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Mr. Morton, Hugh Bell, & Ed.

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all lovers of good order for the Resolution he has introduced into the House of Assembly relative to the carriage, opening and dispatch of Mails in various parts of the Province on the Lord's Day. Necessity, we are aware, is pleaded for the present postal arrangements, by which the quiet and sanctity of that holy day are invaded. Some of our contemporaries, however, the Eastern Chronicle in particular, have shown that other arrangements could be made by which the evil complained of might be almost altogether, if not entirely, obviated. The subject is worthy of the mature deliberation of the members of the different Branches of the Legislature, who will soon, we suppose, have to deal with the entire subject of postal communication. A strong feeling exists in the country against the unnecessary violation of the Sabbath, by the arrival, opening, and dispatch of mails. That feeling will sustain the present effort made to rid the country of the evil; and though some inconvenience may be suffered on the abolishment of the present system, yet it is better this should be the case, than that the systematic violation of God's command should be sanctioned, and injury inflicted on the consciences of thousands of our fellow countrymen.

The following presentment of the Grand Jury at Pictou will show the state of feeling in that part of the Province on this all-important subject:—

Pictou, SS. General Sessions, February Term, 1851.

The following presentment was made by the Grand Jury in Session, February Term, and confirmed by the Court of General Sessions, and ordered to be published.

Pictou, Feb. 8, 1851. JAMES SKINNER, C. Peace.

Presented.—That the desecration of the Sabbath involved in the arrival and departure of the Mails on that day in this Town, is a subject of deep regret to the religiously disposed portion of this community, and this Inquest are of opinion that the most strenuous exertions of the constituted authorities ought to be immediately called into action to alter the present arrangement.

LITERARY NOTICE.

The Rev. C. Churchill, on the 28th ult., delivered the Introductory Lecture before the Quebec Library Association.—Subject,—“QUEBEC, ITS COMMERCIAL POSITION AND ITS CAPABILITIES.” The Lecture is published in extenso in the Quebec Morning Chronicle of January 31st, which has been kindly forwarded to us. We regret we cannot find room for extracts from this document which exhibits considerable research, contains a variety of useful statistical information, and is calculated to increase the literary reputation of our old friend. We shall have great pleasure in loaning the paper to any of Mr. Churchill's friends in the City, who may have a laudable curiosity to peruse the Lecture.

The Treasurers of the Wesleyan Supernumeraries' and Ministers' Widows' Fund gratefully acknowledge the receipt of the following sums, viz:—

Table with 2 columns: From, Amount. From the Newport Circuit, £1 15 0; " " Halifax Circuit, 4 5 9 1/2

Provincial Parliament.

(Chiefly from the City Papers.)

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

TUESDAY, February 4.

LIGHT DUTY.

Hon. Attorney General called attention to the law relating to light duty, and its operation on American steamers putting into Halifax in distress. The duty on the Arctic amounted to about £36. Mr. Fraser said that the tax was no greater on American steamers than on the Cunard, and he did not see on what principle foreign steamers should be exempted. All our vessels going into the United States ports had to pay towards their customs and revenue establishments. Mr. Harrington would do away with the Light duty altogether. Mr. Killam was in favor of the same principle. Mr. Fraser would like to know how £4000 of revenue was to be raised to supply the deficiency. The light houses had to be sustained by some means, and none were more aware of that than the representatives from Arichat. Mr. Marshall said if this duty were remitted, the country would be obliged to maintain the whole light establishment. He thought that by the present system—justice was done to all—and the charge was very light. Mr. Martell did not believe that the present law worked injuriously

—he had heard no complaints—and should therefore oppose any alteration. No amendment was moved. Mr. Marshall suggested that vessels being launched after the 1st of September should only be charged half a year's Light duty. Persons who launched a vessel after that date had to pay a whole year's light duty, although only running a few months. After a short discussion on the subject by Messrs. Kedy, Henry, G. R. Young, Harrington, and the Attorney General, Mr. Fraser moved an amendment in accordance with Mr. Marshall's suggestion, which passed 20 to 19. These revenue acts, instead of being made permanent, were limited to one year, in accordance with general usage.

