

enclosing an Address to the Queen, from the Legislature of New Brunswick, deprecating the changes contemplated in the duties levied on Timber imported into this country.

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

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

I have, &c.

(Signed)

STANLEY.

—No. 3.—

(No. 28.)

Copy of a Despatch from Lieutenant Governor Sir W. M. G. COLEBROOKE to Lord STANLEY.

Fredericton, New Brunswick, 29th March, 1842.

MY LORD,—I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship a Petition addressed to Her Majesty by the Mayor, Aldermen, and Commonalty of the City of St. John.

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

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

I have, &c.

(Signed)

W. M. G. COLEBROOKE.

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

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

W. M. G. C.

—No. 4.—

(No. 30.)

Copy of a Despatch from Lieutenant Governor Sir W. M. G. COLEBROOKE to Lord STANLEY.

Fredericton, New Brunswick, 30th March, 1842.

MY LORD,—Referring to my Despatch No. 28, dated March 29th, transmitting a Petition from the Mayor and Aldermen and Commonalty of St. John, I have now the honour to enclose a Petition to the Queen from the Magistrates, Shipowners, Millowners, and other inhabitants of that City, praying that the duties which protect the trade of this Province may not be altered.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

W. M. G. COLEBROOKE.

—No. 5.—

(No. 31.)

Copy of a Despatch from Lieutenant Governor Sir W. M. G. COLEBROOKE to Lord STANLEY.

Fredericton, New Brunswick, 30th March, 1842.

MY LORD,—I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship a Petition, humbly addressed to the Queen, from the Magistrates, Merchants, Millowners, Lumberers, Agriculturists, and other inhabitants of the County of York, in this Province, praying that no change may be made in the scale of duties on wood and other

articles which may affect the trade of the Province with Great Britain and Ireland and the British West Indies.

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

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

I have, &c.

(Signed)

W. M. G. COLEBROOKE.

—No. 6.—

(No. 32.)

Copy of a Despatch from Lieutenant Governor Sir W. M. G. COLEBROOKE to Lord STANLEY.

Fredericton, N. B., 30th March, 1842.

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

I have, &c.

(Signed)

W. M. G. COLEBROOKE.

—No. 7.—

(No. 34.)

Copy of a Despatch from Lieutenant Governor Sir W. M. G. COLEBROOKE to Lord STANLEY.

Fredericton, New Brunswick, 30th March, 1842.

MY LORD,—I have just received the enclosed Address to the Queen from the Legislative Council and Assembly of this Province, on the subject of the changes which are understood to have been proposed in Parliament affecting the regulation of the Trade of the British Colonial Possessions; and having already explained to your Lordship my apprehensions of the effect of those changes at this time on the inhabitants of this Province, I have only to recommend the subject to the consideration of your Lordship and of Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

W. M. G. COLEBROOKE.

—No. 8.—

(No. 35.)

Copy of a Despatch from Lieutenant Governor Sir W. M. G. COLEBROOKE to Lord STANLEY.

Government House, 30 March 1842.

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

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

I have, &c.

(Signed)

W. M. G. COLEBROOKE.

—No. 9.—

(No. 59.)

Copy of a Despatch from Lord STANLEY to Lieutenant Governor Sir W. M. G. COLEBROOKE.

Downing Street, 17th May 1842.

SIR,—Her Majesty's Government having had under their consideration the representations on the subject of the projected alterations on the import Duties, both in the United Kingdom and in the Colonies, from the Legislature of New Brunswick, as well as from various bodies interested in the Trade of the Province, which accompanied your Despatches of the numbers and dates noted in the margin, I now proceed to explain to you, for the information of the