

WHEAT (CANADA).

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

(Mr. Charles Wood.)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
13 February 1843.

18.

Under 2 oz.

WHEAT (CANADA).

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

COPIES or EXTRACTS of any COMMUNICATIONS which have taken place between Her Majesty's Government and the Authorities of *Canada*, respecting the DUTIES levied on WHEAT imported from the United States into *Canada*, or from *Canada* into the United Kingdom, since the 1st day of January 1842.

Colonial Office, Downing-street, }
10 February 1843.

G. W. HOPE.

(*Mr. Charles Wood.*)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
13 February 1843.

SCHEDULE.

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WHEAT (CANADA).

—No. 1.—

(No. 83.)

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

Sir,

Downing-street, 2 March 1842.

IN the anxious consideration which it has been the duty of Her Majesty's Government to give to the important and complicated question of the importation of corn into this country, they have, of course, not overlooked the interest which is felt in this question by the province of Canada, and which has been expressed in Memorials from the legislative body, and from other parties, addressed to Her Majesty and the Legislature of this country, and although in present circumstances Her Majesty's Government have not felt themselves justified in recommending to Parliament a compliance with the general request of the various memorialists, that Canadian corn and flour should be imported at a nominal duty into the United Kingdom, I trust that the steps which we have taken, and the grounds upon which we have declined to advance further in the same direction, will convince the people of Canada that the course which we have pursued has been dictated by no unfriendly feeling towards the interests of Canada, and especially of Canadian agriculture.

The steps which have been taken, so far as they go, have been decidedly in favour of those interests. By the law, as it has hitherto stood, Canadian wheat and wheat flour have been admissible into Great Britain at a rate of duty estimated at 5s. per quarter, until the price in the English market reached 67s., at which amount the duty fell to 6d. By the Bill which is now before Parliament, the duty of 5s. is leviable only while the price is below 55s., and at 58s. falls to 1s. only. But in addition to this reduction in the amount of price at which the lower duty becomes payable, it is proposed to take off the restriction which has hitherto been imposed upon the importation of Canadian flour into Ireland, and thus to open a new market to that which may justly be considered as one of the manufactures of Canada.

In the measures which they have adopted, not without the most anxious attention to the various interests involved, Her Majesty's Government have been desirous, while they gave a general facility of admission to the British market, of disturbing as little as possible the relative advantages possessed by the colonial and foreign suppliers of that market. In this sense, while they have continued to the Channel Islands the facilities which they have heretofore enjoyed, of a free importation of their own produce (limited as it necessarily is in extent) into Great Britain, together with the means which they at present enjoy, of having their own supplies furnished from the neighbouring and cheaper market, they have not felt themselves called upon to remove from the Isle of Man the restrictions which have been recently imposed on that island, as to its foreign imports, while it possesses the advantages of an unrestricted commerce with Great Britain. The same principle has guided Her Majesty's Government in the course which they have felt it their duty to pursue with regard to Canada.

It is impossible to be more fully convinced than are the Members of Her Majesty's Government of the importance to the interests, both of the colony and of the mother country, of maintaining between the two the most unrestricted freedom of commercial intercourse. Even a cursory examination of facts and figures must demonstrate the value to be attached in a commercial, and much more in a moral and political, point of view to the continuance and improvement of that rapidly-increasing intercourse; and Her Majesty's Government would have had much less difficulty in approaching the question of an unrestricted admission of Canadian wheat and flour into the British markets, if it had been in their power to look at that question as one of intercourse between Great Britain and her most important colony, and independent of all considerations of foreign trade. But it was impossible for Her Majesty's Government so to regard it,—it was impossible that they should not advert to the geographical position of Canada, in

No. 1.
Despatch from
Lord Stanley to
the Right Hon. Sir
Charles Bagot,
2 March 1842.

reference to the great corn-growing States of the West of America,—it was impossible not to see that, however desirable it might be even to encourage the transit through Canada of the produce of those States, with the advantage to Canada of any manufacturing process which it might undergo in the transit, a relaxation of duty to the extent of free, or nearly free, admission would have been a relaxation not limited, as in this case it ought to be, to the produce of a British colony.

