord, Government House, Montreal, 24 April 1841.

I HAVE the honour to enclose copies of three Memorials which have been presented to me by the Boards of Trade of Montreal and Quebec, and the merchants of Bytown. I also enclose a copy of my reply.

Great alarm is naturally felt by those engaged in the timber trade in Canada at the prospect of any alteration in the duties levied on wood in the United Kingdom, which may affect the protection hitherto afforded to colonial timber and deals; but the question must of course be resolved by the Government and the Imperial Parliament, according to the view which they may take of the general interests of the empire.

I conceive that in any change which may be determined upon in those duties, if it be one which will disturb the proportions which the colonial and foreign timber trade bear to each other under existing laws, care will be taken to diminish as much as possible the loss to individuals by rendering the change gradual; as such a course is certainly the most just, as well as the most politic. But above all, I must express my hope, that in whatever alteration is adopted, the recommendation of the Committee of 1835, of which I was chairman, will be adhered to; namely, that the change shall not affect the importations

No. 1.
7 April 1841.
No. 2.
19 April 1841.
No. 3.
10 April 1841.
No. 4.
21 April 1841.

tations of the year, which would be an act of extreme hardship upon the colonial trade, inasmuch as it can only be carried on by engagements entered into many months before the time at which the goods can be actually shipped, and therefore all the shipments to be made this year have been entered upon on the faith of the present law, and cannot be now countermanded or stopped.

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

Enclosures in No. 8.

Encls. in No. 8.

(No. 1.)

TO his Excellency the Right honourable *Charles Baron Sydenham*, of Sydenham, in the County of Kent, and of Toronto, in Canada, one of Her Majesty's most Honourable Privy Council, Governor-general of British North America, and Captain-general and Governor-in-Chief in and over the Provinces of Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and the Island of Prince Edward, and Vice-admiral of the same;

The Petition of the Board of Trade of Montreal,

Respectfully sheweth,

THAT the mercantile community of this city have lately received information from England which leads them to apprehend that Her Majesty's Government contemplate proposing to Parliament, in its present session, certain alterations in the duties at present levied in the United Kingdom upon timber and wood articles.

That any alteration which might afford less protection to the timber trade of Her Majesty's North American colonies than is afforded by the present scale of duties would be greatly detrimental to the best interests, not only of this extensive province, but also of the neighbouring colonies, as well as the ship-owners of the empire.

That by means of the lumber trade, as it now exists, many important interests in these extensive colonies are fostered and advanced. The shipping employed in the trade afford an easy and cheap conveyance to the emigrant from the United Kingdom, and ensures extensive employment to the agriculturist, the artisan, and the labourer, as well as to a portion of the population of these provinces, who have, for many months, nothing else to depend upon for support.

That a large amount of capital has been invested in the timber trade, in perfect confidence that the present scale of duties would be continued; that exertions are making to improve and extend it, so as to meet the growing demand in the home market, where the lowness of price affords proof that the consumers are abundantly supplied; and, therefore, having been fostered and encouraged by the existing laws of the United Kingdom, a sudden change would not only be ruinous to their interests, but also unjust.

Wherefore, your petitioners humbly pray that it may please your Excellency to give the subject your consideration, and to extend to it the benefit of your powerful interest, in order that the existing protection may be maintained; at all events, that before any alterations take place, an opportunity may be given them to lay before Her Majesty's Government the justice and reasonableness of the claim now prayed for.

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

By order of the Board,
(signed) *J. J. Brondgeest*, Chairman.

Montreal, 7 April 1841.

(No. 2.)

TO his Excellency the Right honourable *Charles Baron Sydenham*, of Sydenham, in the County of Kent, and of Toronto, in Canada, one of Her Majesty's most Honourable Privy Council, Governor-general of British North America, and Captain-general and Governor-in-Chief in and over the Provinces of Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and the Island of Prince Edward, and Vice-admiral of the same;

The Memorial of the Board of Trade of the City of Quebec,

Humbly sheweth,

THAT the merchants and inhabitants of this city have lately heard with great alarm that Her Majesty's Government intend to propose at no distant period an alteration in the existing scale of duties on timber, deals, and staves, which scale, as it stands at present, affords only a bare protection to the trade:

That your memorialists are deeply concerned to find that incorrect evidence with regard to the interests of this province, and highly prejudicial thereto, has been given before a Committee of the House of Commons, and which they had no opportunity to contradict before the framing of the Report of the Committee:

That the lumber trade is the staple trade of this country; that a numerous population of the most loyal districts is employed in it, a large amount of capital invested, and that it is in various ways of great benefit, and of vast importance to the province:

That great and leading interests of the British North American Provinces, and of the parent state, are encouraged and maintained by it, particularly emigration, settlement, agriculture,

THE CANADAS.

agriculture, consumption of British wares and manufactures, nursery of British seamen, an employment of British shipping :

That the energetic measures lately undertaken in the United Kingdom and in Canada to promote emigration, would, by an unfavourable change in the duties, at once meet with a certain and unexpected hindrance in the destruction of the very cheap mode of conveyance across the Atlantic, which the ballast ships coming out for timber now afford to poor emigrants, who could not without such facility raise sufficient means to pay the cost of passage :

That in addition to the large amount of capital invested in the trade, in fixed property, saw-mills, river-craft, and other costly essentials, the estimated value of the stocks of timber on hand, and the new supplies prepared at the average prices of the last three seasons, is 1,100,000*l.* currency, a large portion of which amount is already advanced for in British goods.

That these investments having been made on the faith of British laws or tariffs, for the encouragement and maintenance of the trade, any prejudicial change would be felt as a severe visitation on the province, involving in ruin many of those directly engaged in the trade, depriving of the means of employment and subsistence a large portion of the industrious population, and retarding to an indefinite and incalculable extent the present hopeful prospects of the country.

Your memorialists, therefore, humbly entreat your Excellency, that you will interfere, with your powerful influence on behalf of the large and loyal portion of the population under your Lordship's government, who have so anxious and deep a stake in the matter, to maintain the permanency of the duties as they stand ; but that if it should be deemed essential for the general benefit of the empire, after due consideration of all interests, to make changes, then that ample notice should be secured for them.

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

Board of Trade, Quebec,
19 April 1841.

(signed) *Wm. Walker*, Chairman.

(No. 3.)

TO his Excellency the Right Honourable *Charles Baron Sydenham*, of Sydenham and Toronto, &c. &c.

The humble Petition of the Merchants, Traders, and Inhabitants interested in the Timber Trade of the Ottawa River,

Most humbly sheweth,

THAT your petitioners have observed with deep regret certain evidence given before the Selected Committee of the House of Commons regarding the timber trade of Canada, founded on total ignorance or error, and fearing that measures may be adopted ruinous to this, the only staple trade of the colony, your petitioners humbly beg to represent,

That they feel confident your Lordship during your residence in this colony cannot have been an inattentive observer of the great importance of the timber trade to the British North American colonies, and that by it these colonies open an extensive market for the produce of the British manufacturer, consuming about 3,000,000 *l.* worth of his produce every year: the great value of this trade to the British merchant, the British ship-owner, and to the Canadian agriculturist, is too obvious to require to be detailed to your Lordship, to say nothing of the importance to the mother country of the nursery for British seamen by the 1,200 sail of ships which annually arrive at Quebec. All these considerations lead us to hope that your Lordship will throw your powerful influence into the scale to prevent any change in this trade, which would not only operate to its destruction, but also involve in its overthrow the ruin of all those interests, which so entirely depend upon it.

We may also add, that any interference with our lumber trade at this moment would be attended with most disastrous consequences to this colony.

The timber merchants, on the faith of the permanency of the relative duties now existing, having embarked a very large capital in the trade, arising from an increasing demand for timber in the British market, and which capital has been considerably enhanced during the last season. Moreover, all the attempts made by the mother country to aid and encourage emigration to Canada would be defeated by such a measure. Without the vessels which come yearly to Quebec for timber, the expense of transporting the poorer classes of emigrants would be beyond their reach.

Your petitioners further beg to observe that the threatened change, if carried into effect, will necessarily cause a great depression in the country, and will be looked upon by Her Majesty's loyal Canadian subjects as a poor return for the zeal and devotedness and attachment which they have ever evinced in support of the Government.

Your petitioners therefore most humbly pray that your Lordship will be pleased to use your utmost endeavours to protect their interests ; but if their prayer to the Imperial Legislature shall not avail, they earnestly trust your Lordship will see the justice of time being given to realize and withdraw the capital now invested in the timber trade under the faith of a continuance of the duties now existing.

And your petitioners will ever pray.

Bytown, 10 April 1841.

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(No. 4.)

THE CANADAS.

Sir,

Government House, Montreal, 21 April 1841.

I AM commanded by the Governor-general to acknowledge the receipt of a memorial from the Board of Trade of Quebec which you have transmitted, upon the subject of the timber duties levied in the United Kingdom, and his Excellency further directs me to take this opportunity of formally acknowledging two memorials upon the same subject, one from the Board of Trade of this city, and the other from Bytown, which have been presented to him at interviews at which you were present.

No official intelligence has been received by the Governor-general of an intention to propose to Parliament a change in the duties affecting timber, but it is not unlikely that the information communicated to the memorialists is correct, as from the state in which this question has been for some years, it is likely to attract public attention.

His Excellency will not fail, however, to represent to Her Majesty's Government the feelings with which the subject is viewed by the memorialists, and he will be prepared to express his opinion that in any alterations which Parliament may determine, due consideration should be given to existing interests, and a fair notice afforded, so as to diminish as much as possible any loss to individuals engaged in the trade.

I have, &c.

(signed) T. W. C. Murdoch,
Chief Secretary.

The Honourable Peter M'Gill.

— No. 11. —

(No. 420.)

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

My Lord,

Downing-street, 8 August 1841.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch, No. 52, of the 24th April, enclosing copies of three memorials presented to you by the Boards of Trade of Montreal and Quebec, and the merchants of Bytown, on the subject of the alteration contemplated in the duty on timber in Canada.

On the receipt of that despatch, I lost no time in communicating it, with the accompanying memorials, to the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade, and I have now to acquaint you, for the information of the memorialists, that their Lordships have informed me that they have had these papers under their consideration, and that they will be taken into further consideration whenever the subject to which they relate shall be again brought forward in Parliament.

I have, &c.

(signed) J. Russell.

— No. 12. —

(No. 78.)

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

My Lord,

Government-House, Kingston, 23 June 1841.

