himself—or, what was much the same—to two of his neighbours. He knew of a case where the work was done according to contract, when to his (Hon. Mr. Partelow's) certain knowledge but three inches thickness of gravel was laid on the surface instead of a foot.

Mr. Brown said this Bill ought not be lightly thrown out. At all events, after this debate a new light would go forth over the country. No one in the country knew until now that the Commissioners were exempt from the law. For his part he had not the slightest idea of it; and he would ask the hon. member for Sunbury, if he had. (Mr. Hayward—"No.") He had always supposed the Commissioners were liable; but he would know for the future that they are not. He considered it a monstrous injustice for any man to be exempt, from suits, or any liability arising as a contracting party. They should not have Commissioners so placed that the law could not reach them. What was the fact? they now had Commissioners whom the law could not touch; they might enter into contracts, promise to pay the money when the work is done, they refuse to pay it, and if sued the action will not lie. He would not do anything to prevent petitions being sent to this House—people could still petition if necessary. But he would have the law accord fair play to all, and let the agents be liable for the due fulfilment of their agreements. He could now guess how it was that the poor man in Charlotte had to petition that House for pay for a gunboat he built in the last war—he could not sue the agent. It was not fair, it was not justice for the Government to name Commissioners, and for those persons to be exempt from all liability for their acts.

Mr. Wark said if, under the present system, a member of that House recommended a person to act as Commissioner, and he did not perform his duties properly, it was very easy to get him dismissed. But they might with the same propriety, enact a law making the Clerk of any mercantile establishment liable for a debt contracted for his master, as to enact a law making public officers liable; neither of them were interested.—Were a Bill brought in making the Government liable to be sued, he should not object to it, for then the officers could be brought in as witnesses. He believed that under the existing laws a parish could be sued for the acts of an Overseer. He agreed with the hon. member for Carleton, that Commissioners often showed too much leniency. If this Bill should pass, and the Commissioners were liable to be sued, who would be called upon as witnesses? If A, for making fifty rods of road, sued the Commissioner, B, who had the next fifty rods to make, would he called to testify whether the road was finished according to contract. He thought the law very good as it stands, and should therefore oppose the Bill.

The House then divided on a motion to postpone the Bill three months; *Ayes*, Honorable, Messrs. Speaker, Attorney General, Partelow, Hazen, Hannington, Montgomery, and McLeod, and Messrs R. D. Wilmot, Z. Earle, J. Earle, Woodward, Ritchie, Botsford, Jordan, Connell, Steves, Taylor, Wark, and Carman; 19. *Nays*, Hon. Mr. Baillie, and Messrs. End, Brown, Boyd, Thompson, Porter, Cranney, Reed, Gilbert, Smith and Landry; 10. The Bill was therefore lost.

The House went into Committee on a Bill authorizing the Mayor and Commonalty of the City of Saint John, to purchase land for the purpose of enlarging the Country Market. Passed without debate.

The House went in Committee of Supply, and passed several of the ordinary grants. On the grant to the Librarian coming coming up, Hon. Mr. Hazen took occasion to complain that the inhabitants of Fredericton, having access to the Library through the recess, did not pay the Librarian for his trouble,—the House paying him for his services during the Session. He also complained of several books having been defaced, by those who have had them out of the Library.—Messrs. Partelow, Ritchie, and Boyd, took a similar view, and all joined with Mr. Hazen in advocating that the Library should be closed during the recess. Messrs. Baillie, End, Street, and others took the opposite view of the case.—They thought that the House should pay the Librarian an equivalent for his services—that it was too small a matter to expect the Frederictonians to pay a portion of the Librarian's Salary—and the slight damage done a few of the Books was compensated by the diffusion of knowledge. This is the outline of a discussion which—as there was no motion, and as it could lead to no decision—we did not report.—*Rep.*)

Mr. Brown would ask the hon. members of the Government if they had prepared, or if they intended to submit any scheme relative to the Ways and Means of raising a Revenue; and if they had no intention of submitting a Government scheme, he hoped the House would go on after their usual practice.

Hon. Mr. Partelow said he was not prepared to answer the questions put by the hon. member for Charlotte, but that he would reply on the following day.

Mr. R. D. Wilmot said this was a matter of the greatest importance. The time was come when they must adopt some financial scheme, and not be governed any longer by the expediency of the moment. This was rendered the more imperative by the despatch lately laid before them, from the Colonial Secretary, under which they were not allowed to impose any duties, unless they taxed their fellow subjects as much as they taxed other people. If the British ministry went on thus the affections of the people would be alienated, add we should not long be Colonies. It was now time to speak out. If no other hon member took it up, he (Mr. Wilmot) would endeavour to bind the House down to a resolution either to adopt a protective policy, or vice versa. Under the present system the goods which the poor man cannot do without, and of which they are the principal consumers, were heavily taxed, although they were such articles as this Colony will not produce.

