

My attention was never directed to the levy of Ten per Cent. duty before, for it does not appear in the Revenue Act; and, if a stranger comes to St. John's to sell a cargo of goods, he will find that in addition to the duties which appear in the Tariff, which is annually circulated for the information of the public, he will have to pay ten per cent. on the value of all duties on his cargo, which is not exacted in any other port.

4.—I have now to call your attention to another subject, namely, Direct Steam Communication, and I beg to refer you to the documents which were laid before you during last session, and which you will find in the Appendix to the Journals of the Legislative Council, (those of the House of Assembly I only received on Saturday evening), from page 257 to 291. Since that time correspondence has taken place with Her Majesty's Government and the Agent of the Galway Company here, and, on a recent application from that gentleman to pay the subsidy stipulated by the old contract, which terminated on the 1st of January this year, the Council did not consider themselves in a position to accede to the Agent's request until advised by Her Majesty's Government, and I have been in daily expectation of hearing from the Secretary of State on this subject. It is needless for me to allude to the inconvenience which the community has suffered by the irregularities which have taken place in our Steam Postal Arrangements with the mother country. The Chamber of Commerce has complained to the Secretary of State, and to the same quarter I considered it my duty to state facts connected with this subject, with the sole object to have these irregularities remedied by Her Majesty's Government, for if the people of Newfoundland are to pay a large sum for Steam Postal Communication, they are entitled to receive value for their money.

5.—I have now the satisfaction to announce to you that a contract has been entered into with the owners of the *Victoria* steamer, a vessel well known on this coast, and which, this fall, has been thoroughly repaired with new boilers, &c., &c. The *Victoria* will be employed in communicating with many of the outports of this Island, carrying goods, passengers, and the mails, both North and South; and, I believe, it will be admitted that such an intercourse will, more than anything else, tend to promote the welfare, interests, prosperity, and, I sincerely hope, the civilization of so many of the people of Newfoundland. The details of the arrangements which have been made will be laid before you.

*Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:*

6.—The Revenue of this year, to the 24th November, amounts to £101,000; you will observe there has been a decrease from the last