England, and her great national prosperity during that time—and then proceeded.) If there were one general bond of union, to consolidate the interests of these Provinces, they might then act together, and the best results would follow. The interest of one would then be the interest of the whole; and instead of Canada refusing to reciprocate with us, as she now does, from the reasonable cause that we are a frontier Province, and consequently laying claim to the duties on importations. She would then feel with us a community of interests, and permit us to share in her Trade. Again, had we a centre Legislation, representing the views and wishes of the two millions of these Provinces, we would not as now be in such confusion about our Railways. The act of the General Government would be conclusive on such a subject, and the money required could be realized in England without the slightest trouble.—At present we have no credit, and it is no wonder, for we have no Common Tariff; a state of things which if permitted to exist in the United States, would destroy their very being in 24 hours. This Legislature was not called upon to act merely for the present moment; it had to deliberate and act for posterity, and if possible to break down the wall which divides the common interests of the Provinces.—At present he (Mr. W.) was almost afraid to call his fellow Colonists brethren, they were so far apart from us in our general views and interests. We keep all the time in confusion, and only agreeing in the general scheme of pulling hard against each other. One year, we lay on heavy duties—the next, we take them off, and in the absolute ignorance of each others designs, we can adopt no system to benefit either ourselves or our neighbours. We keep legislating on mere local paltry principles—and we are small men because we are a small Province. He felt ashamed to own himself a native of any place less than British North America; and if he could get others to stand by and aid him in his design for the Union of the Provinces in connection with the Imperial Government, he knew that such a measure might be adopted as would, while it cherished the loyalty of the British Colonist, at the same time promote his best interests. With regard to the views promulgated by some of the Agricultural members, he could not adopt them. It was not a few shillings duty on salted meats that could sustain them. Their depressed state had been principally induced by the high rate of wages, which in its time was brought about by the Lumber Trade, and he saw little use to gain a protection of even twenty shillings per bbl. on Pork, while labourers charged five Pounds per month, wages. Only one word more—while certain farmers ploughed with their gloves on, and their wives wore silks, he could not see anything extraordinary in their not succeeding while in their vocation.

Mr. Wark was opposed to an increase of duties. It was improper to form a scale just to fit one year. He had noticed, from the fluctuations in our trade, a commercial crisis occured about once in every five years; he would therefore base his calculations upon the average of five years; and in doing that, the average revenue for the last five years would be found quite large enough for the country. The great fault lay in exceeding their income. At the present moment the Province owed the Bank of New Brunswick £30,000, the Savings Bank £30,000, and altogether owed from £100,000 to £120,000, besides the funded debt. In the year when our revenue reached its maximum, £127,000, and odd, the expenses established by law, and the grants for the year, amounted to 138,000, thus exceeding the revenue by more than £10,000.

Mr. Ritchie observed that the hon. Attorney General had delivered a beautiful Speech, and in his happiest view, but it was not to the purpose; it was not practicable in the business then before the House. They were in Committee to devise Ways and Means to raise a Revenue, and the hon. gentleman had given them a speech upon the Union of the British Colonies in North America. He (Mr. Ritchie) would go with him in that measure whenever he chose to bring it forward, but this was not the proper time. As to the resolutions then before the Committee, every member could vote for them; they commited one to nothing, and no doubt would be supported both by Free-Traders and Protectionists. But he looked in vain to this or any other measure the Government had proposed, or effected, for an act of Statesmanship. What Statesmanshiplike abilities were displayed when they took up the surplus monies in the hands of Mr. Allan, a public officer, and applied them towards the payment of demands upon the Treasury? Or what Statesmanlike abilities did they display when they got the Bank of New-Brunswick to advance the Road money, the revenue being insufficient to sustain the grants? Was it anything more than getting the Bank to discount Provincial paper, in the ordinary mode of doing business? What talent was required to do this? But how were the expectations of the country fulfilled in the budget now brought in by the hon. Secretary? Where were the promised motions for retrenchment? No reduction in the Civil List was proposed; no reduction in the salaries of the public officers, but with one exection the old scale of estimates had been adhered to throughout. Nothing was said about reducing the salaries of the Master of the Rolls, Clerk of the Pleas, &c., but in the protection and collection of the revenue a reduction was proposed of £1,200 a year; and this was the only measure of retrenchment proposed by the Government, with the exception of some £350 saved in the Militia Establishment. But he gave the Government no credit for saving this £1,200 a year, for last year the grant for the Revenue Establishment passed the House with great reluctance on the part of the hon. members, and it was perfectly understood that this year there should be a reduction. There they stood, then, and with the exception of some promises at the commencement of the Session which were nothing but generalities, the Government had not yet laid before them any measure for retrenchment or reform. He had hoped that the hon. Secretary would have told them to-day what the policy of the Government was, to give relief to the people of the Province; but no: he said nothing about it. And since the opening of the Session, whatever they had heard from the members of Government had been dragged out of them by questions. He had hoped to-day that the hon. Attorney General would have disclosed some plan for the suffering people's relief; but no; with all his eloquence and and fluency, he had done no such thing; and he (Mr. Ritchie) did think that he would have discharged his duty if, instead of going into the Colonial System, he had proposed something or other for the immediate benefit of the country in which we live.

