The Observer.

SAINT JOHN, MARCH 5, 1850.

AMOUNT OF DUTIES.—The total amount of Specific Duties collected on articles imported into this Province in 1849, was £42,668 13s. 2d.—Ad-valorem duties, £20 258 9s. 4d.—Loan duties, £5,314 6s. 0d.—Total, £68,241 8s. 6d.

Of the above duties, £51,452 11s. was collected at St. John; £5930 3s. 6d. at Miramichi; £2,904 11s. 7d. at Dalhousie; £1,113 5s. 3d. at Bathurst; £514 2s. 5d. at Shippegan; £1,533 14s. 6d. at Richibucto; £63 2s. 4d. at Shediac; £273 12s. 9d. at Dorchester; £1 919 17s. 5d. at St. Andrews; £1,285 8s. 4d. at St. Stephens; £209 4s. 7d. at St. George; £170 10s. at Woodstock; £811 7s. at Fredericton; £19 19s. 9d. at West Isles; £3 16s. 2d. at Hopewell.

Several Despatches from the Colonial Secretary to Sir Edmund Head, on Provincial affairs, will be found in subsequent columns, including the Despatch relative to *Bounties*, in which Earl Grey states the reasons why Her Majesty was advised to withhold her assent from the Bill passed by the Provincial Legislature, for granting a bounty on the cultivation of Hemp; and the views of the Government on Bounties generally are given. There will also be found an extract of a Despatch from Sir Edmund Head to Earl Grey, on Municipal organization and Finances, with the Colonial Secretary's reply; *final* Despatch on Halifax and Quebec Railway, &c.

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.—Last evening, the Members of the Mechanics' Institute had another rich mental treat served up to them by the Rev. Mr. Elder, of Fredericton. The subject was, "*The dignity of Labour*," one in which the Artizan and Mechanic alone might be thought to be interested; but it was treated in such a dignified manner as could not but gain the attention and applause of those who move in more elevated walks of life. If the sentiments to which the Rev. lecturer gave utterance, and which he expressed in language at once pure and elegant, could gain the influence to which they are entitled, and which they must ere long acquire, we would discover among the various grades of Society a more willing recognition of their absolute dependence on each other, and a greater sympathy of the higher with the lower ranks of life. The *dignity of labour* is a subject which certainly has hitherto not received that attention which it merits, and to Mr. Elder we must express our gratitude for bringing it forward, and supporting it in so masterly and convincing a manner. It would give us pleasure to see the whole lecture in print.

Next Monday evening, the Rev. Mr. Cooney will lecture, and intends to make no less a personage *his subject*, than "HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN."

The adjourned Court of Oyer and Terminer will meet on Tuesday the 12th inst., at 11 A. M., when the attendance of the Grand Jury is required.

CHAS. JOHNSTON, *Sheriff*.

The trial of Joice, on a charge of receiving stolen goods, and other criminals, will probably take place during the sitting.

CONCERT.—Mr. Bennison's Juvenile Singing Class, it will be seen by advertisement in another part of this paper, are to give a Concert at the Hall of the Mechanics' Institute, to-morrow evening. This choir of Juveniles have recently given two Concerts at St. Stephen's Hall, to highly delighted audiences, and as these interesting treats have been rare this winter, we think we may predict a full house on the present occasion. Many who have heard their former concerts will again go to hear their youthful performances.—Admission only 7½d.

The ship *Java*, 418 tons, Capt. Coughlan, cleared at this port last week for San Francisco, (and is expected to sail this afternoon,) with an assorted cargo, comprising house frames, doors and window sashes, laths, shingles, bricks, lime, scows, grindstones, hoops, coals, &c., *valued*, in all, at £1389, shipped by John Wishart, Esq. of this city, which we trust may yield profitable returns from that distant market. We learn that several young men belonging to St. John and Carleton go out in the Java, to seek their fortunes in the gold regions.

The Fredericton *Reporter* of Friday states that St. Anne's Chapel, in that City, was again entered on Wednesday night last, by some miscreant, who broke through a window, and robbed the alms box. It is supposed that this sacrilegious act has been committed by the same person that perpetrated the former robbery.

Freights at New Orleans 27th Feb., and Savannah 4th March, 5-16d.—both places.—*Elec. Tel.*

The Revenue Officers seized nine barrels of Rum, this morning, in an open boat between Red Head and Partridge Island.

IMPORTANT SUBJECTS OF RUMOUR.—We hear that orders have arrived, by the last packet, from the Home Government, directing the Ordnance Department to undertake the erection of two Barracks—one at Point Pleasant, the other at Fort Needham—in the ensuing summer.—Provided the report be true, this does not seem as if Great Britain were inclined to relinquish her dominion over Nova Scotia at an early day.