BRIDGE IN GUYSBOROUGH.

Mr. Marshall asked leave to present a petition from the inhabitants of Guysborough, praying that aid might be granted for building a Bridge over Salmon River, some miles above its mouth; and that money might not be granted to erect a Bridge at the mouth of the River, as it was liable to be carried away by freshets. The petition was read. Mr. McDonald said the present petition was from the inhabitants of the upper portion of the County. Those in the lower portion were opposed to that, and wished the Bridge to cross where it had crossed before. He was not opposed to a committee. The petition was referred to Messrs. Fulton, Brown, and Munro.

SUNDAY MAILS.

Mr. Fulton rose to move the following resolution:—

Resolved.—That the Government be respectfully requested to procure through the proper officer, and lay on the table of the house as soon as possible, a return showing the number of Post Offices in the Province, and where situated, where mails are received and despatched on Sunday,—with the number received and despatched at the respective offices,—also the Post Offices where letters and newspapers are received and delivered on Sunday.

The hon. gentleman said that he thought this the proper time to take the matter up, as the house were about to assume the control of the Post Office. The reduction of the postage would be a great benefit to the country, but in connection with this an opinion prevailed that some new arrangement might be made by which the system of transmitting the mail on Sunday could be done away with. In Annapolis this was felt severely—the Sunday being the day upon which the mails were received and sent off. He had moved this resolution in order that the house might decide upon some general system, which would obviate the necessity of keeping these offices open on the Sabbath. Hon. Mr. Johnston was glad the hon. member for Cumberland had moved in this matter. The localities he mentioned were not the only places which were open to the evils complained of. In Annapolis some mails still arrived on Sunday, although some improvements had taken place; but it was believed that further improvement might be made. Hon. Attorney General said that it was the disposition of the Government to prevent the desecration of the Sabbath, as much as possible; but it was next to impossible to make arrangements which would exempt that day from mail carriage in some places. Hon. G. R. Young said that among his constituents, nothing was so much complained of as this system; they were a religious people and it created great dissatisfaction there. In settling this system, however, it was necessary to adopt such an arrangement as would meet the requirements of New Brunswick and Canada.

KING'S COLLEGE GRANT.

Mr. Henry asked leave to introduce a Bill for withdrawing the present grant from King's college. The subject, he said, had been before the house for a long time, and should be permanently settled. Leave was granted and the bill read a first time.

ELECTRIC TELEGRAPHS.

Mr. Killam moved for a committee to obtain information and decide upon some general system of introducing Electric Telegraphs into Nova Scotia. Mr. Fraser said it was a strange mode of procedure to ask for a committee upon the general subject, when a committee was already sitting composed of some of these very gentlemen who advocated this general system. Hon. G. R. Young argued that the main point for consideration was whether the house would allow two lines to be built that were sure to pay; and leave other parts of the province where lines would not pay, either with or without the line, or make up the deficiency. The Telegraph was now as much established as the Post Office. Every village in the province would have it at once. Hon. Mr. Johnston said that all he wished was that the Bill should be guarded from interfering with the extension of the Telegraph line to Annapolis. Mr. Fraser approved of the principle of extending the lines of Telegraph throughout the Province; but did not wish the lines to be obstructed by waiting for other lines. Hon. J. W. Johnston said that what he wanted was, that the house should pass a general bill, fixing rules whereby the inhabitants of any places could extend the Telegraph line without the delay of coming to the house to ask for an act of incorporation. Mr. Fraser reiterated his arguments in favour of immediately proceeding with the Windsor bill. Mr. Harrington denied that the Electric Telegraph could be placed on the same footing as the Post Office throughout the Province. A line that would pay, ought not to be made to support a non-pay-

ing line west. A committee was appointed to consider the subject of the telegraph generally, consisting of Messrs. Killam, Johnston, Henry, Freeman, and Marshall.

DESPATCHES ON TRADE.

Hon. Attorney General, by command, laid on the table of the house despatches on the subject of reciprocal trade with Canada and the United States.

WEDNESDAY, February 5.

ST. PETER'S CANAL.

