

River in 1779 with a contract to supply the Halifax dockyard; his first cargo of masts arrived in Halifax in 1780.<sup>19</sup> By 1782, Davidson supplied not only enough masts for Halifax, but a surplus for the English dockyards, as well. In 1787, 200 masts were shipped from New Brunswick to England and the province dominated the masting trade until 1804. By the time the New Brunswick trade had been stifled by Quebec's monopoly to supply masts to the British navy, circumstances connected with the Napoleonic Wars instead launched New Brunswick into the square timber trade.<sup>20</sup>

A timber shortage during the wars with the French Republic (1793-1815) forced Britain to obtain her wood supplies from British North America. Increasingly high duties on Baltic timber, accompanied by the admittance of British North American timber duty free, made the lumber industry boom in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and the Canadas. As the timber reserves had sparked the export of masts, so the preferences gave momentum to the trade in square timber. Nova Scotia exported more fir and pine timber than did New Brunswick until 1805 and more than the Canadas until 1808. After 1805, New Brunswick's exports far exceeded those of Nova Scotia. Canadian exports of square timber surpassed New Brunswick only in the year 1812.<sup>21</sup>

As might be expected, many timber merchants arrived in the provinces from Britain during this period when Baltic supplies were unavailable. One such investor was attracted to Pictou in 1803. He was James Milnes, a merchant of Kingston-upon-Hull, England, who for the previous fifteen years had been engaged in the importation and manufacture of timber in Great Britain. He acquired 5000 acres on the "River Tony," built an establishment valued at £10,000 for the production of timber, and began exporting to Britain.<sup>22</sup>

After the Battle of Waterloo put an end to hostilities, the colonial timber preferences caused years of agitation. British merchants sought to have the duties

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19 Adam Shortt and Arthur Doughty, eds., *Canada and Its Provinces* (Toronto, 1914) XIII, p. 139; XIV, p. 599.

20 Albion, *Forests and Sea Power*, pp. 292, 348-349, 353.

21 *Ibid.*, p. 422.

22 James Milnes' memorial, petition, affidavit and license to occupy land on the "River Tony," 1804, 1806, 1809. RG1, Vol. 61, Docs. 52, 53, 54, 60, PANS. It appears that Milnes exported at least twenty cargoes of lumber of 250-800 tons each in 1804-1805. He received a license of occupation but no title to the land. In 1814 his widow, Margaret Milnes, petitioned from Pictou "to be granted a part of the 5000 acres ordered to be reserved for her late husband." RG5, Series P. Vol. 226, Doc. 142, PANS.