It is also stated that Sir John Harvey will shortly be removed, and succeeded by the Marquis of Hugo. Probably Sir John may be appointed Governor General in place of Lord Elgin.—*Acadian Recorder.*

NOVA SCOTIA LEGISLATURE.—Mr. Henry's College Bill, and Mr. Howe's College Bill which contemplates a grant of £1200, to be divided among Colleges and Academies of the higher sort, having at least three Professors, and teaching the Ancient and Modern Languages, whether in the Province or on its frontiers, no one to have more than £250, nor less than £150, have passed the Assembly.

The Attorney General, on Wednesday, introduced a string of Resolutions, three in number, on the subject of trade, the object of which is to authorise the Lieut. Governor, through the Governor General, to treat with the American Government for a reciprocity of trade in all its departments, and if need be, to negotiate with the American Government for a right of free fishery upon our shores. They have been debated at some length in the Assembly, and have met rather a favourable reception in that body.—*Ib.*

TONNAGE OF ANNAPOLIS.—A correspondent of the *Acadian Recorder* makes a statement of the tonnage of the County thus:—14 brigantines, 52 schooners—66 vessels in all, with a tonnage, old measurement, of 6,715. We are happy to learn from the same source that several new vessels are on the stocks—to be launched in the spring. Annapolis is favorably situated for shipping, and we trust this important source of national wealth may go on steadily progressing.—[Novascotian.

THE RIVAL STEAM SHIPS.

LAUNCH OF THE STEAM SHIP ASIA.—The *Asia*, a magnificent steamer, was launched on Thursday afternoon from the building yard here of Messrs. Robert Steele & Co. She was named by Miss Hill, daughter of Dr. Hill, of this town, and slid majestically into her native element amid the booming of cannon and the hearty cheers of the assembled multitude; the adjoining ships, quays, &c., were crowded with spectators. The Asia is 265 feet in length, 37 in breadth, depth of hold 27 feet, and measures 2,226 tons N. M., being 400 tons larger than those last built for the owners; she is 17 feet longer and four wider. In her construction every application of skill and science has been combined that should contribute to her strength and speed. She is the property of the British and North American Steam Navigation Company, and is to be commanded by Captain Judkins, so well-known and popular in the trade. She is to proceed to Glasgow in a few days to receive her engines at Mr. Napier's establishment, and we have no doubt that when furnished she will sustain and increase the illustrious and world-wide character already so well earned by her eminent builders and engineers, and support against all comers the fame of the enterprising Cunard company by whom she is owned.—*Greenock Advertiser.*

WARMING SHIPS BY STEAM.—Collins' magnificent line of New York and Liverpool steamers are rapidly progressing, and the *Pacific* will be ready for sea by the last of April. In glancing through the state-rooms, parlors and dining-room of this gigantic ship, we could not but express admiration at the arrangements, beauty and commodiousness of everything appertaining to personal comfort and convenience. A new improvement is introduced in the way of warming every part of the ship by steam pipes supplied directly from the boilers. An admirable feature, securing safety and a luxury often denied in the best ships at sea. This line of steamers is to be officered from the Navy, with the exception of the Captain. The government requires this, that these gentlemen may become familiar with steam navigation.—*N. York Journal of Commerce.*

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,

GOVERNMENT DESPATCHES.—A number of important despatches were submitted to the Legislature on the 20th February, relating to the Post Office, the Passengers' Act, the Canadian Boundary, the Vice Admiralty Court, Railways, Sales of Crown Lands, Bounties, and Municipal Organization and Finances.

The Post Office despatches relate to a provisional agreement with the American Postmaster General for establishing rates of postage on letters to and from the United States and the British Colonies. It is proposed, that the American Government shall charge a medium rate of 7½ cents, or 4½d currency, on all letters posted in the United States for these Colonies; and that such letters shall pay 3d. additional as British postage, which will take them throughout British America. In the same manner, letters posted in the Colonies, shall pay 3d. for the half-ounce to the American frontier, and thence go to any part of the Union, for an additional charge of 7½ cents only. To the proposed arrangements, the Executive Council of this Province have concurred unanimously; the Lieutenant Governor has advised Earl Grey of the concurrence, and requested that the proposal may be carried out at once, by warrant.

As to Passengers, Earl Grey communicates some information from the Emigration Officer at Cork, with the view of shewing the importance of not making the regulations as to Emigrant Ships more severe than absolutely necessary. With reference to this, we learn, that a bill is now before the Assembly, introduced by the Attorney General, repealing all the former Acts of the Province relating to Passengers, and establishing entirely new regulations. It is proposed by the new Act to reduce the present head-money to exactly one half the rates ately exacted; and it is expected, that the bill will be so far advanced before the departure of the next English Mail, that its principal provisions may be notified at the chief emigration ports in England and Ireland.

The despatches relating to the Vice Admiralty Court are very voluminous. Earl Grey transmits a table of fees which have been established for the Vice Admiralty Court at Quebec, and recommends the Legislature of this Province to take mesures for rendering the same scale of fees applicable to the Vice Admiralty Court here. We have heard great complaints of the excessive fees now exacted in our Admiralty Court; they are said to be so exorbitant as almost to amount to a denial of justice, as no person will engage in a suit before that Court, who can possibly avoid it.

