Provincial Legislature.

AN ACT

IMPOSING DUTIES FOR RAISING A REVENUE.

Passed 27th March, 1845.

WE, Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal Subjects, the Assembly of New-Brunswick in General Assembly convened, for raising the necessary supplies to defray the expenses of Her Majesty's Government within this Province, have freely resolved to give and grant to the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, the several Rates and Duties in the Schedule hereinafter mentioned, and do therefore pray Your Excellency that it may be enacted;

I. And be it enacted by His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Assembly, and by the authority of the same, That on and after the first day of April which will be in the present year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty-five, there be and are hereby granted to the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, Her Heirs and Successors, for the use of this Province, and for the support of the Government thereof, the several Rates and Duties described and set forth in the Table of Duties hereinafter contained, denominated *Table of Colonial Duties and Exemptions from Duties*, opposite to and against the respective Articles in the said Table or Schedule mentioned, described and enumerated, and according to the value, number or quantity of such Articles therein specified, whether imported or brought into this Province either by Sea, Inland Navigation, or by Land, from any part of the British Empire, or from any Foreign Port or place, or which may be saved from any Wreck, or stranded Ship or Vessel.

II. And be it enacted, That the several Duties hereinbefore imposed, and in the said Table or Schedule mentioned, shall be paid by the importer or importers of such Articles respectively, and shall be held and taken to be in addition to and over and above any Duties which are or may be imposed and collected by any Act or Acts of the Imperial Parliament, now or hereafter to be in force, and also over and above any Duties which are or may be otherwise imposed and collected by any other Act or Acts of the General Assembly of this Province, passed or to be passed, or now or hereafter to be in force, and shall be collected and secured by means of and under the regulations and penalties, and shall be drawn back on exportation or warehoused, in the way and manner provided by an Act or Acts of the General Assembly for collecting the Revenue of this Province.

III. And be it enacted, That all Goods which shall have been warehoused in this Province before this Act comes into operation, and which shall remain so warehoused after the operation thereof commences, and on which the Provincial Duties heretofore imposed have not been paid or secured by a subsisting or continuing security, shall in lieu of all former Duties, become liable to and be charged with Provincial Duties hereby imposed on the like Goods and Merchandize, and shall be paid at the time of taking such Goods and Merchandize out of the Warehouse.

IV. And be it enacted, That when any articles that shall have been warehoused, or on which Duties shall have been paid under this or any other previous Act, shall be exported for the use of the Deep Sea or Whale Fisheries, the amount of such Duties shall be repaid to the exporter by the Treasurer or Deputy Treasurer, or the Warehouse Bond cancelled, on affidavit (of the exporter) of the same having been so exported for the uses aforesaid.

V. And be it enacted, That all the Duties by this Act imposed shall be collected, paid and received according to the weights and measures now in use in this Province; and that in all cases where the said Colonial Duties are in this Act imposed according to any specific quantity, or any specific value or number, the same shall be deemed to apply in the same proportions to any greater or less quantity, value or number.

VI. And be it enacted, That one half of the Duties that may be paid upon any articles seized by the Officers of Her Majesty's Customs, shall be paid by the Treasurer to the person or persons making such seizure as a bounty for such seizure.

VII. And be it enacted, That this Act may be amended or repealed by any Acts to be passed in the present Session of the Legislature.

VIII. And be it enacted, That this Act shall continue and be in force until the first day of April, which will be in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty six.

TABLE OF COLONIAL DUTIES AND EXEMPTIONS FROM DUTIES.

ARTICLES SUBJECT TO DUTY.

Specific.

Apples, per bushel,	£0	0 6
Brandy, per gallon,	0	2 0
All other Spirits and Cordials, per gallon,	0	1 4
Candles of all kinds, except Sperm and Wax, per pound,	0	0 1
Candles, Sperm and Wax, per pound,	0	0 2
Cattle, Oxen and all other Cattle over one year old, (Cows excepted,) each,	1	0 0
Clock or Clock Cases of all kinds, each,	0	10 0
Coffee, per pound,	0	0 04
Fruit, dried, per hundred weight,	0	5 0
Horses, Mares and Geldings, each,	2	0 0
Leather,		
Calf and Morocco Skins, tanned or dressed, per dozen,	0	5 0
Harness and Belt, per pound,	0	0 2
Sheep Skins, tanned or dressed, per dozen,	0	2 6
Sole, per pound,	0	0 1½
Upper, per pound,	0	0 3
Malt Liquors of every description, not being *aqua vitæ*, otherwise charged with Duty, whether in Bottle or otherwise, per gallon,	0	0 3
Sugar, refined, in Loaves, per pound,	0	0 1
Refined, crushed, per hundred weight,	0	5 0
Of all kinds, except refined and crushed, per hundred weight,	0	2 6
Tea, per pound,	0	0 1
Tobacco, manufactured, except Snuff and Cigars, per pound,	0	0 0½
Wines, per gallon,	0	2 3

Ad-Valorem.