It is true that the Imperial Parliament, at the time that they admitted Canadian produce at a nominal duty, might constitutionally have imposed a corresponding duty upon the import of American wheat into Canada, and might thus have placed a check upon the undue influx of foreign, under the name of Canadian, produce; but looking back to the proceedings of the last Session of the Legislature of Canada, I find that such an impost was considered, and ultimately rejected; and whatever might be the view taken by Her Majesty's Government under a different state of circumstances, in which a tax imposed by Colonial authority, and of course receivable into the Colonial Treasury, upon wheat imported from the United States might secure the agriculturists of England against the competition of foreign growers, they have been unwilling to impose such a tax, by the authority of Parliament, upon a raw article which might be required for home consumption in Canada, and, in the absence of such a tax, have felt it impossible to propose to Parliament a further reduction than that which they have submitted in favour of wheat and wheat flour shipped from the ports of Canada.

I have to request that you will take an early opportunity, after the assembling of the Provincial Parliament, of laying before them so much of this despatch as may put them fully in possession of the principles on which Her Majesty's Government have proceeded in reference to wheat and flour imported from Canada, in the general consideration which it has been their duty to give, in the most impartial spirit, and with an earnest desire to consult and conciliate all conflicting interests, to the amendment of the laws regulating the importation of corn into the British Islands.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Stanley.*

— No. 2.—

(No. 80.)

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

No. 2.
Despatch from the
Right Hon. Sir
Charles Bagot to
Lord *Stanley*,
14 April 1842.

My Lord,

Government House, Kingston, 14 April 1842.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 2d ultimo (No. 83), explaining the course which Her Majesty's Government have felt it their duty to adopt with reference to Canadian produce, in the measures which they have submitted to the Imperial Legislature for an alteration of the laws affecting the importation of corn into the United Kingdom. In obedience to your Lordship's commands, I shall communicate the substance of this despatch to the Legislature at their next meeting.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Charles Bagot.*

— No. 3.—

(No. 234.)

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable Sir *Charles Bagot*, G.C.B., to Lord *Stanley*, dated Government House, Kingston, 11 November 1842.

No. 3.
Despatch from the
Right Hon. Sir
Charles Bagot to
Lord *Stanley*,
11 November 1842.

THE Wheat Duty Bill I have reserved for the signification of Her Majesty, because its provisions are mainly based, as its preamble declares, upon an anticipation that the Imperial Parliament may be induced to alter the law with regard to the duty on Canadian wheat and wheat flour imported into the United Kingdom. I shall have occasion shortly to address your Lordship further upon this important subject, and to transmit to you such information as may assist Her Majesty's Government in forming an opinion upon it.

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Enclosure in No. 3.

(No. 134.)

AN ACT to impose a Duty upon FOREIGN WHEAT imported into this Province.

WHEREAS the free introduction of wheat and wheat-flour into the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland from this Province would, by affording a market for these articles at all times certain and available, promote essentially the agricultural and commercial interests of Canada: And whereas foreign wheat is at present admitted free of duty into Canada: And whereas the intention of the laws of the United Kingdom aforesaid is to preserve the home market for Her Majesty's subjects by certain restrictions, and by the imposition of duties: And whereas the introduction of foreign wheat into the United Kingdom free of duty, after the introduction of the same into Canada free of duty, would be in manifest violation of the said intention of the laws of the said United Kingdom: And whereas the chief objection to the free admission of wheat and wheat-flour into the said United Kingdom from Canada arises from the free admission of foreign wheat into Canada: And whereas a certain despatch, addressed to the Governor of this Province by Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, dated the Second day of March last, a copy whereof has been laid by his Excellency's command before the Legislature of this Province, affords the strongest ground for the confident belief and expectation that, upon the imposition of a duty upon foreign wheat imported into this Province, Her Majesty will be graciously pleased to recommend to Parliament the removal or reduction of the duties on wheat and flour imported into the said United Kingdom from Canada: Be it therefore enacted, by The Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Canada, constituted and assembled by virtue of and under the authority of an Act passed in the Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and intituled, "An Act to re-unite the Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada, and for the Government of Canada," and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That from and after the Fifth day of July next, there shall be raised, levied, collected and paid to Her Majesty, to and for the public uses of this Province, upon all wheat imported into this Province, except from the said United Kingdom, or any of Her Majesty's Possessions, and being the growth and produce thereof, a duty of Three shillings sterling money of Great Britain, for each imperial quarter of such wheat, and so in proportion for any greater or less quantity thereof.

