THE CARBONEAR HERALD,

AND OUTPORT TELEPHONE

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HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

WEDNESDAY, March 3.

Continued.

The amount at the credit of the Halifax Fishery Award account is $742,74.-00 as per statement herewith.

The Interest to be received this year on this amount will be $29,594.26.

The Consolidated and Debenture debt amounts to $1,348,990.44. Included i this amount is the sum of $1,298 60 issued on account of the Carbonear Street Act. We have borrowed from the Fishery Award found on interest at 4½ cent. on account of the Telegraph extension line- $102,300 00, making our Public debt in all on 31st December last, $1,451,290.44.

I have had prepared a return of the Customs Revenue and Light dues collected in St. John's and each Outport in the years 1878 and 1879, showing increase or decrease in the several places where collected.

Also a comparative statment of imports of certain articles for 1878 and 1879. Also a statement showing the exports from the colony for the years 1878 and 1879.

Also a statement showing the exports from the colony for the years 1878 and 1879.

A careful perusal of those papers will I trust, prove instructive and interesting, As we have no official returns of our exports from the Labrador of the produce shipped direct to foreign markets, we are obliged to take from shippers their unofficial statements as furnished, consequently our exports from the Labrador are only estimates. Sufficient, however. can be gathered to show the extensive and increasing value of our great fishing area on that coast. With the increase of our population it is very apparent that there is a great increase of property amongst us as a people; the satistical evidence of this fact is to be found in the Customs, returns which show a large increase in the quantity of the imported necessaries of life, and in the superior qualities of food and clothing used by our people. This fact is evident, also, from the amount of local capital which finds investment in our bonds and banks, and in joint stock companies, &c., and in the building of ships and houses.

I would here refer to the growth and present position of our Savings' Bank, and the effect of its working on our financial condition. In 1869 the deposits in the Bank amounted to $649,152, and at the end of 1879 we find them to be $1,-134,505, having nearly doubled in the past ten years. For some few years it has been the police of the Government to foster the reserve of profits from the working of the Bank, which had formerly been taken for the current use of the colony; and finding the reserve approaching the sum of eighty thousand dollars, it seemed to the present Government advisable to enquire weather it could not be turned to valuable account as a sinking fund, in connection with our public debt, and we accordingly brought in a bill in the last session, which the Legislature passed into law, and by which the existing reserve and all accuring profits of the Bank are now held for the liquidation in the first place of the debentures held by that institution; and I am happy to be able to state that this provision will fully realize the views that dictated it.

In the past year the sum of $17,000 was added to the reserve, which now amounts to $100,000, and it is shown by computation that the amount of our public debt now held by the Bank, $595,-849, will be entirely liquidated from this source in sixteen years, thus practically relieving the revenue of the colony from this amount of its former obligation. It is unnecessary to point out the important bearing of this arrangement on our financial position and public credit; and seeing that the funds of the Bank are so invested as to assure the calculated result, the liquidation of the above amount of our public indebtedness, in the time specified, is not only placed beyond the the range of rational doubt, but in the meantime the reserve found gives a new security, if that were necessary, to the depositors in the Bank.

A comparative statement of the importation of spirituous liquors during the past two decades shews a gratifying advance of Temperauce yrincibles amoug our people. After making all due allowance for any smuggling in small quantities which may have been induced by the recent increase in the duties, we find a large diminution in the consumption of ardent spirits among our peeple. The following are the quantities imported in the year 1859, 1869 and 1879 respectively:—

	1859	1869	1879.
Rum.....gallons	160,498	89,422	84,121
Other Spirits "	28,790	23 141	32,936
Ale & Porter "	109,169	41,321	50,961
Wines "	14,916	6,861	16,166

With regard to these figures for 1879 the apparently large quantities entered for duty are accounted for by the taking out of bond of large quantities of spirits and wines which took place last spring, when the increased duties were proposed, a part of which still remains on hand for the year's consumption. Estimating our present population at 180,-000, it will be observed with an increase of 57 352 between 1859 and 1879, there has been a decreased consumption of 72,229 gallons of ardent spirits and 56,-208 gallons of Ale and Porter. These facts are eloquent in themselves of the growth of thrift, economy, and morality among-t our people.

Our ship-building progresses very satisfactorily. During the past year 155 vessels, measuring 5,968 tons, had been added to our fishing fleet, on which a bounty has been paid of $18,614. Looking at the importance of this industry and the results of the past six years we have produced from our own forests and ship yards, seven hundred and three vessels, measuring 28,080 tons; on which sixty seven thousand six hundred and thirty five dollars, in lieu of drawbacks have been paid to the owners, thus adding to the wealth of our people fully a millions of dollars in the description of property. We propose changing the amount of drawbacks after this year, for which a Bill will be brought before the house during the present session.