Mr. Harrington rose for the purpose of bringing to the notice of the House the subject of St. Peter's Canal. He trusted this important improvement should not be forgotten. During the summer, he had interested himself much in this work, and had a survey conducted by Charles W. Fairbanks, Esq., whose abilities as an engineer were well known, and whose report he now held in his hand. Mr. Fairbanks had estimated the cost of the work at £10,000; and there could be no question of the benefits of the work to the commerce of the province, which would thus have 300 miles of inland navigation, in the Bras d'Or Lake, opened by a new channel to the western coasts, and a splendid country improved. He asked for a committee to take the subject under consideration, and report by bill or otherwise. Hon. G. R. Young was ready to give £5000 towards this work at once. It was nothing compared with the advantages to be gained. Mr. Marshall said there could be no question that this was a great and beneficial project. The country on the Bras d'Or Lake was one of the richest in the world. The only forests of oak remaining in the Province were to be found there with the inexhaustible coal mines—splendid fisheries—prolific oyster beds, and other sources of wealth. It would shorten the distance to Halifax from some parts of the Bras d'Or from 450 to 125 miles—a saving of time to the Coasters that would be incalculable. He was warmly in favour of the undertaking. Hon. Mr. Doyle also spoke in favour of the proposed canal. Mr. Mr. Dickie was gratified to see this Petition brought forward, but hoped it would be recollected that a bill had passed the House some years since to cut a Canal through the Isthmus of Cumberland to the Gulf shore; that through the want of funds and the pressure of the times, it had not been carried out. He should take an early opportunity of applying for an extension of the Bill, as he had received information from Canada that they were willing to cut this Canal themselves. He would suggest, however, that it was not advisable to engage even in too many good schemes at once. Hon. J. W. Johnston said he had no doubt the hon. member for Richmond was much pleased with the adherence of the hon. member for Cumberland to his scheme. (Laughter.) He was forcibly reminded of the old man Sinbad the Sailor, when the hon. member for Cumberland attempted to put his scheme upon the back of that of the hon. member for Richmond. (Laughter.) He (Mr. J.) felt the benefit to be derived from a Canal of this kind—the only difficulty resting upon his mind was the wherewith to build it; he thought, however, that the petition should be referred to a committee, when the whole matter could be taken into consideration, and a full report submitted to the House. The Committee appointed were Messrs. Harrington, Young, Marshall, Dickie, Uniacke, Dimock and Johnston.

THE NEW COMMISSION.

Mr. Freeman rose for the purpose of bringing to the notice of the House the return laid on the table of the House by the Hon. Attorney General, of Magistrates in the County of Queen's. This return had omitted to give the names of several gentlemen who still believed they were included in the Commission, and exercised their functions as Justices of the Peace. He would like to know from the Hon. Attorney General what was the cause of these omissions. (Mr. Freeman read over the names.) These gentlemen were not excluded in the last commission—they were included in it, and he would like to know whether the hon. Attorney General and the Government wished to get rid of these gentlemen by a side-wind—whether they were still magistrates or were not. Some of them had not been re-sworn, it was true, and he wished to know if that was the reason of their names being omitted from this return? Hon. Attorney General considered that the hon. gentleman had answered himself, by saying that the gentlemen he had named were not sworn in. If any name had been omitted accidentally, he was not aware of it, but would enquire as to the equal right of other gentlemen except those who were recognised by the government, acting as Magistrates, that was a question which could be decided by a Legal tribunal.

Mr. Freeman moved the following resolution:

Resolved.—That His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor be respectfully requested to inform this House why the following gentlemen named, in the recent Commission of the Peace for Queens County, were omitted from the return laid upon the table of the House this Session, by the Government, of “all the Magistrates of Queens County, now authorised by law to discharge the duties of that office.”

Jno. Barss, James Barss, William B. Taylor, Nathaniel Smith, Jno. Campbell, Jno. L. Darrow, Andrew Cowie, Colin McVicar, Richard Carder, and Smith Freeman, Esquires.

Hon. Attorney General and G. R. Young, would prefer taking the paper, and procuring this infor-

mation—rather than have this passed as a resolution. The gentleman could raise the question when the information came in, if he thought necessary. They argued, that the usual mode was to ask information of members of the Government, but not to put every question as a Resolution on the Journals.

