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Canada Corn and Flour.

RETURNS

RESPECTING

CORN AND FLOUR IN CANADA.

Ordered to be printed 3d June 1835.

(124.)

Canada Corn and Flour.

No. 1.

COPIES of all Memorials, Petitions, or Remonstrances from the Legislature of Upper and Lower Canada, in the Years 1824 or 1825, on the Subject of the existing Corn Laws.

To the King's most Excellent Majesty.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY,

WE, Your Majesty's dutiful and loyal Subjects, the Legislative Council of Lower Canada in Provincial Parliament assembled, again most humbly approach Your Majesty upon the Subject of the Operation of the Corn Laws, as they respect the Provinces of Canada, to entreat Your Majesty's gracious Consideration of the peculiar Circumstances which make them inapplicable to these Provinces.

Being excluded from Intercourse by Sea for Half the Year, and considering that during the Season of Navigation the Time lost before the Opening of the Ports to Importation can be known in Canada, with that expended in preparation for Shipments of Grain afterwards, the Benefit thereby intended to the Colonies is rendered quite inefficacious as to its Object.

The unjustifiable Practices which have been used respecting the Averages that regulate the Importation of Corn, in order to establish a fictitious Value, sometimes upon one Side and sometimes on the other, we humbly trust will point out the Necessity of an Alteration of System to prevent fraudulent Fluctuations, and to remedy the Extremes consequent upon locking up imported Grain in Bond, until it attains a high Price.

When the Corn Laws shall come under Parliamentary Consideration, we humbly but confidently hope, that Grain and Flour, the Production of Your Majesty's North American Colonies, may at all Times be made admissible for British Consumption, Duty-free, or under a very moderate Rate thereof.

The Claims of Your Majesty's North American Subjects to Favor rest upon their experienced Loyalty and Attachment to Your Majesty's Person and Government, the Peculiarity of their local Situation, the Fact that all their Productions sold or used in the United Kingdom are paid for in British Manufactures, and the Certainty that the Quantity of Grain and Flour, the Production of the Provinces of Canada, exported therefrom, could not influence the Prices in the Mother Country to any injurious Extent.

(124.)

Should,

Should, however, a Limitation of the Quantity to be admissible free of Duty be considered necessary, such Limitation could be very safely fixed at One hundred and twenty-five thousand Quarters, or One million of Bushels of Wheat, in each Year, reckoning therein Flour at the Rate of Five Bushels of Wheat for a Barrel of One hundred and ninety-six Pounds neat Weight of Flour, which Quantity, although only equal to a few Days of British Consumption, would essentially benefit the Canadas, and if the Surplus of that Quantity was subjected to the Rate of Foreign Duty, would afford an effectual Protection to the British Grower, against all Risk of Injury from an Excess. Should, however, free Importation from the British North American Colonies not be deemed expedient, we humbly submit to Your Majesty, that the Quantum of Duty becomes a Matter of important Consideration.

The Duties on Import being intended as a Protection to the British Growers of Corn, the Rates thereof, levied upon Foreign European Grain, may be assumed as the Maximum or extreme Measure of that Protection: taking, therefore, that Rule for our Guide, we humbly beg leave to state, for Your Majesty's gracious Consideration, how it would operate in Practice upon British North American Grain.

The Climate of Canada physically shuts us out from Sea for Half the Year, and forms in itself a Protection to the British Grower, which is increased by our great Distance from the Mother Country, as the Importer thereof of Wheat from Canada cannot land it (and so in proportion for Flour), including Freight, Insurance, and all other Charges of Conveyance, at a Rate materially short of Two Shillings *per* Winchester Bushel, or Sixteen Shillings *per* Quarter, leaving the original Cost out of the Question.

The Importer of Foreign European Wheat can probably land it in the United Kingdom at One Half of the above Expence of Conveyance, leaving a Difference in his Favor, compared with the Colonist, of Eight Shillings *per* Quarter; therefore, if the Canadian Importer were only to pay Eight Shillings Duty *per* Quarter, whilst the Foreigner paid Sixteen Shillings, they would be placed on a Footing of Equality, without Favor; but as Colonial Grain, for the Reasons above stated, is fairly entitled to Favor, it may be safely affirmed that the Measure of that Favor should be the Payment of not above One Fourth of the Rate of Duty to which Foreign Grain may at any Time be liable. The Legislative Council therefore humbly pray, that Your Majesty will be graciously pleased, when a Revision of the Corn Laws may come under Consideration, to recommend to the Imperial Parliament to provide for the Admission at all Times of British North American Grain and Flour into the United Kingdom, for Consumption, free of Duty, with a Limitation of Quantity, if judged necessary; or that the Duties thereon may be fixed at Rates essentially favorable thereto, in comparison with Foreign Grain and Flour.

By Order,

Legislative Council,
Quebec, 4th March 1825.

(Signed,) E. SEWELL, Speaker.

(3)

No. 2.

COPY of all Correspondence with the Government of Upper and Lower Canada, on the probable Expence and Means of collecting the Duty to be imposed on Corn and Flour imported into Upper and Lower Canada from the United States.

No Correspondence has taken place on this Subject.

No. 3.

AN ACCOUNT of the Produce of the Duty of Two Shillings and Sixpence per Cwt. imposed on Flour not in Barrel, the Produce of the United States, by the Legislature of Upper Canada, on the 19th January 1824.

No Account of the Produce of the above Duty has been received.

Colonial Department, Downing Street,
3d June 1825.

J. W. HORTON.