The growing importance of our northern Labrador fishery and the further developement of the Bank fishery impel us to encourage the construction of more fishing vessels there by giving our fishermen an impetus to become their own vessel owners and to produce wealth for themselves and the general good of the Island.

The registered tonnage of the Island has undergone a great change since 1859. At that time we had between 300 and 400 vessels, over one hundred tons, burthen each, mostly engaged in the seal and Labrodor fishery. Smaller vessels are now preferred to prosecute the Labrador fishery, as will be seen by reference to statistics.

In 1859 we owned 1342 vessels, 89,670 tons.
" 1869 " 1450 " 75,445 "
" 1879 " 1718 " 82,564 "

In the three great Northern Bays where shipbuilding is most extensively carried on, I find that the craft built while rangs in size from 15 to 113 tons, are of the an average as follows:

In Bonavista Bay.....38.8 tons.
In Trinity Bay.....39.9 "
In Twillingate & Fogo.40.6 "

In addition to the above there are about 60 foreign going vessels owned by firms carrying on business in the colony not registered here but in Great Britan.

Our Bank fishery promises to be more largely prosecuted this year, and we have accordingly on business in the estimate $10,000 to defray the claims on account of this industry. During the past year 25 vessel were engaged in this fishery, their total catch amounted to 16,982 qtls besides Oil. The amount of bounty paid was 7,044.

One vessel's claim does not appear in the account of 1879, the bounty not being applied for until last week. The following returns are interesting as showing the progress of this fishery:—

	Vessels	Qults	Bounty paid
1876	4	1,702	$1,356
1877	7	4,180	2,472
1878	10	7,181	3,420
1079	25	16,982	7,044

We propose asking the Legislature to give special enceuragement for the construction of vessels suitable for and employed in this fishery. Looking to the failure of inshore punt fishery for several years past, as has already been stated, we must encourage our fishermen to prosecute our deep sea fishery.

I estimate the public receipts of the colony to be $964,953,90.

Customs' Revenue to yield...	$925,000.00
Postal Revenue.....	17,000.00
Crown Lands.....	5,000.00
Licenses.....	7,000.00
Miscellaneous sources.....	5,492.00
Sewrage account interest....	3,461.00
Harbor Master's dues and Examination Fees	2,000.00
	$964,953.00
Credit balance on Dec. 31, 1879	14,649.61
	$979,602.61

The following charges on the current revenue will show how the money is to be appropriated:—

Relief of the poor & eleemosynary institutions.....	$143,705.00
Steam service.....	136,800.00
Postal service.....	27,320.00
Telegraph extention & maintenance	7,000.00
Interest on Loan of $102,300...	4,603.00
Education.....	88,860.00
Roads and Bridges.....	103,000.00
Special vote for Public works.	20,000.00
Magistrates & Police dep'tm't.	62,343.00
Interest on Public Debt.....	68,024.00
Geologcial Survey.....	5,500.00
Ferries.....	3,071 00
Pensions.....	13,103 00
Court houses & jails supplies..	9,000.00
Legislative Contingencies.....	31,000.00
Shipbuilding	17,000.00
Bank Fishery.....	10,000.00
To aid Light house account for repairs and maintenance.....	9,000.00
Automatic Buoy, Trepassey....	2,250.00
Beacons, Grand Bank and St. George's Bay.....	1,600.00
To encourage Sheep raising....	1,000.00
Coastal Wharves.....	6,000.00
West Coast expenses, hire vessels, roads and education....	7,700.00
Judicial, Civil and Revenue Department.....	133,318.00
Miscellaneous votes as per Financial Statement.....	46 497.00
which will leave a Credit balance at the end of the fiscal year of.....	$21,908.00
	$979,602.00

We propose to place an Automatic Buoy at Powel's Head, Trepassey, a Beacon at Grand Bank and another at Sandy Point, St. George's Bay. The calling of the coastal steamers at these places, and the safety of shipping, render these outlays absolutely necessary,

Our Light House dues cannot meet the necessary repairs and maintenance of our 40 Light Houses, hence the necessity for a vote of $9000 towards this fund. With the increase of tonnage we anticipate increased Light dues, and have estimated this year's receipts at 32,000 dols.

