

REPORT OF CANTERBURY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ON PROPOSED ALTERATIONS IN CUSTOMS TARIFF.

CHAIRMAN of CANTERBURY CHAMBER of COMMERCE to the Hon. the COLONIAL TREASURER.

Canterbury Chamber of Commerce,
Christchurch, N.Z., 12th July, 1870.

SIR,—

I have the honour to enclose copy of a Report on the present Tariff, agreed upon by this Chamber at a special meeting held yesterday.

The Hon. the Colonial Treasurer.

I remain, &c.,

JOHN INGLIS, Chairman.

REPORT.

REPORT on the Tariff, agreed to by the Chamber at a Special Meeting held on the 8th and 11th July.

1. The Chamber having considered the question of the Tariff now in operation, as well as the alterations proposed by the Colonial Treasurer, have come to the undernoted conclusions with regard to the rates of duty which it would be advisable to adopt on a number of articles of import.

2. The Chamber has not been able to agree with the proposed alterations in the Tariff as a whole, and they submit other amendments on the present rates.

3. The Chamber thinks the drawback of one shilling on bulk and two shillings per gallon on Bottled Wines proposed by the Colonial Treasurer, is too small to bring about increased revenue or the extensive introduction of these beverages into New Zealand, if such objects are sought to be effected; but they believe it would be advantageous to the Colony if arrangements could be made with the Australian Governments to admit their wines into our ports free—conditional upon their reciprocating the arrangement with regard to our cereals.

4. The Chamber is of opinion that duty should be levied upon the gallon of proof spirits, and that a proportionate allowance should be made for spirits under proof.

5. The Chamber recommends the increase of the duty on the following articles:—

Bacon and Hams	...	...	*1½d. per lb. instead of	1d.
Butter	...	...	*3d. " "	1d.
Cheese	...	...	*2d. " "	1d.
Cordage under 3 in.	...	...	*6s. per cwt. "	3s. per cwt.
Cornflour...	...	...	*2s. per ft. "	1s. per ft.
Flour	...	...	*1s. per 100 lbs. "	Free.
Grain	...	...	*9d. " "	Free.
Groats	...	...	*2s. per ft. "	1s. per ft.
Hops	...	...	2d. per lb. "	1d. per lb.
Maizena	...	...	*2s. per ft. "	1s. per ft.
Rice	...	...	*2s. 6d. per cwt. "	2s. per cwt.

The duties on articles marked with an asterisk (*) are the same as those proposed by the Colonial Treasurer.

6. The Chamber recommends the reduction of duty on the following articles:—

Seaming Twine	...	...	Free, instead of	...	2s. per cwt.
Sacks	...	...	*Free "	...	1s. 6d. per ft.
Woolpacks	...	...	*Free "	...	1s. 6d. per ft.
Grindery...	...	...	*Free "	...	1s. per ft.
Spirits of Tar	...	...	*Free "	...	6d. per gallon.
Sheepwash Tobacco	...	...	Free "	...	3d. per lb.
Paper—Writing, Printing, } and Wrapping	...	...	Free "	...	1s. per ft.
Paper Bags	...	...	Free "	...	1s. per ft.
Plate Glass	...	...	3d. per ft. "	...	1s. per ft.
Fish, Preserved	...	...	2s. 6d. "	...	5s. as proposed.

The items marked with an asterisk (*) are those proposed to be free by the Colonial Treasurer.

7. The Chamber does not see any reason why duties should be remitted from the following articles if an even balance of taxation is to be maintained, and would therefore propose the retention of the