On the following Articles, for every one hundred pounds of the true and real value thereof, videlicet:	
Boots, Shoes, and other Leather Manufactures,	7½ per cent.
Bricks and Tiles,	10 per cent.
Chairs, and prepared parts of or for Chairs,	10 per cent.
Clock Wheels, Machinery and Materials for Clocks,	10 per cent.
Household Furniture, except the property of Passengers and Emigrants, for their own use, and not intended for sale,	10 per cent.
Iron Castings, except such Articles as are usually designated Hollow Ware,	7½ per cent.
Looking Glasses,	7½ per cent.
Oranges and Lemons,	10 per cent.
Piano Fortes,	10 per cent.
Snuff and Cigars,	10 per cent.
Whale Oil, except such as be the returns cargoes of Vessels fitted out for Fishing Voyages from Ports in this Province,	10 per cent.
Wooden Ware of all kinds, including Shingles,	10 per cent.
All other Goods, Wares and Merchandize, not otherwise charged with Duty, and not herein declared to be free of Duty, for every one hundred pounds of the true and real value thereof,	4 per cent.

EXEMPTIONS FROM DUTY.

Anchors.
Ashes.
Baggage and Apparel not intended for sale.
Barilla.
Books, printed.
Burr Stones.
Cayenne.
Carriages of Travellers, not intended for sale.
Chain Cables and other Chains for Ships' use.
Coal Tar.
Coals.
Coins, Bullion and Diamonds.
Composition Nails and Spikes for Ship Building.
Copper in sheets, bars or bolts, for Ship Building.
Cordage and Oakum.
Corn and Grain of all kinds, (except Wheat.)
Corn Broom Brush.
Cotton Wool and Cotton Warp.
Dog Stones.
Duck.
Dye Wood.
Eggs.
Feit.
Fish of all kinds.
Fishing Craft Utensils, Instruments and Bait.
Fruits, fresh, and Roots and Vegetables of all kinds, except Apples, Oranges and Lemons.
Furniture, Working Tools and Implements, the property of Emigrants, not intended for sale.
Glue.
Gypsum, ground and unground.
Hemp, Flax, and Tow.
Hides, green and salted.
Iron, in bolts, bars, plates, sheet, and pig iron.
Lines and Twines for the Fisheries.
Looking Glass Plates.
Lumber.—See *Wood and Lumber.*
Mahogany Logs, Boards, and Veneers.—See *Wood and Lumber.*
Manures of all kinds.
Meats, fresh, salted, and cured.
Mill Saws.
Mineral Salt.
Molasses.
Nets, Fishing Nets and Seines.
Oil, Blubber, Fins, and Skins, the produce of creatures living in the Sea, the return of Vessels fitted out in this Province for Fishing Voyages.
Oil, Seal, Cod, Dog, Porpoise, Palm, and Rape.
Onions.
Ores of all kinds.
Pitch.
Plants, Shrubs, and Trees.
Poultry of all kinds.
Printing Paper.
Quicksilver.
Rags, old Rope, and Junk.
Rice, ground and unground.
Rosin.
Sail Cloth of all kinds.
Sails and Rigging saved from Vessels wrecked
Salt.
Seeds of all kinds.
Sheathing Paper.
Ships, Ship Tackle and Apparel.
Skins, Furs, Pelts or Tails undressed.
Soap Grease.
Spikes and Sheathing Nails.
Steam Engines, Boilers, and Machinery for Mills.
Stone, unmanufactured.
Tallow.
Tar.
Tin in Sheets and Blocks.
Tobacco, unmanufactured.
Turpentine.
Varnish of all kinds.
Wood and Lumber of all kinds, except Cedar, Spruce, Pine and Hemlock Shingles.
Wool.
Zinc.

Wednesday, March 19.

REVENUE BILL.—Mr. Partelow opened the debate by a few brief observations chiefly confined to the falling off of the trade between Nova-Scotia and New-Brunswick. He hoped hon. members would not contend for the 6th section of the Bill, as it was highly necessary to admit cattle duty free. The last year's Revenue act had destroyed the only trade which New-Brunswick held with Nova-Scotia, and he hoped the Committee would see the great necessity which existed for restoring it.—This could of course only be accomplished by removing those restrictions which stood in the way and acted so injuriously on the trade of both countries. He hoped in particular, that there would be an exemption on cattle, and that an article so necessary to the St. John market would not be driven away by unwise Legislation. This now rested altogether with the Committee, for the Select Committee, after a good deal of discussion were unable to agree on this point.

