
REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE

TARIFF QUESTION.

MR SPEAKER :

Your Committee appointed to enquire into the Tariff question and to draft an Address, and to report to this House, beg to Report as follows :—

The total value of Imports to the Province for the year ending 30th June, 1875, was \$2,490,593. The total duty paid under existing Tariff was \$413,991 50, and the duty that would have been paid on the same Imports for the same period under the old British Columbia Tariff would have been \$541,387 87, showing a difference of \$127,396 37, which amount is made up almost entirely by the difference of duty on two articles—spirits and flour—Spirits representing a decrease, under the existing Tariff, of \$70,674 16, and flour a decrease of \$47,006 50, making a total on these two items of \$117,680 66.

Your Committee thinking it inexpedient to change the whole Tariff whereby a large increase of Import Duties would have to be paid by this Province to the Dominion, recommend that a few changes, as set forth in the accompanying Memorial, be favorably considered by your Honourable House.

WM. SMITHE,
Chairman.

To His Excellency the Governor-General of Canada.

The Memorial of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of British Columbia respectfully sheweth :—

That whereas, by the seventh (7th) clause of the Terms of Union, it is provided that the Customs Tariff and Excise Duties existing within the Province at the date of Union should continue in force until the railway from the Pacific Coast and the system of railways in Canada should be connected, unless by decision of the Legislature of British Columbia the Tariff and Excise Laws of Canada should sooner be adopted.

And whereas, owing principally to the anticipated early construction and completion of the Pacific Railway, the Legislature of British Columbia adopted the Canadian Tariff and Excise Laws.

And whereas the agricultural portion of the community throughout the Province have severely suffered from the adoption of the Canadian Tariff, which, while admitting some farm products free, imposes but a low rate of duty on all others, and as railway connection between the Pacific Coast and the railway system of Canada is not likely to be accomplished so soon as was at first understood.

And whereas, moreover, the neighbouring possessions of the United States of America overflow with a surplus of commodities which this Province can produce in sufficiency for more than its present need.

Therefore, your memorialists respectfully ask that Your Excellency may be pleased to sanction the adoption for this Province of the following changes in the Tariff now in operation :—

Horses—Specific tax of \$5 per head, in addition to *ad valorem* tax of 10 per cent.

Neat Cattle—Substitute specific tax of \$5 per head for present 10 per cent.

Sheep—Substitute 50 cents per head for 10 per cent.

Swine—Substitute \$2 per head for 10 per cent.

Butter—Substitute 5 cents per lb for 12½ per cent.

Bacon—Substitute 2 cents per lb for 1 cent per lb.

Eggs—Impose a duty of 3 cents per doz.

Grain—Other than wheat or Indian corn, impose 10 per cent. *ad valorem*.

The accompanying table shows the difference in amount of duty collected during the year ending 30th June, 1875, under Canadian Tariff, on articles which would be affected by proposed change, and the amount which would have been collected on the same articles, during the same period, under a Tariff modified as proposed.

| | Under Canadian Tariff. | Under Tariff modified as proposed. |
|---|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Horses..... | \$2,376 70..... | \$5,946 70 |
| Cattle | 2,454 75..... | 5,725 00 |
| Sheep | 1,799 10..... | 4,204 50 |
| Swine | 1,134 47..... | 2,908 00 |
| Bacon | 2,481 51..... | 4,963 02 |
| Butter | 3,148 48..... | 3,935 55 |
| Eggs | — | 498 09 |
| Grain..... | — | 2,134 40 |
| | TOTAL..... | \$30,315 26 |
| | \$13,325 01 | |
| Total increase under proposed Tariff..... | | \$16,990 25 |