Provincial Legislature.

[From the Head Quarter Report.]

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY—FEB. 13.

BILL TO INCREASE THE REPRESENTATION OF KING'S COUNTY.

Mr. J. A. Street was speaking when we entered the House. He observed that the claim of Northumberland to additional representation was equal if not superior to that of King's.—The population of the two Counties was the same, while the different interests in Northumberland were more varied, and of much greater importance than that of King's. The former was equally important so far as regards Agriculture, and much superior with respect to Trade, and he should move that a Section be added to the Bill to give another member to the County of Northumberland. He hoped all who were disposed to support one would support the other, as they must view it in the same light. (Mr Partelow,—No, no.) He was not surprised at the hon. member saying "no;" but did the hon. member intend to support the Bill as it now stood? (Mr. Partelow,—Yes.) Well, he (Mr. S.) was not *much* surprised now, as the hon. member with all his talent and all his usefulness was local in his views; he could never see beyond the smoke of St. John. But if the hon. member would travel through the North-east portion of the Province, and see the state of Agriculture in that section, and the flourishing Trade, he would soon have more extended views on the subject.

Hon. Speaker said he had supported the Bill of last year, and should support this. The Bill had been lost last Session by the very measure which the hon. member who had just sat down now wished to introduce: namely, that of tacking Northumberland to it. He was disposed to do justice to both; but they should stand each on its own basis. King's was a large and populous County, fully entitled to return another Representative; then why clog it with another County? He would support the Bill as it stood, without any addition. The representation of other Counties had been increased. York with formerly four members had been divided, and now sent eight members; and bye and bye he supposed Fredericton would be incorporated, and an additional member or two would be sent from thence.

Mr. Fisher was opposed to the Bill. The population of King's it was true was 14,000 people, but the returns from that County at various periods showed that the increase was but slow. If they were disposed to increase the Representation at all he thought Northumberland could prefer the best claims, for her population was at least equal, and her Shipping, Lumbering, and Agricultural interests were much superior, to those of King's. If a section were added to include Northumberland he would support the Bill, otherwise he should oppose it.

Mr. McLeod would ask hon. members what they meant by the term *interests*? If they meant shipping interests they must confine themselves to *Foreign* Shipping, and take no account of ships employed on the Domestic Trade, which to a country is perhaps of as much consequence. In King's there were Shipping Yards, &c. and a vast number of small craft owned, whose aggregate tonnage he thought could not be much, if anything, less than the tonnage of Shipping owned in Northumberland. In Great Britain interests mean landed property and population, and in all the Counties the representation is founded thereon. He would admit that Northumberland had equal claims with King's, but no superior; and he contended that each should stand or fall on its own merits.

Mr. Hannington had supported the Bill last year, and was prepared to do so again. The hon. member for Northumberland had brought forward a section to increase the representation of that County, which was the means of defeating the Bill last Session, he therefore hoped he would not press his Amendment this year, but allow the Bill to stand upon its own merits.

Dr. Earle spoke at some length in favour of King's, contending that from its extent and population, no less than from its wealth, it was fairly entitled to another Representative. The inhabitants were remarkable for their quiet and orderly habits, their intelligence, and warm attachment to the British Throne; and as a proof of the extent to which Agriculture had been carried he need only mention that it contained more cleared land than any other County in the Province.

Mr. J. A. Street said an alarm of clogging the Bill had been got up because hon. members did not wish to do justice to Northumberland! The hon. member for King's (Mr. McLeod) was mistaken if he thought the tonnage of his *woodboats* employed in *domestic trade* equal to the tonnage of the shipping trading at the ports of Northumberland; it showed his ignorance of the northeast section of the Province. His (Mr. Street's) object was to *amend* the Bill, not to clog it; he thought his section would assist the Bill, for this ought to be viewed as a general measure, not as a local Bill; they should look at the Representation of the different Counties of the Province, and endeavour to give fair play. But the Bill before them, and the pertinacity with which hon. members sought to exclude Northumberland, looked as though certain parties sought for a balance of power.