Hon. L. A. Wilmot said it was much easier to find fault than to mend it. The hon. member complained of the Government dealing too much in generalities; and for the same reason complained of his (Mr. Wilmot's) Speech, while the hon. member dealt largely in generalities himself.—Now every one knew that if they attempt to do too much, they could do nothing. With respect to the Civil List, that was a bargain, to which the Imperial Government was a party, and if they wished the amount reduced, they must effect it by negotiation. It was of no use passing a law upon it here, they must first convince the British Government that they are right—that the salaries under the Civil List are too high. It was time that the Secretary had gone into the other estimates, ascribing to each the amount as established by law, or usage; but he had to take them as he found them; the Government did not make it a point to maintain these things as they are, and if any members of that House thought the salaries and estimates too high, let them discharge *their duty to their constituents*, take the list and cut it down. (Hear hear.) Would they? No, they could not do it. As to his own salary, he might think it not too high, and the House hold the contrary opinion; if it did, let it be cut down; the House might say £100 a year was enough, and if they did he (Mr. Wilmot) would merely say "I'll not accept it; let some other person have it." It was merely a matter of bargain. Something had been said about the Surplus Civil List Fund. He was quite sure, in reference to this fund, that the Imperial Government would never make use of it without the consent of this Legislature. The Civil List, as he had already stated, was matter for negotiation. It was his opinion that the Home Government would not consent to reduce the salaries to the present incumbents, and that any reduction would be in reference to the future. He did not know whether the hon. member who had last spoke was a member of the Reform Club? (Mr. Ritchie—"No.") Well, since the hon. member had catechised him, he would return the compliment and ask him one question—just to let him see how much easier it was to ask questions than to answer them. He would ask him whether he was a Protectionist or a Free Trader? and that was a question which, he would venture to say, the hon. member would not answer. (Laughter.)

Mr. Ritchie said he had recorded his opinions on the Journals of 11th March, 1847, and he was still the same. He did not, like some, shift with every wind.—(Progress was then reported.)

Wednesday, Feb. 21.

The House went into Committee, and resumed the debate on Ways and Means to raise a Revenue.

Hon. Mr. Partelow said he did not wish to tie the House down to his proposals; he had merely submitted a scheme for their consideration. It was his opinion that they could not do with less than £100,000 revenue for the current year, and he had shown them why; he had then shown his reasons for believing that ten per cent. upon all articles except those specified would meet that sum. They were talking of improving the river navigation, assisting railway, &c., and wanted money for the roads and bridges; all this must be provided for by the Revenue, and he did not think £100,000 was too much. However he was quite willling that any other hon. member should submit a scheme, and if it were feasible he would give it his support.

Mr. Jordan said there had been so much discussion yesterday upon this subject that he should not say much about it. He thought the amount of revenue proposed was rather too large; he feared the Province, in its present state unable to bear it. Among the speakers who had discussed the subject yesterday, the hon member for Charlotte (Mr. Brown) had met his views nearest of any one, although he differed with him in respect to the Railways. The present depression in trade was to be ascribed to a number of incidents, over which they had no control. The revolution in France had injured the trade of England, and it was further injured by the famine and troubles in Ireland; consequently there had been failures in England, and the sale of our staple article in the English market had been suspended. Add to this the failure of the crops in this country, and it was no wonder that the Province experienced hard times. They must, however, do all they could to mitigate the distress now prevalent, for many persons—the bone and sinew of the land—were leaving the country. The conduct of the Home Government had also operated against us; the repeal of the navigation laws seemed to be hanging over our heads; and now a despatch had been received prohibiting them from levying differential duties. Taking all these things into consideration, they should proceed with great caution. They had now a responsible Government, and that Government must work, otherwise it would fall by its own weight. He wished to preserve the connection with Great Britain, and to see his native Province flourish. Nothing stirred him up so much as thoughts of England's victories. He felt proud of being a Briton, and was sorry to hear in certain quarters, a talk of being annexed to the United States. If they wished the country to prosper, one of their first objects should be to encourage and improve Agriculture.

