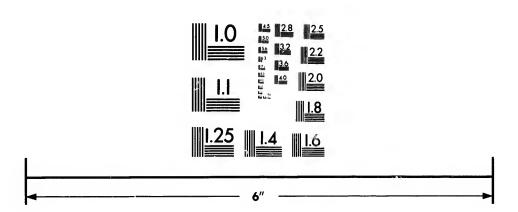


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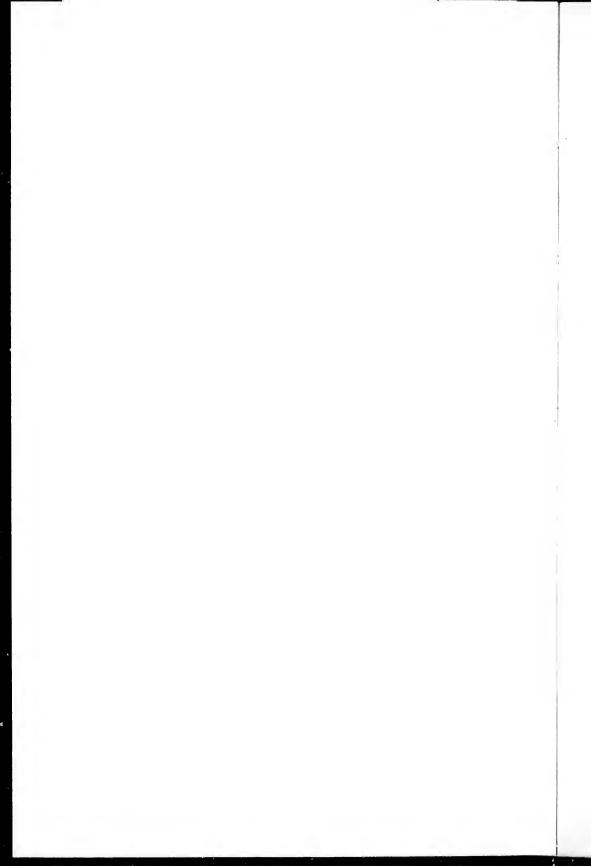
UPPER CANADA.

COPY of an Address of the House of Assembly of Upper Canada to His Majesty, respecting the Commerce and Thade of that Province, &c.

(Mr. Hume.)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed, 30 June 1836.





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UPPER CANADA.



MAY 30 1935

RETURN to an Address of the Honourable The House of Commons, dated 26 April 1836;—for,

COPY of an Address of the House of Assembly of Upper Canada, in Committee of the whole House, on the 11th of February 1836, to His Majesty, respecting the Commerce and Trade of that Province; also Copies of the several Resolutions respecting Commerce and Trade agreed to by the same Committee on the same day.

Colonial Department, 29 June 1836.

G. GREY.

[This Paper contains the Address of the House of Assembly of Upper Canada, 11 February 1836; but the Resolutions respecting Trade and Commerce have not yet been received from the Lieutenant-Governor.]

ADDRESS OF THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY OF UPPER CANADA.

TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

MOST GRACIOUS SOVEREIGN.

WE, Your Majesty's dutiful and loyal Subjects, the Commons of Upper Canada, in Provincial Parliament assembled, humbly beg leave to submit to Your Majesty, that the depressed State of Agriculture in this Province is in a great measure to be attributed to those laws, ordinances and instructions, for the regulation of trade, by means of which the industry of the Province is held in subscrvience to the interest of the commerce and shipping of the United Kingdom; and from Your Majesty's paternal care and enlightened views we entertain a reasonable expectation, that a more liberal policy, suitable to the wants and more permanent interests of the Colonists, will be henceforth pursued, and their foreign trade encouraged and promoted, as being eminently conducive to the prosperity of the Province.

We further humbly submit to Your Majesty, that we have always shown great willingness to consume the goods and merchandise of the United Kingdom and its Colonies, according to our means of payment; but that if the restrictions which embarrass our commerce were removed, and we permitted to direct the labour of our hands to the industry of our choice, to employ the cheapest and most convenient means of transport, and to carry the products of that industry to those markets in which they could be disposed of to the best advantage, our means of purchasing British goods would be thereby increased, and our capital and labour employed beneficially in diffusing wealth and enjoyment through the

Colony.

