that hon. member himself, he was for giving a fair day's wages for a fair day's work, and no more, and he believed that was the right principle to go upon. The next subject to which he would call the attention of the House, was that of Municipal Corporations, and on this subject he would read what he had said to his constituents:—

"I am in favor of Municipal Corporations; in other words, of allowing the people of the respective counties, the privilege of managing their own affairs, whenever they wish so to do."

While he was perfectly willing to give these institutions to the country, he would warn hon. members to beware how they attempted to force them on the country, for however desirable such municipalities might be, if you force them on the country before the people are prepared for them, they would prove a curse instead of a blessing. He would therefore be prepared with a Bill containing all the necessary machinery for working out the system, but leaving its adoption with the different counties to accept or reject them as they might see fit. He would now read what he had said to his constituents about the Initiatory system:—

"I am, and have always been, an advocate for the Initiatory system in the granting of money; by that alone, in my opinion, can the principles of Responsible Government be properly carried out."

This was no new opinion of his, (Mr. Street's) for ever since the introduction of Responsible Government into this Province, he had been convinced that it could only be properly worked out by giving to the Executive the power of initiating money grants. He had while addressing the chair on a former occasion, given his opinion on the course which must be adopted before they could be accomplished. His honor the Speaker was then in the same honourable position which he then occupied, they were both then younger men, but what he said at that time he would then repeat, that if ever the Initiatory system be given to the Executive Government, it must be given up by the free action of the House itself, and not by any action of any Government which may be in power now, or come into power hereafter. The right to initiate money grants was inherent in the House itself, and that right could not be wrested from them by the Government. He believed he stated then that somewhere about the year 1785, he quoted from recollection, the House of Commons in England found it necessary for the public service, that the initiation of money grants should be given up to the Executive. He might be incorrect in the date, but believed it was upwards of a century ago, and His Honor the Speaker would correct him if he was wrong.

His Honor the SPEAKER—"That was 140 years ago."

Mr. STREET,—He was obliged to his honor the Speaker, for the date had escaped him, but the House of Commons at that time by a simple resolution surrendered the initiatory right, and it was only by that simple resolution that the Imperial Government acquired and now exercised the right to initiate grants of money. The same means must be adopted in this country before the inherent right to grant money could be taken by the Executive Government of this Province. On this point he was prepared to say, that although the Government could not come down and ask for the surrender of the initiation of money grants, yet he and his colleagues were perfectly prepared to take the responsibility of exercising that right, if it were given to them, although there could be no doubt that this additional responsibility would render the tenure of office less secure than it was while the power remained in the House itself. They were, however, prepared to carry out the system of Responsible Government, and in his (Mr. Street's) opinion, that system could not be properly worked out unless the initiatory system was conceded to the Executive. The next matter to which he would refer was the subject of Education, and on this vitally important subject he had said to his constituents:

"In respect to Education, I think our present system a bad one. I am of opinion that some plan should be introduced by which all classes, both rich and poor, should be identified in that great cause, the education of the people being of vital importance to the advancement of the country."

He believed it would be generally conceded that their present system of education was a bad one.—Large grants of money were annually made for the public schools in this Province, and he (Mr. Street) believed that this country did not get an adequate return for the sums of money so expended. Attempts had from time to time been made to improve the system. A Normal and Training School had been established, which here, at any rate, had not been found to do much good; in fact, it had turned out almost a failure. For this he (Mr. Street) was not accountable, and he was not prepared to say that the Training School in St. John had not done good. He believed there it had worked pretty well, but what he did mean to say was, that something more was necessary to be done than had yet been done before the people of this country would derive for their children all the advantages which they had a right to expect from the large sums given for educational purposes. There was one point upon which he (Mr. Street) had made up his mind. The people must be prepared to take a greater interest in the Education of the rising generation than they had heretofore done, and he knew of no better way to accomplish this object than by resorting to direct taxation for the support of schools. He was aware that this was unpalatable with many, but he was bound to say that he saw no other way of attaining the end which all must desire—that is, to secure as far as possible a good school education to the youth of the country; and to this he would make the rich man, who had no children, contribute to the education of the poor man's, who had. Who, let him ask, had the greatest interest in the educational interests of the country?—certainly the man who had the greatest stake in it; and if the children were permitted to grow up in ignorance the country must suffer, and the value of property diminish. He knew full well that there was a dread of this sort of taxation, but let them look around and see what was doing in other countries. In Maine and Massachusetts the principle of direct taxation for schools was found to work admirably well, and when they could find a good example they should not hesitate to adopt it because it happened to prevail in a republican country. He would not, however, propose to go the length which had been gone in the United States, but would simply propose to raise by taxation the amount of money which the present law required to be raised before school masters were entitled to have the provincial allowance.—Railways was the next subject on which he had touched in his address to his constituents, and on that topic he had said—

"In respect to Railways, I am disposed to encourage undertakings of that nature, as far as our finances will permit, and is consistent with internal improvements and other important interests of the Province."