Mr. Thomson said there were a number of articles hitherto classed among the exemptions, which should be taxed; among these were shipping materials, &c. of which an abundance were to be found here, and could be manufactured.—With respect to the articles usually submitted to an *ad valorum* duty he would vote for seven or eight per cent., which he thought would make a revenue sufficiently large.

Mr. Boyd had heard a great deal said about the Despatch on differential duties, but it proved that there were wiser heads in England than here, otherwise we should have gone on with a ruinous system. It was impossible now for the house to act upon the protective system. As to agriculture it was in a low state.

Mr. R. D. Wilmot said the farmers of this Province were frequently abused in this House—more so than he liked to hear—but he did not think the farmers of New Brunswick were so much behind the age as they were represented. He did not like to see people come out from the old country and abuse everything they see. (Mr. Boyd.—"I was born in this country.") He could recollect when the farmers of this Province were in a flourishing condition to what they are now; and what was the cause? Why let them look to the tariff twenty or thirty years ago, and what would they find? The duty upon Leather was then 30 per cent. Imperial, and 25 per cent., Local, making 55 per cent. That was *protection*—mechanics then found employment, and farmers were industrious then, for they found a ready market for their goods. He was surprised to hear the member for Queen's (Mr. Gilbert) speak of retrenchment, as though the saving of a few hundred pounds would heal all our ills. Why if the whole revenue of the Province were abolished it would not amount to a farthing a day for each person in the Province! But let them give people employment, so that they might increase their earnings one shilling a day; this would give for the adult male population £800,000, or £900,000 a year. The hon. member for Charlotte (Mr. Boyd) spoke of farmers cultivating more land, but he could tell him they could not do so while their beef would fetch only 2d per lb. He (Mr. Wilmot) had come to Fredericton in 1843, as the bearer of a petition containing three thousand signatures, praying for protection, and how was it met by the House? Why, some hon. members talked of the petitioners as a parcel of tinkers and cobblers! They were mechanics it was true, but they were the bone and sinew of the country, and would, had they been encouraged by protection, have consumed the produce of the farmer, [Hear, hear.] But where are they now? Why, driven away to the United States to seek for a living; (Hear, hear). And how did they get on there? Some hon members talked as though there were no protective duties in that country, but was import duties ranging from twenty to thirty per cent. no protection! Artizans of all trades flourished in that Country; but how was it here? Let them look at St. John, and they would find the mechanics gone, many stores shut up, and others closing. The Foundries were also closing, while hundreds of Stoves were imported annually from the United States, which were of the most flimsy description—in fact, not made for use, but to *sell*. It was very easy to say let us import goods if we can get them cheap, but how, he would ask, were they to pay for them? Where was the money to come from, if we have no market for our goods? England has broken down the barrier she once maintained, and admitted foreign produce duty free, and what was the consequence? The country had been inundated with provisions from the United States, while the precious metals had gone to pay for them; real estate had very much depreciated in Great Britain and Ireland, and the landlords could not collect their rents, and about one-seventh of the population were in the poor-houses! He held in his hand a paper which had for years been advocating free trade principles; but that paper had at length candidly acknowledged that free trade had failed to answer the expectations of its advocates. By permission of the Committee, he would read an extract. (The hon. member then read an extract from the *Economist*, in which the writer acknowledged that free trade had failed to answer the expectations of those who were instrumental in bringing it into practice, because it had been thought other nations would reciprocate, but instead of this, while they had availed themselves of the removal of restrictions in England to bring their produce to the English market, they had *increased* their own tariff to shut out British goods in return). This showed what opinion the people of England were beginning to hold on free trade. In reference to the benefit of imposing a duty on Flour, thereby giving protection to the Millers in this Province, he felt delicate about saying much, being a Miller himself; but he would ask the hon. member for Charlotte (Mr. Boyd) what was the price of flour at Eastport the preceding summer? [Mr. Boyd,—"about six dollars"]. And in St. John it had been 5½ dollars. Therefore Flour had been cheaper in St. John than in Eastport! He [Mr. Wilmot] was cognizant of the fact before; he had sold 100 barrels of Flour last summer to be taken to St. Andrews. It was the Mills in the neighbourhood of St. John, that caused Flour to be cheaper there than in an American port; and this would never have been the case were it not for the Mills. They also caused a large quantity of horse feed, &c. to be introduced. This, he thought, had fully answered the hon. member for Charlotte. Flour had also been shipped from St. John to Halifax during the past season. As to the Banking system in this Province, it was so pernicious that he thought it sufficient to ruin any country: he did not know how it was possible for people to get along with their sudden contractions and expansions. He believed it absolutely necessary to establish a Provincial Bank, (hear, hear,) one after the manner of the Scotch Banks would in his opinion be preferable; in fact the people would all have an interest, and it would give the farmers a circulating medium, who would then have the same chance to discount as the merchants. It was measures like these he had enumerated must be adopted, if they wished to see prosperity return; to talk of free trade effecting a cure was folly.