Hon. Mr. Simonds said it was a useless expenditure of time to refer such a general Bill to a select Committee: for after such a trial it would always be found that the decision must be arrived at in Committee of the whole. He agreed with the hon. member his colleague (Mr. Partelow) that cattle should come in free of duty, as the restrictions had been highly detrimental to the trade of the city, and whatever remained of the trade with the colonies ought to be carefully fostered. In consequence of those unjust regulations which had been complained of, many persons had been driven away from the country; as the loss of the trade had operated most discouragingly and cruelly on the people. It was the worst of policy to destroy the intercolonial trade for the purpose of giving what was called protection to a few farmers.

Mr. W. H. Street said that the improper construction given by the House to Lord Stanley's dispatch on differential duties was the sole cause of the breaking up of the trade with Nova-Scotia. The House should legislate for the Province at large, and not for particular interests at the expense of the others; and such duties as would be found sufficient for the purposes of a Revenue, would be the wisest and safest to adopt. It was obvious from the whole tenor of the dispatch so often referred to, that all articles of a similar description must be in future subject to the same duties whenever they were imported from the States or England. Any duties imposed for the purposes of protection were unjust as they laid restrictions on the general trade of the country, to assist persons who, in their turn could not be much benefited, while the country at large was left to suffer under an unjust and partial system. Here the hon. member enumerated several articles which had been extravagantly protected during the past year, such as Hats, Chairs, and Clocks, the effect on the latter articles being the inducement for persons to smuggle them by hundreds into the Province. He thought that with few objections a scale of 4 per cent would be the best and safest to adopt, as it would be sufficient for the purpose, and not so high as to induce smuggling. With respect to the Stanley despatch, such were the relations of the Home Government with the great existing nations with which they were in treaty, that the colonies must be content to do business on the general principle which had been adopted for their guidance.

Mr. Payne said he would now as last year, oppose those restrictive duties which had to the injury of the St. John Market been laid on Nova-Scotia. The effect of that duty had been to drive many persons from St. John to live either in the Country, or leave it for another; and after they had in many instances suffered severely, the next thing that threatened the St. John Mechanics' was that the duties were to be lowered which had protected their manufactures, and they were once more to suffer from the fickleness of the Legislature. He remarked for instance that there were now in St. John a number of Cabinet and Chairmakers, who had gone to great expense in establishing their manufactories, and had also produced better and cheaper articles than those generally imported; but notwithstanding the protective duties of the last year, the Americans had from the flimsy nature of their manufactures, undersold those made in the Province. There was again, the duty on Leather, which should by no means be removed, as the Tanners were scarcely able to compete with the Americans for the same reason already stated. There were therefore two considerations which should induce the Legislature to uphold the Home Manufactories, namely, the justice of supporting those who had risked their fortunes in stock; and the necessity which existed for securing a good article for consumption in the Country.

Mr. Wilmot said, he was not in the House when the Committee of Ways and Means had discussed the subject of Revenue, and was therefore unable to form such conclusions as would enable him to speak with confidence on the present question. He thought the Committee appointed to prepare a Revenue Bill, should at least have thrown some light on the important subject of their deliberations; and that they should from experience of the past, have deduced something to strengthen the hands of the present Committee. There was one subject upon which his mind was thoroughly made up. He would never desert those persons who on the faith of the Legislature had invested their property, in the domestic Manufactures of the Country. He would consider it a most dangerous and uncertain mode of Legislating, to protect any class of persons one year, and after thus inducing them to launch forth in their respective callings, to forsake them in the next. Such extraordinary changes in the Revenue Bill, if followed up year after year, would destroy all confidence in the wisdom of the House, besides its unjust action on the interests of the people who naturally looked to the Legislature for sustaining their undoubted rights as inhabitants of the Country. He would wish to hear from the Hon. Member from St. John, (Mr. Partelow) as the experience which he must have in relation to the last Revenue Act in St. John, would doubtless be valuable to the Committee.

Mr. Gilbert said, it was quite plain that the beef eating gentry of Saint John had entered into a conspiracy against the farmers of the country; and it needed no great knowledge to predict what would be the consequence. The latter class would get discouraged, and being unable to compete with the Nova Scotians and Americans, they would also suffer most severely. It was strange that persons who could get their beef at a penny a pound, were not satisfied, and that in their rage to promote the interests of Nova Scotia, they had entirely forgotten the claims of their own country, New Brunswick. How was the case in Nova Scotia? and how was the case also in Canada? why in both these Countries they protected their own farmers; for they knew well there, what it appeared the people of New Brunswick were ignorant of, namely, that the farmers of the country deserved protection, and that in giving it to them, they were promoting their own interests. The fact was, that the price of beef was so low in Saint John that it could be no advantage either to the farmers of Nova Scotia or New Brunswick to bring their beef to that market, even if they had no duty to pay. With respect to pork raised in the country, there was plenty of it for home consumption, although the article cost those residing in Saint John, who choose to raise it, four times the price of its purchase in the market. After all, the great interest which supported all others, was the farming one, and if it were left without protection, or exposed to a competition with which it could not contend, the loss would be felt in the injury inflicted on the general interests of the Province.

