

New-Brunswick
Provincial Parliament.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

February 7th.

A Bill to continue an Act, intitled "An Act to continue the Act relating to Church Warden and Vestrymen, and to persons having voices in their elections, so far as relates to the Parish Church of St. Andrews" passed the House.

On motion of Mr. Boyd, The House went into Committee of the whole on the following Bills and agreed to the same:—

A Bill to continue an Act to authorize the Grand Jurors of the several Counties within this Province to inspect the Public Accounts.

A Bill to suspend the operation of certain Acts to provide for Sick and Disabled Seamen so far they relate to the County of Charlotte.

A Bill to suspend the operation of the Act for maintaining Light Houses in the Bay of Fundy, so far as regards Vessels arriving in the County of Charlotte, for a limited period.

Mr. Thompson, presented a Petition from George Fitzgerald, a licensed Teacher, praying to be remunerated for teaching a School in the Parish of St. Stephen, for a period of one year ending in July, 1843; which received and referred to the Committee on School Petitions.

The following Bills passed the House and were taken to the Council by Mr. Boyd:

A Bill to continue an Act, intitled "An Act to regulate the Assize of Bread in the Towns of Saint Andrews and Saint Stephen in the County of Charlotte, and to repeal the Acts now in force relating to the Town of St. Andrews."

Mr. Hill, presented a Petition from Robert Watson, of St. Stephen, praying compensation for his services as Tide Surveyor at that Port.—Referred to the Committee of Supply.

Mr. Boyd, presented a Petition from Wm. Ker, Thomas Turner, and John McKean, Trustees of the Estate of the late James Rait, deceased, praying for the return of certain sums of money alleged to have been paid into the Crown Land Office in the years 1835 and 1836 by the said James Rait and not passed to his credit; the debt due the Crown by the said Rait having been satisfied out of his Estate, under proceedings instituted by the Attorney General; which was referred to a Select Committee, viz. Mr. Boyd, Mr. Hill, and Mr. McLeod.

Mr. Boyd, presented a Petition from David W. Jack, of St. Andrews, in the County of Charlotte, praying additional compensation for his services as Deputy Treasurer at that Port; and that, in the event of the Customs and Treasury Departments being consolidated, a retiring allowance may be granted to him.—Referred to the Committee of Trade.

On motion of Mr. Mark—Resolved, That a humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, praying that His Excellency will be pleased to cause to be laid before this House, a return of the amount of Postage collected at each of the Post Offices during the past year.—The Salaries paid to the several Postmasters and other persons connected with the Post Office; The Salary paid to the Surveyor of the Post Office, and the amount paid to him for travelling charges, and other contingencies of his Office including the rate per diem paid when so travelling.—The annual sum paid to each of the Contractors for carrying the regular Mails, and the number of times such Mails are transmitted weekly; The expenses incurred in forwarding Express Mails, and the names of the places between which such Mails have been forwarded.—With the probable expense of forwarding through this Province the English Mails to and from Canada.

February 10.

A bill to suspend the operation of certain Acts to provide for Sick and Disabled Seamen, so far as they relate to the County of Charlotte, passed.

A bill to continue an Act to authorize the Grand Jurors of the several Counties within this Province to inspect the Public Accounts, passed.

Mr. Boyd, presented a Petition from Thomas Moser, Esquire, Deputy Treasurer, at West Isles, praying an increased allowance for his services, for the reasons set forth in the said Petition; referred to the Committee of Trade.

Mr. Brown, presented a Petition from Robert Hinchings, Robert Spence, James Connick, and 185 others, inhabitants of the County of Charlotte, praying that the late extensive Sale of Crown Lands in the Western part of the Province made to Nehemiah Marks, Esquire, may be cancelled for the reasons set forth in the said Petition; Referred to the Committee appointed on the first day of February instant, to report upon a Petition from John Porter and George M. Porter, of a like prayer.

Mr. Boyd, presented a Petition from the Hon. H. Hatch, J. Wilson, J. H. Whitlock, Esquires, and thirty two others, inhabitants of the Town of Saint Andrews, praying that an Act may pass for the incorporation of a Wharf Fishing-Company at that place; which he read.

Mr. Boyd, brought in a bill to incorporate the Saint Andrews Wharf Fishing Company.—Read a first time.

Mr. Brown presented a Petition from James Allan, John Frankland, Samuel Newcome, and 216 others, inhabitants of the County of Charlotte, praying the passing of an Act to prevent the taking of Fish in Wiers, as at present practised on the Shores of the Islands in those Parishes; which was referred to the Committee on Fisheries.