Situated as Upper Canada is, at a great distance from the sea, the communication with which, by the St. Lawrence, is interrupted for a great part of the year, our interests would be best promoted by the adoption of such commercial regulations as would enable our agriculturists, merchants and manufacturers, to obtain free access to the ocean through every channel by means of which they could safely convey those articles of which this Province possesses a superfluity, to the best markets, and through which they might bring back, of the goods and merchandise of other lands, according to their means, without such imports being subjected to the present heavy tariff of discriminating duties; the operation of which is, to add materially to the many natural obstructions incidental to our inland situation, and to retard the settlement of the waste lands of the Province by the more wealthy, intelligent and persevering class of emigrants, who province in the markets, in a province in the States of Ohio, Michigan, is is sylvania, and New York; the citizens of which have at all times the free choice of three markets, namely, the St. Lawrence, Foreign States through their own seabord, and the markets of the Southern States; while we of Upper Canada are restricted to the channel of the St. Lawrence only.

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We humbly request that Your Majesty will be pleased to cause such representations to be made to the Government at Washington, as shall appear to be best calculated to induce Congress to admit the goods and merchandise of Great Britain or other nations to pass through the United States into Upper Canada, subject only to the duties which are or may be payable within this Province, and without being liable to the payment of any tax or impost in or to the said States; and also to permit the goods, wares and merchandise of this Province, to be transported through the said States to other countries beyond the seas, free of duty, and subject only to such regulations as may be found necessary for the prevention of infractions of the revenue laws of the American Union.

We also humbly submit to Your Majesty, that lumber is admitted duty free into this Province from the United States, the Government of which States exacts very heavy duties on the lumber we export thither; and that the exaction of these duties gives cause of complaint to all who are largely engaged in carrying lumber from the Western Settlements of this Province to the said States; and we trust that Your Majesty's Government will enter into such negociations as may have a tendency to place this important branch of Canadian industry, on a footing of perfect reciprocity in the markets of the neighbouring Republic.

Although the prices of wheat and flour, two of our staple commodities, are frequently higher in the United States than in this Province, we are prevented from obtaining the full advantage of the increase of demand consequent on such prices; our wheat being subject to a duty in the United States' Ports of about 1s. 2d. currency on every bushel imported, with a proportional tax on Canadian flour; while, to the people of the said States, our markets for their wheat and flour are always open, duty free, by which regulation they are at all times enabled to avail themselves of such favourable changes as may happen in the markets of Canada.

We humbly request that Your Majesty would cause such representations to be made to the Government of the United States as might have a tendency to place this interesting branch of Canadian commerce on a footing of reciprocity in the two countries, which principle of reciprocity, if it were extended generally to other descriptions of goods, admitted duty free, into the Canadas, under late Colonial Trade Acts, would confer many additional benefits on this Province.

And we also humbly request, that, in consideration of the great and increasing consumption of the merchandise of the United Kingdom in Upper Canada, Your Majesty would be pleased to recommend to Your Parliament to admit the flour, meal, grain, beef, pork, and other staple preducts of this Province, into the ports of the United Kingdom, on the terms at which the staple agricultural products of the Northern and Eastern States of the American Union are, by a late British Act, authorised to be admitted into Canada, or subject to as reasonable rates of impost as are now levied at the Ports of Montreal and Quebec, on the staple products and manufactures of the United Kingdom, when imported direct from Great Britain and Ireland by sea.

We would humbly represent to Your Majesty, that the entire abolition of the several duties now levied in our ports upon articles of the growth and manufacture of other countries, which come not into competition with the industry of this Province, would have a tendency to increase and diffuse capital here, besides affording a protection to labour by enabling the labourer to live cheaper, and the farmer and manufacturer to compete more successfully with the skill

and industry of other countries.