He would repeat then what he had said at the hustings,—that he was in favor of Railways, and was by no means sorry to see the minds of the inhabitants of this country turned to a subject which had done so much for the neighbouring States. As a member of the Government, and as a member of that House, he would be prepared to give all the assistance in his power to those willing to embark in undertakings of this description, but was against the Government becoming shareholders in speculations of any kind, which, if unsuccessful, might end in public bankruptcy. He would be willing to give at once such assistance as the state of the finances of the Province would permit, but he thought it unwise to do more than this. What answer, he would ask, could they give to their constituents if the Province should take in stock in some of these speculations and find it a failure? They would then have lost the people's money, for which they were only trustees, and it would be no answer to the people of this Province to say, "Oh, we thought the scheme a feasible one, and therefore involved you in this unfortunate difficulty." He believed the House itself had no right to do this; but if, on the other hand, they gave a certain amount of assistance, limited and fixed by law, the people would then know that such an amount might eventually be lost, but beyond this neither they nor their children were involved. With respect to the European Railway, a bill to incorporate which had passed the other day, he was in favor of that undertaking, but it was one which was far beyond the means of the Province to accomplish. Capital to erect such a Railway must come from abroad, and whatever assistance might be given to this scheme by the Province, she hoped that the good people of St. Andrews, who had laboured so industriously to get a Railway from that town to Woodstock, would not be forgotten. He (Mr. Street) would consider it unfair to abandon them now, and he trusted that there was good feeling enough in the House not to do more for any Railway than they were prepared to do for the St. Andrews and Woodstock Railway Company. He would only trouble the House by reading another extract from the card already so often referred to and he would have done:

"In respect to Responsible Government, we have it, and I have accepted office upon principles of Responsible Government, and shall, while I am leader, do all in my power honestly to carry out those principles in the administration of the Government, as far as practicable, and the state of the Province will permit.

"I have only further to add, that if a straight-forward, honest, independent, and zealous discharge of my Legislative and official duties will secure me the confidence of the country, I do not despair of success; but if, on the contrary, vain promises and clap-trap measures are necessary to secure that confidence, then I am not the man; as such I will never resort to, to hold office or obtain any other object."

What he stated then, he would repeat in his place in that House,—straight-forward conduct could ensure the confidence of that House and of the country, he did not despair of success. He had been called a man of integrity, but that was no credit to him, or to any other man, for it was only by integrity that he could hope to succeed in any thing, and the man who thought differently, was, in his (Mr. Street's) opinion, little removed from being a fool.—All that he had, he had made in the country, and all that he had made was within the Province, and if the Province was prosperous he must rise with it; if otherwise, he must fall with it. He had, therefore, everything to gain by an honest and faithful discharge of his official and Legislative duties, and everything to lose by adopting an opposite course. He had every possible inducement to endeavour to benefit the country, and no inducement whatever to cling either to office or power, when he felt that he could not assist in accomplishing that object. There was another point on which he wished to say a few words, and that was on the subject of an Elective Legislative Council. On this subject some parties might think that he had changed his opinion, but it would be recollected that last year he opposed the measure, not because he disapproved of it in toto, but because it was brought in at a late period of the Session, and that there was not sufficient time to deliberate properly on a measure of so much importance as that of changing the entire constitution of one of the branches of the Legislature. In this opinion, however, he was left in a small minority, and an address had gone home to Her Majesty's Government from the last House, to which an answer had been received, intimating that Her Majesty's Government was prepared to accede to the wishes of the House, under certain necessary guards. A bill would therefore be brought into the Upper House to accomplish this object, as he believed that was the proper place for such a bill to originate. In conclusion, he could only add, that he deeply felt the responsibility of the station which he then occupied before the House and before the country. He had no pretensions to infallibility, and would at all times be ready and anxious to listen to and weigh well the suggestions which might come from the opposition, or from any other quarter of the House. He liked a good healthy constitutional opposition, as much as he hated a factious one; the former was directed against measures—the latter against men. He had always had opposition, and always expected to have it, but a fair and manly straight-forward opposition had always commanded his respect. Having said this much, he would only add that he hoped too much would not be expected of the Government—at any rate during the present Session.

*Wednesday, 5th March.*—The House went into Committee on a bill to authorize the extending of the Gaol limits in the County of St. John. Messrs. Ritchie and Gray opposed this Bill—first, because the Magistrates in Sessions had extended the Gaol limits, without repealing two acts necessary to have been repealing, and that consequently the present extension was illegal—secondly, because persons might have escaped from the Sheriff's authority through this extension, and it would be very hard to place them under confinement again—and thirdly, that the Bill would invade the rights of plaintiffs against individuals, or their bonds, who had escaped from the limits. Mr. Needham contended that the bill had no retrospective action whatever—progress repeated.

The House then went into Committee on a bill to repeal the Bear and Wolf Bounty bill, when after some discussion it was rejected, 18 to 14.