IN the Times newspaper of the 28th May, in the debate on the motion of Sir Robert Peel, I find in the report of the speech attributed to that Right honourable gentleman, the following expression: "With respect to the proposed alterations in the timber duties, I will refer for a moment to a representation of Lord Sydenham, who states, 'That if the Government brings forward the timber duties, it will be my imperative duty to urge that due regard be paid to all existing interests, and that ample time be given to enable parties having vested interests to dispose of them, and to provide for the transfer of their capital to other branches of industry.'" The representation attributed to me being printed between inverted commas is, I conclude, intended to be an exact quotation of something I have either written or said.

I have never, either publicly or privately, made use of these expressions, and therefore, although the matter may appear of trifling importance, I consider it due to myself to request your Lordship, unless you deem it unadvisable, to be good enough to take steps for correcting the misapprehension, either by a statement to that effect in Parliament, or by requesting the Right honourable gentlemen, who inadvertently, no doubt, fell into the mistake, to apply the correction, which I am certain no man will be more ready or anxious to do than himself when called upon, even if it diminished the force of his argument, which it does not in this case, as directed against the alteration of these duties this year. I feel that otherwise I may hereafter be referred to upon such high authority as having expressed sentiments which are not mine and never have been. The only public expressions of opinion with respect to the timber duties which I have made since my arrival in

No. 11.
Lord John Russell
to Lord Sydenham,
8 August 1841.

No. 12.
Lord Sydenham to
Lord John Russell,
23 June 1841.

THE CANADAS. Canada was recorded in an answer to the address of the Quebec merchants and others, of which a copy was sent to your Lordship in my despatch of the 24th April, and in that despatch itself, both announced by me before I had received any information, either publicly or privately, of the details of the measure to be proposed by Her Majesty's Government, although I had information from your Lordship that some change was intended.

On the first of these documents it is unnecessary to remark, as it contains nothing in the least degree approaching to the quotation made.

The meaning which it was my intention to convey in the other is no less at variance with the sentiments imputed to me in the supposed quotation to which I have referred; I express my opinion, "That in any change which may be determined upon, if it be one which will disturb the proportions which the Colonial and Foreign timber trade bear to each other, care should be taken to diminish as much as possible the loss to individuals by making the change gradual," which is quite a different thing from stating, "That ample time must be given to enable parties having vested interests to dispose of them, and to provide for the transfer of their capital to other branches of industry," a proposition which seems to me to involve an impossibility, for I am not at all aware of what can be meant by vested interests, and still less how it could be decided when or at what time such a transfer had taken place.

I can only suppose that Sir Robert Peel must have been misled by some of the newspaper paragraphs which have appeared here, and may have been copied into the English papers, purporting to give an account of what passed in interviews between parties in Canada and myself.

My views upon the subject of the timber duties have been stated just as explicitly here as they have been in England. I have never hesitated to declare, that in my opinion, the amount of protection to Canada timber, as now fixed by law at 45s., was too high, and that the day would come when it must be reduced, which I believe might be done without injury to the permanent interests of the Province. At the same time I fully admitted the justice as well as the policy of reducing that protection gradually, and I adhered to the recommendation of the Committee, of which I was chairman in 1836, that the importation of the year in which the Act making the alteration passed should not be subjected to such change.

I should be ashamed of myself if, entertaining these opinions, I had suppressed them here, and not having done so, I am anxious not to be supposed to have acted such a part.

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

— No. 13. —

No. 13.
Lord Sydenham to
Lord John Russell,
25 June 1841.

(No. 82.)
COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Sydenham* to Lord *John Russell*.

Government-House, Kingston,
25 June 1841.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith, in order that it may be laid at the foot of the Throne, a memorial to Her Majesty from certain merchants of Montreal, praying that certain articles of Canadian produce therein specified, may be admitted into the United Kingdom free of duty.

Similar memorials proceeding from the same parties have, I understand, been forwarded to Members of the Houses of Lords and Commons for presentation.

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

Enclosure in No. 13.

TO the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

Encl. in No. 13.

The humble Petition of the undersigned Merchants, residing at Montreal, in the Province of Canada,

Respectfully sheweth,

THAT your petitioners have heard of some proposed changes in the duties hitherto imposed upon articles of foreign produce or manufacture imported into the British North American colonies, and Your Majesty's possessions in the West Indies.

That

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That although your petitioners are satisfied with the proposed change, as being just, and in many respects beneficial, still they view with great apprehension the deprivation of the valuable trade they have hitherto enjoyed with the West Indies, which has afforded them an outlet for their pork, beef, flour, butter, and many other articles of Canadian produce, and hope they may be compensated by the markets of the United Kingdom being thrown open to them.

That the duties now imposed on beef, pork, butter, and lard in the United Kingdom are so heavy as to be almost prohibitory; and such articles are produced in Canada to a large extent.

That the quantity of wheat and flour produced in Canada is yearly increasing, and consequently requires every possible encouragement.

That in case all duties were taken off from Canadian provisions, and it should be desirable at the same time to prevent the produce of the United States of America from being exported to the United Kingdom on the same terms, your petitioners suggest that a duty might be levied on the frontier, for the use of Your Majesty's Treasury, on all articles produced in the United States imported into Canada, the same as on other foreign produce, and at the same rates; and that after such duties shall have been paid, such provisions be put on the same footing as Canadian produce, when imported into the ports of the United Kingdom.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that Your Majesty will repeal all duties now levied in the United Kingdom on beef, butter, pork, and lard, as well as on wheat, rye, Indian corn, barley, oats, buckwheat, beans, peas, and other grains, and the flour or meal made therefrom, levying on the frontier of Canada adjacent to the United States of America, such duties as may be considered sufficient, and allowing all provisions from Canada, after paying such duty, to enter free into the ports of the United Kingdom, allowing a drawback if re-exported to the United States of America.

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

(signed) *George Moffatt*, and
175 others.

THE CANADAS.

— No. 14. —

(No. 404.)

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

My Lord,

Downing-street, 19 July 1841.

I HAVE received your Lordship's despatch, No. 82, of the 25th June, enclosing a petition to the Queen from various merchants at Montreal, praying the repeal of the duties at present levied on Canadian wheat and other produce when imported into the United Kingdom, to compensate the injury to Canadian commerce which is apprehended from the proposed alteration of the duties on foreign produce imported into British North America and the West Indies.

You will have the goodness to inform the petitioners that I have had the honour to lay their petition before the Queen, who was pleased to receive it very graciously. By Her Majesty's command it has been referred for the consideration of the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade.

I have, &c.

(signed) *J. Russell*.

No. 14.
Lord John Russell
to Lord Sydenham,
19 July 1841.

— No. 15. —

(No. 421.)

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

My Lord,

Downing-street, 8 August 1841.

WITH reference to my despatch, No. 404, of the 19th July, acquainting your Lordship that the memorial from the merchants of Montreal, transmitted in your despatch of the 25th June, had been referred by the Queen's commands to the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade, I have now to inform you that their Lordships having had your despatch and the memorial under their consideration, have been pleased to state that the memorial will be again referred to when any Bill relating to duties upon articles imported from the British North American Colonies shall hereafter be brought forward in Parliament.

Your Lordship will be pleased to apprise the petitioners of this answer to their memorial.

I have, &c.

(signed) *J. Russell*.

No. 15.
Lord John Russell
to Lord Sydenham,
8 August 1841.

NOVA SCOTIA.

NOVA SCOTIA.

— No. 1. —

(No. 38.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *John Russell* to Viscount *Falkland*.

No. 1.
Lord John Russell
to Visc. Falkland,
16 March 1841.

My Lord,

Downing-street, 16 March 1841.

LORD Sydenham has brought under my notice the effect on the revenue of Nova Scotia of the exemption granted by Parliament from duty of certain articles imported into that province for the use of the fisheries. Having referred the subject to the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, their Lordships have informed me that they consider that, as the privilege in question has been greatly abused, to the injury of the revenue of Nova Scotia, the provisions made for that purpose should be repealed by a new Customs Bill, which the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade will prepare, for the purpose of introducing a more uniform system of duties in British America.

I have, &c.

(signed) *J. Russell*.

— No. 2. —

(No. 61.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Viscount *Falkland* to Lord *John Russell*.

No. 2.
Visc. Falkland to
Lord John Russell,
16 April 1841.

My Lord,

Government House, Halifax, 16 April 1841.

I TRANSMIT herewith the report of a Committee of the House of Assembly of Nova Scotia (subsequently adopted by the House itself), having relation to your Lordship's despatch, No. 38, dated 16th March 1841, on the subject of the change contemplated by Her Majesty's Government in the present system of duties levied in British North America; and likewise a petition from "The Chamber of Commerce" of Halifax on the same subject.

Without going into detail on the various matters referred to in the above documents, which are therein treated of at sufficient length, I will merely state that very great anxiety is felt by the commercial part of the community in this colony that the resolutions lately introduced into Parliament by Her Majesty's Government should undergo the most deliberate consideration before they are finally adopted.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Falkland*.

Enclosure in No. 2.

In the House of Assembly, 8 April 1841.

Encl. in No. 2.

THE Committee to whom the despatch of the Right hon. the Secretary of the Colonies to his Excellency the Lieutenant-governor, dated the 16th March last, was referred, have agreed to report as follows:

That the changes proposed by Her Majesty's Government in the system of duties levied in British America will exercise so large an influence on the trade of this colony, and involve so many considerations of general policy, as well as of local interest, that the committee would have gladly bestowed upon them a more extended investigation than is now practicable at the close of the session, and without the opportunity of taking evidence, or pursuing any minute inquiry. The committee, however, have examined several of the merchants conversant with the trade to foreign countries, and with the existing regulations, and having themselves had some experience of the operation of the new colonial system introduced in

1826, they submit the following remarks and recommendations for the action of this House, and the information of Her Majesty's Government.

The committee gratefully acknowledge the beneficial results of the enlarged and generous policy which struck off the old restrictions on the enterprize and trade of the colonists, and raised them more nearly to an equality with their fellow-subjects at home. Our resources have been largely developed, and the extent and variety of our imports increased, while our industry has been quickened, and our trade has penetrated to new regions, from the abandonment of the ancient system of restriction and prohibition.

The committee are satisfied that the colonies, and consequently the mother country, would be mutually benefited by the relaxation of this system to a still greater extent than has been hitherto attempted, and conceive the resolutions proposed by the Right hon. Mr. Labouchere on the 13th March, in the House of Commons, as reported in the newspapers, to be founded in the main on a liberal and wise policy. They rejoice at the substitution of an uniform *ad valorem* duty of 10 per cent. for the present duties of 30, 20, and 15 per cent., which on many articles amounted to a prohibition, and are inclined to hope that the Government will gradually come to the conclusion that the protective duties imposed by the Imperial Acts, while they cramp the energies, and retard the expansion of colonial industry, are of no real advantage to the British producer; and as our legislature would impose no duties, except only for purposes of revenue, that we would consume more largely of home manufactures, and become more valuable customers of the mother country, were the regulations of our trade left in our own hands, subject always to the control of the Government. Such would be the effects, as the members of this committee have long thought, of a perfectly free and unconstrained intercourse with all the world, relieved of the old restrictions.