The article of tea, which is consumed in great quantities in this Province, is taxed at Quebec, and prohibited on our frontier, but admitted, free of duty, into the United States, to which it is brought direct from the place of its growth. The free importation of tea into Canada would interfere with no article of domestic manufacture either in Great Britain or her Colonies: although tea is prohibited from being imported hither from the United States, where it is obtained much cheaper than we now obtain it in Montreal and Quebec. The opinion prevails, that it is extensively smuggled from the United States; and it is well known that the seizures made by the officers of the customs sometimes prove ruinous to those persons who are tempted to engage in the traffic; hence the complaint is preferred with very great reason, that laws are enacted in England, where we are not represented in Parliament, prohibiting the people of this Province from purchasing the commodities they require at the best and elreapest markets, and compelling them, if they purchase at all, to uphold a grievous

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uty, into growth, article of the tea is ere it is ee. The s; and it metimes c; hence acted in people of best and uphold grievous a grievous monopoly, by buying at the dearest market both to the merchant and the consumer, although in preventing the Canadians from purchasing tea in the United States, the Government cannot urge the usual specious plea, that it does so to encourage some domestic production either of England or her Colonies.

We are of opinion that the following articles, when imported from Great Britain, or from any other country, into Lower Canada, or into this Province from the United States, should be imported free from all duties; namely, teas of all kinds, coffee, cotton yarn, and all cotton manufactures, bur blocks, bolting cloths and screens, books and papers of all kinds, printers' presses, types and ink, molasses, tin in plates and block tin.

Our close neighbourhood, for many hundreds of miles, to parts of the States of New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Michigan, renders it a matter of difficulty for the trader who will not smuggle, to compete with him who will, in all those articles which can be purchased cheapest in the markets of those States, on which a duty is now levied sufficiently high to cover the expense and risk of

smuggling them across the lines.

We are of opinion that it would be expedient to repeal the laws imposing 7l. 10s., 15l., 20l., and, in some cases, 30l. of customs duties, on every 10ol. value, of many articles of goods, which are of the first necessity to an agricultural community, when imported into Lower Canada by sea from countries not under the dominion of Great Britain, or from the United States into this Province by land, or other conveyance; while in some instances no duty, and in most cases a duty of only 2l. 10s. on every 100l. value, is exacted on the same descriptions, of goods and merchandise if imported from Great Britain or her Colonies, by way of Quebec and Montreal; and that in lieu of the said discriminating duties or other regulations, only 2l. 10s. on every 100l. value, should be levied on such goods, whether they be imported by sea from parts abroad, or by land, river or lake conveyance, from the said United States; so that a fair competition may be allowed in our markets to other nations, and our limited capital and population employed to the best advantage.

And, that it is expedient to repeal the statutes under authority of which train oil and oil of all sorts, fish, dried or salted, and books, which are prohibited to be imported into the United Kingdom, are prohibited to be imported into this Province from the United States or other foreign countries; and to allow the people of this Province to buy oils, books and fish, in whatever market such

articles are sold cheapest.

And we would further humbly represent to Your Majesty, that in case the revenue that would accrue to the Province from the eustoms, duties and other sources, under the changes contemplated in this Address, should fall short of the sum necessary to earry on the Government, and defray the interest of the public debt, we have already contracted, the difference might be raised by a judicious apportionment of taxation, by the Legislature of this Province, on those imported articles which are generally regarded as luxuries, or which come directly into competition with the staple productions of the Colony; and that where, by giving a temporary encouragement, by means of moderate duties, to certain species of domestic industry a reasonable expectation might be entertained that the articles so encouraged would soon be able to compete on equal terms with the products of the skill and labour of other countries, so that the tariff would no longer operate as a tax, we would not be unwilling to impose such duties; and we feel it incumbent on us further to represent to Your Majesty, that as the timber trade of the Canadas has been for many years encouraged and fostered by the commercial regulations adopted in England; and as a large capital is now vested therein, any Act of the Imperial Parliament by which the present scale of duties levied on foreign timber might be reduced, would be attended with very injurious consequences to many inhabitants of this Province engaged in that important branch of our commerce.

(signed) MARSHALL S. BIDWELL, Speaker.

Commons, House of Assembly, 16th day of February 1836.

