

COLONIAL LEGISLATURE

House of Assembly, Tuesday, April 26, 1853.

EXPORT DUTY ON JUNIPER KNEES.

House in Committee of Supply.—Hon. Mr. Jardine, in the Chair.

Hon. Mr. WHELAN, with reference to the Petition of John Frost, Pitt Rivers, Edward Saville, and John Matherson, praying that no additional export-duty might be imposed upon Juniper knees, and that the period for exportation might be extended beyond the 1st of July next—which Petition was presented to the House, by the Hon. gentleman, on Saturday, 22, April, and respecting which, it was ordered that it should be referred to the Committee of the whole House, in consideration of the Bill for raising a Revenue—said, It is true that two or three of the subscribers are citizens of the United States, but I hold that that fact affords no argument against our complying with the prayer of the Petition; for these foreigners, having resided amongst us, and by their outlay and investment of capital in the Island—in the case of some of them to the amount of £2000 or £3000—having stimulated and recomposed the industry of many of our people, ought to be regarded as friends and benefactors of the Colony; and held as fairly entitled, under such circumstances as those set forth in the Petition, to have their interests protected to the extent prayed for by them, as if they were our countrymen and fellow subjects. I will maintain that, with respect to the Petitioners, the laying on of the extra duty is an unjust imposition. Two of them have been embarked in the speculation, to the amount of £2000, and another of them, Mr. Frost, all that he has in the world. They had done so in the reasonable belief that the duty would not be increased. One hon. member (Mr. Montgomery) has said that duty of 1s would not injure the parties; but I maintain that even that duty would be felt as a very serious injury by them. Other hon. members had said that so small a duty would make but a very small addition to the Revenue; why then, I ask, should it be imposed at all? The hon. member for Belfast (Mr. Davies) had strongly insisted on the injury which would be done to the ship-building industry, by allowing a free exportation of juniper knees; but I reply that, as our ship-builders will not enter into a fair competition for the purchase of them, it would be very unjust to prevent persons who have them on hand for sale from disposing of them in the most advantageous market. We have been told that the ship-building business is improving, and that our farmers will wait for them, in the end, he is able to sell all the juniper on their farms to the ship-builders on the Island. A good time, is coming, we are told, and the farmers must wait for it. But how long must they wait I should like to know. Must they wait and starve? Must they wait until they become so burdened with arrears of rent and other debts, that they can no longer keep possession of their farms? The hon. gentleman concluded by saying, I will move that all relating to Juniper knees be struck out of the Bill.

Hon. Mr. CATS. When I saw so many hon. members in favor of a high export-duty, I said I thought it would be better to prohibit the exportation altogether; but, it must be confessed that such legislation is not in accordance with free-trade principles. It is said, by the advocates of the high duty, that it will be better for the treasury to be obliged to business up the resources which they have in juniper timber, until the time shall arrive when the demand for it, for ship-building purposes, in the Island, will ensure them good prices for it. But I should like to know when that time will arrive. How long will the treasury wait for it? We want free-trade as well as all, I think, agreed that nothing will tend more to the immediate and profitable opening up of the resources of the Colony, than free-trade with the United States; and, yet, by such legislation as this, we are consenting to throw a barrier in the way against it. As to those who shew an agricultural labour to work in ship-yards, I am persuaded they obtain no lasting or substantial benefit by it. On the contrary, they frequently become so unsettled in their habits, through it, as to be quite unable afterwards, to settle down to any employment, or to succeed in any of the ordinary occupations of the country, which are qualifications indispensably requisite. Look to those who came to Charlottetown, to work for £2 a month. What will be their ultimate gain? Or, rather, will they not, in the end, find themselves in much less desirable circumstances, than they would have been in, if they devoted themselves to agricultural pursuits; for, although the remuneration and benefits arising from such pursuits may not be immediate, yet they eventually prove, not only the most certain, but the most substantial? If, in fact, in my opinion, have been a benefit to the colony, if there had not been all the number of ship-yards in the Island that there have been. Instead of having contributed to the agricultural prosperity of the country, they have greatly retarded it; and, if the comparison be fairly made between those who have, for years, worked in ship-yards, and those who have steadily devoted their energies to the improving of their farms, it will be found that the latter are possessed of much more substance, comfort, and respectability, than the former. Until the late rise in the price of ships, good workmen, in ship-yards, were paid no more than £2 a month; and, out of their present wages, £2 a month, they were drawn down to be duly considered, it will be found that it is scarcely possible for them to save any thing out of them, even admitting them to be paid in cash. The Americans have been paying as much as 10s. a piece for our juniper knees; and our ship-builders will not allow more than 2s. 6d. for an exportation of juniper knees, which would be ten years, or more, before the juniper now on hand would be worked up in the Island. We are, I am convinced, moving in the wrong direction. We have sown free-trade principles. Let us adhere to them; and honestly and earnestly seek ourselves of every opportunity to give them effect; for, by the adoption of no other policy on the general prosperity of the country be so well, and with so much certainty, advanced and secured. Why should the interests of ship-builders be more especially protected than those of any other class? It would be quite as wise to protect the exportation of barley, with a view to the especial benefit of brewers. If we determine upon any prohibition at all, let us confine it to the Crown Lands, with respect to which we have an unquestionable right to exercise a discretionary legislative power, either for the imposition of restrictions, or for their removal. I move, therefore, that the prohibitory part of the clause be rescinded, with a view to its being rescinded.