They are sensible, however, that the relaxations now proposed, in their immediate effect, will be injurious to the trade of this colony, and availing themselves of the suggestion in Mr. Labouchere's speech, as reported, they respectfully submit such equivalents as it may be in the power of Her Majesty's Government to obtain.

An extensive and valuable trade has sprung up in the transshipping of American flour, beef, pork, and lumber, to the West Indies, which will be annihilated by the reduced duties on these articles. Upwards of 60,000 barrels of flour, and large quantities of beef, pork, and lumber, of foreign production, passed through the ports of this province, and paid a freight to our vessels during the last year; and our exports to the West Indies will be henceforth confined almost wholly to dry and pickled fish, lumber, and other articles, the produce of the British colonies.

The substitution of moderate duties on the importation of foreign fish, in place of the entire prohibition which has hitherto prevailed, will expose the fisheries to a new and formidable class of competitors, who are enabled, by the immense bounties offered by their own governments, to undersell us, having no such advantages. The United States give a bounty of three dollars and fifty cents. per ton on vessels of the burthen of five to thirty tons, and of four dollars per ton on all vessels above thirty tons engaged in the fisheries, and a further bounty of twenty-five cents. per barrel of pickled fish exported. A very large bounty is still continued by the French government on fish caught by their own subjects, and carried to the West Indies; and the committee apprehend that the duties now proposed, of 2 s. 6 d. per quintal, and 5 s. per barrel of foreign fish, will hardly be sufficient to place our own people on an equal footing. The reduced duties on lumber will also destroy, in a great measure, the preference we have hitherto enjoyed. Without presuming, therefore, to question the policy which an enlarged view may induce Her Majesty's Government to adopt, the committee cannot but see that these boons, valuable as perhaps they may be to the West India interest, will operate against the trade and productions of this and the adjoining colonies.

As advantages of so much importance are to be conferred on the foreign producers, the committee would earnestly press on the attention of Her Majesty's Government the necessity of stipulating for some equivalent on the part of their governments. Our fish and lumber ought surely to be allowed to enter foreign ports, particularly in the West Indies, on the same terms on which we are about to receive theirs; and the present duties, oppressive as they are, and amounting nearly to a prohibition, ought to be reduced to a standard equally low. In the United States, the duties levied on dry and salted fish are, one dollar per quintal; on herrings, one dollar per barrel; on mackerel, one dollar and fifty cents. per barrel; on salmon, two dollars per barrel; and on lumber, 25 per cent. *ad valorem*. In the Spanish colonies, the duty on our fish is about one dollar; and in the French colonies it may be stated at five francs, or 4 s. 2 d. sterling per quintal. The reduction of these duties would be a valuable boon, and would almost compensate to these colonies the advantage they are about to lose.

The committee approve of the proposed repeal of the exemption from duty of articles fit and necessary for the fisheries, as, however well intended, it has been found liable to great abuse. They would suggest, however, that as the exemption is removed, the duty of 3 s. per hundred weight on foreign molasses is too high, and ought to be reduced to 1 s. 6 d.

They are very desirous too that books and printed publications of all kinds should be admitted without restriction, and duty free. They are not insensible to the weight of the objections that will arise out of the claims of copyright, but respectfully submit that the present prohibition is so extensively evaded by a contraband traffic, as to be of little or no value to the British author or publisher, while an unrestricted importation, which our own Legislature allows, free of duty, would tend to the more rapid diffusion of intelligence, and would improve the capacity and elevate the character of our population.

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They beg to suggest also the propriety of substituting, wherever it is practicable, a specific duty for a duty *ad valorem*, which is apt to be evaded, and in many cases does not yield above one-half of what was intended. A duty, for example, of 2 *d.* a pound on hyson and gunpowder teas, and of 1 *d.* a pound on all other descriptions, would operate more equally and fairly, though it is open to some objection, than an *ad valorem* duty of 10 per cent.

The committee, with a view to the extension of our foreign trade, and of the generous policy which protects with equal care the shipping interest of the mother country and of these colonies, her offspring and dependencies, would respectfully solicit of Her Majesty's Government the same privilege for goods warehoused in the colonies, and exported from thence to Great Britain, being an abatement of one-tenth part of the duties thereon, which is allowed on the importation of goods from the United Kingdom having been warehoused therein.

And, lastly, the committee, in order to avert the serious embarrassment and losses which would result from a too hasty introduction of the new system, and the breaking up of speculations and voyages now in progress, would be gratified if the period of its coming into operation were postponed to the 31st of March 1842.

All which is respectfully submitted.

(signed)

William Young.

James McNab.

Thomas Forrester.

W. B. Taylor.

H. Huntington.

R. M^c G. Dickey.

Committee-room, 8 April 1841.

Resolved, That the report be received and adopted by the House.

Ordered, That the same committee who prepared the report be a committee to wait upon his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor with a copy of the said report, and respectfully request his Excellency to transmit the same to the Right honourable Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies.

(signed) *John W. Nidden*, Clerk.

TO the Right honourable Lord *John Russell*, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonial Department, &c. &c. &c.

The Petition of the Chamber of Commerce of Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Humbly sheweth,

THAT your petitioners have heard with deep concern, that Her Majesty's Government have introduced resolutions into the House of Commons, the operation of which, if adopted by Parliament, will effect an entire change in the inter-colonial trade which has been fostered and encouraged by the course of legislation and system of duties which have prevailed during the last 15 years.

That your petitioners, while they recognize the soundness of the principle on which it is proposed to give to the consumers of provisions in the West Indies the advantage of buying at the cheapest rate; and while they acknowledge, with thankfulness, the generous policy of the maternal Government in reducing the higher duties of 15, 20, and 30 per cent. now levied on certain foreign goods for the protection of the British manufacturer, cannot help feeling that these intended changes will, in a great degree, destroy that protection system in the colonies which has been hitherto deemed essential to the commercial welfare of the empire at large.

That your petitioners entirely repudiate any desire to retain the carrying trade for the supply of the British West India possessions, as at present, for their own exclusive benefit, at the expense of those colonies; but the existing course of trade having been fostered by Her Majesty's Government, with a view to the general good, it will no doubt be deemed reasonable that, before these sweeping changes are adopted, their practical effects should be well considered and ascertained.

Your petitioners are convinced that the existing system of colonial trade adopted in 1826, and re-enacted by Parliament in 1833, has been highly beneficial to British interests. The object sought for in these regulations was to draw a large share of the trade of the Western States of the American Union through the channel of the St. Lawrence, and to preserve the carrying trade for the supply of the British West Indies to British shipping. This was effected by admitting flour, salt provisions, and lumber into those possessions from the warehouses in the northern colonies, duty free, while on the direct importation high duties were charged. These duties were not, therefore, paid by the consumer to the full extent of the tariff; and the course of trade has been to load British vessels in the northern warehousing ports with assorted cargoes of fish, salted provisions, flour, and lumber, suited to the demand in the British Islands, where entire cargoes of either article are not so readily saleable. Such supplies have been furnished most liberally, and with great regularity, so much so, that it has very rarely occurred that high prices have been obtained. The operation of the proposed changes will be to destroy the carrying trade from these colonies, and to transfer it to American shipping, which will at times furnish the larger markets in the West Indies

Indies with excessive supplies, to be followed by periods of comparative scarcity. Your petitioners feel assured that, as respects the supply of salt provisions and flour, but little will be gained by the West India consumers; while, as respects their salted fish, they will, in the end, be losers by admitting foreign fish to competition with British-caught. The supplies of this article now shipped from the northern colonies are very ample, and at a cheap rate: but if foreigners be allowed to import fish, many of the British vessels now engaged in the trade will be compelled to seek other employment, and the aggregate quantity sent to the West Indies will probably be less than at present. Dried fish, being a perishable article, are often sacrificed when supplies are excessive; and the greater the competition in the trade, the more irregular and uncertain will be its results. With these convictions of the certain consequences of the proposed changes, your petitioners cannot help feeling doubts whether the West India interests really desire them, and they are confirmed in this opinion by the fact that no evidence of such a desire has yet been brought forward in support of the new system. It is well known that the fisheries of France and the United States are fostered by large bounties, for the purpose of increasing so valuable a nursery for seamen, and with a new market opened to them, those fisheries will be prosecuted on a more extensive scale. The fishermen of British North America receive no direct bounties, but they have relied with confidence on all British markets being preserved to them free of foreign competition. A large portion of the fish cured are only suitable for the West Indies, the best qualities being shipped to Europe and the Brazils; if a market is not found for the inferior kind also, the catch of fish will eventually be diminished, to the great injury and loss of our commercial marine.

Your petitioners would therefore humbly submit these considerations to your Lordship's notice, in the hope that they will have some weight in the adjustment of this vitally important question; they feel assured that the advantages to be gained by the West India consumers of fish are trifling indeed compared with the loss of a portion of the North American fisheries, and that the policy which has hitherto been pursued with reference to this branch of industry is consistent with the best interests of the nation.

As the proposed reduction on foreign goods will materially affect many of our domestic manufactures, your petitioners would further submit the propriety of delaying the proposed alterations till the 31st March 1842; and they would also suggest that foreign leaf-tobacco and barilla should be admitted duty free, as manufactured tobacco and soap, which before paid 20 per cent. duty, will now be admitted at 10 per cent. An application made to Government in 1833 for a repeal of the duty on leaf-tobacco was favourably received, as appears by a despatch from the Colonial Office to the acting Governor of Nova Scotia, dated in January 1834, but no subsequent steps were taken to repeal the duty.

In further urging these views, your petitioners would humbly ask your Lordship and Her Majesty's Government to consider well whether there is any probability of the foreign nations which consume the produce of our fisheries relaxing to any extent the restrictions with which they have hitherto protected their own interests; and if it be found that the previous advances made by the British Government towards a system of reciprocity have not been met by a corresponding feeling by those nations, it is presumed that we have no right to expect any further advantages will be conceded to us in return for the boon now offered to them.

Your petitioners, however, cannot bring themselves to believe that those important changes will be adopted without securing to the northern colonies some equivalent for the loss which will result from them.

And, humbly confiding their interests to your Lordship's care, your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

(signed)	<i>George P. Lawson</i> , Chairman.	<i>M. B. Almon.</i>
	<i>Stephen Burney.</i>	<i>Wm. B. Fairbanks.</i>
	<i>Thomas Williamson.</i>	<i>Joseph Fairbanks.</i>
	<i>J. Leander Starr.</i>	<i>David Allison.</i>
	<i>Samuel B. Smith.</i>	<i>Michael Tobin, jun.</i>
	<i>J. G. A. Creighton.</i>	

Halifax, Nova Scotia, 14 April 1841.