Dr. Earle then made a few remarks speaking in favour of protection, and denouncing indignantly "the slanderous imputations" against the industry of farmers. Mr. Hayward then closed the debate in a humourous speech, and upon the question being taken, the resolutions offered by Hon. Mr. Partelow, were passed without a division. The Committee then rose and reported, and immediately after, upon motion of hon. Mr. Partelow, a Select committee was appointed to draft a Revenue Bill, Hon. Messrs. Partelow and Hannington, and Messrs. R. D. Wilmot, Wark, Brown, McLeod, and Tibbits compose the Committee.

Thursday, Feb. 22.

After passing two or three local Bills the House went in Committee on a Bill introduced by Mr. Ritchie, for the more effectual recovery of debts.

Mr. Ritchie said they had heard a great deal now-a-days about abolishing imprisonment for debt, and protecting the poor debtor, but it was time they looked after the interests of the poor creditor; for if the laws were so lax that the creditor could not collect what was his due, he must soon become a poor debtor also. The operation of the existing laws was this: a person was sued and judgement recovered against him, but that, perhaps, was all they could get; for the Sheriff might find no estate upon which to levy, either real or personal. At the same time the debtor might have money, but it could not be touched; or he might have placed property out of his hands just before the judgment was obtained, and it could not be taken; and if fraud was suspected, there was no remedy, but by the tedious and expensive course of a Chancery suit. He knew of a case which happened in St. John where a person was sued for twenty pounds, and judgment got against him, but the Sheriff could find no property on which to levy, and the debtor was put upon the limits, where he remained a year.—He (Mr. Ritchie) knew at the same time that the debtor had money in one of the Banks, and was credibly informed that it amounted to £1,800; and yet he remained on the limits a year, they could not touch this money, and they would not have got the debt, had he not inadvertently gone off the limits. This Bill was to provide a cheap remedy, instead of driving parties into the Bankrupt Court. No honest man need fear it; it was directed against the dishonest, and to prevent dishonesty. The Bill would operate in this manner; when no property was found whereon to levy and sell to the amount of the execution, and where it was found that property had recently been transferred, and any suspicion arose that all was not right, on application of the plantiff the Judge would issue his order and bring the defendant before him, to undergo an examination; and in cases where claims were put in for property, it might be tried by jury. The principle was novel in this Province, but not new; he had got the idea from a law now in existence in Nova Scotia. He thought the principle good, as it would afford a cheap remedy against fraud. For instance, at present a man might own a horse; a suit might be brought against him, he would see the case going against him, and just before the execution comes out he sells the horse on three months credit, and takes a note of hand for the amount, and as the law now stands, neither that horse, or the note of hand could be taken for the debt. He held that this was not right, and should no longer be allowed to exist. So far from this Bill causing litigation,—as some hon. members might think, he thought the moment it were entered on the Statute Book it would act as a preventative.—According to the present law it would, and did frequently happen, when the Sheriff could find no property whereon to levy, that innocent men were accused of making away with their property to avoid paying their debts, and they had no means of clearing themselves from the imputation. This Bill would enable them to demand an investigation.

A considerable debate followed, some hon. members supporting the principles of the Bill, and others opposing. Hon. Mr Partelow, and Messrs. End, and Carman were in opposition, and his honor the Speaker and Mr. Boyd were in favour of the Bill. The objections urged were that it would cause litigation and perjury—that it should have been printed, so as to be properly understood—that it should be tested in a full House, and not, as was then the case, when several legal gentlemen were absent—and that all Bills making organic changes in the laws relating to debtor and creditor, should be drafted by, or have the approbation of the Crown Lawyers.—Progress was reported.