Mr. Gray's Bill to protect the Licencees of Mines and Timber was next committed, and the debate was renewed with considerable energy. Upon a division, in a thin House, the bill was thrown out, 14 to 12; in favor of the bill, Messrs. Gray, Needham, Porter, Fitzgerald, McPhelim, Barbarie, Read, Botsford, Tilley, Robinson, Crane, and English—opposed, Hon. Messrs. Speaker, and Rankin, and Messrs. Hayward, Pickard, Macpherson, Ryan, Porter, Earle, Ritchie, Steves, Gordon, Scoullar, Williston, and Purdy.

The House then went into Committee on a bill introduced by Mr. Crane, to make a slight alteration in the mode of granting Tavern Licences. There were some objections started to the bill, and it gave rise to Temperance Lectures from Messrs. Needham, (who moved as an amendment the abolition of all Licence Laws, which was seconded by Mr. Tilley,) Tilley, Steves, and English. After considerable debate, several bulls, some jokes, and some angry ebullitions, the amendment was rejected by an overwhelming majority, only some seven or eight rising. A motion was then made to postpone the bill three months, when the House divided, 17 to 17, and the Chairman, Dr. Thomson, decided in the affirmative. The House then adjourned.—*News.*

THURSDAY, March 6.

WAYS AND MEANS.

Pursuant to the order of the day, the House resolved itself into a Committee of Ways and Means for raising a Revenue.

Mr. Wilmot said this question had become one of the utmost importance; they were now called upon to decide what the policy of the country should be—whether they should continue to carry on a ruinous trade, or whether they should impose such a tariff as would cause manufactures to flourish, and encourage home industry. If they decide to protect home industry, by keeping out such foreign articles as we could manufacture ourselves, it would encourage agriculture by creating a home market for produce, and visibly affect our finances, by destroying the baneful results of a heavy balance of trade against us. In 1848 he (Mr. Wilmot) was Chairman of a Committee appointed by the House to take into consideration the Provincial resources, and to suggest some scheme for the better regulation of the Currency. That Committee in their researches, found out some extraordinary facts, which they submitted to the House in their Report in a tabular form, showing the amount of exports and imports for twenty years, divided into periods of five years each, which gave the following results:—

| | Imports. | Exports. |
|---|---|---|
| "From 1828 to 1832, inclusive, | £3,283,159— | £2,611,499 |
| Excess of Imports, - - | - - - | 671,660 |
| "From 1833 to 1837, inclusive. | £5,244,243— | £3,092,943 |
| Excess of Imports, - - | - - - | 2,151,288 |
| "From 1838 to 1842, inclusive, | £5,577,515— | £3,347,554 |
| Excess of Imports, - - | - - - | 2,229,661 |
| "From 1843 to 1847, inclusive, | £4,703,184— | £3,444,772 |
| Excess of Imports - - | - - - | 1,258,412 |

"Making a total Excess of Imports during the twenty years, of £6,311,331 Sterling."

Hon. Mr. Partelow,—"You did not include Ships in your Exports."

Mr. Wilmot admitted that Ships were not included. The Committee from whose Report he had quoted, had gone on to state that "The sale of new Ships in Great Britain, and Freights earned, are to be added to the Exports, but no correct estimate can be formed." But it must be remembered that a large quantity of goods smuggled into the Province, were not taken into account in the Report he had read. Since 1847 both imports and exports had decreased; still there was an excess of imports to the amount of £70,000; and this with all the timber paying an export duty, although nearly half of it was American timber which merely passed through our waters. With these facts before them, he contended that the present course of trade was not that which could render the country prosperous.

The inference to be drawn was this: that instead of encouraging a system of home industry, the policy of the Legislature had been such as to induce the people to follow the lumbering business, and, with the proceeds, purchase the necessaries of life imported into the Province, no matter from whence they came. By this means the lumber market had been glutted, and the prices brought down so low that it proved ruinous to all concerned. The Report of the Select Committee, from which he had already quoted, showed that in twenty years our Imports from the United States had increased from £77,000 to £312,000, while our Exports to that country during the same period had decreased from £85,000 to to £10,000! How long, he would ask, could any country stand this? It was enough to ruin any country, and if we continued importing to this enormous amount, and could not pay in goods, ruin must follow, for all the money must inevitably be drained out of the Province.

The hon. member then read the Resolution he intended to offer. He thought a large majority of the House, and of the people, would agree with the principles of that Resolution; the only difficulty was in carrying out the details. He would now endeavour to explain his views as nearly as possible. He was favourable to free intercourse with the adjoining Colonies; (Hear, hear). This would enable the inhabitants of the Northern Counties, where they might not be in a position to establish manufactories immediately, to import whatever they wanted from Canada; while in the Southern ports the Americans should be met cent for cent, whereas at the present time where we charged twenty per cent., they charged fifty-five per cent. on the same article. It had been said that this would increase the common necessaries of life, and thereby injure our timber trade; but when duties were much higher than they are now he had never known a deficiency of timber to supply the market, and he thought all fears upon that point were groundless. His policy was to levy high duties upon every thing we could manufacture or produce to advantage, and to admit such necessaries of life as we could not produce at a low rate of duties; for instance, he would admit sugar, molasses, and other products of a Southern clime, at a low duty. He held it bad policy to import what we could manufacture, because we were then encouraging labour in another country instead of our own.