Saturday, Feb. 17.

Mr. Woodward moved a resolution for an address to His Excellency, calling for returns from the Clerks of the several Counties of the value of real and personal property assessed. The resolution was opposed upon the ground that the information would form no correct data whereon to found any act of legislation, as in some parishes property was supposed to be rated at its full value, and in others at only two-thirds of its value. It was also argued that as the census was about to be taken shortly, which would furnish much more correct information, it would be useless trouble. To this Mr. Woodward rejoined, that he was surprised hon. members should attempt to prevent information from being obtained; it was a thing he had never done during his parliamentary practice. That the time was approaching when it would be found necessary to raise a revenue by direct taxation, and these returns would form the best basis they could at present procure.—The resolution was negatived by a division of 10 to 9

CITY DEBT.

The House went in Committee of the whole on a Bill to facilitate a loan to pay off the debt of the City St. John.

Hon. Mr. Hazen said hon. members were aware that the City of St. John was in debt.—This Bill was to provide for the negotiation of a loan, in England or elsewhere, to pay off that debt, the said loan to be guaranteed by the Province. The City had immense property, valued at not less than £200,000 which would be pledged to the Province to ensure them for the guarantee. Some years ago, in consequence of prosecuting public works, such as cutting down the Streets, &c., a debt was accumulated until it amounted to upwards of £115,000. A law was then passed by the Legislature, which authorized a tax of five per cent on all the property in the City, to secure the interest of this debt, six per cent, which was now secured to Trustees.—Notwithstanding the pressure of the times lately, it was found that the credit of the city was sustained. But if this Bill passed the Corporation could hire the money in England at a smaller rate of interest, and thus effect a great saving. They wanted simply a guarantee from the Province. Every hon. member could see that the Province would never be called on to pay the money, as the City property, worth £200,000 would be ample security; all they wanted was that the public faith might be pledged in their behalf for the sum of £120,000. This was the Bill, and if any further information was wanted, he would willingly give it.

Mr. End did not like the Bill. He was afraid. He did not see how the Province was to be secured, if the City should fail to pay the annual interest. (An hon. member—"Tax the inhabitants.") The Corporation had done wrong, and done much towards placing the City in its present embarrassed circumstances, by granting leases in perpetuity. This had not been done until a few years since, and he believed it to be illegal—that they exceeded their power when they did so. He was willing to do all he could to retrieve St. John, but he was afraid to support such a measure as this, because it was partial legislation—assisting one community without the consent of another. If he supported this measure, he feared his constituents would say to him, "You have done all you could for St. John, regardless of the claims of other parts of the Province, and you have not taken a sufficient guarantee for what you have done." And a proper guarantee was the more necessary, in consequence of the past conduct of the Corporation, for they had not acted in a common sense manner. He saw an hon. member for the County St. John, (Mr. Rithie,) looking daggers at him as he said this; but that hon. member might recollect a case in that House which he said should be handled without gloves,—a sporting phrase which he supposed meant that a knock down without gloves hurt the person struck. Well, then, they must handle this without gloves also. The members from St. John, however, were not so pugilistic since those Trustees were appointed. Trustees!—Trustees! The law says a Deputy cant appoint a Deputy—Trustees cant appoint Trustees; but here was the Corporation of a City, who were only Trustees themselves, making over that property to the care of other Trustees. It was but yesterday that he heard certain hon. members say the Province ought no not dabble in stocks; well, then, let them not dabble in this, for this was stock of the worst kind! He would not be drilled to support the Bill, but should oppose it.

Mr. Boyd could not go for the Bill. It looked very like a measure to prevent the Bill passing the House which provided for the issuing of scrip in aid of the St. Andrews Railway. If this Bill passed, the House would have no funds to improve internal navigation, of or anything else. He hoped hon. members would before they entertained any measure like this, for all their trouble in St. John was the result of gross mismanagement.—It was no wonder the City was in debt, for the advertisement of their property in one of the papers could not cost less than five or six pounds a week.