Mr. Jordan said it was difficult to decide what would be most generally useful, in the midst of such a variety of conflicting interests. The Agricultural, the Lumbering, and the Manufacturing interests seemed to be at variance with each other; and although it was manifest that a broad and general Legislation could only prove effective, each seemed intent to secure legislation only for itself. With a few exceptions the Revenue Bill of last year was found to work well, and the nearer it could be kept in view in the present instance, except so far as it operated unjustly to St. John in destroying the trade with Nova-Scotia, would be manifesting the wisdom of the House. With respect to free trade, neither the people nor the state of the revenue were prepared for its adoption, nor could they, until the other countries with whom trade was carried on, would consent to the same regulation. The Lumber trade of the country was in a highly prosperous condition, because it was fostered by the enactments of the Imperial parliament; but while the lumberer received the whole benefit of such protection, it operated unfavourably on the farming and manufacturing interests in this particular; wages were thereby raised, and it was difficult often to provide help to carry on any other business in the Country. Such being the case, and the Lumberer having a decided advantage over all the other working classes, he should not object to let others have a small degree of that protection which he enjoyed so largely himself. Last year it was predicted that the protection afforded to certain branches of industry would have the effect of creating monopolies and raising prices; such however was not the case, for those articles which received protection, had since been so well followed up, by the manufacturers, that they could now be procured cheaper and not only so but better than those imported. Here the Hon. Member enumerated several articles, such as Boots and Shoes, Buckets, Brooms, Leather, Candles, Nails, &c. all of which fully supported his views; and there could be no case more in point than the manufacture of Flour, and Corn Meal which had proved such a vast benefit in affording cheap food for the poor, and in reducing the price of foreign bread stuffs. The protection of such Manufactures as could be carried on in the Province was wise policy, for while it raised a Revenue on the importations, it secured the trade of the Country in fostering a useful class of Mechanics who trained young persons to the exercise of those branches of industry over which they would in after life have to preside. He should like to remind hon. members that if the Lumberers interests were exclusively supported, and those of the Farmer and Mechanic neglected, a period would arrive when lumber would fail, and the Country would in such a state, be unable to maintain itself, and ruin would follow. There should therefore be a union of interests, and the farmers should learn that they must stand or fall together. He (Mr. Jordan) was more than ever convinced, that a moderate protection on home made articles was necessary not only for the Mechanics but also for the farmers.

Mr. HANNINGTON.—* * * By the returns it appeared that the value of the provisions of all kinds imported into the Province last year, was about £100,000, and the population of the Province was nearly 200,000. He said £5 was a low estimate of the Agricultural produce used by each individual making an aggregate of one million as the whole consumption; about £900,000 of which was raised within the Province, which was a stronger case than could be made in favour of any branch of Manufactures as the return of duties paid must convince that more than one tenth was imported. With respect to the amount invested in Agricultural pursuits he would satisfy the Comittee that it was enormous. In Westmorland alone he had made a calculation and estimating the Dyke Marsh at £10 per acre, and other clear Lands (including improvements) at £8 per acre they give £920,000. Add to which horses £51,000, Cattle £124,000, other farm stock about £70,000, making in the whole nearly one and a quarter millions; and as the County of Westmorland might comprise about one eighth of the Agricultural wealth of the Province, the whole amount invested could not be less than NINE MILLIONS SIX HUNDRED THOUSAND POUNDS, with which the whole amount of capital invested in all other pursuits would not bear a comparison. No doubt hon. members were surprised, but the calculations were made from the returns of 1841; and the value was put at the present low prices, therefore could not be disputed and should entitle them to encouragement, or at least to fair play.—*Fredericton Reporter.*

MONDAY, March 24.

Mr. Wilmot, from the Committee appointed on the third day of February last, to take under consideration the subject of the improvement of the Navigation of the River Saint John, and other important Rivers in the Province, submitted a Report, as follows:—

"The Select Committee on Navigation respectfully recommend the immediate attention of the House to the improvement of the Navigation of the River Saint John.

"The extensive increase of Trade on the Restook Territory and on the Upper Saint John at the present time, and the prospect of a continuation of that Trade, imperatively require that we should improve those great natural advantages which are afforded us by the River Saint John, for the transport of Goods and other Supplies.

"We are informed that Roads are now being opened to facilitate the overland carriage of Goods, both from Bangor and from Quebec, to the Upper Saint John. A Team Boat has also been put upon Lake Temiscouta; and we are informed, that it is in contemplation by persons interested in the Canada Trade, to improve the Navigation for Steam from the Little Falls of the Madawaska River to the head of the Temiscouta Lake; under this state of things we cannot too strongly impress upon the House the necessity of an immediate expenditure upon the Saint John for the opening of Steam Navigation, in order to secure the extensive and valuable Trade of the upper part of the country.