In answer to those who asserted that protective duties upon such articles as we could manufacture among ourselves, he would point to the manufactories increased duties on imports had, a few years ago, caused to spring up in St. John. He defied any one to point out a single instance where the price of the article had been increased by it. On the contrary, prices had generally fallen. In the article of cut nails, since we commenced manufacturing them for our own use the price had fallen from five pence to two pence half-penny per lb.; candles had fallen from ten pence to seven pence half-penny; leather, and other articles had also been reduced in price. He considered the true policy of a country to be precisely that of a family; if the imports exceeded the exports—if the articles purchased exceeded the amount of the articles sold—it would reduce either the one or the other to beggary.

He now came to another part of his subject. The question of political economy had commanded the attention of the ablest American Statesmen, by whom it had been closely investigated. In 1833 the Free-trade party were in power, and a low tariff was established. What was the consequence? In ten years, from 1833 to 1842, inclusive, the Imports into the United States exceeded the Exports by the sum of 137,321,239 dollars! Every one who knew any thing of the history of the United States must recollect the disordered state of the finances of that country from 1837 to 1840—the ruin and bankruptcies that took place—the depreciation of property and labour. These were the practical results of a low tariff and excessive importations. In 1842 the tariff was altered, protective duties were established, and the country immediately began to flourish, and continued in a flourishing state up to 1846 when the tariff was again lowered. This could easily be accounted for by the fact, that during these four years they were manufacturing for themselves. During the five years ending with 1847, their imports exceeded their exports by only 2,401,851 dollars. He would read an extract from an American Journal, showing the opinion of a distinguished individual upon this part of American history. The hon. Member then read the following extracts from the Report of the Secretary of the Treasury, published in December, 1850.)

"During the last fiscal year we imported of foreign merchandise, including specie, $178,136,318; and we exported, of domestic products, foreign goods, and specie, $151,898,720, leaving a balance against us of $26,247,598.

"A large proportion of this balance has doubtless been paid by our domestic stocks which find a ready sale at this time in European Markets. These last, however, as they only postpone a present payment in coin, cannot be expected to liquidate similar balances for coming years, even if it were the wish of the Government to create a large foreign debt of this kind. The impolicy of such a measure will not be questioned, and it is doubtless the true interest of the country to avoid it.

"In regulating our commerce with foreign nations, we are therefore compelled to take, as the true basis of safe importation from all countries, the amount of our own products, which we may reasonably calculate may find a market abroad. * * *

"These considerations, forced by the existing state of things upon the earnest attention of this Department, are submitted to the wisdom of Congress, in the belief that they present reasons of the most imperative character for a modification of the present Revenue laws."

The Committee would observe, that the Americans, when they spoke of a modification of their tariff, meant an increase of duties. They found it difficult to extend their market abroad, but they had the power in their own hands to extend the demand for their products at home, by encouraging the establishment of manufactories. The same principle applied to this Province. Although we numbered but 200,000 inhabitants, we should endeavour to live within our means. (The Hon. Member then moved the following resolution):

Whereas the import of articles, the produce and manufacture of the United States of America, into this Province, has for several years been greatly on the increase, and far exceeded the exports to that country, to the manifest injury of the productive labour of the Province;—And whereas the efforts made by Great Britain and the North American Colonies to obtain Reciprocal Trade with the United States, have not only been unsuccessful, but have been met by the imposition of higher duties, thereby virtually excluding us from their markets, whilst ours are open to them;—and whereas, such a course of Trade in addition to other evils, tends greatly to derange the currency of the country, by draining it of the precious metals, therefore,

*Resolved*, That in framing a Revenue Bill, countervailing duties should be imposed on such articles as are imported from the United States, as will give encouragement to the Agricultural and Mechanical Interests of the Province, and at the same time best promote its mercantile welfare.

*Resolved*, As the opinion of this Committee that the House should appoint a select committee to prepare a Bill for imposing duties for raising a Revenue, based upon the principle of the foregoing resolution.

Mr. Gray seconded the Resolution, which was passed unanimously, and followed by another to the effect that a Committee should be appointed to frame a Revenue Bill upon the principles of the aforesaid Resolution.—*Mr. Hill's Reports.*

Messrs. Wilmot, Hannington, Montgomery, Ryan, Partelow, Needham, Hayward, Cutler, English, Macpherson, Earl, Porter, and Williston, were appointed a Committee on the Revenue Bill.

Mr. Crane then arose and said, that he had been absent from his place for a short time, when the House was in committee on ways and means, and supposing that the debate would occupy the House for a longer time, he was not present when the resolution passed, and when he returned he found that the House had resumed. He held in his hand a resolution which he had intended to move in committee, but not having had an opportunity of doing so, he would now move it in the House. The paramount importance of agriculture was acknowledged on all hands, and in framing a Revenue bill the interests of the agriculturist should, he thought, be steadily kept in view. He held in his hand a resolution which expressed his views on that subject, which with permission of the House he would read. The hon. member then read the following:—

"*Whereas*, The agricultural interests of this Province has been for some time past, and still continues in a very depressed state,

"*Therefore Resolved*, That it be an instruction to the Committee appointed to prepare the Revenue bill, that they recommend such measures as are calculated to turn the attention of the inhabitants of this Province to agricultural pursuits in preference to other occupations."