Mr. Ritchie said certainly hon. members could not understand the Bill. The House was probably about to ask England to guarantee for for them, for money for other purposes, and should they say to their own people what we expect England to do for us we will not do for you, although you offer us good security! Hon. members might talk about bad management, but the circumstances of the City differed now from what they formerly were, when the debt was incurred. At that time there was no restriction to prevent the Corporation from running into debt, nor did the people know anything about the amount of the debts contracted. At length the Corporation were brought to a stand still—they could go no further, and were compelled to place all of the City property in the hands of Trustees to secure the creditors. The Corporation now could not add to the debt of the City without special leave from the Legislature. The Bill before the House provided that all the property of the City, valued now at £200,000, and likely to be doubled and trebled in value in the course of a few years, should be pledged to the Province as security for guaranteeing the loan; in addition to which a clause was inserted giving the Province the right to assess all the property in Saint John to make up any possible deficiency.—Surely that was security enough. The Bill merely asked that the faith of the Province might be pledged, in order that capitalists in England might come forward and advance the loan at a lower rate of interest than it could be obtained for under ordinary circumstances. That was the proper view to take of the subject. Without this guarantee the English capitalist would have no security, as the Legislature of this Province might enact a law preventing the property of the City from being sold. He hoped hon. members would think favourably of the measure, and exhibit kindly feelings towards the City of St. John; as this Bill, should it pass, would effect a great saving of interest. In reference to the past, a great deal of good had been done in cutting down the rocks in the public streets, &c. Still he thought that more should have been done with so much money. But they were coming into a better state of things, and he was disposed to let bygones be bygones. He hoped they would help the City out of its present difficulty—especially as there was not the slightest risk in doing so—and prevent the Trustees from forcing the property into the market now, (and they could do so at any moment,) and selling it at a sacrifice. He hoped hon. members would look at the subject in this its true light, and enable the City to retain this beautiful property, which was every year increasing in value.

Hon. Mr. Hannington said, if they looked at this matter thoroughly, they must come to the conclusion that, if the Bill passed the Province would have to pay the money. He did not know why the house should interfere between debtor and creditor in the City of St. John. Would the constituencies of other sections of the Province approve of it? What security had they for the repayment of the money, if St. John should not pay the interest, and the Province be obliged to advance it? They could only recover it by instituting a prosecution. And what would he said to that? Why, there would be a cry raised that the house was acting in a cruel manner towards st. John, and they would not proceed with it. There was another consideration: this would be a funded debt. Hon members would recollect how that a few years ago when the Province was in debt, rather than have a funded debt to descend to posterity, they contracted a loan and imposed a duty of one per cent upon all imports for the payment of the interest and gradual liquidation of the debt. Now if this Bill passed, the City might or might not pay the interest, but it would never be able to pay the debt, and thus it would be a funded debt. As to pledging the credit of the Province in aid of Railways, it was very different; that would bring foreign capital into the Province to be expended here in local improvements. He did not know if the Trustees could, or would, sell the property belonging to the City of st John, but if they did, this house could not help it.

Mr. Jordan said the arguments of the hon. member who had last spoken, were founded upon the supposition that the City would be unable to pay the interest on the loan. The city of St. John contained nearly one-fourth of the inhabitants of the Province, (Oh!) and consequently nearly half of the wealth; there could not, therefore, be the slightest risk, as the whole property of the City would be pledged. The debt had been contracted in cutting down the huge rocks which formerly obstructed the streets, and rendered them impassable: he remembered that when a boy it was almost impossible to climb up some of the streets. Hon. members talked of money being brought into the Province, and laid on Railways, and thus circulated among the people; but, he would ask, was not this money, when expended in St. John, circulated among the people? Did not the farmers who lived in the vicinity, and the whole country, reap the benefit of it? And if this loan was contracted in England, would it not be so much more capital brought into the Province? He should not have risen, were it not to expose the reasoning of the hon. member for Westmorland, who had endeavoured to lead the Committee astray. If the Province guaranteed the loan they would run no risk whatever.

Dr. Earle said he felt for st. John, and would gladly do all in his power so retrieve her in her present position; but when they came and asked the Province to pledge its faith to assist her, it was farther than he could go. He did not know what claims st. John had upon the Province, that she came forward with this Bill. It was like one man saying to another, 'your credit is good, lend me your name; that's all we want in order to get the money.' But when the time comes round, who can tell if the person borrowing your name will pay or not! There were other schemes coming before the Legislature, and to further the whole of them they wanted to pledge the faith of the Province. It was his opinion that, if the credit of the Province was good, the only way to keep it good was not to lend its name.

Dr. Tapscott said it was better to let the affairs of the City remain as they are. If the Trustees are secured by good real estate, at six per cent, it was a good investment for them, and no doubt they would be willing to let it remain. This was far better than pledging the remains of the Province in the matter. Pledging was like endorsing, and endorsers often have to pay the debt. A pledge in this matter would likely turn out like lending money to the Bridge Corporation at st. John—the Province lost the money. He had no doubt but that was an unfortunate speculation, and so would this be for the Province. If the Trustees were not satisfied with the present securities, the City of St. John might apply to the Legislature and get a Bill passed authorizing the Trustees to tax the city, in order to make good any deficiencies.

Mr Gilbert spoke in opposition to the Bill.