— No. 3. —

(No. 67.)

Copy of a DESPATCH from *John Russell* to Viscount *Falkland*.

My Lord,

Downing-street, 8 August 1841.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 7th of May last, No. 49, in which I informed your Lordship that the report of the committee of the House of Assembly of Nova Scotia, and the petition from the Chamber of Commerce at Halifax, relative to the alterations proposed to be made in the system of duties levied in the British provinces in America, transmitted in your despatch, No. 61, of the 16th of April, had been referred for the consideration of the Lords of the Com-

No. 3.
Lord John Russell
to Visc. Falkland,
8 August 1841.

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I have, &c.
(signed) *J. Russell.*

— No. 4. —

(No. 77.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Viscount *Falkland* to Lord *John Russell*.

No. 4.
Visc. Falkland to
Lord John Russell,
18 May 1841.

My Lord,

Government House, Halifax, 18 May 1841.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the memorial of several merchants of this city and others interested in the colonial tea trade.

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

Enclosure in No. 4.

Encl. in No. 4. To the Right Honourable Lord *John Russell*, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonial Department, &c. &c. &c.

The Petition of Merchants of Halifax, Nova Scotia, and others interested in the Colonial Tea Trade.

Humbly sheweth,

THAT your petitioners have observed that Her Majesty's Government have introduced a resolution into the House of Commons, to admit tea by land or inland navigation into these provinces, which if carried will deeply affect the interests of merchants carrying on a direct trade with China and those concerned in the importation of tea into the British North American colonies.

That your petitioners have heard that the object of the alteration is to prevent smuggling from the United States into Upper Canada, and although they cannot understand how an increased duty is likely to effect this, they pray that Her Majesty's Government will not visit these lower provinces with an evil, to correct one existing in Canada, and particularly when the alteration in the law as regards these provinces can in no way apply as a remedy for the evil complained of. The low rate of duty is the great protection your petitioners have against smuggling, and if the Canadians suffer from this evil, they have the remedy in their own hands; and your petitioners humbly beg to suggest that the admission of tea into Canada will in no way prevent, but rather have a tendency to increase smuggling, as the temptation still remains, while the facilities are increased.

The present duty in Canada is 4*d.* per pound, or about 25 per cent. *ad valorem*; in the United States there is no duty on tea imported in American vessels from places eastward of the Cape of Good Hope. Smuggling must be the result of such policy as this, for in a country with such an extensive frontier it will always be found impossible to collect such high duties unless regulated by the tariff of the neighbouring government.

The effect of the law will be to divert the tea trade of these provinces from its proper channel: teas will be imported into New York in American ships, thence to the lines in their vessels, and our shipping will only have it left to them to distribute it among the different ports, giving the Americans, without receiving any equivalent, a branch of the carrying trade of Great Britain, which, from the length of voyage, is one of the most important.

Your petitioners would beg to call the attention of your Lordship particularly to the circumstance, that the proposed alteration will admit of tea being brought into these provinces from the United States, while the American government, by a high duty on teas of foreign import, prevent your petitioners from trading with them; and what makes the case of your petitioners particularly hard is, that in the event of an over-supply, they will not even be allowed, in the present state of the English law, to ship it to the mother country; thus whilst all nations are to be allowed to bring teas to these colonies, your petitioners will be shut out from all other markets, the result of which must be the total destruction of a growing trade between China and these provinces.

In submitting these views for your Lordship's consideration, your petitioners trust that the proposed alteration will not be made as regards these lower provinces, as it will be inflicting an injury on them, without benefitting Canada, or in any way assisting to carry out the views of Her Majesty's Government.

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

Halifax, Nova Scotia, 18 May 1841.

[28 Signatures.]

— No. 5. —

(No. 78.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Viscount *Falkland* to Lord *John Russell*.

My Lord,

Government House, Halifax, 18 May 1841.

No. 5.
Visc. Falkland to
Lord John Russell,
18 May 1841.

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, the enclosed copy of a petition which several merchants and shipowners of this place have addressed to the House of Commons on the subject of the proposed alteration of the duties on Baltic and Colonial timber.

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

Enclosure in No. 5.

TO the Honourable the Commons of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled.

The Petition of the Subscribers, representing the Merchants and Shipowners of Halifax, Nova Scotia:

Encl. in No. 5.

Humbly sheweth,

THAT your petitioners feel deep concern at learning that it has been in the contemplation of Her Majesty's Government to make a sudden change in the position of the colonial trade, by a proposed reduction of the duty on Baltic, and an increase of the duty on colonial timber, as they sincerely believe that such an alteration will be fraught with consequences of the most ruinous kind to the interests of all the British North American colonies, and injurious to the interests of the empire at large.

That the Canadas, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia, are all largely interested in the manufacture and export of timber, and that in all respects the trade and commercial prosperity of the different provinces are so mutually interwoven by their vicinity and business connexions, that any depression or discouragement affecting one or more of the provinces in a staple of this magnitude, would almost instantaneously be felt throughout the whole extent, in the diminution of credit, the checking of enterprise, and the paralysing the efforts now successfully going on to increase British capital and influence in this quarter.

That the timber trade of these provinces gives constant employment to large fleets, and forms an extensive nursery for British seamen. That these vessels not only come out to this continent laden with the manufactures of the United Kingdom, which are exchanged here for timber, but they also afford the only practicable mode by which emigration to these provinces is carried on; thus increasing the trade and revenue of the parent State, and filling up rapidly the wilds of this continent with British subjects, whose adherence to the Crown and nation is secured by every natural tie. That in the event of any material check being given to this branch of trade, the future emigration would be wholly and exclusively directed to the United States, as few of the class of persons who leave the mother country to settle in America could find a passage to the provinces did not the low terms on which they are carried in the timber ships enable them to do so.

That a large amount of capital is invested in various ways in this traffic, in mills, wharfs, dwellings, and even whole towns and villages, built in many places at heavy expense, for the exclusive object of preparing and shipping timber and deals for Great Britain and Ireland; and from the infant state in which agriculture exists among us, owing to the comparative thinness of our population, and the almost total absence of local manufactures of any kind, these establishments would become reduced in value to a mere nothing, in case of any sudden alteration of the existing scale of duties.

That the timber trade had gradually increased in importance in these colonies from an early date, and when the subject of a similar reduction of duties on Baltic timber was agitated in Parliament a few years ago, the magnitude of the interest at stake was then so considerable as to cause the most serious alarm and apprehension to all persons in trade in these colonies, as well as the houses connected with them in Great Britain; but that as it was distinctly understood in the year 1835, that the project of favouring the trade of the Baltic powers at the expense of Her Majesty's subjects was deliberately and finally abandoned after full investigation, the public confidence increased the stability of our colonial interests; so that your petitioners feel safe in stating to your Honourable House, that at the present time the amount of British capital engaged in this business, and particularly the permanent investment in buildings, machinery, &c., requisite to its being carried on, are double in amount to what they were in 1835, and that the detriment and damage that would now arise, if the proposed change of duties be adopted, would be infinitely more fatal to our commercial well-being than if it had then been effected.

That the fisheries of Nova Scotia must also suffer by any decay of the timber trade, as the vessels coming here to receive cargoes of timber usually bring out salt at a very low freight, thereby assisting the fishery more powerfully than any large bounty could do, and as there is now no existing bounty in favour of our fishery; and as your petitioners understand

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stand it is the intention of Her Majesty's Government to allow hereafter foreign fish to enter the markets of the British West Indies on the payment of a small duty, the effect would at this conjuncture be most severe on the fishing interests of Nova Scotia.

That your petitioners are confident that the feelings they entertain, and the opinions they express on this subject, are the serious and deliberate views of all the people of Nova Scotia; and they know that in the province of New Brunswick similar, and even stronger feelings, are everywhere entertained on this matter. That the people of the provinces, in thus warmly and most earnestly deprecating the removal of the present protection afforded to their timber trade, are wholly free from all motives and intentions of a factious or a political nature, being prompted solely by certain assurance that such a change must have a most calamitous effect upon the growing commercial interests of these provinces; and being also well aware that the great trade and reciprocal intercourse, both arising from commerce and emigration, which now benefit alike the British islands and these distant but equally British communities, would languish and disappear under a system which may perhaps be theoretically right in its general principles, but is wholly inapplicable to the existing condition of these provinces.

Your petitioners beg your Honourable House to believe that these statements are capable of being most distinctly proved and established by a reference to facts and statistical information, such as they doubt not is within the ready access of many of the members of your Honourable House, as well as by the evidence of every merchant in Great Britain acquainted with the trade and business of these colonies. And they would most respectfully represent to your Honourable House, that in a measure like the present, when the interests of so large a body of Her Majesty's liege subjects at a distance are concerned, it will be borne in mind that they are wholly without representation in your Honourable House, and that they may be regarded on that account entitled to a degree of consideration and kindness in dealing with their property and prosperity; and that, at least, time may be afforded to the provinces to be fairly and fully heard on a question to them of such vital importance before a resolution be adopted, which appears prompted by a temporary financial difficulty, but will inevitably destroy much of that capital and industry which are the sole sources of permanent revenue and advantage.

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray your Honourable House will take the foregoing into consideration, and definitively abandon the proposed measure respecting the duties on Baltic and Colonial timber, as one at variance with the interests of these valuable and truly loyal provinces, and calculated to diminish the amount of British shipping, injure the interests of the British manufacturer, and divert emigration from British North America to the United States. And, as in duty bound, they will ever pray, &c.

(signed)

*George P. Lawson,
Stephen Binney,
Thomas Williamson,
J. Leander Starr,
Samuel B. Smith,
J. G. A. Creighton,*

*M. B. Almon,
William B. Fairbanks,
Joseph Fairbanks,
David Allison,
Michael Tobin, jun.*

Chamber of Commerce, Halifax, N. S.

Halifax, 18th May 1841.

— No. 6. —

(No. 68.)

No. 6.

Lord John Russell
to Visc. Falkland,
8 August 1841.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *John Russell* to Viscount *Falkland*.

My Lord,

Downing-street, 8 August 1841.

I HAVE received your Lordship's despatch, No. 78, of the 18th of May, enclosing copy of a petition from several merchants and shipowners of Halifax to the House of Commons, on the subject of the proposed alteration of the duties on Baltic and Colonial timber.

Having referred that petition to the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade, I have to request that you will inform the memorialists that their Lordships have stated that they have taken the same into their consideration, and that it will be taken into further consideration whenever the subject to which it relates shall be again brought forward in Parliament.

I have, &c.

(signed) *J. Russell.*

NEW BRUNSWICK.

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BRUNSWICK.