Mr. Boyd, presented a Petition from the Hon. H. Hatch, with Richard M. Andrews, Robert Walton, and twenty four others, inhabitants of the Town of Saint Andrews in the County of Charlotte, praying for an Act to pass incorporating the Saint Andrews Steam Mills and Manufacturing Company.

Mr. Boyd brought in a bill to incorporate the Saint Andrews Steam Mills and Manufacturing Company, read a first time.

Mr. Brown presented a Petition from Joseph Walton, of Saint Andrews setting forth, that in the year 1835, he made purchase of a Tract of Wilderness Land from the Crown; that on the Survey of a Tract which had been previously made, part of the Land surveyed to the Petitioner, and upon which he paid the purchase money, had been taken from him, and paying remuneration by reason of the less sustained thereby.

Mr. Brown, presented a Petition from Henry Coulter, a licensed Teacher, praying to be remunerated for teaching a School in the Parish of Saint Andrews, for a period of one year.

February 13.

On motion of Mr. Fisher, Resolved, As the opinion of this Committee, that the House should approve of the recent retirement of 4 Members of the Executive Council, on the ground that they could not defend the conduct of the Government in filling up the vacancy which lately occurred in the office of Secretary.

On Motion of Mr. Partelow, Resolved, As the opinion of this Committee, that the recent appointment of Alfred Reade, Esq., Son-in-Law of His Excellency, the Lieut. Governor, a gentleman possessing no claims so distinguished a mark of the Royal patronage, to the important and lucrative office of Provincial Secretary, is an act of great injustice to many individuals resident in the Colony, whose zeal and ability in the public service, have well entitled them to the confidence of the Government and the people, and is contrary to the wishes and feelings and the opinions of Her Majesty's loyal Subjects of this Province.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

10th February.

The Hon. Mr. Johnston, presented the following Petition:—

A Petition from Harris Hatch, Thomas Wier, Richard M. Andrews, Robert Walton and other Inhabitants of Charlotte County, praying for the incorporation of a Company under the style of the St. Andrews Steam Mill and Manufacturing Company.

A Petition from Joseph Moore, of Saint David, be relieved from certain Bonds for Tonnage Duties on Saw Logs.

A Petition from Flora McKenzie of Saint James, for teaching a School in Saint Stephen.

A Petition from Joseph Walton, of Saint Andrews, for losses sustained by a portion of his land previously paid for having been surveyed and set off to another person.

A Petition from Henry Coulter, of Saint Andrews, for teaching a School.

A Petition from Robert Watson, Deputy Treasurer, for services as Tide Surveyor at St. Stephen.

A Petition from Robert Spence, John Spence and James Spence, of the Parish of St. James, praying a return of Stampage Duty.

11th February.

The Hon. Mr. Oken, presented the following Petitions:—

A Petition from George Kay, Alfred Armstrong and others praying no alterations may be made in the Laws in existence for the Fisheries;—and a Petition from Jas. Agnew of the City of St. John, Watchmaker, praying a grant of money may be made to erect an Observatory at the City of St. John.

UNITED STATES.

Congress—Friday, January 31, the Senate did not sit. In the House, a resolution was offered, providing that all debate in Committee of the Whole on the bill to establish a Territorial government in Oregon, shall cease on Saturday. The resolution was carried by yeas 94, nays 65. Mr. Adams spoke an hour with great effect upon the Oregon question, rebuking the precipitancy of the House, and insisting, if the bill under consideration must pass, that a provision should be incorporated in the first section requiring the President to give notice to the British government of our intention no longer to occupy the territory jointly. It was an act necessary to preserve our faith with Great Britain.

Saturday, February 1, Senate not in session. In the House, the bill for the armed occupation of Oregon was amended by inserting a provision to give Great Britain a year's notice, agreeable to the treaty of 1818. The further consideration of the bill was then postponed to Monday. Among the other amendments to the bill was the one proposed by Mr. Winthrop, declaring that slavery should not exist in the territory.

In Senate, Feb. 4, the Oregon bill was referred to the Committee on Commerce. Mr. Archer submitted a report upon the Joint Resolution for the Annexation of Texas to the United States, together with all the memorials and resolutions on the subject, which had been referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations. The Report of the Committee ends with the following resolution, viz:—

Resolved, That the Joint Resolution passed by the House of Representatives, for the Annexation of Texas to the United States, be rejected.

More Annexation.—A Petition has been presented in the House of Representatives, by Mr. Severance, from a number of respectable citizens of the State of Maine, praying for the "re-annexation" of the province of New Brunswick to the United States.

There were built in the city of Cincinnati, in the year 1844, thirty-eight steamboats, with an aggregate of 8248 tons, costing \$538,000.