(Continued on Page 256.)

Summary of News.

FROM ENGLISH PAPERS.

DEATH OF THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE.—His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, expired on Sunday the 12th ult. Frequently as it has been our duty of late to announce the demise of eminent individuals, we have seldom been called upon to inscribe in our obituary the name of one whose stern integrity, purity of motive, and unswerving consistency in public life, commanded so completely the respect of all parties in the state, as did that illustrious nobleman. Disgusted at what he deemed the unconstitutional and revolutionary tendency of our legislation, during several previous years, the Duke of Newcastle withdrew almost wholly from public affairs shortly after the passing of the Reform Bill; and after that period contented himself with occasionally giving expression to his views on the great events of the time, through the medium of the press.

By the death of his Grace and the consequent elevation of the Earl of Lincoln to the Upper House, the representation of the Falkirk District of Burghs becomes vacant.—Watchman.

During the week rapid strides towards completion have been taken in every branch of the works of the Crystal Palace, and it may be stated generally that the progress made and the results obtained are most satisfactory to the executive committee. A large number of men are employed at present in laying down the ground and gallery flooring; and looking to the extent of the space covered within the last few days, the advance of this important portion of the building will be strikingly illustrative of the magical rapidity of construction which hitherto has challenged the admiration of visitors. The free boarding of the lower part of the building has been pushed forward energetically. The painting executed has been confined almost exclusively to the roof and the sash bars. The final and decorative part of this branch of the works, it is almost needless to state, must await a complete absence of dust, and a condition of repose within the structure, which are not obtainable at present. The glazing of the transept progresses steadily, and it is hoped will be finished before the close of next week. Some portions of the gallery railings have been fixed in their places. They are light and graceful, and when completed will form a very important item in the catalogue of internal ornamentation.

Mr. Fairburn, the leader of the Anti-Convict party in the Cape of Good Hope, has arrived in London from Cape Town, with the draft of the constitution agreed to by the majority of the colonists.

A girl aged 17, who had been 12 years in the workhouse, has just left St. Pancras workhouse in consequence of having come into possession of £1750. Mr. Cook, the vestry clerk, has been authorised by the board to compel her to pay the monies expended upon her support.

FEMALE EMIGRATION.—The committee are now engaged in selecting small parties of female emigrants, for despatch to New Zealand and Van Diemen's Land, in both of which colonies the authorities are most anxious to receive young women sent out under Mr. Sidney Herbert's scheme of emigration. A detachment of thirty-five for the Cape of Good Hope, for whom good situations have been secured in the colony, were despatched about a fortnight since. The committee have received intimations of the safe arrival in Australia of the ships Culloden, Duke of Portland, Tory, and William Stevenson, by which vessels about two hundred female emigrants were despatched last summer. In each case, the girls arrived in good health, and obtained situations without the slightest difficulty.

It is understood that no one will be appointed to succeed the late Sir J. W. Gordon as Quartermaster-General, and that some arrangements will be made by which the duties of the department will be carried on under the control of the Assistant Quartermaster-General, Colonel Freeth, K. H.

There was a great meeting at Framlingham, in Suffolk, to consider addresses to Parliament on the present alarming state of distress in the agricultural districts. Mr. George Frederick Young was the principal orator; and the meeting passed resolutions in accordance with its objects.

At a meeting of the Town Council held at Birmingham on the 7th ult., a petition to the House of Commons, narrating the injurious effects of Excess duty on paper, the objectionable principle of the stamp duties on newspapers, and the advertisement duties, and praying the house to take the premises into consideration with a view to the total repeal of these duties, was agreed to.

Several commercial and influential men of Manchester have drawn up a petition to Lord Palmerston, soliciting his lordship's intercession, in the name of England, on behalf of the brave Hungarians, now detained at Kutaja, in Asia, contrary to expectations which they had been led to entertain.

Upwards of £6000 have been subscribed in Manchester for the establishment of a free library and museum. The Mayor, J. Potter, Esq., has obtained by his own personal and unaided efforts about £4000.