— No. 1. —

(No. 6.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Sir *W. M. G. Colebrooke* to Lord *John Russell*.Fredericton, New Brunswick,
21 May 1841.

My Lord,

I ENCLOSE to your Lordship a memorial addressed to the Queen from the corporation of St. John, praying that an expected alteration in the timber duties in the present Session of Parliament may not take place, and representing the injurious effects which so great a change will produce on the commerce and prosperity of these provinces.

I beg leave to refer your Lordship to my answers to the letter of the Mayor, transmitting to me the memorial, and also to a letter and memorial on the same subject from the merchants at Miramichi, copies of which I enclose.

Although I do not participate in the apprehension that the resources of this province would fail ultimately to be sustained through the enterprise and public spirit of its inhabitants, I am still impressed with a belief that any sudden change would seriously affect them in a province in which the investment of capital in a particular branch of industry has so long been protected and encouraged.

I have, &c.

(signed) *W. M. G. Colebrooke*.No. 1.
Sir W. M. G. Cole-
brooke to Lord
John Russell.
21 May 1841.

No. 1.

Encl. No. 2.

Enclosures in No. 1.

(1.)

Encl. in No. 1.

May it please your Excellency,

St. John, 15 May 1841.

ON the present occasion I beg permission to forward to your Excellency an address to Her Gracious Majesty, from the corporation of this city, expressive of their feelings on the momentous subject of altering the duties on timber, respectfully requesting that the same may be transmitted to Her Majesty's Government, to be laid at the foot of the Throne, backed by your Excellency's favourable recommendation.

I have, &c.

To His Excellency Sir W. M. G. Colebrooke,
&c. &c. &c.(signed) *William Black*,
Mayor.

TO the QUEEN's Most Excellent Majesty,

The Right Honourable the Lords Spiritual and Temporal and the Right Honourable
and Honourable The House of Commons in Parliament assembled.

WE, the mayor, aldermen and commonalty of the city of St. John in Your Majesty's Province of New Brunswick, now convened in common council, venture to approach the Throne and the Imperial Parliament with sentiments of unshaken loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign and unbounded attachment to Her Government.

Deeply participating in the general alarm pervading all classes of the community on a subject affecting the vital interests of the North American colonies, by a rumour now prevalent

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prevalent that a measure for the equalization of the wood duties will come under the consideration of Parliament at the present Session, the common council unanimously, on behalf of their fellow-citizens, beg leave to express their entire approval of the sentiments contained in an address from the magistrates, merchants, shipowners and others in this city, now in course of signature, on this important subject, which has been submitted and read at this Board, and they earnestly and humbly entreat that the prayer thereof may be heard in the councils of the nation, and thereby the impending evils which are so justly described, may be averted from a loyal and devoted people.

(signed) *William Black, Mayor.*

(seal)

By order of the Common Council,
J. Peters, jun., Com. Clerk.

Government House, Fredericton,
20 May 1841.

Sir,

I HAVE had the honour to receive your letter of the 13th instant, with a memorial addressed to Her Majesty, from the corporation of St. John, on the subject of an expected alteration, by Parliament, of the duties on timber, which it is apprehended would operate injuriously to the interests of these provinces, and especially of New Brunswick.

Impressed as I am with a conviction that Her Majesty's Government fully appreciate the value of these provinces, and will be actuated by a desire to foster their resources and to promote their advancement by every means in their power, I cannot suppose that a measure of this importance will be proposed by them, or adopted in Parliament, without due consideration of all the interests involved in it.

In any event I may be allowed to express a hope that time will be afforded to enable the enterprising people of these provinces to surmount the difficulties which are inseparable from changes of this magnitude.

I have, &c.

Hon. W. Black, &c. &c.

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

P.S.—I take the opportunity of apprising you that the memorial of the corporation is unaccompanied by the memorial of the inhabitants of St. John, to which it refers.

(2.)

May it please your Excellency,

Miramichi, 13 May 1841.

THE merchants and others interested in the trade of Miramichi, having forwarded a petition to both Houses of Parliament against the proposed equalization of the timber duties, we beg leave to lay before your Excellency a copy thereof, with an earnest prayer that your Excellency will be pleased to use your influence in its support.

We have, &c.

To His Excellency Sir W. M. G. Colebrooke,
&c. &c. &c.

(signed) *Jas. Cunard.*
Alex. Rankine.

TO the Honourable the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland in Parliament assembled.

The humble Petition of the Merchants, Shipowners, and others interested in the Trade of Miramichi,

Showeth,

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

That under the fostering care and protection of the parent state, and from the combined advantages of the manufacture and export of its wood, and the cultivation of its soil, it has in the course of a few years sprung from helpless infancy to vigorous manhood, and achieved for itself an importance in the countries of the western world, the real worth of which can neither be understood nor appreciated in a period of tranquillity.

That the proposed equalization of the timber duties is fraught with injustice and ruin to this fine province; with injustice, because notwithstanding its rapid growth, it is yet too young to exist by its agriculture alone; with ruin, because its capital is invested in mills, wharves, stores, ship-yards, and every other variety of property incidental to extended commerce, which, under the projected change, will not be worth the ground they stand upon; and also because its rapidly increasing marine will be at once without employment and disastrously deteriorated in value.

That the boon of a free foreign trade and the abrogation of all fiscal restraints which are proposed as an equivalent for the entire destruction of the staple trade of the country, is delusive,

delusive, chimerical, and utterly worthless. 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 intercourse but that which is based upon an exchange of its staple commodity. It is to Great Britain alone that New Brunswick can look for the continuance of its commerce, and therefore for the preservation of its prosperity and importance.

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

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray your Honourable House seriously to consider the peculiar circumstances in which they are placed, and that you will reject a measure so pregnant with calamity, desolation, and universal wreck.

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

Gentlemen,

Government-House, Fredericton, 20 May 1841.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your letter of the 13th instant, enclosing to me copy of a memorial addressed to the Houses of Parliament by the merchants and others interested in the timber trade at Miramichi, and requesting me to support the prayer of it.

The claims of this province to consideration in any general measures which may be in contemplation, cannot fail to recommend themselves to Her Majesty's Government and Parliament; and although I have no reason to suppose that they will be disregarded, it will, nevertheless, afford me high gratification to draw the attention of the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the injurious effect, in the prosperity of this community, from any sudden change of such magnitude as a revision of the timber duties would involve.

I have, &c.

The Hon. Jas. Cunard,
Alex. Rankine, Esqrs. Miramichi.

(signed) W. M. G. Colebrooke.

— No. 2. —

(No. 10.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Sir *W. M. G. Colebrooke* to Lord *John Russell*.

No. 2.
Sir *W. M. G. Colebrooke* to Lord
John Russell,
29 May 1841.

Fredericton, New Brunswick,
29 May 1841.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship a petition to the Queen from certain magistrates, merchants, and inhabitants of the county of York in this province, which was adopted at a public meeting held at Fredericton on the 1st instant, and praying, for the reasons therein set forth, that no alterations may be made in the duties upon wood imported into Great Britain from these colonies and from foreign countries.

The deputation who waited on me to present this address, represented that a general excitement prevailed on the subject; and having recently noticed in the public papers the explanations which had been made in Parliament of the intentions of Her Majesty's Government in regard to the proposed modification of the timber duties, I took occasion to explain to the deputation that it was not the intention of Ministers in the measure to withdraw protection from the colonial timber, and hence, instead of a petition against any change in the duties, it would have been desirable if the petitioners had pointed out the modifications which would be least calculated to affect their interests, keeping in view, that it is necessary to provide for the deficiency in the revenue, and that the charge for the naval and military establishments maintained for the defence of these provinces is wholly provided for by Great Britain.

Being aware that the manner of imposing the duties has been much considered by those who are practically acquainted with the timber trade, I hope that my suggestion may be adopted.

In the meantime, I am bound to observe, that while any sudden change in the duties will seriously affect the interests of those who, in this province and in England, have embarked capital in the timber trade, it has been represented to me that it will not in the same degree affect other classes of the community, whose employment in cutting the timber in the forests, has been less beneficial to them

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from the system commonly pursued ; that the abolition of this system, under which they keep open accounts with the merchants who employ them in lumbering, would introduce more provident habits, and that even if it should lead to a diminution of such employment more labour would be applied in farm husbandry. That there will be a considerable demand for colonial timber in foreign and colonial markets, and that other productions of the province may gradually be brought into the general market, I entertain no doubt ; and if the financial circumstances of the country require that a sacrifice be made, I need not impress on your Lordship, that every advantage should be obtained for the colonies in their intercourse with foreign countries, which would lead to the acquisition of new commercial resources.

For the casual revenue now derived from timber licences, I hope the encouragement now given to emigration, and to the settlement of the public lands, will form an ample equivalent.

I have, &c.

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

P. S.—Similar petitions were brought to me by the deputation, addressed to the Houses of Parliament, but I have suggested that they should be transmitted to those members who may be requested to present them.

W. M. G. C.

Enclosure in No. 2.

COUNTY OF YORK.—PUBLIC MEETING.

Encl. in No. 2.

At a public meeting held at the Court House in Fredericton, on the 17th May, instant, in pursuance of a requisition made to the High Sheriff, of the county of York, T. R. Robertson, esq., having, in the absence of the sheriff from indisposition, been called to the chair, and George Botsford, esq., having been appointed secretary to the meeting, the following resolutions were moved by James Taylor, esq., and unanimously adopted:—

Resolved, that the intelligence which has reached us from various quarters, of the design of the Imperial Government to alter the discriminating duties on colonial and foreign woods imported into Great Britain, is calculated to fill the minds of Her Majesty's loyal subjects in this province with apprehension and dismay.

That the timber trade in its various forms, between Great Britain and this colony, can only be maintained by the encouragement which it now receives, and has always received from the discriminating duties, and any alteration in the relative proportion of these duties, of the kind now contemplated by the Imperial Government, must be followed by the speedy extinction of that trade as it respects the province of New Brunswick.

That in the opinion of this meeting, the timber trade with this province is equally beneficial to Great Britain and New Brunswick, to the former by the annual import of her manufactures and goods to a much larger amount than the value of the wood sent from hence, and to the latter as forming almost the sole source of her revenues, every other branch of industry being subordinate to the manufacture and export of that her only staple commodity.

That the extinction of the timber trade, a speedy and inevitable consequence of withdrawing the protecting duty, will produce the absolute ruin of numbers who have made large investments in saw mills—a description of property which must of necessity become utterly valueless—which cannot be converted to any other purpose than the manufacture of sawn lumber, the value of which at present is not less than 1,148,000*l.*, producing annually about 160 millions superficial feet of deals.