There are two despatches, relative to the Acts passed last Session, for adjusting the claims of certain purchasers of Crown Lands, between 1832 and 1837, and for facilitating the sale and improvement of Crown Lands, and commuting debts due by Settlers for work on the public roads. Earl Grey states, that although these Acts have received the Royal assent, yet they are open to certain objections which he points out with a view to their being remedied.

The last despatch is dated 8th February, 1850, and announces the Royal assent to an Act passed in 1844, for dividing the County of Carleton into two Counties, and establishing the new County of VICTORIA. Another County is therefore erected in the Province, which at the General Election this year, will return two additional Members to the Assembly. The County Town of Victoria is to be at the Grand Falls, and is called Colebrooke.—*Cour.*

HALIFAX AND QUEBEC RAILWAY.

Downing Street, 5th April, 1849.

SIR,—I have hitherto deferred answering your Despatch of the 6th January last, on the subject of the proposed Halifax and Quebec Railway, because I was unwilling to abandon the hope that in doing so I might be enabled to communicate to you the determination of Her Majesty's Government to submit to Parliament some definite proposal, with a view to the execution of this great national undertaking. I regret however to have now to inform you that, for the present at least, it has been found impracticable to overcome the difficulties which have stood in the way of every plan which has hitherto been suggested for providing for the cost of a work of such magnitude as the proposed Railway. While I entirely concur in your estimate of the extreme importance of that work to the Empire at large, as well as the North American Provinces; and while I gladly acknowledge that the Members of your Council have shewn a disposition to do all that lies in them to promote its accomplishment, and have suggested a measure which has much to recommend it for effecting this object; still Her Majesty's Government have reluctantly come to the conclusion, that in the present circumstances of this country, they would not be justified in applying to Parliament for the appropriation of so large a sum for this Railway as it has been estimated it would cost. You will express to the Members of your Council my strong sense of the judgment and ability they have displayed in the consideration of this important subject, although the measure which they have suggested has unfortunately been found open to objections which have proved insurmountable. It would be to me a subject of deep regret if I believed that the determination not to adopt this particular measure implied that all hope of hereafter carrying the projected Railway into effect by other means must be given up.—but I see no reason for coming to any such conclusion, nor will I despair that this great design may at no distant period be resumed with a happier result.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GREY.

Lt. Governor Sir E. Head, Bt., &c.

CANADIAN BOUNDARY.

Downing Street, 22d May, 1849.

SIR,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch, No. 40, of the 13th April last, enclosing an Address to the Queen, from the Legislative Council of New Brunswick, praying for an early settlement of the question respecting the Boundary Line in dispute between Canada and New Brunswick.

I have to request that you will inform the Council, that I have laid their Address before the Queen, but that it will not be in my power to tender any advice to Her Majesty until I shall be in possession of the views of the Canadian Government on the subject, to which I have again directed the attention of the Earl of Elgin. I have, &c.

(Signed) GREY.

Lt. Governor Sir Edmund Head, Bart., &c.

BOUNTIES.

Downing Street, 4th December, 1849.

SIR,—I have to acknowledge your Despatch, No 38, of 10th April last, enclosing an Address to Her Majesty, presented to you by a Committee of the Assembly, on behalf of the House, the prayer of which is, that Her Majesty will direct the instructions given to Lieutenant Governor Sir William Colebrooke in my Despatch of 2d March, 1848, may be re-considered so far as regards the proposal of a Bounty on the cultivation of Hemp.

2. You will acquaint the Assembly that I have laid their Address before the Queen, and that Her Majesty was pleased to receive it very graciously; but you will also inform them, that after having given the fullest consideration to the subject, Her Majesty's servants do not feel themselves able to advise the Queen to comply with the prayer of the Address.

3. Parliament has for many years steadily persevered in a course of policy which has had for its object gradually to relieve the commerce of the Empire from restrictions, and to abandon all attempts to direct Capital and Industry by artificial means into channels which they would not naturally seek. In pursuance of this policy, laws enacting such restrictions, and imposing high Duties upon imports, have been successively repealed, and Bounties, which were formerly granted to some extent in this country, have been discontinued, until the Trade of the Empire may now be said to stand on the footing of being nearly free from such interference.

4. The benefits which are expected to arise from this policy will be greatly increased through its general adoption by the principal nations of the world, which Her Majesty's Government hope to see eventually brought about. But it would materially interfere with the attainment of this happy result if it should be observed by Foreign Countries that the former and narrow policy of endeavouring, by Bounties or restrictions, to divert Capital and Industry to other than their natural channels, was again adopted with Her Majesty's assent in any part of Her Dominions.

5. I cannot, therefore, alter the instructions given to your predecessor, and thus authorize you to assent, in Her Majesty's name, to enactments which would be prejudicial to the interests of the Empire at large.