COMMUNICATION.

For the Standard.

Mr. Editor.—The debate in the House of Assembly on the Petition from this County respecting the recent extraordinary sale of some thirty thousand acres of land on the River Saint Croix, and the defence set up by the Hon. Mr. Wilmot, is worthy of the attention of every man who feels an interest in the welfare and prosperity of the County.

The policy of the "Export Law," may have a beneficial effect in some parts of the Province, and compel foreigners to contribute something to the Revenue, as a small compensation for having the benefit of the British Market for their Lumber; but on the St. Croix, its operation has been most injurious—in a word, everything that was anticipated in this County from its operation, has been more than realized; the warnings so repeatedly urged by our Members in both branches of the Legislature, have been confirmed; and how could it be otherwise? Was it to be supposed, that men who had in "self-defence," purchased lands from Government at an exorbitant price, would cheerfully consent to pay an additional stampage duty? Certainly not. There was nothing to hinder them from evading the export duty, and they had every inducement to do so, their vessels by entering on the other side of the river escaped heavy port charges, their provisions and stores of every description are obtained much cheaper at Calais than at home, (thanks to the heavy duty imposed upon the necessities of life, in the Province, which we have not to spare,) and individuals are not so regardless of their own interest, as to forego such advantages, when most of them looked upon the exaction, as a gross imposition—an infringement of their vested rights; and why was this obnoxious duty necessary? Simply because the "collective wisdom" of the Province, could not devise means for collecting the stampage for Timber cut on Crown Lands! It is true that the whole business connected with the Crown reserves, had for years been managed in the most bungling manner possible. The persons in some instances selected to perform the duties connected with the collection of this revenue, knew but little about it, and the guesswork system, or rather no system of levying the duty, was not likely to improve their skill; so that between granting "cases of monopoly," and guessing at random the quantity cut, (sometimes perhaps according to their private feelings for the party with whom they might be dealing at the moment,) the public domain was likely to prove a sorry concern, but in order to make amends for this gross mismanagement private property must be taxed, and the honest man who had paid for his land must be put upon a footing with the scoundrel who had plundered the Crown land for years, and sometimes without the pretence of having a licence.

Now, I contend that it was, and is, as easy to collect this revenue, as it is to collect any other. The Plan that I would propose is simple and efficient—for every certain number of teams, (say from 6 to 10) the most convenient to each other, I would send a practical sworn Surveyor of Lumber into the woods, whose duty it should be, to mark the births according to each licence, to measure every log fairly and justly entering the length diameter, and other descriptions, in a book kept for that purpose, with the private marks of logs or timber. The stampage of which to be secured when the licence is granted; by this means the stampage would be honestly ascertained, and the difference in the expense from the method formerly pursued, if any, would be more than ten times compensated for, by the additional revenue, as well as the straight-forward-business-like manner that such a system would introduce; the surveyor could likewise prevent anything like trespassing in his district, and see that no unnecessary waste of Timber took place in the woods. This is the plan usually pursued by our neighbours in the State of Maine, and they understand these things pretty well I guess.

A plain system of this kind, would do away with the Machinery of seizing officers, &c. &c., we should not have to behold such extravagant items in the charges of the Crown Land department as \$387 to Jacob Allan, three months labour of a Surveyor in the winter would not exceed \$30 which would make the whole expense from three to four pence per thousand feet for the logs hauled, and then the business is concluded. It would do away with the necessity of selling 30,000 acres of timber land to any individual; and it is most singular, that Col. Marks could guard against trespassers and that the Government of the Province with all its powers could not; the defence of the Government set up by Mr. Wilmot in the House of Assembly, is anything but satisfactory and proves the want of a prudent, simple, efficient, administration of the Crown Land Department, in its various operations throughout the Province, from first to last.

The Members of Assembly who understand these things, should set about correcting the evil; they cannot expect the Surveyor General to understand those things, as well as a practical Lumberman, and his deputies are generally too much interested in continuing the old practice, to point out the necessity of a change.

Yours, &c.

HONESTAS

Charlotte County, Feb. 17th, 1845.

The city of St. John, is still infested with a band of miscreants. It appears that they have re-commenced their foul deeds, by attacking a man in the employment of Messrs. Harris & Allen, and beating him severely, quite early a few evenings since.

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THE STANDARD.

St. Andrews, Wednesday, Feb. 19, 1845

Charlotte County Bank.

Hon. HARRIS HATCH, President.

T. B. WILSON, Esq., Solicitor.

Director next week—J. W. Street.

Discount Day—TUESDAY.

Hours of Business, from 10 to 2.