Mr. Woodward said no one would compare railway security to what was offered in this case; that was altogether perspective, while this was present and permanent. If st John could pay six per cent interest on the debt to Trustees, were the proposed loan contracted, the difference would ultimately discharge the whole debt. All the City asked was the public faith to be pledged to enable them to get the money on advantageous terms. Hon. Members had agreed that Railways would bring capital into the Province; so would this measure; and if the Public faith should not be pledged for this, it should not be pledged for anything. The same argument applied to this and to Railways. He was surprised at the opposition evinced by the hon. and learned member for Gloucester, who had fought for the City when he. However, it was of no use debating; but if this Bill should be rejected, he should take it for granted that the house was determined not to pledge the faith of the Province in aid of any public measure, and act accordingly.

Mr. Street feared there was a little more in the Bill than hon. members said. The operation of the bill would be thus; if the interest was not punctually paid, the parties who loaned the money would apply to the Provincial Treasury and receive it there; and the only means by which the Province could get it back again would be by turning round and taxing the people of st. John. He had always considered the old act of the inhabitants to pay the interest of the debt, a hard measure. At that time, however, it was said that although the law authorized the taxing of the inhabitants to make up deficiencies, they would never be called on, as there would be no deficiencies. The Bill before them gave similar powers; but the entire amount of the interest might be deficient; if so, the Province would have to pay it all, and make it up by taxing the inhabitants of St. John the full amount of the interest on this loan. He did not know enough about the Corporation of st. John, and their past conduct, to say a great deal on the subject, but there must have been bad management to incur so large a debt. Even under the last act, although it prohibits them from increasing the amount of debt, it had been allowed to increase some £4,000, and that since the year 1846. (Hon. Mr. Hazen—"that is interest.") The inhabitants did not contract the debt, it was the Corporation; and let the Corporation pay it. It was a very arbitrary measure to to tax the citizens for it; they might as well tax the property of the Chairman, or his own.

Mr. Wark did not like to trespass on the time of the Committee, as he believed there were only six members prepared to support the Bill in its present state. Hon. members had stated the property to be worth £200 000. Now the test of the value of property was the interest it would fetch; and if the property of St. John was worth £200,000. it would bring in an annual interest of £12,000. That sum was sufficient to pay the interest on the debt, and afford a surplus sufficient in time to liquidate the debt itself. He should move the postponement of the Bill for three months; but at the same time, if the hon. mover of the Bill wished to alter it so that it might meet the opprobation of the house, he would withdraw his motion, and allow progress to be reported.

Mr. Woodward could show the hon. member for Kent that the amount of interest accruing was not always a test of the value of property. For instance, real estate might be leased at merely a nominal rent, and instead of six per cent interest, scarcely bring one per cent. That was precisely the case in st. John. He would again contend that if this Bill passed it would bring foreign capital into the Province, which would prove of as much advantage to the Province as capital brought in to construct Railways.

Mr. End said the hon. mover of the Bill could have no amendments to make in the Bill which would at all satisfy the House. If the property belonging to the City of st. John should be sold by the Trustees, it would make no difference to the Province—it would make no difference to the people of St. John, for it was real estate, it would be there still, it could not be taken away, and business would go on, and the City would thrive and prosper, just as well as though the property continued in the hands of the Corporation. He trusted that the House would teach St John that they would not interfere betwixt debtor and creditor.—He should vote for the postponement for three months.

Hon. Mr. Hazen said he could not alter the Bill so as not to ask for a Provincial guarantee, for the whole object of the Bill was to secure a loan upon that pledge; and as that appeared to be thing hon members objected to, it must stand the test, and if lost he could not help it. It was well known that the city of st. John could not go into the English market and ask for a loan, unless they had got this pledge. As to the hon and learned member for Northumberland, [Mr. Street] he had treated this Bill as he was accustomed to treat Bills in Chancery—he had turned it over until he found something objectionable in one of its sections, and to that he had demurred [Laughter] But he would tell that hon member that if he would support the Bill, when they came to the objectionable clause he would alter it to suit him. As to the hon members from Charlotte, they had mixed up this Bill, as they did every thing else, with that with which it had nothing whatever to do—their imaginary Railroad—a Railroad which never had any existence but in their imaginations, and he believed never would. [Laughter] If the Committee were opposed to the Bill, they must say so at once; he was ready for the question.

The motion to postpone for three months was then taken, when the Committee divided Yeas 20. Nays 7. The minority were Hon. Messrs. Partelow, Hazen, and Baillie, and Messrs. Ritchie, Jordan, Woodward, and Porter.

Tuesday, Feb. 20.

AMENDED CHARTER.

The House this morning went into Committee of the whole on a Bill to amend the Charter of the City of St. John.—Mr. Boyd in the Chair.