6. Her Majesty's Government have felt it the more necessary to come to this determination because they are persuaded that measures of the kind thus proposed, injurious as they would be to the Empire for the reasons already assigned, would be particularly so to New Brunswick itself.

Indeed one of the grounds assigned by the Assembly in favour of the policy which they recommend seems to afford strong reasons against it. They state that in a new Colony, where Capital is scarce, and the resources of the country little developed, the granting of Bounties may be not only consistent with good policy, but, in many instances, necessary. But this argument appears to lose sight of the principle, that the scarcer capital may be the more necessary it is that it should be applied to the best advantage. The effect, and indeed the object of Bounties is, to cause Capital to be employed in pursuits which, without the assistance of such Bounties, would not offer sufficient returns to induce individuals to follow them, while it is obvious that no Capital can be devoted in any country to new branches of industry unless it be withdrawn from old ones; and consequently the effect of the Bounty would be to induce individuals to give up some business, naturally remunerative, in order to embark in some other in which they would have a bounty in addition to the natural and legitimate return. And this bounty would, of course, be derived from the taxes levied on the general industry of the Colony.

7. I trust that the Assembly will, on further reflection, perceive how little such a result would tend to the real advantage of the Province.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GREY.

Lt. Governor Sir E. Head, Bt., &c.

MUNICIPAL ORGANIZATION AND FINANCES.

Extract from Despatch No. 61, dated June 27, 1849, of Sir Edmund Head to Earl Grey.

"Reform and economy are to be pursued for their own sakes—but there is nothing in the contrast between the burthen of taxation here, and in the United States, to place the British Colonist in a disadvantageous condition. There are many who will at once ask,—"How then do you account for the comparative prosperity of the State of Maine? Is it not owing to their high Tariff and protecting Duties which would thus appear to be in their favour rather than against them?"

I am conscious that, in discussing this subject, I am speaking with very imperfect knowledge and information on many points; but I have little hesitation in expressing my conviction that the superior prosperity of Maine, so far as it goes, is attributable principally to two causes—

1st. Not to their protecting Duties, but to the practical enjoyment of Free Trade, notwithstanding those Duties protecting them against European competition. They have the open ports and unrestricted coasting Trade of the whole Union at their command; and they thrive in spite of the more favored climate and soil with which they have to contend. So far as it goes therefore, in my opinion, their condition, and that of the other States vying and struggling with each other, and turning to the best account the advantages respectively afforded by every variety of climate, and every variety of produce, afford a practical argument in favor of free trade rather than in favor of protection.

2d. The Township organization, and the habit of managing their own local affairs, which have generated and fostered, both in England and in the New England States, habits of self-reliance and self-government.

It is in these two points and these alone, that the people of the State of Maine enjoy more true freedom than the people of the British Provinces.

They offer unrestricted access to the industry of the rest of the Union, and they have the benefit of an extended market for their own produce. Each man has, moreover, his own faculties and his own capacity for economical management constantly exercised in the control of the affairs of his own township. They look after their own roads, and their own schools, and exercise those Municipal rights which fit a man for sound and prudent action on a large scale, by developing his political intelligence in matters which he readily understands and appreciates.

The people of this Province, on the other hand, are shrewd and sharp enough, but they have habitually relied upon the Government for the management of their Roads and Schools, and have looked to the Executive Council or the Legislature for help in every emergency. My predecessor, Sir W. Colebrooke, clearly saw these defects, and he urged the adoption of Municipal Institutions throughout the Province as the appropriate remedy. The general feeling however, then was, and I dare say still is, adverse to any change which would throw the inhabitants more on their own resources. Public opinion may alter; and I think it my duty to state explicitly that, in my opinion, Sir W. Colebrooke's views were founded on a just appreciation of the real difficulties of the case. At any rate, let it not be supposed that these elements of real political liberty have been withheld by the influence of the Crown or its Representatives. In this, as in most other things, the true interests of the Government and of the people completely coincide.

The population of these Colonies are made up of the same materials as those of the Northern States of the American Union, and they are nowise inferior to their neighbors in native energy, shrewdness, and industry, though from a want of self-reliance, and other causes to which I have adverted, they do not always employ those qualities with equal success." * * *

Downing Street, 23d July, 1849.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch, No. 61, of the 27th June, forwarding the annual "Blue Book," accompanied by your Report upon the present condition of the Province of New Brunswick.

2 Concurring generally in the views which you entertain, I trust that the Provincial Legislature will see the necessity of seriously considering the state of affairs, and of adopting those measures of reform which appear to me indispensable in order that New Brunswick may attain to that prosperity which, from its great natural advantages, it has a right to expect.

3. Of these reforms, I concur with you in thinking that the establishment of a system of Municipal organization is the one most urgently wanted. It is to her ancient institutions of this kind that the political prosperity of England has been, with justice, in a great measure attributed—and the adoption of very similar institutions in her former North American Colonies, now the States of the North American Union, adjoining New Brunswick, has in a fully equal degree promoted their advance—and I earnestly hope that the Province may not long be deprived of the like advantages.