Bills and Notes for Discount must be lodged with the Cashier, on or before Monday, otherwise they must lie over until next week.

Savings and Work House.

Commissioners—R. M. Andrews, H. Walton, C. A. Babcock, Thos. Turner, John Bailey.

Saint Stephens Bank.

G. D. KING Esq., President.

Director next week—John Marks.

Discount Day—SATURDAY.

Hours of business, from 10 to 1.

Bills and Notes for Discount must be lodged with the Cashier, on or before Friday, otherwise they must remain in his hands until the following discount day.

LATEST DATES

Liverpool, Jan. 4 Montreal, Feb. 7
London, Jan. 3 Quebec, Feb. 7
Edinburgh, Jan. 1 Halifax, Feb. 14
Paris, Jan. 1 New York, Feb. 14
Toronto, Feb. 7 Boston, Feb. 14

First Page.—Jack Robinson's Letter.—Despatches relative to the application to make St. Stephen a Free Port, &c.

OREGON TERRITORY.—We learn from the New York Albion, that "A bill has passed the House of Representatives of the United States, authorizing the General Government to take possession of the entire Oregon Territory, without regard to treaties made without respect to the rights of another nation." This announcement rather takes us by surprise; although recent experience at least, had taught us what unjust and extravagant claims are sometimes set forth by the neighbouring republic. We never heard before of their claiming the territory any farther north than the 49th parallel of latitude, and that was evidently gained in the spirit of Yankee bargaining, or demanding much more than they knew was right or expected to receive; but now it seems they must have the whole territory, and that by forcible possession! The object of this extraordinary measure is obvious. "We have only," say they, "to take possession of the territory, as was done by the inhabitants of Maine, in the north-east boundary affair, and England will at once be forced to make any compromise." After the matter is settled we can parade a map drawn by Franklin or some other, showing that we have "no claim whatever to the country in dispute, and how finely we have swindled the British." We trust the British Government will not be wheedled into a sacrifice of their just rights this time. The Americans will find that sending troops a five or six months journey through an inhospitable wilderness, is quite a different thing from seizing a territory adjacent to Maine; and if they are disposed to send them by sea, round Cape Horn, they will probably discover this to be a game which affords ample scope for two to play.

The bill which has passed the House of Representatives, has not yet passed the Senate, and probably will not. If however it should pass the three branches and be carried into effect, war is inevitable. Britain could never succumb to such, contemptuous treatment as this in any case, or from any nation; and much less might we expect her to yield in a case where she can easily defend her rights against the whole world.—Brother Jonathan we presume will think twice before he tries this experiment.

The British claim all the Oregon Territory lying between the Rocky Mountains and the Pacific Ocean, from the mouth of the Columbia River which is about 46 degrees north latitude, to the 55th parallel of north latitude nearly, comprising a country more than 600 miles in length and more than 400 miles in breadth. It is irrigated by numerous rivers, has a coast indented with bays and harbours, and is destined to become a country of great importance.

There is an excellent article in the Albion on this subject from the pen of Adam Thom Esq., 'Recorder of Ruperts Land,' the conclusion of which we here copy.

CONCLUSION.—To sum up the claims of the Americans and the English under the different heads, Convention gives the whole of the disputed territory to England by a title paramount to all the pretensions of civilized jurisprudence, while it gives to America literally nothing, whether in the restitution of Astoria, or in the treaty of 1819. Continuity, even if admissible as a makeshift, runs the line up the Lower Columbia, and between the waters of the two great branches. Settlement is conclusive in favor of England through the whole length and breadth of the country, while with regard to America it results merely in the strongest of all possible waivers—uniform and universal abandonment. Discovery is decisive in favour of England as to the Southern Valleys, the Northern Valleys (excepting Bullfinch's Harbour), and as to the right bank of the Lower Columbia with the basin of the northern branch, while, even if not altogether forfeited, by the delay not merely of enforcing the claim, but even of making it, it requires to be liberally constructed in order to

give in any sense to America what it does not exclusively give to England.

England, therefore, will forego much of her equal rights, if she consent to draw the common boundary of the Lower Columbia to the fork, and thence along the height of land that separates the two great branches of that river.

But though England (for there are limits even to the noblest magnanimity) may sacrifice her equal rights, yet she cannot consistently sacrifice her exclusive claims, any more than America is justified by a generally excusable sensitiveness in urging so unreasonable a demand.