Hon. Mr. Wilmot would support the Bill, as he was in favour of a general increase in the Representation. He thought the time was come when they would do well to increase their numbers up to forty, or forty-two; he therefore should not support this as a local Bill, for it was his opinion that additional numbers would add to the respectability of the House, and perhaps to its talent also. He would go for the division of Westmorland, giving the new County one or two members, and increase the Representation of King's, Queen's, and Northumberland, by giving one additional member to each; this with the two members from the new County of Victoria would give the House an increase of six or seven new members.

Hon. Mr. Hazen would go for the Bill as it stood. The hon. member for York had spoken about a general increase, but if that took place they should not overlook St. John, when from its population and importance was as well entitled to an increase of Representation as other places. The Amendment offered by the hon. member for Northumberland was calculated to destroy the Bill; and if other Counties can show as good claims as King's let them bring them forward by separate Bills, and the House would give them due consideration.

Mr. Gilbert wished to see Queens included, and Northumberland also. Queens has as good claim to an increase of Representation as any other County. And as for Northumberland, why there they quarrel at elections and break each other's heads, and then the military have to be sent there, and next they come to the Committee of Supply and get £750 to pay the expences! He hoped they would be allowed to send another Representative, and then perhaps they would not find it necessary to break each other's heads, and the House would not be called on to pay for it. (Laughter.)

Mr. Brown would acknowledge the right of Northumberland to an increase of Representation, but it was not fair to tack it to the Bill then before them. This Bill had been brought forward by petition, had been read twice, and then placed in the hands of the Committee; but if the hon member for Northumberland were permitted to include Northumberland in the Bill at this stage of it, and it should be carried, he would be obtaining an increase of Representation for his County without a single petition having been presented for it, and without going through all the formularies which this Bill, as well as others, had been subjected to. He would go for an increase of the representation of Northumberland if a Bill were brought in to that effect, but it was unfair to tack the two together.

Mr. Boyd said he thought King's was well represented already; the members for that County had but little to do, they brought but very few petitions or bills before the House. The Counties of St John, Westmorland, and King's generally went together in that House, and he would warn hon. members how they permitted them to obtain a balance of power.

Mr. Partelow in strong terms ridiculed the idea of members of that House having but little to do because they did not trouble the House with a great many bills and petitions. He would be very glad if there were fewer presented from the County of Charlotte. The hon. member (Mr. Boyd) seemed to have curious views of his parliamentary duties; but he (Mr. P.) considered a member of that House bound to legislate for the whole Province, and to do justice to all classes of Her Majesty's subjects. As to the Bill then before them, he begged to call the attention of the Committee to the fact that Northumberland formerly sent but two members to that House, but in consequence of its being divided and subdivided what was once Northumberland now sent eight members. York also which once sent four members, by being divided will after the next general election send eight, while King's had all this time remained stationary.

Mr. Payne would support the Bill as it stood, but was opposed to the Amendment.

Here the House divided on the first section of the Bill, which was carried. Mr. J. A. Street's Amendment was then moved, as the second section, and negatived. Mr. Fisher then moved that the further consideration of the Bill be postponed for three months, which was negatived by the House dividing 18 to 14. The Bill was then passed without Amendment.

FEBRUARY 26.—WAYS AND MEANS.

Mr. Partelow moved that a Select Committee be appointed to draw up a Revenue Bill. His reasons for adopting this course was that it was the former practice of the House, to which he thought it necessary to return, as a contrary course had been pursued for the last two years and found to be anything but beneficial. Last year the House spent eight days in Committee of Ways and Means, supposing that by going thoroughly through the business they would lessen their labours when in Committee on the Revenue Bill. But the result was that when they came to the Revenue Bill they paid no regard to their Resolutions when in Ways and Means, and it took them five days to get through with the Revenue Bill after having spent eight days in Ways and Means.