"During the past year, at least 80,000 Tons of American Timber, and 50,000 Tons from the British Territory, were taken to the Saint John Market, which will produce at least £6000 of Export Duty; while the probable amount from the same sources during the present year will exceed 150,000 Tons, which will pay the like Duty. We are therefore of opinion, that the Lumbering and Trading Interest of the Upper Saint John has strong claims upon the liberality of the Legislature for the improvement of the Navigation.

"The greatest obstacles between Fredericton and Woodstock are Chapel Bar and Bear Island Bar; and of these the latter most requires immediate attention.

"A small sum of money will be required to improve the Towing Paths, and for removing a few Rocks.

"We therefore recommend the sum of £1000 for this service, to be distributed as follows:—

£25 to improve the Towing Path from Nackawick River to Cronkite's Island:

£50 to improve the Towing Path from the Restook to the Grand Falls:

£75 to improve the Towing Path from the Great Falls to the River St. Francis:

£50 towards clearing out Rocks between Fredericton and Woodstock:

£175 towards improving Chapel Bar:

£50 towards improving the Bar opposite Nixon's Landing, so called:

£575 towards opening a Channel through Bear Island Bar, and erecting a Wing Dam.

"We are of opinion, that a much larger sum is required, and could be advantageously expended on the River Saint John during the present year; but from present circumstances we have been induced to limit our recommendation to a small amount, with the hope that by a judicious expenditure it will in some degree reduce the present enormous cost of Freight from Fredericton to the Saint Francis. Respectfully submitted.

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY.

The last week has been a busy one in the Assembly; the whole of the time every day being occupied from ten to half past five, in discussing Bills, Resolutions, Addresses, Messages, and questions of all kinds, which can and cannot be imagined. It would be only just if some of those who often speak slightingly of the duties of our Legislators, would spend a few days in the House and judge for themselves how much labour is performed. We can assure our readers that some of the members are incessantly employed either in speaking or writing, and how they manage to escape suffocation from the fumes of a confined and unhealthy atmosphere, is not easily determined. For us, we shall be glad when our arduous duties are over, and we can breathe a little wholesome country air.

On Friday last, being Good Friday, the House did not meet. Saturday morning was occupied in discussing a Bill relating to the recovery of Seamen's wages. On this Bill the principal difference of opinion rose from a proposition of Mr. Hazen's, to give an appeal from the decisions of the Magistrates. This led to a discussion. On one side it was argued that the Law itself, about to be continued, was an innovation upon the practice which enabled Sailors to detain the Ship for wages; and that the proposed appeal tended but to delay justice to Sailors, who being poor, were unable to pay Lawyers to protect their rights in the Supreme Courts; and it would have the effect of putting them in the power of their employers. To this it was answered that though the Magistrates were a respectable body of men, still they were fallible, and as such liable to give mistaken judgments; and the appeal was only a reasonable corrective against hasty and inconsiderate judgments. Messrs. Botsford, Hannington, Jordan, and others spoke against the appeal; Messrs. Hazen and J. A. Street in its favour. We give the following observations of Mr. J. A. Street, with the retort by Mr. Hannington as a specimen.

Mr. J. A. Street said, one of the greatest curses in the country had arisen from the conduct of a class of magistrates who always kept their Courts open, and summoned people often from a distance of 20 or 30 miles, on the most trifling complaints; and sometimes arrived at decisions which were so unjust that the cases had to be afterwards carried into the Supreme Court for proper judgment. He would not make a universal application of these remarks; but he repeated the assertion, that the persons to whom he alluded were the greatest curse to the country.

Mr. Hannington: "They are, with one exception; and the Learned Member will understand who I mean. It is the pettifogging Attorneys who attend the Magistrates' Courts for the purpose of scraping up Cases, who make nearly the whole of the mischief; and so trifling are those Cases sometimes, that I have known the whole of the verdicts obtained in the Supreme Court, insufficient to pay the costs of a single Suit."

Mr. Botsford defended the Magistrates with considerable tact as a disinterested person, not being in the commission. Mr. J. A. Street said he was closely connected with a Common Plea Judge, and perhaps aspired to the place. To this Mr. Botsford answered that perhaps his learned friend had an eye to the Bench, and Mr. Hazen closed the conversation by giving his opinion that if his learned friend had such intentions, he must pay his respects somewhere else. The appeal was not sustained.

On Monday Mr. Partelow, who was in St John on Saturday, made an unsuccessful effort for the reconsideration of the Bill, and it finally passed.