That as the revenues of this province are derived almost entirely from the timber trade, with the other forms of manufacture and industry to which it gives birth, and which depend on it for their continuance, the annihilation of the timber trade must reduce the said revenues to an amount so small as to cause the cessation of all improvement which depends on the expenditure of public monies, such as schools, roads and other public improvements.

That the establishment of a system of reciprocity in commerce, between Great Britain and other nations, to which this province might be admitted, would confer no immediate benefit upon the people of New Brunswick, because its inhabitants, under a conviction that their trade with the mother country would be protected, have already invested the larger portion of their available capital in an inconvertible form, and which can neither be withdrawn nor exchanged, but must and will be utterly lost to the country.

That a more intimate communication than now exists for purposes of commerce, between the people of this province and the republican States of America, might insensibly assimilate our political principles and institutions to those which our ancestors abjured

and resisted, and thus prove exceedingly dangerous to the continuation of our present attachment to a monarchical form of government.

That should the proposed equalization of the timber duties be carried into effect by the Imperial Parliament, it would offer the most serious and fatal obstacle to emigration into this colony.

Resolved therefore, that an humble petition be presented to Her Majesty the Queen, and to both Houses of Parliament, embracing the substance of the foregoing resolutions, and praying that no alterations may be made in the existing scale of duties upon colonial and foreign wood.

The following draft of a petition was then produced by James Taylor, esq., and unanimously adopted:—

TO the QUEEN's Most Excellent Majesty, and the Parliament of England.

The Petition of the undersigned, Magistrates, Merchants and Loyal Inhabitants of the County of York, in the Province of New Brunswick,

Humbly Showeth,

THAT your petitioners have observed in the public journals of Great Britain, and have learned from various sources, the astounding intelligence that a series of Resolutions are about to be introduced into the Right Honourable the Commons House of Parliament, the effect of which will be a fatal disturbance in the commercial relations between the mother country and this colony.

The province of New Brunswick, whose rapid advancement in population and general improvement will be seen by reference to the returns presented at various intervals to the Provincial Legislature, has arrived at its present state of prosperity, in a great measure, if not altogether, by that protection which is afforded to the export of its only staple commodity to Great Britain, in the imposition of a discriminating duty upon colonial and foreign wood.

In the absence of such a difference as now exists in the duties on colonial and foreign woods, it is abundantly manifest that the colonial timber trade must languish and soon expire.

Established, as these duties were, at a crisis of great emergency to the power and even the safety of Great Britain, when her North American forests alone afforded to her those indispensable supplies from which she was everywhere else excluded, their effect has been to create a populous, loyal, and zealous branch of the empire, and whose inhabitants have frequently displayed their steady and conscientious adhesion to the political creed of their forefathers, and have uniformly manifested their firm and unvarying attachment to the parent state.

During the long interval which elapsed between the exclusion of Great Britain from the continental forests, and the first avowed attempt to equalize the timber duties, the principal form of timber export from this province was squared or ton timber, which is the simplest and least expensive process of manufacture of which that article is susceptible. And upon the unanimous remonstrance of Her Majesty's North American colonies, supported by that of the numerous parties in Great Britain whose interests were to a very considerable extent identified with the commerce of these colonies, the Imperial Government was induced to abandon its design of altering the said duties.

Although the colonists have never obtained, nor sought a distinct pledge from the Imperial Government, that no alteration in these duties would again be attempted, yet the events of each Session of Parliament, since the year 1835, have produced an increasing conviction that the great mutual advantage to Great Britain and her colonies, arising out of the timber trade in its existing character, had been at last fully understood and appreciated.

Acting upon this most natural and reasonable impression, the inhabitants of New Brunswick, who have scarcely any other article of trade, have anxiously endeavoured to ascertain the most advantageous form in which this staple commodity can be transmitted to the mother country, and the character of their export has accordingly undergone a great revolution, being now principally in the form of sawn lumber.

A very large amount of capital, amounting to fully 1,148,000 £, or probably one-half the entire wealth of New Brunswick, has been invested in the erection of mills and their machinery, with the necessary appendages for the manufacture of sawn lumber. These mills send forth annually not less than one hundred and sixty millions superficial feet of deals for the home market; and for every fraction of the value of this lumber, as well as the square timber annually exported, payment is made either directly or indirectly in the goods and manufacture of Britain. The preparation of these deals gives employment to a great number of emigrants and other persons, who consume large quantities of provisions, and also of various articles, the export of Great Britain, thus conferring a substantial benefit upon the manufacturer, the commercialist, and the agriculturist.

Your petitioners abstain from any particular allusion to the quantity of shipping and the number of seamen employed in the conveyance of timber from this colony, all, or the greater portion of which, in the event of any alteration in the timber duties, must of necessity be withdrawn from that trade, and thus abolish a branch of the great nursery for the British marine, while it also decreases the facility for emigration transport to the Continent of America.

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Neither will your petitioners more than advert to the fact that the grant of 14,500 *l.* per annum in exchange for the Crown revenues, was passed in the confident assurance that no effort would be made to render those revenues less productive at a subsequent period than at the time of exchange.

But they would humbly and earnestly endeavour to press upon the attention of your Right honourable House, the certainty that all the capital invested in mills will be utterly lost to its owners by the withdrawing of that protection which can alone enable them to compete with the northern manufacturers.

Such a fearful consummation to the hopes so reasonably indulged by the enterprising persons who have thus ventured to make heavy investments in what now appears a most hazardous speculation, will produce in this rising colony the most disastrous consequences.

Individual ruin and general distress must ensue, for as in this colony almost all operations have a reference, immediate or remote, to the timber trade, its annihilation must fatally affect all classes of the community. The tide of emigration will no longer flow to our shores, for the emigrant will find no employment in the colony; the farmer will no longer have a market for his produce, nor the merchant for his goods; the general improvement of the country by the formation of roads, and granting bounties on particular branches of industry, must be abandoned, and while we may still desire to imitate the example of our Legislature, who in 1839 freely placed the entire revenues of this province, then a very considerable sum, at the disposal of Her Majesty, to assist in repelling the aggressions of our western neighbours, it is most certain that a future invasion would find us with an exhausted treasury, and a decreased population.

Your petitioners feel but too surely, that the gloomy picture which they have thus drawn of the consequences to be anticipated from the abolition of the discriminating duties, presents but a faint outline of the misery that awaits them, if this great bond of union be once severed.

But if a bountiful Providence should avert their utter ruin, and they should be able to obtain a mart for their timber and lumber in the countries of this continent, by the establishment of a reciprocity system of commerce, an event which is exceedingly doubtful, yet as barter is and will long continue to be in America the ruling principle of trade, their intercourse with Great Britain will inevitably diminish in exact proportion as their communication increases with the place where they shall find that assistance which will have been denied to them by the parent state; and it is no unreasonable apprehension that such free and constant intercourse may speedily produce a dangerous assimilation of political feeling, and introduce the germs of republicanism into this colony, which has hitherto been so distinguished for its attachment to monarchical government.

Your petitioners can only look forward to entire ruin by the extinction of their trade, or the equally unpleasant alternative just alluded to, by diverting the stream of their commerce from the mother country to one which is every way hostile to that country. And they do therefore implore an attentive consideration of the facts which they have thus set forth, and humbly pray that all these evils may be avoided by making no alterations in the existing scale of duties upon wood imported into Great Britain from the colonies and from foreign countries.

And as in duty bound, &c.

Whereupon it was resolved, that T. R. Robertson, James Taylor, Joseph Gaynor, Charles M'Pherson, J. J. Munro, and George Botsford, esquires, be appointed a committee to wait upon his Excellency Sir William M'Bean George Colebrooke, K. H. and request his Excellency to forward the same, to be laid before Her Majesty and the Imperial Parliament.

Resolved, That 50 copies of the resolutions and of the petition be printed for the information of the public.

That the following persons be a committee to obtain signatures to the petition:— J. T. Smith, Charles M'Pherson, S. Miller, T. R. Robertson, W. A. M'Lean, S. Barker, F. W. Hatheway, John F. Taylor, G. Botsford, W. J. Bedell, John Munro, F. E. Beckwith, Geo. E. Ketchum.

That the proceedings of this meeting be published in the Royal Gazette.

Mr. M'Pherson moved that T. R. Robertson, esq. do leave the chair, and that J. T. Smith, esq. do take the same.

J. T. Smith, esq. in the chair.

Moved, that the thanks of the meeting be given to T. R. Robertson, esq. for his able and impartial conduct in the chair.

Meeting dissolved.

G. Botsford, Secretary.

— No. 3. —

NEW
BRUNSWICK.

(No. 17.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Sir *W. M. G. Colebrooke* to Lord *John Russell*.

My Lord,

Fredericton, New Brunswick, 8 June 1841.

REFERRING to my despatch No. 10, dated 29th May 1841, with which I forwarded a memorial to the Queen, relative to the proposed alteration in the timber duties, I enclose to your Lordship copy of a paper drawn up by a gentleman who possesses much experience on the subject, explanatory of the mode in which he considers that the duties might be modified, with the least inconvenience to the inhabitants of these provinces.

I entertain a hope that the demand for timber in the American and West Indian markets will be progressively extended, and may eventually afford an equivalent for losses which may be apprehended from the effect of competition in England.

At St. Andrew's, I am informed that framed houses are constructing for the negroes in the West Indies, and that timber is exported from either side of the St. Croix, as the markets may be favourable in the United States, or in England and her colonies.

I have, &c.

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

No. 3.
Sir *W. M. G. Colebrooke* to Lord
John Russell,
8 June 1841.

Enclosure in No. 3.

THE deep interest felt in New Brunswick, in the proposed alteration in the duty, and more especially in the suggestion that it would be expedient to levy the duty by the cubic content, in lieu of following the established system by tale, thereby levying a heavier duty on deals in proportion to timber, with a view to encourage the home sawyers, call for some observations from those concerned in the saw-milling business, and show the inexpediency as well as injustice of such a measure. Those persons who have even converted square timber into deals, though they may have been led to make the trial, from the accidental very low price of timber, have uniformly found the results to be most unsatisfactory, and for the following reasons.

Encl. in No. 3.

First, the great loss which necessarily arises in the cubic contents, produced from the four slabs taken off, the occasional crookedness of the timber, the sawkerf and the laying open of rots, hitherto not suspected, in the timber. The deals so sawn scarcely ever rise above second quality, from the prime part of the wood being left in the forest in the form of chips, by the persons employed in squaring up the timber, from those deals being necessarily cut at no great distance from the heart, and hence liable to rents, shakes, and small knots, and from the impossibility, even in the largest timber, without great loss, (in an article already charged with duty, freight, and expenses,) of so cutting it, with reference to the grain of the wood, as to produce a deal or board with the least possible tendency to warp, a matter of the utmost importance to the joiner. In confirmation of the above, it may be stated, that in the United States no square timber is ever got out, except when it is required for a frame, or building purposes. That by converting the deal or board from the round log, the cut most advantageous can be taken, the outside generally affording what is called clear stuff, and of more than double the value of the cuts near the heart; in case of hollow butted logs, the outside rim is often converted into clap-boards, by wedge-like cuts from the circumference towards the centre, or being cut down, as is termed, alive; the rotten in the centre is cut out, and every available offal is made into boards, shingles, or laths, their suiting all markets, whether home or foreign.