4. With a view to facilitate the establishment of Municipal Bodies, I would suggest that in each Township or County the receipts arising from Land and Timber should be placed at the disposal of those Bodies, subject only to the condition that they should be applied to permanent improvements, such as the opening of Roads, the building of Bridges, and the establishment of Schools.

5. I regard also the encouragement which would be given to trade by putting an end to the uncertainty which you describe as existing with respect to the rate of Duties to which goods on their arrival will be subject, as a matter of great importance to the prosperity of the Province. I can conceive nothing better calculated to check the commerce of the Colony than frequent fluctuations in the rate of its Customs Duties. I am apprehensive that the remedy you propose for this evil, by merely altering the period of the year at which Tax Bills are to take effect, would be altogether inadequate, and that to give to Trade the extension of which it is capable, the Duties themselves must be placed on a more permanent footing.

6. You are probably aware that in this Country all the Customs Duties are now imposed by permanent Laws, which Parliament has, of course, the power to alter, but which, in the absence of any reason for their alteration, remain in force without being annually renewed. As the produce of the taxes can only be legally appropriated by Parliament, the constitutional control of that body over the public purse is not thus weakened, while trade greatly gains by the more permanent character of the Duties imposed—and I most strongly recommend the adoption of a similar system by the Provincial Legislature.

7. The improvement of the Financial condition of the Province is a subject to which the attention of the Legislature is urgently required, and I believe that this object can only be accomplished by the establishment of Municipal Institutions to which I have already adverted, accompanied by efficient measures for relieving the general Revenue from a variety of local charges to which it is now subject, and for providing for these charges by assessments made by the Municipal Bodies where established.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GREY.

Lt. Governor Sir E. Head, Bart., &c.

Extract of Despatch, No. 79, from Sir Edmond Head to Earl Grey, dated September 17, 1849.

* * * It is well however to point out that the proposed mode in paragraph 4, of the Despatch of July 23, that namely of appropriating the receipts arising from Land and Timber in the different Counties or Townships to permanent improvements in each District, under the superintendence of Municipal Bodies, would be hardly practicable, since the receipts from these sources in different Counties of the Province are so extremely unequal as far to exceed what would be necessary in one County, whilst another would be left almost without funds. * * *

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 27.

After the journals were read the House resolved itself into Committee on a Bill to incorporate the Fredericton Gas Light Company. Passed without debate.

Mr. Hayward, by leave, brought in a Bill to incorporate the Sunbury Agricultural Society; also, a Bill to erect part of the Parish of Sheffield, in Sunbury, into two seperate townships or parishes, both of which passed a first reading.

The Consolidation Bill was then taken up in Committee of the whole. Hon. L. A. Wilmot moved for a reconsideration of the 10th section, which had reference to the river and lake fisheries. He wished to make provision to prevent obstruction to the fish ascending to the rivers and lakes. He said the overseers of the fisheries were not in the habit of doing their duty in this respect, which tended to injure the people in the country. He intended that this should be obviated by the present Bill. A table of fees not having been prepared, the Committee reported progress and asked leave to sit again.

Mr. R. D. Wilmot asked leave to bring in a petition from T. Allan, Henry Chubb, and 1231 others, praying the house to pass such a Revenue Bill as would afford protection to the different branches of industry in this Province; also, praying for a bounty as an encouragement to prosecute the fisheries.

His Honor *the Speaker* did not think that a petition of *that* description was receivable after the Committee on Ways and Means had reported. This was a parliamentary rule in England.

Mr. R. D. Wilmot said such may be a parliamentary rule in England, but he would not like to see it established here. The petition which he held in his hand was a very important one; and it would be unjust not to hear the prayer of so large and respectable a body.

(His Honor the Speaker referred to the journals of the House of Commons, where a similar petition was rejected. For the petition, 221; against it, 222.)

Mr. R. D. Wilmot said if this has been an established rule it was a wrong one; and he would like to see it broken down. We had every right to hear our constituents and to receive their Petitions.

Hon Mr. Fisher would not deviate from the established rule. If they did so the House would be inundated with Petitions until the end of the Session from all parts of the country.

The House then divided;—for the Petition 15; against it 11.

Mr. Street presented a Petition from Miramichi, praying that a duty of not more than 4 per cent. be imposed on British importations, in addition to the one per cent. already imposed.

Hon Mr. Fisher would put it to Hon. members to say, if there was any use to establish fixed rules for the guidance of this House. He knew well if the rule was once infringed upon Petitions would continue to inundate the House from all directions. He cared not who the petitioners were or what was their standing or respectability, he would protest against breaking through Parliamentary and salutary usages. The Petition was received:—Yeas, 17; Nays, 8.

Mr. Wark said he did not think the Committee appointed to prepare the Revenue Bill was fairly composed. Four of the members for St. John were on that Committee. He (Mr. W.) would add hon. Mr. Fisher to the Committee.