Finally, in England the value of the disputed territory is very much underrated.—The southern half, it is true, will never be worth much to the Americans, whether as a nation of individuals; for its only two harbours are hardly good for anything; and it is doubtless a consciousness of this, that prompts Gray's countrymen, even while boasting of his discoveries, to covet a footing in defence of the tenth commandment, on the Strait of Fuca.—But the northern half, with its countless nests of natural harbours, is destined to be the ruler of the Pacific; and of all the colonies there is not one that is so likely to become a congenial nursing as the screened and serrated coasts of the North-west Archipelago.

Annexation of New Brunswick to the State of Maine.—The Americans seem determined to "go ahead" as far as annexation is concerned. Texas, Oregon, Canada, New Brunswick, are all to be annexed to the United States forthwith. A petition for the special annexation of our Province to Maine, has been presented in the Legislature of that State. A debate with closed doors will have taken place before this time, and a force armed with "bean poles and cornstalks," to take possession of the Province, may be shortly expected. Our wise men in Fredericton may save themselves the trouble of inveighing against the Governor and the Secretary; we soon will have the glorious privilege of electing our Governor and Secretary too, according to the well understood wishes of the "unwashed and the unlearned." It is uncertain yet whether the boundary line will follow the projected canal, or whether it will extend from the head of the Basin of Mines to the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

THE SECRETARYSHIP.—An interesting and animating debate on the subject of Mr. Reade's appointment to the Provincial Secretaryship, commenced in the House of Assembly on Monday the 10th, and was not concluded on Wednesday evening. Several different sets of Resolutions have been offered, two of which will be found in our columns, but whether any of them have passed we have not yet been able to learn. So far as we have seen, there appears to be a decided disapproval of Mr. Reade's appointment, and a disposition to justify the retirement of the ex-councillors; but whether a vote of want of confidence in the councillors who remain in the Executive, will be passed is by no means certain.

So far as we have received the reported speeches, some difference of opinion on the subject of Responsible Government seems to be entertained by the hon. members who oppose the appointment of Secretary. Mr. Reid expresses himself decidedly and fearlessly, and is determined to have Responsible Government in the fullest sense of the term. There is a close resemblance between his opinions, and those of Messrs. Wilmot, Fisher and Hill, that they have proposed resolutions somewhat differently expressed. Mr. Hazen expressed views differing slightly from those of the gentlemen just mentioned. He does not think the present state of the Province such as to warrant the practice of obliging Heads of Departments to become members of the Executive Council. Mr. Wilmot's speech contained some pretty severe reflections on the conduct of the councillors yet holding office.

Upon the whole there is little doubt that a majority of the House will approve of the ex-councillors, and condemn the appointment to the Secretaryship. It is probable that a vote of want of confidence in the present Executive, will also be passed. The result will, in all probability be the resignation of office by Mr. Reade, or the dissolution of the House of Assembly by the Governor.

If the latter event takes place it will certainly cause some excitement, and a good deal of trouble throughout the Province, and it is to be hoped that some arrangement will yet be made for a more speedy and peaceful adjustment of the difficulties.

Since writing the above we have received the following intelligence. The debate respecting the Secretaryship was concluded on Thursday afternoon. Mr. Fisher's resolutions were negatived by a majority of 3 in a full House. Mr. Hill's resolution was then taken up and rejected by a majority of 11; the House still being full. Mr. Reid's resolutions were also negatived by a majority of 13, the members being all present. Mr. Partelow then brought forward his resolution which may be seen in another column, to which Mr. Fisher moved an amendment, simply approving of the late resignations. The amendment passed by a vote of 27 to 5; the yeas being Allen, Gilbert, Thompson, Boyd and Payne. The resolution was then offered, and passed by a vote of 19 to 13 being a majority of 6. It is said that 13 of the minority would have voted otherwise had no reference been made in the resolution to the present Secretary's being a relative of the Governor, which would have given a majority of twelve.

One curious feature in the business, is that while a majority of the Assembly in condemning the disputed appointment, put into practice Responsible to no inconsiderable extent, yet they have thrown out every resolution in which reference to Responsible Government was made.—We could have thought that this was done because the working of Responsible Government was now generally admitted, and a specific reference to it on this occasion was therefore unnecessary; but not Mr. Fisher proposed a resolution to this effect, which was rejected by a large majority. Some of the members who voted for the Responsible Government resolutions, also

voted in favour of the resignation of the Secretary. It is worthy of notice, that if of want of confidence in the present Executive, they are thus. This is all very well, but we do not see how the House would then and there, and the point now, can hardly be to be a moderate, and no more in the Province, will be prepared.

The Governor has appointed the couple were to imagine the no objections month during a five dollar

CURIOUS C. sorted, that of the World arise; then we stand on the This has been following 900,000 Adm to the much) and 3 there would quoted.

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