The extension of the Telegraph line to King's Cove and the getting down of trees along a portion of the Line from South West Arm to Sandy Pond rendered an expenditure of 3000 dols. necessary for this service. This is included in the 7000 dols. asked for in the estimate.

On the completion of the Telegraph line from here to Trepassey, we propose extending the line to Cape Race which will prove of much importance to the interests of shipping.

Having regard to the increased freight and passenger traffic by our coastal steamers, the proposed vote of 6000 dols. for coastal wharves will be approved of.

It is also proposed to extend the sum of 3000 dols. in rebuilding the Queen's Wharf, which has fallen into considerable disrepair.

One thousand dollars are appropriated for the encouragement of sheep raisiug. It is gratifying to notice an increased desire on the part of our people to prosecure a good bread of these valuable animals.

Our estimate of West coast expenditure for roads, education, and hire of vessels and crews for the magistrates is the same as last year, 7,790 dols.

I am pleased to report that the Revenue colleected from St. George's Bay to Flower's Cove amounts to $8,958; being an increase of $1,640.59 over 1878. In the foregoing statement account can be taken of the duty paid on goods purchased by the inhabitants of that coast from St. John's and other parts of the Island, which I belive to be considerable The population included in this section of the country by the census of 1874 is 5,211; so that assuming that these people contribute equally with other parts of the Island, would appear that the expenditure is repaid by revenue, and it is therefore our duty to do what we can to incourage settlement and trade on that part of the coast.

Upon a general review, then, of our position as a colony, it will be admitted, I think, that our financial affairs are in a throughly, and indeed, exceptionally healthy condition. Our staple industry the fishery is possessed of a capacity for expansion which may, in the near future be largely developed. To this end, the increase of our fishing fleet which has been very notable in recent years, will be eminently conducive. Our mining industry is yet the youngest of all our enterprises, and without being over sanguine, it is not unreasonable to assume that what has been already accomplished in this behalf, is but an ernest of what may yet be done.

Our undoubted agricultural resources ought to be a means of more extended support for our people, by whom unfortunatly the cultivation of the land is not sufficiently availed of. There is another drawback to our prosperity arising from the long period of enforced idleness to which fishing populations are everywhere, more or less subject; but this is being to some extent gradually lessened by new enteprizes and industries which are spinging up amongst us, furnishing employment to many who before sought in vain for such advantages.

The increase of educational facilities is so recent, that its effect upon the present generation cannot as yet be fully appreciated, though it may be fairly anticipated that with extended knowledge and with a higher appreciation of education on the part of the people themselves, a brighter future is yet before us. The making of that future rests with those of the new generation who are growing up around us. It is for us to continue to place within their reach a means of building themselves up in knowledge, thrift, and industry which are the essentials to the success of every people. I have no change to recommend in the present Tariff for the current year, and I now beg to submit the following resolutions:

Resolved,—That it is the opinion of this Committee that the table of Duties upon Goods, Wares and Merchandize imported into Newfoundland and its Dependencies as prescibed in the Act of the General Assembly, passed in the 42nd year of the reign of her present Majesty entitled: 'An Act for granting to her Majesty certain Duties on Goods, Wares and Merchandize imported into this Colony and its Dependencies, be adopted.

Resolved—That the several provisions contained in the said Acts providing for and connected with the collection of Duties on Goods, Wares and Merchandize imported into this Colony and its Dependencies, and drawbacks, allowed in lieu of duties under the same, be re-enacted for one year.

Mr. Little rose and suggested that as the speech just delivered was one that deeply interested the public, it would be well to have it printed and placed in the hands of hon, members, so that it might be properly considered in all its details, whereon,—

The committee rose, repoated progress and asked leave to sit again on Tuesday next.

Mr. Conroy moved the first reading of a Bill to amend the consitution of the Colony.

The Bill was read a first time ordered to be read a second time to-morrow.

Hon. Mr. Winter moved the first reading of a Bill for Storing Kerosene and other Oils.

The Bill was accordingly read a first time, ordered to be read a second time to-morrow.

On motion of the Hon. Receiver General the Bill for the Encouragement of the Bank Fishery was read a third time and ordered to be engrossed, and sent to the Legislative Council for its approval.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Winter the House resolved itself into committee of the whole upon the Bill to amend the Law Relating to Public Health.

Mr. McLoughlan in the chair.