Mr. R. D. Wilmot said he was quite willing to have all Free Traders on the Committee if it pleased hon. members. He was ready to name a day to bring in a resolution in order to test the House on the question of Free Trade or Protection.

(Considerable dissatisfaction seemed to prevail with regard to the Revenue Bill Committee. Several hon. members were named to act on that Committee, and some were rejected. Mr. R. D. Wilmot named Mr. J. Earl, but he was rejected. Mr. Wilmot then said he wished his name withdrawn. He would not act.)

The Attorney General—There is no necessity for the hon. member to withdraw his name; there is nothing compulsory in this House to compel members to act on Committees against their consent.

The House then went into Committee on a Bill to repeal all the Acts of Assembly relating to Bankruptcy in this Province.

(After some discussion, which amounted to little more than a legal explanation, Mr. R. D. Wilmot moved that the further consideration of the Bill be postponed for three months, which was negatived by a large majority.)

Mr. Ritchie thought that another section should be added to the Bill, in order to make it fully efficient.

Hon. Mr. Fisher said that in order to meet the views of the learned member from St. John, he would report progress, and to-morrow he would be prepared to go into the Bill. The Committee then reported progress.—*Morning News.*

THURSDAY, Feb. 28.—The House went into Committee on a Bill to settle certain doubts raised respecting the last Will and Testament of the late Mark Vsrley, of St. John.

Mr. Ritchie said, the only intention of the Bill was to settle doubts which had arisen, and to appropriate certain donations mentioned in the Will to the charitable purpose for which they were intended. The deceased, in his last Will and Testament, left property for the purpose of establishing and maintaining a Charity School, in connexion with the Methodist Church in St. John, which property, with the income thereof, had been assigned to the Trustees of the Methodist Church, to be appropriated for the above purpose. There were four Methodist Chapels in St. John, each of which had its separate Trustees. There was no doubt but the testator in his will recognized the Trustees of these different Chapels, conjointly, to be the Trustees of the Methodist Church in St. John, and the object of the Bill was to settle this question with as little delay and expense as possible.

After some considerable debate with regard to the propriety of appealing to the House to settle the question instead of a Court of Chancery, Mr. Street moved that the consideration of the Bill be postponed for three months, which was seconded by Dr. Wilson. The motion was lost, only the mover and seconder voting in the minority.

The House went into Committee on Mr. R. D. Wilmot's Bill to authorise the issue of Treasury Notes, which elicited a very interesting debate.—A motion was made to postpone the Bill for three months, which was lost by a division of 21 to 10. The Bill passed.

The Bill to repeal all the laws relating to Bankruptcy, which was under consideration yesterday, was then taken up in Committee of the whole.

Mr. R. D. Wilmot moved that an additional section be added, which was to the effect, that all the debts and effects of the Bankrupt should go to the general creditors and not to the first assignee as has been the case. Mr. Wilmot, in strong and convincing terms, condemned the Bankrupt system as it has existed. He considered it unjust—nay, robbery—that a Bankrupt should be allowed to purchase in his own estates at a mere nothing, and after getting through what he (Mr. W.) considered a legal robbery court, turn round and obtain from his debtors 20s. in the pound. He (Mr. W.) wished to have something to protect the honest man against such licenced fraud. The state of things hourly prevailed too long to the injury of the just dealer.

After some observations from Messrs. Thompson, Ritchie and Woodward, Mr. Steves said he would test the House at once on the principle of the Bill and moved that its further consideration be postponed for six months.

The House divided. For the motion, 14; against it, 17. The Bill passed with amendment.

A Bill to consolidate and amend the laws relating to buoys and beacons in the Bay of Fundy passed without discussion.—*New-Brunswicker.*

Mr. Brown, from the Committee appointed to wait upon His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor with the Address of the House on Saturday the twenty-third day of February instant, praying that His Excellency would be pleased to cause to be laid before the House, any Communications he may have received from Her Majesty's Government upon the subject of Orange Institutions, reported—That they had attended thereto, and that His Excellency was pleased to say, he would direct the information required to be furnished.

FRIDAY, March 1.—On the Bill to relieve Aliens from taxes imposed by the militia law in this Province being read, a brief discussion took place.—Some hon. members were for suspending the militia law altogether, leaving the power with His Excellency to call out the militia in case of invasion; others were for reducing the taxes of Aliens equal to that paid by British subjects, and a few argued that as British subjects were required to pay 10s. a day for not attending militia duty, Aliens should pay 10s. a day because they could not perform that duty, which would put them upon an equal footing with the former.

Mr. Gilbert moved that the militia law be suspended, leaving discretionary power with the Governor, which motion was lost on a division of 18 to 10.

Mr. Gilbert then said as his first motion was lost, he would move that the further consideration of the Bill be postponed for three months, which was carried.

The Bill to authorise the Rev. W. T. Wishart to solemnize marriage was then read a third time. Some discussion arose. The arguments on both sides were the same as those used on the second reading of the Bill.