Mr. End said he was surprised that in the estimate laid before the House yesterday by the hon. Secretary, no proposition had been made to reduce the salaries of the public officers, and that on the contrary it had been intimated that their salaries could not be touched. He thought there was an indirect way to get at them—he supposed the Colonial Secretary would not prevent their imposing an income tax; he therefore moved the following resolution:—

Resolved—That a Select Committee be appointed to take into consideration the amount of the salaries at present receivable by the several public officers of this Province—whether under the provisions of the Civil List Bill, or of any Act or Acts of the General Assembly with a view to the immediate imposition of a tax in the nature of an Income Tax on such Salaries——and to report thereon by Bill or otherwise.—Carried.

Friday, Feb. 23.

The House went in Committe and passed a Bill to extend the Act providing for an unrestricted intercolonial trade.

The House then went in Committee on a Bill (introduced by the hon. Attorney General) to facilitate the settlement of Wild Lands. This Bill was passed without any objection to its general principles; it enables the Government, at its discretion, to sell lands in lots to actual settlers, receive not less than one-fifth of the payment in cash, and allow the remainder to be paid by work on the roads.

The House then went in Committee on a Bill, introduced by hon. Mr. Partelow to repeal the act offering a bounty for the destruction of Bears and Wolves.

Hon. Mr. Partelow said this was not a Government measure, and the House might deal with it as it chose. The bounty had now been continued for several years, but until he became Provincial Secretary he had no idea to what extent the drafts were made. He had made an abstract, which he held in his hand, and from which it appeared that during the past year the County of Northumberland alone had drawn £157 as Bear bounty, which would show a return of 209 bears killed. The County of York had drawn £105, which would show 140 bears destroyed. The County of Charlotte had drawn £95; and so on down to £15, which was the lowest sum drawn for any one County. The aggregate amount drawn during the year was £540, which would give an aggregate of 720 bears killed in one year. He did not think these returns were correct—he thought there had been imposition practised somewhere. Year after year a large sum was paid for the destruction of these animals, and the more there were destroyed the faster they appeared to increase. In some instances an old bear was destroyed and two or three cubs with her, for which fifteen shillings each was paid. In Fredericton, he believed, the bounty was claimed, and paid for the nose of a tame bear! He thought it high time the Province saved 500£ or 600£ a year; if anything was required let it be paid out of the County contingencies.

Mr. Gilbert was opposed to the Bill. The Government were not inclined to protect the farmer; they were giving a fresh instance of it every day, and here was a new case wherein they attempted to deprive them of the protection their flocks now enjoyed against the ravages of wild animals.

Mr. End said this Bill proved what he had often asserted, that members from a City had very little sympathy for the county. The hon. member who had introduced this Bill had lived his life within the sound of the bell of old Trinity, (hear, hear!) but what did he know about Gloucester? He knew nothing about the wild districts of the Province where

"The sound of the Church-going bells
The rocks and the dales never heard."

Now he (Mr. End) could tell him that there were a great many bears in the country, and that their destruction, in a great measure depended upon the bounty, and that it would be very unwise to withdraw it.

Mr. Boyd said if 720 bears had been killed during the past year, the bounty was money well expended, and he believed that the said number of bears had actually been killed, for if it were not so not only must the parties applying for the bounty have perjured themselves, but the County Clerks must have connived at it. This he did not believe.

Hon. Col. McLeod said he believed all the bears were killed that the bounty had been drawn for. He himself had lost six sheep in one night by them; and a farmer in his neighbourhood had lost seventeen sheep in one night by the wolves. Several years since he and his neighbours used to erect trap-falls for the bears, but they were clumsy contrivances, and very seldom successful. Since the bounty had been given, however, it had induced young men to provide themselves with good traps, built by mechanics in St. John, and whenever the visits of a bear was discovered, they were sent for, and were in general very successful. It was his opinion that if the bounty were withdrawn the bears would soon become very destructive, and farmers would lose their flocks. He did not think the hon Secretary wanted this, he believed he liked mutton as well as other people.—(Laughter.)

Hon. Mr. Hannington also opposed the Bill.—He believed the returns were correct and that there had been neither perjury or fraud about it. He considered the bounty necessary, and would like to know how the Clerks of the Counties could be imposed upon. (Mr. Partelow—"They may be imposed upon by dog's noses.")

Mr. Vail and Mr. Hayward both opposed the Bill, and the latter moved that it be postponed for three months.