And be it enacted, That foreign wheat imported by sea into this Province, for the use of the fisheries, shall be free of duty, and subject to the regulations expressed and enacted in regard to certain articles specified in the Eighth section of the Act of Parliament of the said United Kingdom, passed in the last Session of the said Parliament, and intituled, "An Act to amend the Laws for the Regulation of the Trade of the British Possessions Abroad."

And be it enacted, That the duties imposed by this Act shall be levied, recovered and received, under the same regulations, and in the same coins, to be received at the same rates, and according to the same weights and measures, and under the same penalties, to be enforced and applied in the same manner, and with the same restrictions and regulations for ensuring the payment or punishing the evasion thereof, as the duties imposed in and by the said Act, intituled, "An Act to amend the Laws for the Regulation of the British Possessions Abroad."

And be it enacted, That all sums which shall arise from the duty hereby imposed shall be paid over, by the officers receiving the same, to Her Majesty's Receiver-General for this Province and shall form part of the Consolidated Revenue Fund thereof, and shall, as shall also all fines, penalties and confiscations incurred under this Act, be accounted for to Her Majesty, Her heirs and successors, through the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury for the time being, in such manner and form as Her Majesty, Her heirs and successors, shall direct.

I do hereby certify the above to be a true copy of a Bill passed by the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly of the Province of Canada, in the second Session of the first Provincial Parliament, and reserved for the signification of Her Majesty's pleasure, by his Excellency the Governor-General, on Wednesday, the Twelfth day of October, One thousand eight hundred and Forty-two.

(signed) *James Fitz-Gibbon,*
Clerk Legislative Council.

— No. 4. —

(No. 320.)

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

Sir,

Downing-street, 1 February 1843.

YOUR despatch of the 11th November last (No. 234), enclosing authenticated copies of the Acts passed by the Legislature of Canada during its last Session, and assented to by you in Her Majesty's name; together with copies of two Bills reserved for the signification of Her Majesty's pleasure, intimated your intention of transmitting by the next mail an explanation of the grounds of those measures. Especially with regard to the Wheat Duty Bill, you expressed your

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intention

No. 4.
Despatch from
Lord Stanley to
the Right Hon.
Sir Charles Bagot,
1 February 1843.

intention of transmitting to me such information as might assist Her Majesty's Government in forming an opinion upon it.

I am well aware that, since the date of that despatch, the state of your health has furnished but too conclusive an impediment to your execution of the purpose which you thus announced to me; but as the time within which Her Majesty's decision on these laws ought to be pronounced is rapidly passing away; and as it is scarcely possible for me to proceed to that decision, unaided by the information which you have led me to expect; I would suggest to you that, if the state of your health should still prevent, as I fear it will prevent, the fulfilment of your intention, you should request the Executive Council of Canada to enter upon the consideration of the subject, and to furnish me with such information as to these enactments as may assist Her Majesty's Government in forming their decision. I would particularly direct your attention, in reference to the Wheat Duty Bill, to the exemption contained in the second clause, and request that you will consider how far that exemption might facilitate the commission of frauds upon the revenue; and especially report what security may be taken that, under it, foreign wheat may not be landed, converted into flour, and fraudulently re-shipped for importation, free of duty, into the United Kingdom.

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

—No. 5.—

(No. 39.)

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

My Lord,

Government House, Kingston, 21 February 1842.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith Petitions from the Board of Trade of Montreal to the Throne, and to the two Houses of the Imperial Parliament, praying the repeal of the duties now levied on the importation into the United Kingdom of certain articles of provision, the produce of Canada. I also enclose, for your Lordship's information, a copy of the Memorial to myself, which accompanied these Petitions, and of the Answer which I returned to it.

I have to request that your Lordship would lay at the foot of the Throne the Address to Her Majesty, and would intrust to Members of the Houses of Lords and Commons the Petitions addressed to those Houses respectively.

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

Enclosure 1, in No. 5.

To The QUEEN's most Excellent Majesty in Council.