This resolution he thought would not be objected to by any hon. member on the floor of the House, and would then conclude by moving that it be adopted by the House.

Mr. Hannington seconded the motion. There was no interest in any country to be compared with that of agriculture, for so long as that interest was in a thriving state, whatever other interest, failed the country was safe.

The question on sustaining the resolution was then put from the Chair, and carried without a division.

Mr. Porter moved for leave to bring in a bill to repeal the 3rd section of the act granting a bounty on the destruction of Bears and Wolves in this Province.—*H. Qrs.*

AMENDMENT OF THE ST. JOHN CITY CHARTER.

The House resolved itself into Committee of the whole on a Bill to amend the Charter of the City of St. John; Mr. Hayward in the Chair.

Mr. Needham rose to explain the changes sought for by this Bill, and the motives that actuated the Common Council in framing the Bill and asking for these changes. In the reign of George III. a Charter was obtained, which erected the Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty of St. John a body politic and corporate, and empowered the citizens to become freemen. After many years experience, it was found necessary to alter the Charter in several of its provisions, and petitions to that effect were laid before the Legislature. In 1850 the Legislature did pass an Act, making some of the amendments required. The appointment of the Chief Magistrate, under the old Charter, had been vested in the Crown, but in the amended Charter, in compliance with the wishes of the people, a change was made, but instead of vesting the people with the power to elect the Mayor, they vested that power in the Common Council. Hon. Members knew the result: the very first time the Common Council came to exercise that power they could not agree on a choice—they divided even, and the Government was obliged to appoint the Mayor. That being the case, the Common Council and citizens deemed a change necessary,—they had come to the conclusion that the people must elect their own Mayor in a direct manner. Another change demanded was in the property qualification of Aldermen and Councillors. Under the first Charter no such qualification was required, but in 1843 it was so amended that Aldermen should possess a property qualification in real estate to the amount of £250, and Councillors £150. The absurdity of this was shown by another section of the same Act, relating to the appointment of Mayor. He was required to have no such qualification, but merely one inch of freehold qualified him, although his office was one of much more power and responsibility than that of Alderman. Why should a property qualification be required? Let hon. members look upon the history of all ages of the world, and they would find that wherever elective institutions prevailed in ancient times, from the days of the Romans down, no property qualification was considered necessary until at a very late period. The principle had crept in, and how? Why by the efforts of rich men, who feared the rising talent of those whom they considered below them—those who belonged to the humbler classes of society. The same principle—the same motives—had originated the petition against the Bill as it stood at present. Many of those who signed were good men in their sphere, but they shared the common prejudices of their class. The petition was not signed by the poorer classes—by the bone and sinew of the City; let them look at the small number of signatures and they would at once perceive this. If a popular petition was handed round in St. John, or if this petition expressed the general opinion of the people, nine-tenths of the inhabitants would have signed it. If they complied with the prayer of the petition, and inserted a property qualification in the Bill, what would they be saying to the country by that act? They would thereby admit the principle that because a man was poor he could have no feelings of patriotism in his breast—could not desire the welfare of his country, that his heart could not bleed for the sufferings of his country. It had been contended that a man with no property should be disqualified from voting for a Mayor or Alderman of a City, or for a Representative of the people in this House. (Hon. Mr. Speaker—That's right.) His Honor the Speaker approved of that doctrine; well, let him picture to himself a man worth £10,000; of course he was highly qualified either to vote or to serve; but supposing that through the vicissitudes of fortune he lost it all the day before an election was to come off, he would be disqualified according to the hon. Speaker's doctrine,—he would no longer know what was wise from what was foolish; his brains would be scooped out of his head by meeting with a loss of property! he would no longer have a tongue in his head capable of expressing his meaning! He contended that a man who had once exercised the elective franchise should not be deprived of it. If a freeman of St. John became so impoverished that he was unable to pay his taxes, he should not be disfranchised on account of it. Every freeman had in the first instance paid for his freedom—they had paid for the privileges attached to it, and should they be deprived of them because they happened to be poor. The Bill ran thus, that every Freeman who had paid, *or satisfied*, his taxes for the previous year, should have a right to vote. A man might have *satisfied* his taxes by being forgiven them if the Mayor and Common Council considered him an object of charity; or he might have laid out the allotted time in prison. If he suffered, being unable to pay, that was enough; he had satisfied the law, and should not be disfranchised. Hon. members should endeavour to realise the condition of those men, and imagine how hard they would consider it to be disfranchised if they were in their places. Under the present Government, the Mayor could assume no authority until the choice was approved of by the Government. That should be amended. The Legislature of the Province passed Acts, and these immediately became part and parcel of the laws of the land, and continued to be so until disapproved of by the Imperial Government. He claimed a similar privilege for the citizens of St. John in the election of Mayor; he should be Mayor *de facto* until the choice was disallowed by the Executive Government, and serve for the year if nothing was heard of from the Government upon the subject within three months.—(Hon. Mr. Partelow.—That's all right.)—He was glad to hear the hon. Secretary say so, and he having assented to the proposition he (Mr. N.) would pass on to the next part of the Bill which he wished to explain. There was a provision, in the old Charter which enacted that no person who held an office in the city should be eligible for the situation of Mayor, Alderman, or Councillor. That clause rendered many ineligible. The Bill provided that a public officer serving for a salary should not be eligible, but that the fact of a man holding an office, and receiving fees to renumerate him for his labour, should not make him ineligible to serve. These were not interested, and if the people chose to elect them, with the people rested the responsibility. Another section of the Bill provided to extend the power of the City Court from £5 up to £10. Upon this point, when mooted in the Common Council, there was only one dissentient voice; and he was serve it would meet with the approbation of the people. The fees of that Court had been reduced to 7s. 5d., and one of the Judges must be a Barrister of five years standing, or upwards, which was a pretty good guarantee of his qualification; if the change were made it would effect a great saving of time in the Circuit and Mayor's Courts; it would cut down costs, and parties suing would be enabled to recover much quicker and easier than at present. Another change asked for was the authority to appoint a Deputy Harbour Master. The Harbour Master had so much to do, in placing the ships, collecting fees, &c. that he had no time to devote to keeping the Harbour clear; and for the performance of that service they required another officer. (Hon. Mr. Rankin,—Let the Harbour Master appoint his Deputy). No; that might do for Miramichi, but it would not do for St. John, for there the Mayor and Common Council were responsible if the Harbour became filled up, and they must have the appointment of the Deputy Harbour Master in their own hands. There was but one more alteration to which he thought proper to allude; he meant the power to substitute a tax instead of the statute labour on the Sir eets; he would be prepared at the proper time to show reasons why this change was necessary. At present he would say no more, but moved that the Committee rise and report progress and ask leave to sit again.—Progress reported.—*Mr. Hill's Reports.*