Mr. L. Earle seconded the motion. The hon. Secretary had complained that the bounty had been drawn for killing cubs, but did not the hon. Secretary know that cubs would, if allowed to live, grow up to be bears? He would rather see cubs killed than old bears, as they have all their sheep to kill. (Laughter.) As to the bounty on wolves, that was necessary also: he had lost by the wolves forty three sheep in one winter.

Mr. Wark thought the Government must hold out some inducement for the destruction of these animals. The bounty, however might be lowered. He would suggest that fifteen shillings bounty should be given for wolves, and ten shilling for bears.

Mr. Brown said he had always been rather opposed to the bounty, but he saw that the Committee were determined not to pass the Bill. From what had fallen from the hon member for Kings, (Hon. Mr. McLeod) he thought that the bear bounty might do some good; but he believed there was no necessity for a bounty on wolves.

Mr. Barberie said the bounty effected no good, as there would be as many bears killed without it. Surely farmers would kill the bears for their own benefit; if they would not, they ought to suffer.

Mr. R. D. Wilmot said there was one difficulty in the matter. By a late despatch from the Colonial Secretary the Lieutenant Governor was instructed not to give the assent to a bounty bill.

Mr. Woodward was opposed to the Bill. He believed the money was well expended; and the farmers had made out their case. The Bill was then postponed three months, without a division.

The House went in Committe on a Bill to provide for the appointment of public officers. This Bill was introduced by Mr. Carman, and after some discussion was thrown out by a division of 16 to 12.

Saturday, Feb. 24.

The House adjourned without doing any business to day, the object being to allow the Select Committee time to dispose of their business.

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January 26, 1849. JOHN KINNEAR.

THE CHRONICLE.

SAINT JOHN, MARCH 2, 1849.

The Free Trade Mania, having involved the Parent State, as well as the Colonies, in both difficulty and distress, is now forming one of the most prominent features in the debates of the Imperial Parliament. The perilous situation in which it has placed the Colonies, also appears to have attracted the attention of the lovers of English glory. We are pleased to find that there are men in the Councils of the Country that see in the policy of the present Cabinet, the foreshadowing of a dissevernment of the appendages of the Crown in this quarter of the globe. Lord Stanley thus discourses on the subject, and his motion was only lost by a majority of two—

"The temper of Ireland was anything but satisfactory, and a long course of colonial oppression had converted some of the most loyal into the most disaffected subjects of the British Crown. In the face of all these causes for alarm, he was astounded at the audacity with which the Ministers had made Her Majesty declare that the aspect of affairs was such as to enable them to effect large reductions in the estimates. If reductions could be accomplished, in God's name let them be made; but he would never concur with those who, for the sake of economy, would largely diminish the strength of the country. The Noble Lord then proceeded to criticise other portions of the Ministerial policy, and, adverting to the total repeal of the duties on corn, expressed his unaltered opinion of the injustice of the measure, as well as his firm conviction that the country must return to a moderate import duty. He concluded by moving the insertion at the end of the paragraph in Her Majesty's Speech, which says, that "the state of the revenue is one of progressive improvement," of the following words:—

"We regret, however, to be compelled humbly to represent to your Majesty that neither your Majesty's relations with foreign Powers, nor the state of the revenue, nor the condition of the commercial and manufacturing interests, are such as to entitle us to address you in the language of congratulation; and that a large portion of the agricultural and colonial interests of the empire are labouring under a state of progressive depression calculated to excite serious apprehension and anxiety."

Lord Mandeville (who spoke in a very low tone) was understood to complain that in the Speech from the Throne no reference had been made to the agricultural and colonial interests of the empire. The former had a host of defenders, but the latter was very inadequately represented in that House. He considered it the duty of the parent State to support her colonies by every means in her power; but, instead of doing so, he regretted to say that the Legislation of this country had operated most prejudicially on their interests, which were in a rapid state of decay.