The PETITION of the undersigned Merchants of Montreal, in Canada.

Humbly sheweth,

THAT the rapid increase of the trade and agriculture of Canada is in great danger of receiving a check from the want of a market for the produce of her soil.

That it is of the highest importance that the agricultural interests of Canada be fostered with the greatest care, as giving a means of subsistence to a numerous and rapidly-growing population, as well as of affording the best encouragement to the emigrant from the British Isles.

That the duties hitherto imposed on wheat and flour, although apparently moderate, act injuriously, inasmuch as, from the great distance from which those articles are transported, the remuneration afforded the Canadian farmer is not sufficient to allow even of the smallest impost: the duties on the coarser grains are almost prohibitory; while on beef, pork, butter, lard and cheese, they are completely so.

That the expense of inland transport, and freight across the Atlantic, is greater, in proportion to the produce of the soil in Canada, than are the rent and taxes paid by the farmer in Great Britain to the produce of the soil there; wherefore your Petitioners submit he is already sufficiently protected.

That the inhabitants of Canada, a British province, produce in abundance those articles which the mother country particularly requires, and take in return almost exclusively articles of British manufacture; therefore their produce ought to be regarded with especial favour.

Your

No. 5.
Despatch from the
Right Hon. Sir
Charles Bagot to
Lord Stanley,
21 February 1842.

Encl. 1, in No. 5.

Your Petitioners would also respectfully suggest, that as the trade of Canada is carried on exclusively in British ships, the prosperity of that province is intimately connected with the maritime interests of the empire.

Wherefore your Petitioners most humbly pray, that your most Gracious Majesty will be pleased to recommend to Parliament the repeal of all duties now levied in the United Kingdom upon beef, pork, cheese, butter and lard, as well as upon wheat, rye, Indian corn, barley, oats, buck-wheat, beans, peas, and other grain, and the flour or meal made therefrom, such being imported from Canada.

And as in duty bound your Petitioners will ever pray.

Montreal, 1 February 1842.

(Here follow the signatures of 159 persons.)

Enclosure 2, in No. 5.

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

The MEMORIAL of the Board of Trade of the City of Montreal,

Respectfully sheweth,

THAT your Memorialists, considering it would be highly advantageous to the prosperity of Canada if the produce of its soil were allowed to be imported into the United Kingdom free from duty, have joined their fellow-citizens in a Petition to Her most Gracious Majesty and both Houses of Parliament, to grant the privilege prayed for. Encl. 2, in No. 5.

That your Excellency's expression of your desire to have the prayer of their Petition granted would, no doubt, have great weight with the Legislature of the empire.

Wherefore your Memorialists respectfully pray your Excellency to forward the same, accompanied by such remarks as to your Excellency may seem fit.

And as in duty bound your Memorialists will ever pray.

(signed) *J. T. Brondgeest*, Chairman,
and others.

Montreal, February 1842.

Enclosure 3, in No. 5.

A N S W E R.

Gentlemen,

I SHALL lose no time in transmitting to the Secretary of State the Petitions which you have addressed to Her Majesty and the two Houses of Parliament, praying the repeal of the duties on certain provisions, the produce of Canada, on importation into the United Kingdom. I feel quite confident that this Petition, affecting as it does to so great an extent the interests of this Province, will receive an attentive and respectful consideration from Her Majesty's Government. Encl. 3, in No. 5.

— No. 6. —

(No. 115.)

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

Sir,

Downing-street, 3 April 1842.

I HAVE received your despatch (No. 39) of the 21st February, enclosing Petitions to the Queen and to the two Houses of Parliament from the Board of Trade of Montreal, praying the repeal of the duties now levied on the importation into the United Kingdom of certain articles of Canadian produce.

I have to instruct you to inform the Petitioners, that I have had the honour to lay their Petition to the Queen before Her Majesty, and that Her Majesty was pleased to receive it very graciously, and to direct it to be referred for the consideration of the Lords of the Committee of Her Privy Council for Trade.

The Petition to the House of Lords will be intrusted to the Earl of Ripon for presentation; that to the House of Commons will be presented by myself.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Stanley*.

No. 6.
Despatch from
Lord Stanley to
the Right Hon. Sir
Charles Bagot,
3 April 1842.