We could not help thinking of the difference evinced between the conduct of our Legislators from the City, and that of some of the people's Representatives lately, in one of the Western States under somewhat similar circumstances. It is said in an American paper, that in the Legislature of Ohio, on a proposed Amendment to the Charter of Cincinnati, a Member from that City quietly took off his coat and laying it on the desk swore he would *lick there and then, the first three men who voted against its engrossment.* The Lumber Bill appeared to be quite as exciting to the Members from St. John, but they are not so *refined* as the gentlemen Legislators of the "far west."—The remainder of Monday was taken up in Committee of Supply. The Great Road Grants and some of those for the Bye Roads were passed. When the House resumed Mr. Wilmot brought up the Report of the Navigation Committee, recommending a grant of about a thousand pounds for the improvements on various parts of the River St. John, including a sum for the improvement of the towing path. We are informed the recommendations are all based upon the Survey of Elliot and Kay some years since. Most sincerely do we hope that his appropriation will be sustained; and if not all, let an experiment at least be tried on some of the shoals. Let not our Western neighbours be allowed to take the lead by making an artificial River—a *Railroad*—from Bangor to Fish River via Houlton, and thus direct that trade from St. John, which nature intended to be carried forward on this great River. We are all deeply interested in this; but the people of St. John most of all. For the next ten years the Country on the Restook and above the Falls, will send to market £200,000 worth of Lumber per year, to be shipped at St. John.—Why then cannot the same noble River which bears down the Lumber, be made the means of carrying up the supplies?

On Tuesday the House was engaged on the Auditor's Reports: the main subject of discussion being the Loans made to the Burnt District in St. John, and the Water Company in the same place. It appears that £13,000 was loaned to the Burnt District, on which £1,800 is now due for interest. Mr. Fisher proposed a Resolution to the effect that the interest should be required forthwith; and this passed without a division. He then moved a Resolution that the Water Company, who owe £5,000 principal, and £2,400 interest, should be required to pay the interest, or something to that effect. A long discussion ensued, and the original Resolution requiring the interest, was passed. After the Amendments were negatived, Messrs. W. H. Street, Hazen, Partelow, Payne and others urged the claims of the Water Company in the strongest terms; and were replied to by His Honor the Speaker and Messrs. Wilmot, Fisher, Hill and Hannington, who contended that it was time the matter were brought to some conclusion; and that the delay in calling for the interest had done more harm than good. After the question was taken Mr. Fisher moved another Resolution calling the attention of the Government to the Section of the Burnt District Law, which requires 12 months notice in writing to the debtors, after the Bonds become due. The Resolution was supported by His Honor the Speaker and Messrs. Wilmot, Fisher, and Hannington; and spoken against as unnecessary and unmeaning by Messrs. Simonds, Hazen, Partelow and J. A. Street. The Speaker and Mr. Fisher called on them to move a Resolution more to the point; and Mr. Partelow proposed a substitute which was rejected, after which the original motion passed.

Wednesday morning was occupied in discussing a Bill reported from the Lumber Committee by Mr. Scoullar; the purport of which was to authorise the Governor and Council to grant Mill Reserves under certain restrictions, to the owners of Mills placed upon small streams. A long Debate followed, in which Messrs. Scoullar, J. A. Street, Taylor, Wark, Wilmot, and Hon. Mr. Simonds took part. It appears that by the present Law there is no authority for granting Reserves; and it was objected by Mr. J. A. Street, that Grants of Reserves had been unlawfully made for Mills situate in the Tide Ways in different places. The general opinion was, that Mills in the Tide Way or on Great Roads were not fit objects for Reserves; and the present Bill prohibits such Grants. When the House resumed, Mr. Partelow brought up the Report of the Select Committee, appointed to consider the Petition of John Kerr, Esq., a Surety of James Campbell, an absconding Debtor, recommending an allowance of some £300 on the Crown claim against the Petitioner; which had been secured to the Province, but not collected in consequence of some technical omission. Afterwards Mr. Fisher moved an Address to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, praying him to cause all the Fees collected at the Secretary's Office since the death of the late incumbent, to be paid over to the Receiver General, on the ground set forth in the Preamble, that the Salary of the Secretary shall in future be permanently fixed. He stated that an Address of a somewhat similar description had been passed in Canada upwards of a year ago; and the Governor General had complied with it. That then those Fees had been divided among the Secretaries of Lord Sydenham, and Lord Metcalfe had admitted the impropriety of it, and directed otherwise: subsequently to this, a Bill was brought in upon the same subject. Here the Bill had been passed with a suspending clause, and this measure was necessary until the Royal Assent would be got thereto. The Preamble of the Resolution was a copy of the Bill, and agreeable to the understanding that public salaries should be fixed to a permanent amount. Here Mr. Partelow stated that it was an important Resolution: it had better be laid on the Table for a day or so. Mr. End also made the same request, and that as an act of courtesy, his learned friend should, when called on, be willing to postpone it. Hon. Mr. Simonds said, that if the Resolution was necessary, then there was no use in passing the Law. It was only waste of time to pass such Resolutions. Mr. Wilmot said that it might be as well to let it stand over a day or two; but if it were pressed, he was willing to vote for it. That it was no doubt written correctly, as learned his colleague well knew how to draw it; and that the course adopted by the Government rendered the Resolution necessary: but as they had not asked the opinion of the House, as they ought to have done upon the subject, it was proper to address the Governor. Mr. Hazen also asked for delay to ascertain the meaning of this long Preamble; when the Speaker put the question and the Address passed.