Messrs. Hannington, Brown, Taylor, Ritchie, Hayward, Hon. L. A. Wilmot, Messrs. R. D. Wilmot and Woodward, spoke in favor of the Bill.—Messrs. Thompson, Boyd, Carman, Rankin, Street, and Wark, argued against it. Mr. Rankin moved that the further consideration of the Bill be postponed for three months, which was lost on a division of 15 to 13. The Bill passed.—*News.*

A Bill for the repeal of the Act incorporating the City of Fredericton was under discussion to-day, which caused a good deal of debate. Progress was reported. It is not probable the Bill will pass, but certain amendments may be made in the Act of Incorporation.

The Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to the government of Counties and Parishes, has passed its third reading, and was sent to the Legislative Council for concurrence.

This is the most important Bill which has been introduced during the Session, and will effect changes in the local government of Counties and Parishes, which require only a determination on the part of the people to avail themselves of the power which the Bill gives them, (should it pass into a law,) to remove many of the complaints which have heretofore existed with respect to the management of local affairs.

A very animated debate also took place in the afternoon of yesterday, on a Bill introduced by Mr. Carman, the scope of which went to take the power of trying civil suits for small debts out of the hands of the Magistracy generally, and vest that power in such Magistrates as should be specially licenced for that purpose by the Lieut. Governor in Council. Progress was reported on this Bill.

The Bill to incorporate the Orange Lodges stands for the order of the day on Friday next.—*Head Quarters.*

SATURDAY, March 2.—When I entered the Gallery, Mr. Boyd was on his feet advocating the interests of the St. Andrews and Quebec Railroad Company, the Bill to facilitate the operations of that Society being under consideration. Mr. Boyd spoke of the interest which he thought the Legislature should take in furthering the project, and of the benefits that would ultimately accrue by the introduction of capital into the country.

Hon. Mr. Partelow said that year after year this Company had applied to the House for concessions of various kinds, and the directors had never made a report of their proceedings or given any information by which the House could judge the propriety of making further grants. If there were satisfactory information before the House, he would have no objection to grant £30,000 or £40,000 to carry out the work; but until he saw something to show that the project was likely to be carried on, he would not go for the Bill. He thought it was better to postpone the further consideration of the bill until information could be obtained from the Directors of the Company.

Hon. Mr. Hannington, Messrs. Connell, Brown, Thompson and others spoke on the subject, after which progress was reported in order to obtain information from the directors. The Bill will again come before the House, when its merits will likely undergo a full discussion.

The House then went into Committee on a Bill to amend the law for the punishment of persons guilty of trespass on Square Timber and other Lumber.

This Bill occupied the House during the remainder of the day. Hon. Members vied with each other in describing the necessity for the passing of such an act. And many expressed their surprise that a similar Bill had not been passed before. The Bill passed and the House adjourned.—*N. Bruns*

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, Feb. 20.

The Council went in committee on a Bill for the better extinguishing of fires which may happen in St. John—Hon. Mr. Botsford in the chair.

The Hon. Mr. Hazen explained the Bill, which he said differed from the old act only in the case of two or three amendments. There was a clause authorizing the Common Council to levy a sum not exceeding £500.—it was £300 in the old bill—to be raised by a general assessment, should that amount be found necessary. As a number of young active men had enrolled themselves into Fire Companies, it was enacted in the Bill that they should be exempt from all other public services, such as Militia Trainings, Statute Labour and Jury duties. It renders any person guilty of a felony, having in his possession for the space of 24 hours and neglecting to give notice thereof—the missing property of Individuals, removed during the time of fires. When the Bill was here last year, the exception made to its passing related solely to the number of exemptions from public duties which it included, on behalf of the fire-men; but he trusted that on this occasion, as much pains had been taken to render it useful, no objections would be urged which were not thought strictly necessary.

Progress was afterwards reported, with the view of giving the Bill further consideration.—*Reporter.*

NEWFOUNDLAND.—The new Roman Catholic Cathedral has been opened for worship, with great pomp and ceremony, by the Bishop. The foundation stone was laid by Bishop Fleming 20th May, 1841, and was opened for the first time 6th January, 1850. Four hundred children of the Convant School, clothed in white, were in attendance. It is estimated that not less than *nine thousand* persons were present at the ceremony. The following is a brief description of the edifice—Its extreme length, from entrance to apsis is 232 feet; the length of transepts 180 feet; extreme breadth of nave 60 feet, and of transepts 60 feet; with a beautiful ambulatory, 12 feet in breadth, connected with the main body of the Church by a square screen of massive pillars and semicircular arches. The towers are 125 feet in height; the walls to the nave course, 60 feet. The whole exterior is faced with cut stone; the cornices and dressings of doors and windows are of granite, from the quarries in the neighborhood of Dublin; the ashlaring from the marble quarries in Galway, and the roof and windows are constructed of the best Baltic timber. It is situated on a lofty table land, commanding a full view of the harbour of St. John's and the ocean, and looks down upon the city, stretched out in panoramic view beneath its sombre form.—[Halifax Novascotian

[FROM LATE ENGLISH PAPERS.]