Hon. Mr. Hazen stated that a great deal of excitement had prevailed in st. John, on the subject of the Charter; the result of which was, that a Bill had been prepared, and submitted to the house for consideration. With the whole of this bill he was not prepared to go; but he had as a member from the city now placed it before the House, and in thus doing he would make a few observations. The 1st section provided that the Mayor should be annually elected to his office, instead of the present method of his appointment by the Government. For this purpose, different means had been suggested; one of which was, that the Chief Magistrate should be placed in Office by the immediate votes of the people; and another that he should be elected by the majority of the Aldermen, while a third limits the choice to the circle of those already chosen as Aldermen by the people. This last, he confessed, was the mode which he most approved of. Passing on to the 5th section, he observed that the proposed plan of giving each citizen the right of voting not only in the Ward in which he lived, but also in all the others, was a novel method, and one which he thought upon consideration he would not approve (Here, in reference to one of the clauses, he remarked that justice was not always done in the small Courts in st. John; and then went on to state the necessity for appointing a Stipendiary Magistrate; in which case the fees might be abolished in the Courts above mentioned. He would thus lay the bill before the house, hoping that it would be met by a general disposition to improve it in passing through its reading.

Mr. Ritchie was glad the affairs of the city, in relation to this bill, had arrived at a crisis, and hoped that the grievance under which the people of St. John had so long laboured, would soon be removed, believing as he did, that there was no disposition existing in the house, save that of doing them justice. He was in favour of creating the Mayorship an elective officer, although he would not coincide in the opinion that the Mayor should be selected generally from the citizens instead of being elected from the Aldermen. He thought it would, if disposed of as he had last alluded to, induce honorable competition for the office of Alderman, as the way would thus be when open to the highest civil distinction. Under this regulation, the people would be deprived of no right, as they would still have the means of returning such men to the Common Council, as they might think eligible for the office of Mayor.—Without condemning the present Courts, he yet thought it necessary that a Stipendiary Constable should be appointed, who would be perfectly independent of the mere fees of office, and he thought that little or no expense would attend this arrangement, as that officer would relieve the Mayor from much of his general labour, and thus enable him to accept a less salary than he would require, if left to perform the whole Criminal business of the office. It was a curious fact, and one for which he would not pretend to account, that little or no fines arising from those criminal cases, were received; while he (Mr. R.) would say, that if these fines were properly laid on and accounted for they would besides paying the expences of the Police Court amount to a handsome sum to be laid out for other purposes. With respect to the junction of the respective duties of the Clerk of the Peace and the Common Clerk of the city, he did not think the plan a good one, for he thought the duties too much for one man to perform. As regards the office of Recorder he entertained the same opinion with the hon member from the city, (Mr. Hazen) that it should not be made elective. If he were merely an officer to give legal advice to the Mayor, it might do very well, but he did a large business concurrent with that of the Supreme Court, and he would regard the appointment rather in a judicial character. He would however say, that if the house came to the conclusion that the Mayor should be chosen from the mass of the citizens he would not dispute that regulation, although he thought that the better way would be to elect that officer from the Aldermen already chosen by the people.

Mr. R. D. Wilmot stated briefly that his opinion was, that the Mayor should be selected from the Board. He would not sustain the several vote in the Wards, and he was fully in favour of the appointment of a Stipendiary Magistrate.

Mr. End although accustomed to see very important measures introduced in the house, must yet confess that the present appeared to him as ill-digested as any which he could remember. He was sorry that the bill had not been submitted to the action of a Select Committee, for by doing so the members from st. John would have escaped the responsibility of the measure, and at the same time stand a chance of getting a better bill.—What concerned St. John, as the great emporium of the Province, must necessarily have reference to the interests of every other part of the Province. [Here Mr. End alluded to the superior abilities and accomplishments of the late Mayor, Mr. Donaldson, a gentleman whose commanding talents and business habits would, he said, render him eligible for the situation of Chief Magistrate in any city on either side of the Atlantic.)

Mr. Woodward alluded to some petition in opposition to the contemplated Amendments, and stated that it had emanated from a minor part of the citizens, and consequently it would have little effect upon the action of the house. He repudiated the unequal representation of some of the Wards, and remarked that from this discrepancy had arisen the desire of many of the citizens to extend the principle of the Franchise by making it apply to the whole city. He could not see the necessity for submitting the Bill to a select committee, for he felt rather assured that whatever the six members from the City and County agreed upon, in relation to the Charter, it would scarcely be opposed in the house. He was in favour of the general vote throughout the city, but if this clause could not be carried, he would not make it obligatory on a citizen to reside in the Ward in which he votes.

Hon. Mr. Hazen saw no occasion for a select committee; there were only two or three clauses in the Bill which involved any difficulty—and they might be disposed of in committee of the whole—all the rest was matter of detail.

Mr. Ritchie had never seen the system of voting in all the Wards tried; and as the suggestion had been the result of some peculiar circumstances, which would be connected by the Bill, he saw nothing to induce him to adopt it.