When, in 1821, the deal and timber duties were established, colonial and foreign deals were made subject to duty by tale of 120 pieces, the length being from 8-16 and 16-21, at 2*l.* and 2*l.* 10*s.* respectively, without regard being had to the breadth, thereby greatly simplifying the mode of keeping the accounts; this was done, however, principally with the view of enabling the British North American deal merchants to enter into competition with those of Sweden and Norway, who from the nearness of the British market would have enjoyed its exclusive supply had not the same duty been levied on those deals most commonly of 12 feet long and 9 inches wide, as upon the generally longer and wider ones of the former countries. By this arrangement, the building of saw-mills was much encouraged in Canada and New Brunswick, where persons of any description, from the great capitalist to the poor farmer who owned a small mill site; the former erecting extensive works either driven by steam or water, and the latter expending his limited means in the building a small mill, both affording occupation for the inhabitant of the country in hauling out saw-logs from their farms at a season of the year when they would otherwise have been without work, and unattended by that dissipation of which those who occupy camps in the woods, at a distance from home, in getting out square timber, are sometimes, though perhaps unjustly, accused.

It is trusted that whatever may be the alteration of the rate of duty imposed by Parliament, that no disturbance will take place in the mode of collecting it.

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— No. 4. —

(No. 24.)

No. 4.
Sir W. M. G. Cole-
brooke to Lord
John Russell,
14 June 1841.COPY of a DESPATCH from Sir *W. M. G. Colebrooke* to Lord *John Russell*.Government House, Fredericton,
14 June 1841.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to enclose to your Lordship copies of a correspondence which I have held relative to a petition to Her Majesty on the subject of the proposed alteration of the timber duties.

Referring to my despatch No. 10, dated 29th May, I have reason to believe that if the duties should be so modified as to afford protection to the owners of mills which are employed in sawing deals, the loss which would be sustained from the competition of foreign timber would not be so injurious to the province.

I take this opportunity of submitting to your Lordship, that if apprized of the measures intended by the Government, and of the circumstances which may necessitate their adoption, I should be enabled to allay much of the excitement which has prevailed, being convinced that the people of this province would generally respond to any appeal which might be made to them where sacrifices might be required in support of the general interests of the empire.

I have, &c.

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

Enclosure in No. 4.

Woodstock, New Brunswick,
11 June 1841.

May it please your Excellency,

Encl. in No. 4.

At a public meeting held at the County Court House on the 26th May 1841, for the purpose of petitioning Her Most Gracious Majesty and the Imperial Parliament against the contemplated changes in the duties in colonial and foreign wood;

It was resolved, "That A. S. Carman, Charles Connell, and John Bedell, be a committee to obtain signatures to the said petition, and transmit the same to his Excellency Sir William M. G. Colebrooke, with an humble request that his Excellency will be pleased to forward it to England, to be laid at the foot of the throne."

In pursuance of the foregoing resolution, we beg leave herewith to present to your Excellency the petition above referred to, and most respectfully to solicit your Excellency's attention thereto, and to request that your Excellency will be pleased to forward it to its destination.

We have, &c.

(signed)

John Bedell.
Charles Connell.

To His Excellency Lieutenant-Colonel
Sir William M'Bean George Colebrooke,
Lieutenant-Governor and Commander-in Chief
of the Province of New Brunswick,
&c. &c. &c. &c.

Government-house, Fredericton,
14 June 1841.

Gentlemen,

ON reference to the petition which was entrusted to me at Woodstock, when I had the honour of meeting you on the 11th instant, I have observed an informality which will require to be corrected to enable me to forward it to England. This petition is addressed to the Queen and the Parliament of England. It is usual to address Her Majesty and the Houses of Parliament in separate petitions.

I accordingly return it, in order that the necessary alteration may be made. The petition to Her Majesty I will forward to the Secretary of State for presentation; petitions to the Houses of Parliament will require to be forwarded to a member of either House for presentation.

Referring to the observations which I made to your deputation on the subject of the petition, I take the opportunity of again remarking to you that there is a misconception of the measure proposed by the Government, in declaring it "to have for its object the removal of the protective duties upon timber and deals," such not having been the intention of Her Majesty's Government, but to effect such modifications of the duties as without abandoning the system of protection would augment the revenue to meet the existing deficiency. Feeling every assurance that the inhabitants of the province are at all times prepared to share whatever sacrifices may be called for in common with their fellow subjects

jects in England, I should be glad to be enabled to explain to the Secretary of State in what manner the duties may be modified, so that the object may be accomplished with the least disadvantage to those whose interests are concerned.

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I have, &c.

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

John Bedell and Charles Connell, Esquires.

— No. 5. —

(No. 46.)
COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *John Russell* to Sir *W. M. G. Colebrooke.*

No. 5.
Lord John Russell
to Sir W. M. G.
Colebrooke,
8 August 1841.

Sir,

Downing-street, 8 August 1841.

WITH reference to your despatches, Nos. 6 and 10, of the 21st and 29th of May, transmitting various petitions to the Queen, deprecating the proposed alteration in the duties on Baltic and Colonial timber, and also with reference to your despatches Nos. 17 and 24, of the 8th and 14th of June, the former enclosing some observations on this subject, and the latter transmitting copies of correspondence between yourself and Messrs. Bedell and Connell relative to some proposed petitions from Woodstock; I have now to state that, having referred these several despatches to the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade, their Lordships have informed me that they will be taken into further consideration whenever the subjects to which they relate shall be again brought forward in Parliament.

You will be pleased to communicate this answer to the several petitioners.

I have, &c.

(signed) *J. Russell.*

— No. 6. —

COPY of a LETTER from *H. Bliss*, Esq. to Lord *John Russell*.

No. 6.
H. Bliss, Esq. to
Lord John Russell,
14 June 1841.

My Lord,

King's Bench Walk, Temple, 14 June 1841.

I most respectfully enclose a petition to your Lordship from the Chamber of Commerce, St. Andrew's, New Brunswick, upon the timber duties. This petition has been lately transmitted to me to present to your Lordship, and is only one among many other testimonials of the great alarm prevailing through the North American colonies, and New Brunswick in particular, at the proposed alteration of those duties, a measure of the most injurious consequences to that Province.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Henry Bliss.*

Enclosure in No. 6.

To the Right Honourable Lord *John Russell*, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonial Department, &c. &c. &c.

The Petition of the Chamber of Commerce of *St. Andrew's, New Brunswick*,

Humbly sheweth,

THAT your petitioners have observed with much surprise and alarm that the Right honourable the President of the Board of Trade has brought the present schedule of colonial duties under the notice of the House of Commons, with a view to their reduction to a rate that will prove inadequate in affording any protection to your petitioners.

Your petitioners would therefore respectfully state to your Lordship that this contemplated change, affecting as it does the prosperity and existence of your petitioners as commercial men, has been urged on the attention of the Imperial Parliament without any notice or time being given your petitioners to approach that Honourable Body to show the extent to which they are involved in navigation, and permanent investments of capital in mills, wharves, stores, and other necessary buildings, which cannot be suddenly with-

Encl. in No. 6.

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drawn, but will in a great measure result in a total loss if the proposed change becomes a law.

Your petitioners would therefore entreat your Lordship to refer to the tariff of the United States, whose citizens this change will only benefit, and it will be seen that the duty on lumber, when reaching the minimum of 25 per cent. *ad valorem*, then becomes permanent, which effectually excludes, if even we had any wood goods suitable for their consumption, from being admitted into that republic, thereby destroying the principle of reciprocity, and transferring to its citizens the whole carrying trade to the exclusion and ruin of your petitioners.

Your petitioners are fully satisfied that this measure has not been carefully considered, and that Her Majesty's Government is not aware of the number of colonial vessels employed in it, and which are of that peculiar construction and size that renders them unfit for any other trade; and that the proximity of the United States' shipping ports to the West Indies, and the variety of exports with which they abound, enables them readily to assort cargoes, and operates in their favour equal, at least, to the duties now proposed by the Honourable the Board of Trade as a full protection to your petitioners.

Your petitioners would also remind your Lordship that no complaints have been made by their fellow-subjects in the West Indies of an inadequate supply of lumber shingles and other wood goods; but on the contrary they can make it appear to your Lordship's satisfaction that the stocks have been both uniform and abundant, and in many instances have not afforded a remunerating price to your petitioners, and that your petitioners in return receive supplies of West India produce, when it can be obtained, in exchange for their exports, while the Americans take only specie or bills of exchange for what they carry.

Your petitioners would also draw your Lordship's attention to the low rates at which dry and pickled fish have been for some time sold in the West Indies; prices which must have been disastrous to the exporters; which, in fact, were less than at the places of shipment in the provinces, which proves the ability of the northern colonies to furnish a larger quantity of fish and lumber to their fellow-subjects in the West Indies than they require, and at a lower value than they can obtain it from any other source.

Your petitioners would therefore most respectfully, but earnestly, crave your Lordship to consider fully this very important question, as it will be brought under your notice by practical men, resident in the colonies, and on a careful review of the system for a series of years, will fully demonstrate that the present schedule of duties is better adapted to insure a uniform and steady trade at moderate prices, and prove more beneficial to all parties than any other that can be substituted in lieu thereof.

Your petitioners, in conclusion, would remark that the principle on which the commercial policy of the United States is based, is to grant protection to articles of their own growth and manufacture, by taxing foreign of the like nature that will come into competition with them in their own markets.

Your petitioners therefore respectfully claim from your Lordship and Her Majesty's Government a like protection for the growth and produce of these colonies, for their shipping, and permanent establishments erected at great cost; for the capital embarked in other various channels connected with the trade; for the seamen and other of Her Majesty's subjects wholly dependent on it for their support and that of their families.

And your petitioners, &c.

Chamber of Commerce,
St. Andrew's, New Brunswick,
11 May 1841.

(signed) *Thos. Wyer*, Chairman.
John M'Kean, Secretary.

— No. 7. —

No. 7.
R. Vernon Smith,
Esq. to H. Bliss,
Esq.
9 August 1841.

COPY of a LETTER from *R. Vernon Smith*, Esq. to *H. Bliss*, Esq.

Sir,

Downing-street, 9 August 1841.