CALAMITOUS FIRE.—It is our painful duty to record the occurrence of the most extensive and disastrous conflagration, with which our City has been visited for several years past. Between 11 and 12 o'clock last night, a fire broke out in a building on the north side of King Street, owned by J. & G. Lawrence, next but one below the Commercial Hotel, occupied by them, B. O'Brien, and others. It is supposed that the disaster was occasioned by a defective chimney; but whatever the cause, the devouring element so rapidly and extensively extended its ravages, as to sweep away the whole range of buildings from the Commercial Hotel (including that large and valuable establishment) northwardly along King's Square, to Mr. John Ansley's Store, adjoining the Country Market, where its progress was fortunately arrested; Mr. Ansley's Store being saved; while on the north side of King Street, every building from the Commercial Hotel corner down to Mr. Vernon's brick building at the corner of Germain Street, was also entirely destroyed. So complete was the devastation, that nothing remains on the site of the conflagration, but the lower portions of some of the chimneys. During the fire, a brisk northeasterly breeze was blowing, which drove the flames and burning materials across the street, and placed the south side of King Street in imminent danger. The various Fire Engines were early at the scene of destruction, aided also by those belonging to the Military and Portland; the last named being under the direction of John Pollok, Esquire, who was indefatigable in his exertions throughout the night. The high wind carried the burning embers to a great distance, some of which unfortunately set fire to the Cupola and roof of Trinity Church, which was for some time in danger of entire destruction. The Military Engine and another engine were immediately placed for the protection of the Church, and the most complete arrangements made for effecting the purpose; but although the supply of water from the Water Company's plugs was abundant, yet the hose were so frozen, that the water could not be forced through them with sufficient force to reach the roof of the edifice. A number of resolute young men mounted to the top of the Tower, under the burning Cupola, and cut away the pillars, to allow the blazing mass to fall over; and we regret to say that in performing this hazardous and important service, several of the hardy operators were severely injured. We are informed that a young man named Johnston, and Mr. N. Wetmore, fell from the top of the Tower to the ground; and through both escaped with life, yet both are severely and dangerously injured. Johnston broke his fall in some degree by catching a rope which hung over the Tower, but his body struck on the western porch before coming to the ground; and one of the pillars struck Wetmore while ascending a ladder, and knocked him to the ground. We understand, also, that Mr. C. Huyghue, son of Lieut. Huyghue of the Ordnance Office, was very much injured by a piece of burning timber striking him on the head; but we are happy to learn that it is confidently expected all three will recover. The loss of property occasioned by this calamity is very great; but we learn that there were insurances to the amount of about £5000 on various portions of it. Some of the sufferers, however, were wholly uninsured.

The land and buildings from Lawrence's cabinet Ware-rooms in King's Street, round to Ansley's store in King Square, were, we believe, the property of the Corporation of Trinity Chuch, who have £1400 insured on the buildings. It is probable, however, that the land will henceforth yield a better ground rent than it did before the fire.—There is now an unequalled opportunity for erecting on this site the most complete Hotel and appurtenances in this Province, which our enterprising citizens may perhaps improve. It is earnestly to be hoped, however, that effectual measures will be taken to secure the erection of a uniform line of first rate brick buildings in place of the wooden tenements destroyed, and thus to advance the beauty and security of this important district of the City. Not one particle of a wooden structure should ever again be suffered to disgrace the site now laid bare. We give below, a list of the sufferers, and of the buildings destroyed.

We cannot close our remarks without observing, that throughout the conflagration, the Water Company's plugs afforded an abundant and continuous supply of water; without the aid of which, we fear, the destruction would have been vastly more extensive. The fire was not completely subdued till about 5 o'clock this morning. Great praise is also due to the Military, and to the various Companies belonging to the different public and private Engines, and the Fire Department, and Fire Clubs, for their active and efficient services.

King Street.—Commercial Hotel, owned by Trinity Church, and occupied by Mr. Wetmore, as Hotel, by J. Sweeney, another, and Harvey Perkins, as Shops; two three story buildings owned by J. & G. Lawrence, occupied by them as Cabinet Warerooms and Dwelling, by Sons of Temperance as Division Room, and by John Christy, Grocer, and B. O'Brien, as Shop—a vacant shop in these buildings; two three story buildings owned by Stephen W[illegible]q., Shops occupied by R. D. M'Ar[illegible]t, R. Summers, Grocer, and Fellows & [illegible] Druggists—dwelling apartments occupied by F. Fellows, as a Boarding House; three story building belonging to W. Wright, Esq., Shop occupied by T. Clarke & Co., as a Crockery Store—dwelling apartments by Miss Trounce, and by Mr. Smith, as a Boarding House; two two story houses owned by W. Wright, Esq., Shops occupied by D. Paterson, as a Shoe Store, by W. M'Rae, Leather Cutter, and by James Christie, as a Leather and Finding Store—dwelling apartments by Mrs. Bougan, Milliner, Mr. Welsh, Tailor, and Mr. Slaven; two story building owned by John Brundage, and occupied by R. Stubs & Co.; three story building owned by John Brundage, occupied by him as a Boarding House—and Mr. Keohan as a Shoemaker's Shop; three story building owned by Miss Adams, occupied by her, and others, as dwelling apartments, by G. Peacock, as a Leather Cutting Shop, and D. O'L. Warlock, as a Watchmaker's Shop.