Hon. Mr. Winter believed that this measure would commend itself to the favourable consideration of the House. It was intended to protect the public from the unscrupulous conduct of certain individuals who regatded a slight pecuniary advantage to themselves, as of greater moment than the public health or well being. It was found that parties exposed for sale diseased meat, which if used would, and indeed might have been the fruitful source of disease. In one instance the attention of the authorities was called to the fact that meat of an extremely bad character, rotton indeed, was exposed for sale. It was found that no law was in existance authorizing them to have it destroyed. However, they took upon themselves to order its destruction, taking the risk of having to pay for it rather than the public health should be made to suffer.

Mr. Parsons supported the measure, believing that it was a good and necessary one, and one that peculiarly affected the poorer classes of the people. Those who were rich could afford to choose, but it was to be feared the poor frequently were induced by the cheapness of the article to take it, not counting the consequences. An instance occurred within his own knowledge where a cow that had perished was skinned and offered for sale, and althoug the Magistrates were informed of it, they were powerless to act. He agreed entirely with the principle of the Bill. He, however, considered that its a little more time were given it may be improved very much in its details.

Mr. Kent.—The remarks which have fallen from hon. members this evening upon the measur prove the necessity for its introduction. There can be no question that good money goes very often to pay for very bad meat. He had very much pleasure in assenting to the principle of the Bill. The details he, however, cosidered ought to be as stringent as possible. In order to the proper carrying into effect of this measure, it should be given into the hands of competent and efficient officers. If it were left to the persons named in the Bill, it would he feared, be inoperative. The municipal, supervisors, and police have sufficient to engage their entire attention at present without imposing these extra duites upon them. He considerad that there ought to be a little more time given to consider and frame the details of this measure.

Mr. Scott—They have a large number of officials already, without further adding to their number. They pay 25,000 dols. a year to the police force, as also 200 dols. a year to a chairman of a board of health and 100 dols. to the secretary. Under the circumstances, he saw no necessity of appointing any special person to look at these matters. He considered, with the hon. member who preceeded him, and this matter ought not to be hurried through the House.

Hon. Mr. Winter did not at all wish to hurry this measure through the House. He foresaw some of the objections raised by hon. members. Of course the provisions of the Act would be more efficiently carried out by some person specially appointed for the purpose than as at present proposed. He however, was very much indisposed to add to the burdens of the colony by the appointment of new officials. A great deal of good may be effected by the adoption of the measure in its present shape. If however, it is the wish of hon. members to have further time for the consideration of the matter, he did not wish to press the measure at present.

Hon. the Premier—It would appear that the measure, as at present before the House, is a very useful one. The evil complained of from time to time relative to the matters provided for the Bill is certainly a reflection upon us. The only objection which would seem to be raised against the measure is as to the persons who may be appointed to carry out the measure. The police are, he considered, quite ample, upon their various beasts, to carryout the measure most satisfactorily

Mr. Little agreed with the remarks of the hon. Attorney General. In stating that the police force ought to be utilized to carry out this measure, the difficulty, however, presents itself that it would be necessary to take off a certain number of them for the purpose. Before, however, adopting this measure, he considered that they should have the opinion of the Inspector of Police upon it. Although there was no doubt as to the necessity of a measure of this kind, yet he thought that it was very unacceptable, and would become inoperative in its present shape.

Mr. Tessier considered that there was too much power given to persons under the presen Bill. Police officials may enter upon one's premises as often as they please, and perhaps in the busy season, to the great annoyance of persons. There is too much latitude given to those officials. If there was a proper and efficient officer specially appointed for this service, he thought that satisfaction might be insured. Whilst fully concurring in the principle of the Bill, he would certainly opposed in its present form.

Mr. O'Mara.—Hon. members generally appear to agree as to the principle of the Bill. The only difficulty is as to the best and most efficient means of carrying it out. It must be remembered that the different places where meat of an unwholesome character would be exposed for sale, would be within the beats of the police. It would be a saving of expense to the colony if the matter was carried out by the police, and it certainly would be in excellent hands.

Hon. Mr. Winter did not think that there was danger of any arbitrary power being exercised by the police under this act. From what we know of human nature, it would appear that there was a considerable amount of reservation in the two strict discharge of duties upon the part of officials. There are sufficient safeguards surrounding the police regulations at present to warrant a legitimate and efficient discharge of duty, without the danger of in any way abusing their powers.

Mr. Parsons—If they imposed extra duties upon the police, they should receive extra pay for them. And the Government cannot expect the efficient performance of these duties by the police, unless they are paid for them.

Comittee then rose, and reported progress, and asked leave to sit again.

The report was upon motion received and adopted.