— No. 7. —

(No. 93.)

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

No. 7.
Despatch from the
Right Hon. Sir
Charles Bagot to
Lord Stanley,
28 April 1842.

My Lord,

Government House, Kingston, 28 April 1842.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith, in order that it may be laid at the foot of the Throne, a Petition from the merchants, millers, agriculturists, and others of the Home District of the late Province of Upper Canada, praying for the admission into the United Kingdom, duty free, of Canadian corn, and the imposition of the foreign duty upon American corn upon its importation into Canada.

This Petition is very numerously signed, and was presented to me on my late visit to Toronto. Although I fear that it will arrive too late to receive the consideration of Her Majesty's Government before the measures now before the Imperial Parliament for the alteration of the Corn Laws shall have become law, I have not felt myself at liberty to refuse the request of the Petitioners, that it might be transmitted to your Lordship.

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

Enclosure in No. 7.

To Her most Gracious Majesty VICTORIA, Queen of Great Britain and Ireland.

The PETITION of sundry Merchants, Millers, Agriculturists and others.

May it please your Majesty,

Encl. in No. 7.

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, merchants, millers, and other inhabitants of the Home District, in the Province of Canada, humbly beg to represent to your Majesty, that the agricultural interests of this province are frequently subjected to great depression, from the impossibility of procuring for the surplus grain, and other articles of provision which form the staples of our trade, such prices as will repay the labour and expense necessary for their production.

If these recurrences, so severely felt by your Majesty's Canadian subjects, were solely attributable to the peace and abundance which for many past years have prevailed throughout the greater part of the civilized world, we should be compelled to make up our minds to yield to the pressure of circumstances, and to take our chance of those changes which must at intervals be produced by the fluctuation of seasons, and by the operation of other causes equally uncertain; but we persuade ourselves that the evils which we feel admit of a remedy, through your Majesty's gracious interposition, and without injury to any of those great interests which it is the anxious care of your Majesty to protect.

The cultivation of wheat is undoubtedly the object to which, more than any other, your Majesty's subjects inhabiting this fertile region are destined to devote their exertions. The climate and the soil are alike favourable to its growth; the labour which it requires furnished ready employment, of the most desirable kind, to the multitudes which emigrate annually from the British islands; and while in each year it converts thousands of acres of barren wilderness into fertile fields, it supplies to a numerous, intelligent and loyal people that occupation which is of all others the most favourable to virtue and happiness, and to that manly independence of character which is necessary to the preservation of rational freedom.

Whenever a period occurs in which the farmer can obtain a fair price for this commodity, prosperity is every where visible; he is encouraged to extend the sphere of his industry by reclaiming larger tracts from the wilderness; the lands of the province immediately rise in value; our fellow-subjects from Europe are led to employ their capital in a pursuit which yields them an adequate profit; an increased consumption of British goods produces a revival of trade beneficial alike to the parent state and to the colony; an augmented revenue affords us the means of prosecuting those improvements in our roads and inland navigation to which the inhabitants of Upper Canada are as much tempted, by the natural advantages held up by a kind Providence to their view, as any people that can be named.

We should be ungrateful, indeed, if we doubted for a moment that it is the anxious wish of your Majesty, and of those who, under your Majesty, are intrusted with the powers of Government, to give to this province, of which the value is now well known, the earliest and most ample enjoyment of such advantages as our position in the empire can be made to confer. Your Majesty's royal predecessors have constantly given proofs that the welfare of Canada was an object earnestly desired by them; and at the very commencement of a reign, which we fervently pray may be long and glorious, it has been our happiness to recognize, in the powerful exertion promptly made for our protection in the liberal arrange-

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ment of the Government, which has given to the British American Colonies the advantage of a direct intercourse with England with the aid of steam, and in the reduction of the rate of postage (an amount little more than nominal), the most convincing assurance that we shall experience under your Majesty's rule no diminution of that fostering care under which we have hitherto flourished.

We have observed the discussions which have taken place in Great Britain of late years upon the important and interesting question of the Corn Laws; and, however difficult it may be to reconcile the opinions which are entertained respecting them, it is yet evident that no class of persons endeavours to vindicate restriction upon the trade in grain on any other footing than that of absolute necessity.