King's Square.—Shops in Commercial Hotel occupied by S. M'Leod Taylor, J. Hennesy, Hugh McPherson, and another; two Story building owned by Trinity Church, Shop occupied by Mr. Nelson, Grocer, and up stairs by W. Ellison, as Daguerreotype Rooms; two story building belonging to the Estate of the late Thomas Millidge, Esq., occupied by Jas. Davidson, Grocer, and J. D. Robertson, Flour Store; Messrs. Lawrence's Workshop, Hotel and J. Davidson's Stables, in rear of above buildings.—*Observer of Tuesday.*

The extinguishing of the flames issuing from the Cupola of the Church while it formed one of the most striking features of the disaster, was productive also of the preservation of the whole mass of buildings between it and the Lower Cove; as in the event of that stupendous structure having been fully enveloped in flame, such would have been the intensity of heat, aided by a brisk wind blowing directly on the neighbouring buildings, that a very short period would have been required to have ignited the whole mass of houses southward, and wrapped them in an unapproachable sea of fire. Fortunately however there were a few choice spirits; who, despising all dangers, were determined to rescue from the devouring element that Holy fane. These enthusiastic individuals mounted to the burning mass, which garlanded the tower of "old Trinity," and by almost superhuman exertions, amidst falling embers and melting lead, succeeded in cutting off and ejecting from the main body of the building the burning fragments. This praiseworthy conduct, eventually was crowned with success, and but for which, it is quite probable thousands of individuals now comfortably housed, would, by the dawn of the next morning, found themselves pennyless and divested of shelter in this inclement season. It gives us much pleasure to have to record the names of those to whom the city is so much indebted. They are, as far as we have been able to learn—Mr. William Wright, (Master Shipbuilder,) Mr. George Mills, (Shipcarpenter); Mr. Andrew Johnston, (Housecarpenter,) who was severely wounded; Mr. A. Vance, (Blockmaker.) It is too frequently the case that a man's good deeds are written in water, while his bad ones are engraven in brass. We trust however in this instance that a signal and tangible mark of the public approbation will be extended to those persons, in the shape of a Gold Medal to each of them, with a GRATEFUL and suitable inscription thereon. The lovers of that pure Religion whose doctrines are in that House inculcated, we think are especially called upon to express their grateful thanks in manner above described, as we feel assured, that such a testimonial from this christian community in a future time of need, would be worth all the Fire Engines in the city.

Woodstock Rioters.—We are informed that an unconditional pardon for all the Woodstock rioters was sent from Head Quarters to this city on Wednesday last, and that they have in consequence been discharged from the Provincial Penitentiary.

Fire Alarms.—There was a time when it was the duty of the Watchmen, on the outbreak of a fire, to alarm the inhabitants by the ringing of the Church Bells, and continue to do so, until relieved by the Sexons of the respective Churches, or some authorized persons. When this excellent arrangement ceased to exist, or why it has done so, is we conceive a matter of needful enquiry.—During the whole of the late awful conflagration, not a Church Bell in the city was heard, and but that the Portland Bell did the duty for those of the City, few persons, but those who were in the immediate vicinity of the fire, would have known what was going forward. This is quite of a piece with most of our civic regulations.

THE ELECTION.

Nomination Day.—The Candidates for Representative honors from this City, were yesterday nominated by their respective friends. They are Dr. Livingston, C. Watters, Esq., and B. Assley, Esquire; the former of whom comes forward under the auspices of the Free Traders in this city, and the latter is an avowed supporter of Protection to the industrial resources of the country. The election day is Tuesday next, commencing at 8 o'clock A. M., and terminating at 4 P. M.

Dreadful Accident.—A dreadful accident happened on Tuesday night last, between Clarence Ridge and the Magaguadavic River. Mr. Merrill Whittier, of St. Patrick, his son Henry, and a young man from St. David, of the name of James Ross, had been engaged lumbering there, and on the evening of the night mentioned, Mr. Whittier left the two young men in the camp and proceeded home, a distance of about two miles. What was his horror, when next morning he returned to the scene of his previous labourers to find a mass of blackened ruins, where the camp had stood, and the lifeless remains of the two young men that he had left, on the previous evening hale and hearty! How the sad occurrence took place we have no means of knowing. It will probably ever remain a mystery.—*Charlotte Gazette.*