The remainder of the day was occupied in discussing the Bridge Company question. Mr. Hill moved that the Sureties for money lent to the Company should be relieved on payment of half the principal and interest. Mr. Taylor moved an amendment to relieve them on payment of £3,000 Mr. Hannington moved an Amendment thereto, requiring the whole to be paid in five years. At 6 o'clock the House adjourned till yesterday morning, when it was resumed and all the Resolutions negatived. Mr. Wilmot then moved a Resolution to the effect that they should pay the whole principal now due in six instalments, with interest from the 1st of April; and the first payment to be made on the first January next. This passed, 16 to 15. The Loan is £6,000, and the interest upwards of £3,000.—The House then went into Supply, passed some School Grants, (among which was one of £40 for the Rev. Mr. M'Gregor, of Saint John,) and adjourned at 6 o'clock. We should have mentioned that previous to the adjournment of the House, Mr, J. A. Street brought up the Report of a Committee on the Petition of John Craven, Deputy Sheriff of Carleton, referring him to the Home Government, to call upon the American authorities for redress for a wrong done him by an American Magistrate.

The Legislative Journal of last week contains the protest of the minority in the Council, against the passing of the College Bill.—*Reporter.*

FREDERICTON, March 29.—The Assembly have had a most busy week, and among other important matters discussed, there have been many in which your City and Citizens are deeply interested. The loan of £6000 to the late unfortunate Bridge Company—of £2000 to the Water Company—an allowance of £2250 to Messrs. Street, to enable them to employ the distressed labouring poor after the dreadful conflagration in the preceding November—on the Money advanced to many of the sufferers to enable them to re-erect their buildings, have all successively come up and been disposed of, and the most of them in a way which cannot, I think, but be satisfactory to those so deeply interested.

The subjects were severally discussed with zeal and ability by the contending parties, and the result, after the failure of many resolutions put and negatived, was as follows:—

The Bridge Company are to be released from all interest now due on their Bonds, and are called upon to pay the whole principal, with interest, in six years—£1000 per annum. The Water Company are called upon to pay up the arrearages of Interest now due, amounting to £2250, and are allowed to have further time for the payment of the principal. The borrowers in the Burnt District are required to discharge the Interest remaining unpaid by some of them, and the whole principal is to be called for in two years.

The Loan to the Corporation has been disposed of, on terms highly favorable to that body, as they are only required to pay £370, (the amount unexpended for the purposes for which the loan was made,) when the two bonds of £2250 will be given up and cancelled.

On the latter question particularly, although he handled the other subjects with much ability, Hazen displayed great talent, and your old ex-Chamberlain, Partelow, as usual, took a prominent lead in bringing forward every thing he possibly could that would bear upon the question to induce the House to relieve the Corporation from a liability, undertaken under such peculiar circumstances.

The division on the motion made by Wilmot, who was a powerful auxiliary to the St. John Members on the latter question, having for its object relief to the Corporation, was 16 to 11—when Partelow immediately moved an address to the Governor, praying that His Excellency would be pleased to direct the Treasurer to cancel the two bonds for £2250, upon payment of the unexpended sum of £370, —which was carried.

Thus has this question been settled, and although I am one of those who agree with the minority, among whom were Brown, Fisher, Hannington, &c., that the Corporation ought to have paid the full amount of their Bonds, I could not but be pleased with Partelow's conduct considering the *little claim* to his services and support to which our worthy Corporation is entitled.—[Correspondent of the Courier.

VERBIAGE IN ACTS OF PARLIAMENT.—A writer in the *Westminster Review*, just published, in an article on the legislation of 1844 says, he has "taken the trouble of making a rough estimate of the number of words contained in these statutes," (those of one year, in which there were considerably fewer acts passed than usual,) and he found them to amount to 762,000! "Now," says he, "the whole Bible is comprised in a few more words; whilst the New Testament contains only about 198,000. Thus the entire code of Christian law, with the history of its Author, is comprised in about one quarter of the words which the Imperial Parliament uses to express the laws it enacts in a single year."

DREAD OF THE SURPLICE.—A young clergyman from the University of Cambridge was, in the absence of the newly-appointed vicar of Saffron Walden, who has not yet taken up his residence there, engaged to do the duty at the church on Sunday last; and, presuming he could be accommodated with a gown on his arrival, did not bring one with him. During the prayers messengers were sent in various directions to obtain the necessary habiliment, but without success; and, after a consultation with the churchwardens, the young clergyman, much against his will, ascended the pulpit in his surplice. The greatest consternation was depicted on the countenance of some of the congregation, and two or three persons left the church. The evangelical tone of his sermon, however, soon convinced his hearers that Puseyism found no representative in him. In the afternoon, however, a gown was provided, and the alarm subsided.—*County Herald.*

The late Marquess of Westminster was one of the most wealthy of England's aristocracy. He was formerly well known in the political world as Earl Grosvenor; was an ardent whig, and was raised to the dignity of Marquess by Earl Gray, when Prime Minister. Grosvenor Square, in London, is built on his lordship's property; and he was possessed of prodigious wealth in the city of Westminster, as well as in many other parts of England. He is succeeded in his titles and estates by his eldest son, but he has left to Lord Robert Grosvenor, a younger son, the snug little *legacy* of £200,000, one million of dollars!