But we can scarcely believe it possible that the most zealous defender of the Corn Laws, if he will apply his mind fairly to the subject, can imagine that the regulation, to which we now earnestly entreat your Majesty's attention, can be maintained in its application to this province by any such argument.

As the law now stands, the average price of grain in England is such as generally subjects the wheat of this country to a duty of Five shillings per quarter upon importation. It can hardly be supposed that such a duty can form a real and substantial protection to the English farmer; and yet it is sufficient to make the article of wheat in general a precarious and hazardous remittance from this country; and it disables the merchant from giving the price for it which is necessary for repaying to the farmer the cost of its production.

If it be apprehended that, under such encouragement, the surplus quantity of grain raised in the Canadas and exported to England, would interfere inconveniently with the English agriculturist, we are convinced that a slight examination of the subject will show the apprehension to be unfounded. The quantity of bread required for consumption in England is so immense, that the proportion which this province could furnish for many years to come would be too small to be felt as an injury to any interest; and yet the privilege of a free market for wheat, which would, in fact, supply but a very few days' consumption, would speedily elevate this province to a condition she must otherwise be very long in attaining.

If the ground of alarm should be, that a large quantity of the wheat grown in the United States would find its way through Canada into the British market, and be received free of duty to the prejudice of the home-grower, the answer is, that such an inconvenience may be obviated by collecting in Canada, upon all grain of foreign growth, when it is introduced into that province, the same imperial duty to which such grain floured in Canada is now subjected when imported into Great Britain, or by making the trade subject to such other regulations in that respect as Parliament may deem expedient; and your Majesty may be assured that it would be the disposition of the people of this province to assist, for their own sakes, in carrying into execution strictly, and in good faith, whatever regulations might be prescribed for securing to their own productions a discriminating advantage in the market of the mother country.

We do most earnestly entreat your Majesty, that the experiment may be made of a policy, which is certain to be attended by the following benefits to this rising colony:—It would bring rapidly into cultivation large tracts of wilderness, which will otherwise lie for a much longer period unproductive to the empire. It would enrich the province by a great annual accession of wealth won by patient labour from the soil. It would spread content and habits of industry throughout the land, by holding out a certain and adequate reward for exertion. It would strengthen the ties between the parent state and her colony, by augmenting largely the demand in this country for British goods; and by encouragement which it would hold out to emigration, it would relieve the English landholder, by diminishing the direct burthen of the poor's rates, and the many indirect taxes upon industry which are necessarily occasioned by a multitude of unemployed poor.

When we enumerate among the advantages of a free trade in grain the increased demand for British manufactures, which it would assuredly create, we speak of no doubtful or unimportant benefit; for the official information in possession of your Majesty's Government will show, that even at this early period, and under present circumstances, the provinces of Canada alone purchase a larger amount of British manufactures, and furnish employment to a much greater number of British ships, than several of the most populous kingdoms in Europe combined.

We shall anxiously hope to find that no class of your Majesty's subjects will be opposed to a relaxation which we sincerely believe would bring advantage to many, and injury to none; and, assuring ourselves of your Majesty's earnest desire to advance the welfare of the Canadas, and to accede to the reasonable wishes of Her people, we shall confidently look for a favourable answer to our prayer through your Majesty's most gracious interposition.

We beg to renew on this occasion our assurances of entire devotion to your Majesty's Person and Government.

(2,336 Signatures.)

— No. 8.—

(No. 153.)

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

No. 8.
Despatch from
Lord Stanley to
the Right Hon. Sir
Charles Bagot,
29 May 1842.

Sir,

Downing-street, 29 May 1842.

I HAVE received your despatch (No. 93) of the 28th April, enclosing a Petition to the Queen from the merchants, millers, agriculturists and other inhabitants of the Home District of Western Canada, praying for the admission into the United Kingdom, duty free, of Canadian corn, and the imposition of the foreign duty upon American corn on its importation into Canada.

I have to instruct you to acquaint the Petitioners, that I have had the honour to lay their Petition before the Queen, and that Her Majesty was pleased to receive it very graciously.

Previously, however, to the arrival of this Petition, the Bill for amending the Acts regulating the corn trade had passed into a law.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Stanley*.