

The Observer.

SAINT JOHN, JUNE 10, 1851.

We take the annexed sketch of the Hon. Mr. Howe's Speech at the Mechanics' Institute on Wednesday last, from the New Brunswick Chronicle. The gentleman's remarks were delivered in a pleasing, agreeable manner, and elicited the marked attention of the audience; but we believe the arguments made but little impression on the minds of the Meeting. The public feeling has been decidedly in favor of the European and North American line, as agreed upon at the Portland Convention last summer. The immense magnitude of the Quebec line, the truth of which would necessarily be occupied in getting materials to construct the undertaking, even if the several Colonies and the Home Government agreed upon a suitable proportion of expenditure and liability to be borne by each, seem to deter the mass of the people of this Province, and all the business men in the section, from engaging in a scheme so hopeless; and therefore, to the European and North American, as the most feasible, least expensive, and more remunerative line, and better adapted to the requirements of the commercial and travelling public.

The Hon. Mr. Robertson, and J. H. Gray and W. G. Ritchie, Esquires, replied to Mr. Howe's remarks. We refer to some important and interesting statistics brought forth by the Hon. Mr. Robertson, in reply to Mr. Howe, with which we have been favoured, and which will be found another column, immediately following Mr. Howe's speech.

PUBLIC MEETING.

A requisition having been presented to the High Sheriff of this County, signed by a number of Magistrates and other Gentlemen, requesting him to call a meeting of the inhabitants of this City at the Mechanics' Institute, on the 23rd inst. for the purpose of discussing the proposed extension of the Halifax and Portland Railway, the Hon. Mr. Howe, from Nova Scotia, (who, upon request, had consented to attend such meeting for the purpose) on the subject of the contemplated extension of the Halifax and Portland Railway, in Mr. Howe's letter to Mr. Howe: the High Sheriff called a public meeting accordingly; and notwithstanding the shortness of the notice, the meeting was attended by a very large assembly of the most respectable and influential of our Citizens, as well as by several members of the Provincial Government and the Legislature.

On motion of the Hon. John Robertson, the High Sheriff, Charles Johnston, Esq., was unanimously called to the Chair; and G. Blatch, Esq., was requested to act as Secretary.

The Chairman having introduced the Hon. Mr. Howe to the meeting, the Hon. Gentleman immediately addressed the audience in a long and highly interesting speech; and was followed by the Hon. John Robertson, R. Payne, J. H. Gray, and W. J. Ritchie, Esquires.

On motion of the Hon. John Robertson, seconded by the Hon. J. H. Parlow, it was Resolved unanimously, That whatever difference of opinion may exist, as respects the proposals which the Hon. Mr. Howe has so ably advocated, the thanks of this meeting are due to him for having so ably explained his views, and more particularly for the able manner in which he has advanced the claims of the North American Colonies before His Majesty's Government.

On motion, the High Sheriff then left the Chair, and the Hon. Mr. Robertson took the same vicariously.

On motion of the Hon. J. H. Parlow, seconded by the Hon. J. H. Hazon, it was Resolved unanimously, That the thanks of this meeting be tendered to the High Sheriff for his courteous and efficient conduct in the Chair.

The meeting then adjourned, sine die.

CHARLES JOHNSTON, G. BLATCH, Secy.

[From the New-Brunswickist.]

The Hon. Mr. Howe's Speech.—We give to day, by appointment, the speech made by the Hon. Mr. Howe at the Mechanics' Institute on Wednesday last, taken from the report prepared by George Blatch, Esq., who kindly gave us an opportunity of perusing his faithful report of the meeting.

HON. MR. HOWE'S SPEECH.

Hon. Mr. Howe said that in rising in the City of St. John for the first time in his life to address a public audience, it might naturally be expected that he would walk in the clouds of a nervous, embarrassed, and suffering from a bad cold and a sore eye, he chained indulgence. He felt that the subject which brought them together would plead an excuse for any nervousness which he might feel, and he would therefore try to discuss it, and he would try to do so in a manner that would be interesting to all. He said that the subject of the proposed extension of the Halifax and Portland Railway, was one of the most important and interesting subjects that he had ever seen or heard of. He said that he had been asked to attend the meeting for the purpose of discussing the proposed extension of the Halifax and Portland Railway, and he had accepted the invitation with pleasure. He said that he had been asked to attend the meeting for the purpose of discussing the proposed extension of the Halifax and Portland Railway, and he had accepted the invitation with pleasure.

He would gladly have had the co-operation and assistance of a delegate from New-Brunswick, but that he had not been able to do so. He said that he had been asked to attend the meeting for the purpose of discussing the proposed extension of the Halifax and Portland Railway, and he had accepted the invitation with pleasure. He said that he had been asked to attend the meeting for the purpose of discussing the proposed extension of the Halifax and Portland Railway, and he had accepted the invitation with pleasure.

to the benefit of the United States. But there was also a feeling beyond this. He had arrived at Liverpool and saw every attention paid to a respectable-looking gentleman from the United States, who exhibited a carpet bag full of despatches, and claimed to be the bearer of Government orders. He told them he had a bag of despatches, and came from a British Colony on public business. But he was politely told that he had no information or credit respecting how and he had no share in the ordinary way. What did he feel on these occasions? Why, that he was only a Colonist, and that he was not a British subject.

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not get it at all; that there were plenty of British companies ready to lend the money, but that they were then in bad order; that capitalists did not like to invest in railroad companies on their own credit, and getting it on the loan of a British Government.

Before engaging in any scheme to make the Halifax and Portland Railway, it is well to see the money all piled up first. But would not the people pay the expense in the end, even if a private Company were formed to build the line?

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amount from the European and North American line to pay the cost of the Halifax and Portland Railway.

The following is the result: Halifax, 30 per cent. Nova Scotia, 20 per cent. New Brunswick, 20 per cent. Prince Edward Island, 20 per cent. P. E. I., 20 per cent. The Halifax and Portland Railway, 30 per cent.

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State of thanks was then given to the Secretary, and after three cheers for the Queen, the Meeting adjourned.

Richardson, June 3, 1851.

The Hon. E. B. Chandler left town on Thursday last, on his way to Toronto, via Boston, by the Halifax and Portland Railway.

Messrs. George Balfour, of Fredericton, Robert J. May, of this City, and Mr. Dickey, of Amherst, left town this morning in the steamer *Head of Kent*, for Portland, on business connected with the European and North American Railway.

We learn that the inhabitants of Portland are to begin steps to procure immediately a Fire Engine for the use of that Parish, and that very handsome ones have been subscribed in the Parish for that purpose.

STEAMER ADMIRAL.—This fine Steamer, as will be seen by an advertisement in another column, is to sail for Boston, on Monday, the 18th inst. She will stop at Portland, on her way to Boston, and will call at the City on her way to Boston, on Monday, the 18th inst.

Mr. Balch, the British Minister at Halifax, and Lady Balch, sailed from this City, on Monday, the 10th inst. for England. Mr. Crompton will also be in charge of the *Admiral*, during Mr. Balch's absence. The *Admiral* took out 250000 lbs. of specie.

Mr. John Allen, Esq., has been appointed to be the Receiver of the Customs for the District of the Halifax, and to be the Receiver of the Excise for the District of the Halifax.

Mr. W. B. Webster, Esq., has been appointed to be the Receiver of the Customs for the District of the Halifax, and to be the Receiver of the Excise for the District of the Halifax.

A valuable Girl, named Sam, and born, belonging to Mr. Robinson, in the Parish of St. John, who has been missing for some time, has been discovered, and is now at the residence of Mr. Robinson, in the Parish of St. John.

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