Hon. Col. McLeod would rather adopt the suggestion of Mr. End, and refer the Bill to a select Committee. The whole Province felt interested in the new Charter, and it would be no more than right to give it a careful and candid consideration. Here the hon member spoke of the impropriety and harshness of some of the present Market regulations in st. John, which while they allow thousands of pounds of salted beef and pork to be sold in the stores, will not allow a single pound of fresh meat to be retailed in the city. Here the discussion was dropped and progress was reported.

Tuesday, Feb. 20.

Mr. Jordan moved a resolution relating to the claims of Mr. Lawton against the City and County or Saint John, and calling for an investigation.

Mr. Wark referred to the Journals of last year and showed what action was then taken upon the subject of intercolonial trade. He then asked how it was that this Province had not yet adopted a free intercourse in her trade with Canada.

Hon. L. A. Wilmot said the reason was this: this Province had agreed to have reciprocal free trade with the other colonies, but Canada wished for only a partial free trade, that is free trade with certain articles only. This arrangement the Executive of this Province had no right to make. It appeared that, as this Province and Nova Scotia had the advantage of being situated near the seacoast, Canada was jealous less we should import raw material, manufacture it, and then supply the Canadians with it.

Hon. Mr. Partelow said the Canadian Government seemed to be most afraid that we would import Sugar, refine it, and then send it to Canada, where that article now pays a high duty.

(Here the conversation dropped.)

Mr. R. D. Wilmot offered the following Resolution:—

Whereas, The trade of this Province is now labouring under a deplorable state of depression, and the Agriculture, Fisheries, and Manufacturing interests are so prostrated that numbers of the inhabitants of this Province have been compelled to seek for employment in a foreign land; and whereas by the recent changes in the Commercial policy of the Empire protection has been almost entirely withdrawn from our staple products in the British Markets; and by a Despatch from the Colonial Minister the right to impose differential duties is now assumed to be withheld, and that the Royal assent will not be granted to any act discriminating between articles of foreign growth and production or those of British growth and produce when imported into this Colony, whereby British subjects will have no advantage over the foreigner in our Provincial trade,—

Therefore *Resolved*, "As the opinion of this House that in preparing a Revenue Bill for the current year, such duties may be imposed as that articles of Provincial growth and manufacture may be protected, and the industrial resources of the Province, in their several branches may receive such Legislative encouragement as will afford ample employment to the productive industry of the inhabitants."

This resolution passed unanimously. (After it had passed some hon. members, who appeared to have been taken by surprise, rose to speak upon it, when his honor the Speaker said, "Too late; the Resolution is passed."—Laughter.)

WAYS AND MEANS.

The House proceeded to take up the order of the day, and resolved itself into Committee of the whole on Ways and Means to raise a Revenue.

Hon. J. R. Partelow rose to offer an estimate of the probable expenses during the current year, after which he should offer a few suggestions as to the mode in which the necessary revenue might be realized. In the first place there was the Civil List charge, an item of £14,500, which was established by law; and however the House might feel inclined to reduce some of the salaries payable out of this fund, at present they could not interfere with it, the whole having been established by law, and the Home Government being a party to the bargain. Next came public officers payable by law, not on the Civil List. The salaries of some of these offices would probably be reduced to the successors of the present incumbents, but nothing that might be ultimately effected could effect the current year. The charges to which he had referred might therefore be stated thus:—

Civil List,	£14,500	
Salary of the Master of the Rolls	800	
Clerk of the Pleas,	900	
Clerk of the Circuits	250	
Judges' Travelling Charges,	250	
Reporting decisions, supreme court,	50	
King's College,	1,100	
Parish Schools,	10,000	
Grammar Schools,	1,100	
Training Schools, Books, Masters' Salaries, &c.	1,000	
Old Soldiers and their Widows,	1,000	
		£30950
To this must be added the following sums, also payable by law:		
Sixth instalment on the funded Debt, due in 1849, £6000, say	6,000	
Interest on the funded debt,	2,970	
Interest on Saving Bank deposit	1,800	
Do. on account with Bank of New Brunswick,	1,980	
		£12750
Expences of the Legislature,	6,500	
Hon. Members would thus perceive that the Civil List, the sums payable under Provincial acts, and the expenses of the Legislature, amounts to the annual sum of £50,200. Next followed the ordinary appropriations, which for the current year would be nearly as follows:—		
Government Contingencies,	£350	
Coals for public rooms, Gov. House,	100	
Public Buildings,	600	
Grant to distressed Indians	250	
Protection and Collection of the Revenue, including Treasurer's salary	4,500	
Clerk of the Crown,	100	
Librarian,	75	
Support of Provincial Penitentiary	1250	
Lunatic Asylum,	1500	
Madras School,	400	
Westeyan Academy,	300	
Baptist Seminary,	250	
Schools having endowments by yearly grants, including teachers who apply to the Legislature in consequence of some informality in their papers,	600	
Grants to Soldiers, Widows, and others, usually provided for, the former being excluded by law from obtaining relief in any other way,	400	
Public Printing already done, including the Journals of both Houses the present Session,	2,600	
Support of Lepers in Gloucester and Northumberland,	700	
		£13375
		£63,575