FRIDAY, March 7.

FREDERICTON BURNT DISTRICT.

The House went into committee on a Bill to authorize the issuing of Provincial Debentures to the amount of £10,000, to aid the inhabitants of Fredericton to rebuild the Burnt District. After the Bill had been read through, Mr. Taylor said there were some amendments required; he therefore moved that progress be reported.

His Honor the Speaker said there was a great deal of machinery about the Bill—too much by half in his opinion. The Bill provided for the appointment of three Commissioners, who would be required to sell the Debentures and apply the money. There was no need for this machinery; why not let the Debentures be issued and go at once into the hands of those requiring loans? Again, he questioned if the £10,000 was required at all. An Architect had offered those who held the lots on the front street, that he would erect brick buildings thereon, with slate roofs, and fire proof, and not ask them a farthing of money down, but would be content to accept a security upon the buildings of seven per cent interest, to be taken as the rents were received.—He (Hon. Speaker) was astonished that the people of Fredericton had not closed with such an advantageous offer.

Mr. Hatheway said the Bill had been copied from the Bill that passed some years since in aid of the people of Saint John, of which it was a fac simile. The sum asked for was not so much, in proportion to the loss which had been sustained, as the sum loaned to St. John. He did not expect that any hon. member would have had the slightest objection to the Bill.

Mr. Gilbert spoke briefly in opposition to the Bill.

Mr. Taylor observed that if such an offer had been made the people holding the lots on the front street as had been asserted by his Honor the Speaker, they should be excluded from participating in the loan; but the loan would still be necessary to enable the owners of lots on other streets to rebuild. He knew of several who were anxiously waiting to know the fate of the Bill, as they were unable to erect brick buildings without aid, and would build with wood if the Bill did not pass. He hoped no objections would be made to reporting progress. Progress was then reported.—*Mr. Hill's Reports.*

*Friday, March 7th.*—The Bill to extend the right of voting for Trustees in the Church of Scotland to all adult male communicants passed committee.

The Bill to faciliate a loan to the City of St. John was under consideration. Mr. Needham explained. It authorizes the sale of certain City Lands on the eastern side of the harbour, by Trustees, Justices, and Common Council, no lot to be sold for less than £50, and other restrictions. Mr. Ritchie asked time to examine the Bill as he had promised his constituents to do so. Mr. Wilmot opposed the Bill altogether. Mr. Gray wished the matter delayed for a short time.—Progress reported. The Inland Posts Bill and the Non-bailable Process Service Bill, both passed the Council without amendment. The Bill granting a Charter to the European and North American Railway Company passed the Council with unimportant amendments and so finally passed the house.

Bill for the erection of Sewers in the City of St. John—passed.