legislation! For the purpose of encouraging a few ship-builders, we must, for sooth, drive our wealthy neighbours, the Yankees, from our shores—they who, by their dollars and Indian meal, have often given employment and food to thousands of our population. What right have we to say, "John you must not sell your bay; you must feed your cattle with it; and you must beat them with your straw; your cattle will be improved by it, and so will your farm." William, you must not sell your beef or pork; you must give it to your children; they will be all the able to contend with the hardships which this Island presents to agriculturists." This language might sound very sweetly in a man's ear provided they addressed it to him could, enable him to put it into practice; but laudable as the theory may be, it cannot be carried into effect. Our farmers, generally speaking, are obliged to sell their bay, and feed their cattle with straw; and to sell their beef, mutton, and pork, and live—they and their children—on the scanty supply of fish which they can find means to purchase. And, with all these things staring us in the face, we propose to lay to the poor farmer, "You shall not cut down your timber. We will not allow you to destroy the forest. Mr. Wigham intends to carry on ship-building, and his sons will carry it on after him. Mr. Yeo, and other gentlemen of his trade and calling must be protected. The men now on great-wood farms must expect to figure in a society as independent farmers; they must live and struggle on in the bush, and husband the juniper for the sole use of the ship-builders. The Hon. the Treasurer with a slang peculiar to himself ridicules the Petitioners; and, oh! how he spurs us on, he tells us that the Certificate signed by the ship-builders, is only a hoax upon the Petitioners. He it is: But to what a pretty pass are the people come by their returning a number of ship-builders to this House, when, in consequence of their having done so, they are now the necessity of asking permission for those who, legally and constitutionally speaking, are their servants, to make sale of a few pieces of timber which grow on the land for which they are paying rent! Some of the gentlemen who now advocate this species of robbery, for it is robbery, for it is taking property from those who are to be deplored; but, if they were canvassing these poor men for their votes, to obtain seats in the Assembly, they would speak very politely to them, and style them "Gentlemen Electors." But, as connected with the question under consideration, they are, in the estimation of these hon. gentlemen, nothing but stupid bores—so ignorant that they know not how to turn their own property to any good or profitable account, unless the House shall condescend to enlighten and direct them. We take out of the Public Revenue, money, for the support of every institution in the Colony; and, in particular, the parties who are engaged either in ship-building or in Sailing Vessels, or who have vessels employed in the fisheries, are all drawing something, for their encouragement and support, from the public purse; and yet so selfishly unreasonable and unjust are their pretensions, that they cannot be content, unless the treasury shall be deprived of the privilege of selling their timber to those who will give them the best price for it, and compelled to keep it until it shall suit them to buy it at their own price.