He had applied himself to the possibility of making some reduction upon the usual amount of these grants, and in the estimate he had just given, there was a reduction of £1,200 proposed in the cost of protecting and collecting the revenue. Upon the item of Public Printing, nothing could be done this year, as the Session was so far advanced, but he had hopes that a reduction would be made in that branch of public service next year. The sum of £63,575, then, he estimated as sufficient to pay all the sums secured by law, the expences of the Legislature, support the public institutions, and provide for the usual grants to individuals, &c., including the interest and instalment on the Loan. But in addition to this estimate, if the Bear and Wolf Bounty Act be not repealed, £500 must be granted for this service. He proposed to effect a saving in the Militia establishment; it had cost the Province for 1847 £950 to £1,000; the Government now propose to reduce the payment for the services of the Adjutant, and Sergeant Majors for 1848, under the authority of the Militia Law, of one half; paying them £7 10s and £3 15s. instead of £15 and £7 10s. This would effect a saving of 350/.

He estimated the receipts from the Light House Fund, the Sick and Disabled Seaman's Fund, and from the Emigrant Tax, to be sufficient to meet the expenses of the respective establishments. Then to lay out on roads, he did not think a smaller sum than 20,000/. would be required.—Appropriations would also be required to encourage Agriculture, to provide for the improvement of the navigation of the River St. John, and to give facilities for the construction of Railways.—Besides all these, at least 5000/. should be reserved for the gradual liquidation of the public debt.—If the House was of opinion that the bulk of these services should be provided for, a revenue of 100,000/ would, in his opinion, be necessary.

Taking all this into consideration, and having before them the Despatch from the Colonial Secretary, which prohibited their imposing differential duties, he proposed that a table of articles exempt from duty should be made out,—that a specific duty be levied upon the articles of wines, spirits, sugar, molasses, tea and coffee, and that a uniform duty of ten per cent (including one per cent enacted by law) be imposed upon all other imports. These measures he calculated would make the revenue 100,000/.; and these suggestions he would then submit to the House, to deal with as they might think proper.

Mr. R. D. Wilmot said the exposition of the policy of the Government, as just laid down by the hon. Secretary, was everything but satisfactory to him. He had hoped to have seen the Government adopt some principle, but they had here come forward with a proposition to tax every thing alike, with a few exceptions, and those articles singled out for a heavier duty than ten per cent, were (with the exception of wine and spirits) articles of general and necessary consumption among the poor. He did not think this was right, to make a poor man contribute as much toward the revenue as the rich man. The luxuries of wine, silk, &c. would bear a heavy duty, because it was the rich who bought them. He then came to other liquors. In looking over the amount of brandy imported, he found it to average for the last years 45,000 gallons; last year it was a little less than the average, amounting to 41,200 gallons. The average importation of wine during the last five years, was 21,500 gallons; but last year there was a slight increase. The average importation of spirits for the last five years was 122,000 gallons, but last year it had considerably decreased, being only 109,000 gallons. From this it would be seen that notwithstanding the high duties of last year, the importation of spirituous liquors had considerably decreased, and there was no reason to believe that it had increased smuggling. He was not afraid to make a Revenue Bill to suit our own purposes, without any regard whatever to smuggling; which he believed was often brought up in this House as a bugbear to frighten hon. member out of a proper course. The hon. member for Charlotte brought up this question of smuggling every year, but it must be remembered that the circumstances of Charlotte were not those of the whole Province, and that they must not legislate exclusively for her. Perhaps that border County there was considerable smuggling done,—no doubt if there was any done in the Province it was there. (Laughter). With regard to the articles of Sugar, it averaged under last year's tariff, five shillings and six-pence. He would reduce it to four shillings, as it was an article of general consumption among the poor. Refined sugar, on the contrary, he would raise in the scale of duties. It was an article of luxury, purchased chiefly by the rich, and he would raise the duty to 1½d per lb. He found that tea and coffee had both fallen last year in the quantity imported.—This was a proof of the poverty of the people, and as they were articles of necessary consumption, he would reduce the duty on them also.—Next came tobacco; this, although called the poor man's luxury, would, he thought, bear a higher duty; it was a superfluity. He wished to see the duties made specific wherever it could be done, as in that case there was not so much danger of perjury and fraud. Something must be done to place our Tariff upon a proper system, and if Government declined interfering with the matter, he hoped the Committee would do it.—The time was come, he thought, when they must either adopt the policy of Free Trade or that of Protection. In the United States they had tried both, and having found by experience which was best, was now pursuing the protective system. In Great Britain they were now trying the experiment. In 1844, when he (Mr. Wilmot) first sat in this House, he told hon. members, that the course they were pursuing would lead to bankruptcy and distress; but he was laughed at, and told by the free traders that they would have things cheap, which would lead to prosperity. He would now ask hon. members who was right in their predictions? Had it not happened as he had predicted? (Hear hear!) He had contended then, as he did now, that if the amount of imports exceed the exports that country was on the road to ruin: it must be evident to all that if the exports do not pay for the imports, the deficiency must be made up by draining the gold and silver—the circulating medium—out of the country. Thus had it been in this Province, until people could not raise the means to pay their liabilities, and their property in many instances sold by the Sheriff.—This was the case in 1842, and thus it had been during the past year. It was a system which had driven many of our best men out of the Province. There was no necessity for these hard times here. The Province possessed very great resources; good soil, lumber, minerals, fisheries, &c. and would any man tell him that a man could not make a living here, and that were it not for the United States lying contiguous to us, to which we could fly, we should be in the same position as Ireland! He would tell the Government that if they would not adopt some principle of action, and do something for the people, the country would not support them. When he saw in the Government, men whose views differed widely upon political economy, however, he did not expect they could agree upon any principle, and originate any measure which would be satisfactory. But every man could understand this principle, that if a man earns £40 a-year and lives upon £30 he must save £10 a year, and that £10 was capital. And the same principle which governed individuals would apply to communities. The moment a country imports to a larger amount than she exports, she was pursuing a ruinous course. He had looked to the Government to act upon this principle, and save the country from ruin; and if they (the members of the house) did not do it, the people would send men there who would.