THE OBSERVER.

ST. JOHN, TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 1845.

ELECTION OF CHARTER OFFICERS.—The annual Election of Charter Officers took place in the several Wards of this City to-day. We understand there was no opposition to the present holders of those offices in either of the Wards, and that they were thereupon re-elected by a show of hands.

The Mayor of the City for the ensuing year will also be appointed by His Excellency in Council to-day, at Fredericton. It is generally expected that Mr. Donaldson will be re-appointed.

On Thursday last, at 2 o'clock, His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor proceeded to the Council Chamber and gave his assent to eighty-five Bills, among which were the Revenue and College Bills, the latter with a suspending clause.

The Revenue Law, which came into operation to-day, will be found in preceding columns.—Copies of this law may be obtained at this office.

SHORT PASSAGE.—Ship Columbus, arrived this day, 23 days from Bristol—brought no papers. The Columbus was only 9 days to the Banks of Newfoundland.—This fast sailing ship was built by Justus Wetmore, Esq. of King's County.

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.—On Friday evening, Mr. Perley entertained an attentive audience with an interesting description of the District of Gaspe, which at present is part of Canada, but may ere long be annexed to our own Province.

Last evening, we had one of those scientific treats which have, this season, been few and far between. Mr. Foulis lectured on Chemical Affinity and Electro-Chemistry with an especial reference to the Electrotype process, which he illustrated by various successful experiments. Among other experiments, he silvered a candlestick, put a copper deposit upon a plaster of Paris model and produced a seal from an impression, in a very short space of time. The audience was respectable, but we are constrained to express our surprise that the wonders of science, which are also full of *harmony*, and well calculated to afford *amusement*, and *delight*, do not attract greater numbers to the Hall of the Institute.

Next Friday evening, Mr. Watts, a young gentleman belonging to Fredericton, will lecture on the "Education of the Industrial Classes of Society."

THE HARMONEON FAMILY, having given six Concerts in this City, (five at the Institute and one at the St. John Hotel,) all of which were numerously and fashionably attended, are about leaving town for Halifax. We learn that these delightful Minstrels purpose returning to this City in three or four weeks, on route for the United States, and will probably remain a few days previous to leaving for St. Andrews and Eastport.

We extract from the Courier of Saturday, a letter from its Fredericton correspondent, giving an account of the proceedings in the House of Assembly, on several local matters of much importance to our citizens in general. We also copy from the Fredericton Reporter, some details of the same and other subjects, which will be found interesting.—From a correspondent in Fredericton we have received a copy of the Address moved by Mr. Partelow, (and adopted by the House,) to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, on the subject of cancelling the Bonds given for the public Loan to the Corporation of this City, in the Session of 1842, which we subjoin. We understand that the hon. mover, Mr. J. R. Partelow, took a strenuous and very effective part in the discussion on the resolutions, and ably advocated the interests of the City:—

On motion of Mr. PARTELOW—Resolved, That an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, praying that His Excellency will be pleased to direct the Province Treasurer to cancel the two Bonds for £2,000 and £750, given by the Corporation of the City of Saint John, upon receiving payment into the Treasury of the sum of £370 unexpended by that Body out of the Money advanced by the Government, for which the said Bonds were given, in the employment of the distressed labouring Poor, after the calamitous Fire which took place in that City in November, 1841.—*Ordered*, That Mr. Partelow, Mr. J. Earle, and Mr. Botsford, be a Committee to wait upon His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor with the said Address.

MARCH 25.—On motion of Mr. Fisher—Resolved, That an humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, with copies of the Resolutions passed this day in committee of the whole House, upon the subject of the Interest due from the Saint John Water Company, and the Interest due upon the Bonds for the Burnt District, and for the purpose of obtaining payment of the said Bonds to meet the Debentures issued under the Act for granting a loan for rebuilding the Burnt District, praying that His Excellency will be pleased to give the necessary instructions for carrying into effect the wishes of the House in regard to the subjects contained in the said Resolutions.—Ordered, That Mr. Fisher, Mr. Connell, and Mr. Stewart be a committee to wait upon His Excellency with the Address.

MARCH 22.—Mr. Hazen moved for leave to present a Petition from the Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty of the City of Saint John, praying that the Bill to incorporate the Saint John Gas Company, may not pass into a Law.—The Order on the House, limiting the time for introducing Petitions,