Hon. Mr. LOM. Now, I have turned the question over in my mind, and duly considered the condition of the tenant-farmer, it certainly does appear to me, that he ought to be at perfect liberty to sell or dispose of all his timber, growing upon his land, just as he himself may please, and as it may appear to him to be most for his own individual benefit; and, as the best cash market will, undoubtedly, be that to which, in the exercise of his free-will, he will give the preference, to the end that he may procure money for the payment of his rent, and for the purchase of family supplies on the most advantageous terms, I do not think that his being out from such a cash market, by the imposition of prohibitory duties, he will have abundant reason to accuse us of unjust and unequal legislation. I think, therefore, we had better not interfere at all with respect to such poor men. Our farmers are very differently circumstanced from those of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. In those Provinces they are all freeholders; and such regulations and restrictions as may, in them, work equally and fairly, would operate unequally and unfairly, if enforced upon the tenant-farmer, who is the great majority of our farmers are tenants. In my own unprejudiced opinion, this country is best adapted to agriculture; and I therefore, think the sooner it is cleared of its timber, the better it will be for the general interests; for then agriculture will be prosecuted with more energy as it ought to be. I will not vote for the proposed increase of the export-duty; but for the old duty of 3d. It would, indeed, be most unfair, now that a great quantity of knees have been prepared for exportation, in the reasonable belief that there would be an increase of the export-duty, to impose such a higher rate as that proposed, and thereby to deprive men of those fruits of their labor, the realization and enjoyment of which they had most reasonably contemplated. The Americans have, in some cases, been giving as much as 10s. a piece for our juniper knees, and £50 for 100 knees; and that is what no Island ship-builder would do. I would allow a duty of 3d. a knee on all now out down and ready for exportation; and in a knee on all afterwards prepared, dating from 1st July. The object of the prohibitory duty is to serve for individuals engaged in the ship-building business. They are, it is true, highly respectable men, and I respect them much myself; but I cannot think it right that, for their benefit, a prohibitory duty should be imposed, the effect of which would be to shut out poor men—poor tenants, having to pay for sterling, or more, per acre for their farms from the only really good or desirable market they can find for their juniper.

man, Mr. Longworth, and other hon. members, all steadily adhered to their views of the question, as declared by them, on 21st March, when the House sat in Committee on *Wages and Means*, and as already reported, and briefly reiterated the arguments used by them, on that occasion, in support of their opinions.

The Chairman having put the question on the motion of the Hon. Mr. Coles for striking out the prohibitory part of the clause under consideration, it was agreed to; and the prohibitory part was struck out accordingly.

Hon. Mr. WHELAN proposed that the blank should be filled up with 3d.

On this motion, the Committee divided—Yeas, 9—Nays, 10; so it was lost.

Hon. Mr. WHELAN then moved, that all having reference to Juniper knees be struck out of the Bill.

On this motion the Committee divided—Yeas, 8—Nays, 10; so it was lost.

It was then agreed that the blank should be filled up with 1s.

R. B. Irvine, Reporter.

FULL PARTICULARS IN DETAIL OF THE MONTREAL RIOT.

(Correspondence of the Halifax Daily Star.)

MONTREAL, June 15th, 1853.

The last has been an eventful week, both at Quebec and Montreal, not only on account of the domestic sorrow, bereavement and calamity which have been inflicted, but because a spirit of hostility has been aroused particularly in this city, which years will not efface, and which the slightest incitement will again call forth into energetic action. The correctness of the past week I shall now communicate in a succinct and impartial manner.

Last Saturday evening, Signore Gavazzi, at one time a Monk in Italy, where he officiated as such for twenty years, and who has been Lecturing in New York upon the ceremonies of the Roman Catholic Church and the authority of the Pope, delivered a similar Lecture at the Wesleyan Church at Quebec, where the meeting, which was numerous and respectable, met with no interruption; and on the Monday following he proceeded to deliver another at the Free Scotch Church in that city.

During the Lecture, a statement to the effect that the Clergy in Ireland were the instigators of rebellion and opposition to the government of England, was conducted by one among the audience, which was the signal for an assault upon the church from the outside, and a portion of the mob effected an entrance, which was followed by an attack upon the lecturer, at whom stones were hurled, and attempts were made by several persons to get him out of the pulpit, which for a length of time he manfully resisted, knocking down his assailants with a chair and subsequently with a stool—in which he was assisted by a sergeant of the Royal Artillery, one of the audience. At length, however, he was thrown over the pulpit, falling on the heads of the crowd beneath, he sustained little injury. His secretary was not quite so fortunate, and was severely injured.

During all this time, the police were in attendance, but without being able to check these outrageous proceedings; and it was not till a party of troops was called out, that order was restored, and Gavazzi was enabled to reach Russell's hotel, where he was protected during the remainder of the night by the soldiery. No lives were lost during this outbreak, in which it appears the Protestants took no part, although they appear to feel sensibly this attack upon the religion which they profess.