The Earl of Winchilsea said in the House of Lords on Thursday that corn could be grown in foreign countries, and especially in America, at so low a price that he himself would undertake to import any number of millions of quarters at the rate of 30s. a quarter, and it was his firm conviction that the time would shortly come when corn would be sold in our markets at that price.

The widow of Dr. Chalmers died on Tuesday 26th January, having survived her distinguished husband about two years. Seven daughters, two of whom are married, survive. Dr. Chalmers never had any sons.

EXECUTION.—On Thursday, Mrs Hamilton was executed at Glasgow for murder. The wretched woman was led to the drop in a half unconscious state, two turnkeys assisting her. About 20,000 persons were present.

A NEW YEAR'S GIFT.—A shipowner in South Shields, on the 1st January presented his godson with a Brig, worth about £5500, as a New Year's gift.

Cattle from Portugal.—The iron steam ship Queen, arrived at Southampton on Friday morning, from Oporto, with 110 oxen, and she is to run regularly between Southampton and Oporto, in the cattle trade, as there is expected to be a considerable demand for exen from Portugal.

THE "GREAT LAKE" OF SOUTH AFRICA.—The discovery of this magnificent sheet of water has been justly designated as the "grandest geographical discovery of modern times." The long-contested problem has at length been solved, and the existence of the lake determined. The Mr. L. of whom mention is made is the Rev. Robert Livingston, the well-known and indefatigable missionary among the Bechumas, and son-in-law of the Rev. Robert Moffat, whose name must be familiar to all who are interested in the conversion of the heathen. Mr. Livingston was accompanied by Mr. Oswell, of the Madras Civil Service, and Mr. Murry, of Lintrose, near Cupar Angus, in Scotland. These three are the adventurers who have at length put at rest the long-pending dispute as to the existence of the great fresh water sea in the interior of South Africa. The lake appears to lie in about 19 degrees south latitude, or 560 miles north west of Kolobeng, the scene of Mr. Livingston's arduous and devoted labours, and the head quarters of the Banquain tribe. Further particulars may be almost daily looked for; and, before long Messrs. Oswell and Murry will probably be among us. Their names (in conjunction with that of Mr. Livingston) will now head the list of recent South African travellers.—*London Anthenæum.*

PORT NATAL.—As several persons have left Liverpool within these few days for the purpose of proceeding to Port Natal, the following "latest intelligence" from that settlement will be interesting to their friends and fellow-townsmen:—"The intelligence from Natal is generally satisfactory; the beauty and fertility of the country are acknowledged by all the emigrants, but several persons appear to have formed an idea that they could live there without work, and that the land was literally flowing with milk and honey. Disappointment, of course, must result from such extravagant expectations, but the prospect was cheering for all such as had means to settle on their lands, or who are willing to accept work either as mechanics or skilled farm labourers.

THE RESEARCHES IN THE RUINS OF NINEVEH.—Letters from Nimroud, of November the 25th, inform us of the progress of Dr. Layard's researches. A wall of admirably-united large square blocks of limestone, without cement, has been discovered in the pyramid at Nimroud; but as yet it has been impossible to ascertain what is behind it. It may probably be a chamber or tomb; or it may be only one side of a square mass supporting the pyramid of unbaked bricks. What if it should turn out to be the true *busta Nini*? In the entrance of a gateway to the quadrangle opposite Mosul, Dr. Layard has reached a pair of enormous winged figures, which appear to have been entire, but have been cracked and injured by fire. A plan of this entrance would be interesting, as illustrative of the architecture of the city. At Kouyunjik, a pair of gigantic bulls, back to back, separated by an enormous figure strangling a lion, like that at Paris, but still larger, have been discovered; but the upper parts of all have been destroyed. On the bulls are interesting inscriptions. We are glad to hear that the colossal lions at Nimroud were nearly ready for removal. It was expected that they would be on their road to England early in December. Dr. Layard has a party of men excavating at Baashickhah, and in a mound near Khorsabad.

[FROM LATE AMERICAN PAPERS.]

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21.—The President is at this time critically situated in relation to the South. The prospect is, that while democracy at the North and South refuses him all support, he will lose any support that he still retains among the Southern whigs. Gen. Taylor has already gone as far towards an adjustment of the territorial question, in a manner acceptable to the non-slaveholding States, as he can safely do; and, at the next step, he must lose Southern support entirely, or Northern support. He will have a difficult task to carry on the government for the rest of his term. If he does succeed in weathering the storm, he will be hailed as a good pilot.

As to the prospect of the admission of California, and of an adjustment of the question pending, there is no prospect of it whatever at this session. Some have supposed that the present would be a long session, and that it would not terminate till the slavery question is settled. But, if that has been, it is not now the prospect. The members are already wearied and disgusted, and with or without violence, they will probably break up in July. July is the season for sensation.