The House next went into Committee on the Bill to amend the Charter of the City St. John

Mr. Gray, in an eloquent speech, contended against that portion of the Bill which would sweep away a property qualification for Mayor, Aldermen, and Assistant Aldermen.

His Honor the Speaker, and Messrs. Porter, Wilmot, Tilley, Gilbert, Ritchie, and Thomson, followed on the same side.

Mr. English took a similar view, and attacked Mr. Needham for his democracy and "universal suffrage" opinions; told him he was in advance of the United States, would mak a firs-rate Western Lecturer, &c.

Mr. Needham defended himself, maintained his position, and replied to Mr. English by saying that he never mentioned the words "universal suffrage," and that the hon. member in attacking him for what he had not said, was like the asses of old *snuffing the east wind?*—Mr. Gray moved an amendment to the effect that property qualification should not be done away with, which was carried; nays, Messrs. Needham, Steves, and McPhelim. Progress was then reported.

Mr. Botsford read the correspondence connected with Judge Botsford's retirement, and animadverted in severe terms upon Sir William Colebrooke and the Government of that day.—He characterized the circumstance as a "foul plot," and asserted that his father had been sacrificed to political intrigue. He moved for an Address to His Excellency for certain Despatches now withheld. Carried.

Mr. Ritchie, also expressed his dissatisfaction with the garbled despatches, which had been sent down—said the house had a right to the whole, and on the return of the Attorney General, he would move for a committee of the whole house on the question.

FREDERICTON, March 10.—There was a long debate on Mr. Johnson's Bill to reduce Registry Fees, it was opposed by Messrs. Thomson, Street, Rankin, Partelow and others. Mr. Hannington wished the fees reduced to 6d. per folio on all deeds, the debate became personal between Messrs. Street, Rankin and Johnson, but the bill finally passed as proposed, by a majority of 23 to 13; the principal features of the Bill are, fees for deeds under ten folios 5s., all over ten 6d. per folio, and no practising Attorney to hold the office of Registrar. Mr. Gilbert gave notice of a resolution for the transformation of King's College into an Agricultural School, said the buildings cost £30,000, and the education of each pupil £300 per year. The committee of Trade reported, recommended return of duties on machinery for a paper mill, on goods destroyed by the fire in Fredericton, on O'Connors (of Doherty and McTavish) over paid. The duties on Waterwork Pipes, on Telegraph Articles, on Organ for Portland Church, were not recommended to be returned; neither did they recommend aid to build a steamboat wharf at St John, nor aid to the Telegraph line to Woodstock. In reply to the request for copies of Judge Botsford's resignation and despatches connected therewith, the Governor stated that no copy of the resignation could be found, and that he cannot give the rest of the despatches consistently with his duty. Mr. Wishart's Marriage Bill was taken up in the Council, the house was thin.—Progress reported.

Mr. Ritchie will likely move for a committee on the despatches to-morrow. The petitions relating to the manufactures at the Penitentiary were referred to the house.—*Tel. to New's Room.*

FREDERICTON, March 8.

This morning the House was occupied for some time in striking the Committee to decide on the scrutiny between Mr. Boyd and Mr. Fitzgerald. The following members were chosen, viz: Messrs Gilbert, Cutler, Tilley, Needham, and Ritchie. Mr. Taylor is nominee for Mr. Boyd, and Mr. Barberie nominee for Mr. Fitzgerald. Council for Mr. Fitzgerald, R. M. Aurdews, Esq.: Ditto for Mr. Boyd, Hon. Charles Fisher, and D. S. Kerr, Esq.

On motion of Mr. Hatheway, the House went into Committee on a Bill to reduce the costs in the Supreme Court, and Court of Common Pleas. Mr. H. introduced the Bill by a speech, in which he was pretty severe upon lawyers, and complained of present costs on suits being ruinous. Mr. Gilbert and Mr. Porter supported the Bill. Mr. Needham attacked the present system *in toto*. Mr. Johnson defended the present system.—[In the course of their remarks, Messrs. Needham and Johnson made allusions to each other's minds, personal appearance, &c.]

The Charlotte County Scrutiny has been postponed until Saturday next. The Clerk of the County has been summoned to appear at Fredericton with the Poll Books.

Petitions relating to the manufacture of articles at the Penitentiary were presented.

THE SCHOOL BILL.—The Attorney-General's School Bill is a decided failure. Repealing the Act containing former Acts, it proceeds to re-enact precisely the same provisions with a few additions. The Executive is still to be a Board of Education with a salary. The Sessions appoint Trustees, who, in their turn, divide the Parishes into School Districts. The Teachers are to be paid by the old voluntary system in money or board and lodging by the District, to the amount of £10 for six months, and are to be paid the same Provincial sum as at present, unless where there are too many schools in a Parish, when the amount apportioned the Parish is to be divided proportionately among them by the Trustees. The teachers are, as at present, to attend the Training School, and to receive, as at present, 10s. a week each during their attendance. The Bill absurdly determines what each class Teacher is to be capable of teaching,—"Practice," "English Grammar," or "Navigation;" and another section gravely enacts "that it be the duty of the teacher to teach diligently all the branches to be taught in the school, and to exert his best endeavors, (these are the very words,) both by example and precept to impress on the minds of his pupils the principles of piety, justice, honesty and a sacred regard for truth, love to their country, humanity, and universal benevolence, sobriety, industry, frugality, chastity, moderation and temperance." Quite a catalogue of morals and virtues, scarcely to be taught in addition to the combination of the rules called "Practice," for £9 and board and lodging for the six months.