I arrived at Montreal on Thursday morning, and being satisfied that a disturbance would take place on the evening of that day, when Signore Gavazzi was to lecture at one of the churches of the city, I deemed it my duty, in connection with the American press, to remain and witness the proceedings. For this purpose, I repaired at six o'clock to the church, and, having paid the entrance fee, succeeded in obtaining a seat near the pulpit just as the lecture was being commenced. The Congregation was very much excited, and anticipating an attack on the church, had brought with them fire-arms, which were distributed near the entrance of the building.

The audience repeatedly cheered vehemently as the lecturer proceeded—of whose address it is unnecessary to speak particularly, as it was in substance much the same as has been fully reported and extensively circulated in the columns of the N. Y. Herald and other American papers. Eventually the officers were answered without delay, and I committed to memory a police force of about fifty men were drawn up in front of the church. At length the mob attempted to force an entrance, and instantly there was a commotion in the church, several rushing towards the door, by whom the assailants were repulsed.

CLEANING FROM LATE PAPERS.

EXTRAORDINARY EFFECT OF ELECTRICITY.—A French paper says, that a most extraordinary effect, produced by electricity, has just happened in one of the electric telegraph offices in France. A gentleman employed in one of the principal offices was in communication with one of his colleagues, when the electric wire for the purpose of transmitting intelligence happened to relax, and to come in contact with his arm. The electric current was passing through it, and the current sustained a violent shock, which, raising him from his chair, violently threw him through a window opening on a garden. When he recovered his senses, he could only be convinced of it, by perceiving that his hair and beard, which were previously of a beautiful jet-black, had become in various places as white as snow.

A VULNERABLE PATRIOT.—An anti-slavery dinner in Connecticut, the address of the women of England to those in America was filed on the table with the 36 folio volumes of signatures. One journal says—"It formed a pyramid as sublime, if not as high, as that of Cheops. Whoever looks through a volume or two of it will perceive that a spirit is beginning to pervade the moral fabric of the civilized world, which will make slaveholding as uncomfortable as sleeping-stake, to say the least."

BETTER PAY ON EMIGRATION.—Extract from a letter, written by the Bishop of Melbourne, dated Feb. 10, 1853.—"Many of our recent immigrants are, I am sorry to say, suffering great privations and much distress from sickness and want of house accommodation. It is a strange, that so great ignorance and want of consideration or judgment should prevail as to the condition of Victoria, and the opening it affords for settlers from the old country. My heart bleeds for many of those who bring letters of introduction to me, but for whom I can do nothing, save to multiply this—a young colony, and, especially a gold-producing colony, wants a large number of strong arms and skillful hands, but it wants comparatively few well-furnished heads or fluent tongues. Above all, it is not the place for training persons of any kind of business; there is no time for that; every one here must be doing, not learning to do his work."

NEW ZEALAND.—Advices from New Zealand to the 6th April state that coal of superior quality had been found on the shores of the Ocholek sea, in long. 156 E.

UNITED STATES.

THE CAPITAL OF THE UNITED STATES IN FAVOUR OF TEMPERANCE.—The question of License or no License was voted in the City of Washington, on the 1st Monday of the present month, by the vote of the Citizens, and the result of the ballot was nearly two thirds of the voters in favour of NO LICENSE. The *Lexington Files Journal* gives the following interesting sketch of the late Temperance movement in Washington.

"The fact will doubtless create some astonishment throughout the country, but nevertheless it is a fact, that the citizens of Washington yesterday decided, by a vote of nearly three to one, to put down the liquor traffic, by electing on the 1st Monday of the present month, by the vote of the Citizens, and the result of the ballot was nearly two thirds of the voters in favour of NO LICENSE. The *Lexington Files Journal* gives the following interesting sketch of the late Temperance movement in Washington.

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animal to which they belong variously apply, allied in a minor and some other extinct countries; but belonging now extinct birds, which are the Quails and Snipe, who of England and the continent largest tooth of the present equals in dimensions, and in form, those of the Megalonyx whose bones are found in the and which surpassed in magnitude of structure the large diles. The smaller teeth of the *coloboceros*, an ally of the lower conglomerate of Bristol, England. Although not so complete as on record, such remains in the old world to be of the same geological sandstone of P. E. Island, if they have hitherto been found any part of the American continent. Additional information is given; and renders it probable that the comparative size of the teeth of the Megalonyx, and that of the *coloboceros*, are of the same geological sandstone of P. E. Island, if they have hitherto been found any part of the American continent. 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