Hon. Mr. Partelow said he would now bring up the subject in a proper manner before the Committee by offering the following Resolutions:

"*Resolved*,—as the opinion of this Committee, than an uniform duty of per cent. be imposed upon all articles imported into this Province, with certain exceptions:

"*Resolved*,—that in addition thereto specific duties should be imposed upon spirits and such other articles as may be deemed expedient."

Mr. Boyd said he differed with the hon mover of the Resolution in some particulars. He would support the Resolutions just offered provided the hon member would reduce the amount of his estimate. He (Mr. B.) considered 85,000/. quite sufficient for the revenue, including all expenses. He had heard some hon members suggesting that Five per cent duty upon imports generally would produce revenue enough. He did not think it would, neither did he agree with the hon mover of the resolution that Ten per cent was necessary.—He thought that they would be nearly right if they took the medium, seven and a half per cent. and for that he would go. Then as to the specific duties; if they increased the duties on rum they would have more smuggling; the duty was quite enough already, or more than enough. This smuggled liquor was so very bad, that they should endeavour to prevent its importation as much as possible, and he thought this could be done most effectually by making the duty low, and then those who *would* drink would drink good liquor. It was well known that a man could drink a pint of good liquor and it would not hurt him much, but this smuggled liquor was little better than poison, two glasses would make a man crazy. In reference to Flour, he wished to see the duty all taken off. It taxed the consumer, and did no good to farmers; he did not believe that a bushel more of wheat had been grown in consequence of this duty on flour. Some years ago, when a bounty had been given for growing wheat, people had fallen the trees on woodlands got a fire, and then sown wheat among the logs and trunks of trees without having cleared the land up. They did this just to secure the bounty, and then left the land in this condition and fire-weeds had grown up, and the lands were now worse to clear than ever. So much for the government trying to force agriculture. This had been the case in Charlotte County; he knew it from personal observation; and he believed it to be the case in every county in the Province. [several members.—"No, no."] Hon members might say they could not do without the duty on flour; they want a revenue, but he would tell them how to make up the deficiency; let them tax certain articles which now came in free—articles which the Province can produce in abundance. There were extensive coal fields in this Province, which might be worked, and yet we continued to import coal in large quantities; now a duty of one shilling per ton on coal would realize one half of the amount now collected from flour. Then there was shipping materials; every thing was admitted duty free, although the Province could produce all the raw material in abundance. But it were as easy to agree upon a Revenue Bill in the Market square at st. John, as in this house. The government ought to do it, and submit it to the house. Were he in the government he would not be alarmed at the fate of the proposition now moved, only the amount should have been lower. He considered it only the work of a few hours to construct a Revenue Bill. As for the hon mover who had last spoken, he was well known as an out and out protectionist; his system was to tax the many for the benefit of the few. He [Mr. B.] and his colleagues on the contrary, were stigmatized as free traders; but he denied it; they were not free traders, but were willing that sufficient duties should be levied to raise a revenue, and no more. A system of high taxation would not do while they saw the people