WITH reference to Mr. Stephen's letter of the 29th of June, informing you that Lord John Russell had referred to the Lords of the Committee of the Privy Council for Trade the memorial from the Chamber of Commerce at St. Andrews, New Brunswick, deprecating the proposed alteration of the duties on Baltic and Colonial timber, I am directed by his Lordship to acquaint you that their Lordships have had that memorial under their consideration, and that it will be taken into further consideration whenever the subject to which it relates shall be again brought forward in Parliament.

I have, &c.

(signed) *R. Vernon Smith*.

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— No. 8. —

COPY of a LETTER from *H. Bliss*, Esq. to Lord *John Russell*.11, King's Bench Walk, Temple,
15 June 1841.

No. 8.

H. Bliss, Esq. to
Lord *John Russell*,
15 June 1841.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to enclose to your Lordship a petition to Her Majesty the Queen, from the parishes of St. Stephen, St. David, and St. James, in the province of New Brunswick, on the colonial and timber duties, deprecating the measures recently proposed by Her Majesty's Government, and stating the very injurious consequences to the petitioners and to the colony.

This petition has been transmitted to me, with a request to lay it before your Lordship, in order to its being presented to Her Majesty. Your Lordship's kindness in presenting this petition will be a great obligation to the petitioners.

I remain, &c,
(signed) *Henry Bliss*.

Enclosure in No. 8.

TO the Queen's most Excellent Majesty.

The humble Petition of the Magistrates, Merchants, Ship-owners, Mill-owners, and other Inhabitants of the Parishes of St. Stephen, St. David and St. James, in the County of Charlotte and Province of New Brunswick.

Encl. in No. 8.

May it please your Majesty,

YOUR petitioners have recently learned, with much regret, that the question of a revision of the wood duties has again been introduced by your Majesty's Government to the consideration of the Imperial Parliament.

The announcement of a measure so unlooked for has filled your petitioners, in common with all your Majesty's loyal subjects in this province, with great alarm, especially as a measure so deeply affecting their vital interests has come to their knowledge at so late a period as almost, if not altogether, to exclude them from an opportunity of laying at your Majesty's feet their humble representations of its ruinous effects to the lumber trade of the province before the close of the present session of Parliament.

The number of saw-mills in St. Stephen is 38, and the quantity of shipping is 8,400 tons, comprising 36 vessels, nearly all of which are calculated only for the West India trade.

The quantity of boards shipped from St. Stephen alone to the British West Indies in 1839 was 13,254,961 feet superficial measure, and of shingles 19,456,100, as shown by the books of the sub-collector of your Majesty's customs at St. Stephen.

The number of saw-mills in the county of Charlotte is upwards of 100, and the shipping amounts to from 16,000 to 20,000 tons.

Almost the entire shipping of the county has grown up under the fostering influence of the protection granted to colonial lumber in the British West India market, but a small proportion of their shipping being employed in the European wood trade.

The contemplated reduction of the duty on foreign lumber in the British West Indies would give a decided advantage to United States vessels over colonial vessels. In the first place United States vessels are sailed at a very considerable expense less than our vessels, and they would have the additional important advantage, after selling their cargoes in the British islands, of proceeding to the Spanish and other islands, and taking a return freight of produce to the United States. From this benefit colonial vessels would be almost wholly excluded, in consequence of the limited demand in these colonies for the produce of those islands.

The sudden withdrawal of the present protection to the colonial wood trade in the home and colonial markets must, it is obvious, be ruinous to the shipping interest of the province, and give a shock to its general prosperity, from the effects of which it would not soon recover.

Your petitioners, although alarmed at the present aspect of affairs in relation to the trade in their only staple of exportation, will still hope that a due regard will be had to interests which have been called into existence by imperial legislation, and that the power which

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which created will not suddenly annihilate, without due notice to all the interests involved, that they may prepare themselves as well as they may for the change, if it must come.

Your petitioners therefore most humbly pray that your Majesty will interpose your Regal authority to rescue them from evils which the rumoured alterations in the wood duties, unless gradually carried into operation, must inevitably inflict upon them and the province generally.

And as in duty bound your petitioners will ever pray.

[153 Signatures.]

— No. 9. —

(No. 28.)

No. 9.
Sir W. M. G. Cole-
brooke to
Lord John Russell,
21 June 1841.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Sir *W. M. G. Colebrooke* to Lord *John Russell*, dated Fredericton, New Brunswick, 21 June 1841.

In the future regulation of the duties upon timber and deals, protection should be given to the numerous mills which have been erected, a large capital having thus been invested under encouragement of the present protecting duties. The square timber which is wrought in the woods by the lumberers may be distinguished from that which is squared in the saw-mills by the cutting of deals.

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— No. 1. —

(No. 38.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Prescott* to Lord *John Russell*.Government-house, St. John's, Newfoundland,
27 April 1841.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship a memorial from the Chamber of Commerce of St. John's, with a copy of the letter to me by which it was accompanied.

This memorial appears to me worthy of much attention, inasmuch as the advantages of the proposed modifications and alterations seem to be less, and the disadvantages to be greater, for the commerce of this island than for other parts of Her Majesty's dominions.

I beg leave, therefore, to recommend it to your Lordship's favourable consideration.

I have, &c.

(signed) *H. Prescott.*No. 1.
Governor Prescott
to Lord J. Russell,
27 April 1841.Appendix,
Nos. 1 and 2.

Enclosure in No. 1.

To the Right Honourable Lord *John Russell*, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State
for the Colonial Department.

Encl. in No. 1.

The Memorial of the Chamber of Commerce of St. John's in the Island of Newfoundland,

Humbly sheweth,

THAT your memorialists have seen with the greatest alarm a report in the public newspapers that measures are before Parliament to permit the importation of foreign-caught fish into Her Majesty's West India colonies, and to burthen with a duty on importation provisions and other necessaries for the use of the fishery,—measures which, if carried into operation, will be attended with immediate and extensive embarrassment to the mercantile interests of this island.

Your memorialists respectfully beg leave to remind your Lordship, that upon the return of peace in 1815 the most valuable part of this island was ceded by treaty to France, and that afterwards, by a convention with the government of the United States of America, the citizens of those states were admitted to enlarged privileges of fishery on the coasts of Newfoundland and Labrador, which concessions, made doubtless for the general benefit of the empire, were not denied by His Majesty's Government to have given this colony a just claim to their especial protection, and your memorialists, confiding in that protection, have struggled through difficulties not easily appreciated by those not interested, but the effect of which may be observed in the declining, or at best but stationary condition of the British fisheries, whilst those of their competitors, supplied at much less expense, and supported by numerous advantages, have proved thriving nurseries for foreign seamen, and have caused the almost entire extinction of the British Bank fishery, which has been thereby reduced to five small vessels.

Your memorialists further beg leave to represent to your Lordship that Her Majesty's dominions afford no other market for our staple article than the West India colonies, from whence hitherto foreign competition has been carefully excluded, and that the proposed duty of 2s. 6d. per quintal on foreign-caught fish, would afford no protection whatever to the fisheries of this island; that the French fisheries are supported by bounties equal to 9s. 6d. sterling per quintal, and those of the United States of America protected by a duty which with them, who are not extensive consumers, is found, as it was intended, to be prohibitory, amounting to one dollar per 100 lbs., and further supported by a bounty of four dollars per ton to every vessel employed in the fishery, which, presuming the catch of each vessel to be 10 quintals to the ton measurement, would amount to 2s. currency per quintal, the duty and bounty together thus amounting to 7s. 7d. currency per quintal,

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by which means they have secured the entire supply of their own markets as well for consumption as export, and the carrying trade connected therewith.

Your memorialists, in reference to the proposed duties on provisions and other articles imported for the use of the fisheries, would beg to observe that besides the reasons already stated, there are others not less cogent for separating Newfoundland from any general arrangement of those duties in the other North American colonies, for in those colonies the fishery is but secondary to a more permanent investment of their capital in the occupation and improvement of the soil; any event affecting their fisheries affects but a single, and that not a very extensive branch of their industry; and the disappointment, lightly felt, serves but to direct their enterprise to its legitimate object in the cultivation of the land. But the resources of Newfoundland are entirely external, and consist alone in her fisheries; she is dependant for almost everything upon foreign importation; nearly all her provisions, both salted and fresh, are imported. The great exertions which of late years have been made to introduce agriculture, have succeeded in extending it no further than to the immediate neighbourhood of the fishing settlements, from whence offal fish can be carried for manure; the growth of grain, except oats in small quantities, which when grown are for the most part cut down for fodder, is almost unknown among us; and even of potatoes, the only article of human subsistence produced in any quantity, we are forced to depend for large supplies upon England, Ireland, Scotland, and the neighbouring colonies, from whence, after all the expenses of freight and insurance, and the risks encountered from heating, sea-damage and frost, they are imported and sold in our markets at prices with which, although so much higher than in the other colonies, those grown on the spot cannot compete. Thus dependant on foreign production, we trust it will be obvious to your Lordship, that in relation to duties of importation, Newfoundland ought not to be classed with the other North American colonies, in which the great proportion of the necessaries of life are not imported, but produced.

Your Lordship's memorialists, therefore, humbly pray that the importation of foreign-caught fish into Her Majesty's colonies, may continue to be prohibited, and that provisions and other necessaries for the use of the fishery, may be imported into this island free of duty as heretofore.

20 April 1841.

(signed) *Wm. Thomas*,
President of the Chamber of Commerce.

Chamber of Commerce, St. John's, Newfoundland,

24 April 1841.

Sir,

I BEG leave to hand you a memorial from the Chamber of Commerce to Lord John Russell, with a request that his Excellency the Governor will be pleased to transmit it to the Right honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies by the packet.

The subjects of the memorial are of such vital importance to the existence of the fisheries of this colony, that the Chamber rely with confidence on the influential support of his Excellency to the prayer of the memorialists.

The Hon. James Crowdy,
Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Wm. Thomas*,
President of the Chamber of Commerce.

— No. 2. —

(No. 16.)

COPY of a DESPATCH, from Lord *John Russell* to the Officer administering the Government of *Newfoundland*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 8 August 1841.

I HAVE received Captain Prescott's despatch (No. 38), of the 27th April, forwarding a memorial from the Chamber of Commerce at St. John's, pointing out the injury to the trade of Newfoundland which is anticipated from the admission of foreign-caught fish into the British colonies, and from the proposed duty on provisions and other articles imported into Newfoundland for the use of the fisheries.

Having referred that despatch and the memorial which accompanied it to the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade, their Lordships have informed me that they will take the same into further consideration whenever the subject to which it relates shall be again brought forward in Parliament.

I have, &c.
(signed) *J. Russell*.

No. 2.
Lord John Russell
to the Officer ad-
ministering the
Government,
8 August 1841.

