



# P E T I T I O N .

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*To the Honorable the Legislative Assembly of Canada, in Parliament Assembled :*

THE PETITION OF THE UNDERSIGNED CHAIRMAN OF THE CONVENTION OF DELEGATES OF THE BOARDS OF TRADE,

RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH,

That the Delegates elected by the Boards of Trade of the principal Cities in the Province, assembled at Quebec on the first instant, to deliberate on the measures which, in their opinion, were required for the interests of the Country, and to recommend the same to the Government and the Legislature.

That the conclusions they arrived at were such as, if adopted, will they believe, raise this Province to a pitch of prosperity, which it has never yet attained, and will diffuse wealth and happiness throughout the Country. The measures which they recommend are as follows:—

1st. That it is expedient for the encouragement of the Trade of the Gulf, and River St. Lawrence, that the rate of Duties levied on all goods, imported by that route, should be less, (by an amount sufficient to accomplish the object,) than that imposed on articles brought into the Province by any other route.

2nd. That in the imposition of Duties, such an arrangement of them be made, as will incidentally protect the manufacturing interests of the Province.

3rd. That raw materials for manufacturing purposes, imported direct by sea, (including Coals and Pig Iron,) should be admitted either entirely free, or at duties merely nominal.

4th. That Salt, imported through the Gulf, and River St. Lawrence, into the Ports of this Province, be admitted free of duty.

5th. That it is highly desirable to obtain Reciprocity in a direct trade, in natural products, either entirely free, or with such modifications as circumstances will admit of, with the other British Colonies, (more especially the West India Islands and Newfoundland,) as now exists with Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island.

6th. That Teas, when imported direct from the place of growth, should be admitted into this Province free of duty.

7th. That it is desirable that the Shipping interests on each side of the Lakes should mutually enjoy the internal Coasting trade, and they recommend that, on condition of this object being attained, the Navigation of the River St. Lawrence be opened to United States Vessels.

8th. That in order to prevent frauds on the Revenue, and to put the Canadian importer on a par with the Foreigner, the Tariff be altered so as to impose specific duties only on the following articles, and that the duties be levied at the rates affixed to each article, viz :

Brandy, at proof.....	4s. 0d. per gallon.
Rum, Gin and Whiskey.....	2s. 6d. “
All other Spirits, sweetened or otherwise.....	5s. 0d. “
Teas. imported otherwise than direct from the place of growth.....	2d. per lb.
Manufactured Tobacco.....	2d. “
Coffee, Raw.....	1d. “
“ Roasted.....	2d. “
“ Ground.....	3d. “
Molasses.....	2d. per gallon.
Muscovado and Bastard Sugars.....	7s. 0d. per cwt.
Refined, Crushed and Candied Sugars.....	1½d. per lb.
Soap, Common.....	1d. “
“ Fancy.....	3d. “
Tallow Candles.....	2d. “
Currants.....	1d. “
Sole Leather.....	2d. “
Corn Brooms.....	2s. 0d. per doz.

And on the capacity of Distilleries in this Province, an addition of 50 per cent. on the present duty.

9th. That an *ad-valorem* duty of 50 per cent., on the cost, be imposed on Wines of all sorts.

10th. That, in the opinion of this Convention, all *ad-valorem* duties should be levied on the value of the goods at the port of exportation, and not on the value at the port of importation.

11th. That as an encouragement to the building of vessels throughout the Province, a drawback of an amount per ton, equal to the duties paid on the articles used in the construction thereof, be granted to the owner of each new vessel, on taking out the Certificate of Registry from the Custom House.

12th. That this Convention earnestly recommend to the consideration of the Government, the necessity which exists, for the immediate repeal of the Usury Laws, or at least such a modification thereof, as will place the trade in money on the same footing as the wisdom of the Imperial Parliament has lately placed it in the Mother Country.

13th. That from information laid before the Convention, it appears that a great necessity exists for a reform of the Assessment Laws of Upper Canada, in relation to the Mercantile population, because under the present system the burthen of taxation falls very unequally and injuriously on that portion of the community.

14th. That in the opinion of this Convention, a general Bankrupt Law throughout the Province might be desirable, and this subject is recommended to the early consideration of Parliament.

15th. That the practice of closing the Custom House at Montreal on Fêtes d'Obligation, is a great grievance to the Protestant portion of the Mercantile community, and being contrary to Law, requires only an order of the Inspector General to put a stop to it.

16th. That the Law requiring the payment on the previous day of Notes and Drafts falling due at the Banks on Fêtes d'Obligation, is also felt to be a great evil, inasmuch as (with one exception) all the Banks being open, and conducting their business as usual on these days, there is no good reason why the practice should be continued. The Convention therefore recommend an alteration of this Law.

17th. That the tax on goods sold by Auction, producing as it does but a small amount of Revenue, operates against the sending of consignments to parties in this Province, and the repeal of the Law would be a great benefit to trade.

18th. That the practice of depositing in one Bank all the moneys received for Duties at the Custom House, operates against the Mercantile community, inasmuch as it prevents their obtaining that accommodation from the other Banking Institutions for the payment of Duties, which, under different circumstances they would undoubtedly obtain.

The Convention are also of opinion, that, as an act of retaliatory justice, if such a course were practicable, it would be advisable to mark the views entertained by this Province, at the refusal of Reciprocity on the part of the United States, by placing a higher scale of duties on the manufactures of that Country imported into Canada, than on any other.

In conclusion, the Convention, believing the capacity and resources of this Province to be equal to any portion of the Continent of America, and entertaining a belief, that, if fostered with becoming care by its own Government, it is capable of creating and carrying on an extensive trade of its own, earnestly entreat the Government and Legislature to embrace the present opportunity of so regulating its relations with other countries, as will enable it to trade successfully and advantageously with them.

The result would be a vast increase of business through its magnificent natural communications, which, when brought into a state of practical utility by proper assistance being afforded for the transit of vessels through them, would, in all probability, eventually remunerate the Country for the large outlay expended thereon.

Wherefore, your Petitioner prays that Your Honorable House will take the above recommendations into your favorable consideration.

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

HUGH ALLAN,  
Chairman,  
Convention of Delegates from the Boards of Trade.

ALEX CLERK,  
Secretary.  
Quebec, 8th September, 1852.

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1st Session, 4th Parliament, 16 Victoria, 1862.

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**PETITION**

Of the Chairman of the Convention of  
the Delegates of the Boards of Trade.

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**QUEBEC:**

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