Stripping the Bill of all this extraneous and superfluous matter, we find that the only changes proposed are,—1st, County Inspectors, whose duty it shall be to visit all the schools in the several Counties at least once in three months, to examine into the state and condition of the Schools, the progress of the pupils in learning, the order and discipline observed, the system pursued, number of pupils in attendance, &c., and to report thereon; also, to prevent the use of improper, and to *recommend* the use of authorised books; to deliver in each Parish at least once a year a lecture on Practical Education, and to *persuade* parents and guardians to improve the character and efficiency of the Parish Schools.

2d. The liberty given to any Counties that choose to adopt the system of direct taxation. At least fifty resident freeholders shall sign a requisition to the Sheriff, who shall call a County Meeting, three months notice at least being given, a certain number of freeholders being present, and two thirds voting in favour of the adoption of the system, the Sheriff shall certify this to the Governor in Council, who thereupon shall direct the Justices in Session to assess the County for a sum equal in amount to the sum allowed to the County in the appointment of the Provincial Board of Education, to be assessed and collected in the same way as taxes for County charges. If two-thirds of the meeting do not decide in the adoption of this system, then another meeting may be called after the lapse of nine months.

Under the voluntary system, not more than five free scholars are to be admitted to each school, and not more than £30 a year from the Province, and £20 for board and lodging from the districts, is secured to first class teachers.

Where the system of assessment is adopted, the Parish Schools are to be free and open to all the youth of both sexes between the ages of five and twenty-one, without preference or distinction; and the highest salary provided for a first class teacher is to be £30 for six months, to be paid by the County Treasurer, and this only when the sum apportioned the Parish is sufficient to pay this amount. A teacher of the second class is to receive £22, and of the third class £18, for the same period.

It must be evident at a glance that this sort of half measure is not the measure the country requires. The appointment of Inspectors would be in itself an improvement, if those Inspectors were always appointed because of their superior intelligence and literary attainments, and not because of his real supposed influence at elections. The Board are empowered to "sanction, require and enforce the system of Education and Instruction illustrated at the Training School;" but the Inspector is only to recommend the use of authorised books, and to persuade parents to improve the character of the schools.

The teachers' salaries are far too low. It cannot be expected that any man of education and ability, such as a first class teacher ought to be, will undertake these most irksome and onerous duties with zeal and earnestness for the paltry sum of £60 a year, if indeed fit and proper persons can be got to undertake them at all for such a remuneration.

Were the Bill to pass in its present shape, much may be done to remedy its many defects by a Board that understood the subject, and applied themselves properly to it. The present Executive, we apprehend, if we are to judge by the past, can be expected to do little more than appoint to any situations worth seeking.

We forgot to state that when the system of assessment is adopted, the freeholders of any Parish in public meeting can assess the Parish for the erection of school-houses, the purchase of books, maps, &c. That the Board may, on the requirement of the Inspector, grant a supply of books, &c. to be distributed by him gratuitously to the poor schools.

And that the salaries of the Secretary and Inspector, the contingencies of office, the price of books, &c., so granted, shall not be paid out of the Parish School Funds, the whole of which are to be expended in the payment of Teachers' salaries alone.

Such is the scheme now proposed; it secures the adoption of no system, and effects no improvement, unless where two-thirds of a County are enlightened enough to take the business into their own hands and assess themselves.—*Freeman.*

# The Observer.

SAINT JOHN, MARCH 11, 1851.

## LATER FROM EUROPE.

The American Steam ship *Pacific*, Capt. Nye, from Liverpool, arrived at New York on Thursday evening last, in twelve days' passage. She left Liverpool February 22d, and brings 19 passengers and a large freight.

The *Franklin*, and *Actic*, had arrived out in about twelve days.

The most important intelligence brought by the Pacific, is that of the resignation of Lord John Russell. This measure was the result of a Cabinet Council, held at London on Saturday the 15th ult. Three quarters of an hour after the holding of the Council, the Premier repaired to the Queen's palace, where he had an audience with her Majesty, and tendered his resignation. He now holds office only till his successor is appointed.

From what we gather from the European Times, the resignation of Ministers was brought about chiefly by the opposition generally manifested to the Budget, and to a defeat on a question of franchise by a majority of 48 against them in a very small house.

On Friday, in the House of Commons, before the intended resignation was known publicly, Lord John Russell, amidst profound silence, asked that his order of the day might stand over till Monday, when he would explain his reasons for the request. The House immediately rose.

On Monday the Chancellor of the Exchequer brought his Budget before the House of Commons, from which it appeared that the surplus revenue for the year was two millions five hundred thousand