Mr. Wark expressed himself to the same effect. He hoped they would get a Revenue Bill prepared at once, and go into it without wasting their time in passing Resolutions which would have no effect.

Hon. Mr. Simonds was opposed to the motion. He considered it to be their duty while in Committee on Ways and Means to ascertain what means were at their disposal to raise a Revenue, previous to concocting a Revenue Bill.

Mr. End thought the construction which had been put upon Lord Stanley's Despatch, on different duties, last Session, a wrong one. He (Mr. End) had opposed the construction the House had put upon it, but the Hon. member for St. John, (Mr. Simonds) had supported it; he (Mr. End) was still of the same opinion, for he could not believe it possible that Her Majesty's Government intended by that Despatch to interfere with the inter-colonial trade. It had been attended with a most ruinous effect on the City of St. John, having driven away the Nova-Scotia trade to the States of Maine and Massachusetts. He wished to know if any subsequent instructions or explanations had been received by Government since the last Session, as it was important this should be known before proceeding with the Revenue Bill.

Mr. Partelow was prepared to support a Resolution to exempt Colonial produce from duties. He could not believe that their Revenue Bill would be ignored for not levying duties on inter-colonial trade, and would go for making this exemption either by a Resolution or by specifying the same as each article came up when in Committee on the Revenue Bill.

Mr. W. H. Street said he did not think the Nova-Scotia trade had been driven off by the Despatch, but by the wrong construction which had been put upon that Despatch.

Hon. Mr. Simonds said that the construction which had been put upon the Despatch on different duties was the same construction which had been put upon it in other colonies, and no doubt was the right one. The Home Government was in peculiar circumstances, as treaties existed with Foreign Nations by which it was bound to give them privileges equal to that enjoyed by any other country; and the Colonial Governments had all received instructions to that effect. The Despatch in question says, plainly and unequivocally, that if the Local Government impose discriminating duties on goods, the Imperial Government must disallow the Bill, or make indemnifications to other countries. The Provincial Agent, Mr. Bliss, a sound lawyer, had also put the same construction upon the Despatch; and he (Mr. S.) had no doubt but Mr. Bliss would—if any alteration were made—exert himself to get all the North American Colonies considered as one country, so that the inter-colonial trade might be exempt from duty.

Mr. Fisher considered protective duties a relic of the barbarous ages, and that it must soon be exploded. As to its applicability to this Province, he would call their attention to the extensive lumbering business carried on upon the upper waters of the St. John; a great part of it on the American territory; if the duties were low they would procure their provisions, &c. at St. John, and take them up the St. John River, to the great benefit of the trade of this Province as well as the inhabitants settled up and down the River; and perhaps they would purchase British goods. But if the duties were high they would procure their supplies from Bangor or Canada.

After some further discussion, chiefly of a desultory character, the Committee determined to appoint a Select Committee to draw up a Revenue Bill, and to go into the consideration of the same without wasting further time in Ways and Means.

THURSDAY, February 27.

DIVISION OF WESTMORLAND.

Mr. Smith, the mover of the Bill, stated that the County of Westmorland was divided by the river Petticodiac, and the inhabitants of the South West Section found great difficulty in crossing that river on their way to the Shire Town; they had, therefore, petitioned in favour of this Bill. He said the portion it was proposed to cut off for the new County was fertile, compact, and every way fit for the management of their own affairs. The people were intelligent and industrious, already numbering several thousands, while, from the large tracts of unsettled lands being well adapted to the purposes of agriculture, there was every prospect of a rapid increase in the population.

Hon. Mr. Simonds had but little to say on the subject; but knowing the physical obstructions in the way of the section which had petitioned the House remaining in connection with the other section, he was prepared to support the Bill.

Mr. Partelow would support the Bill, as he acknowledged the necessity for dividing the County; but he would like to know how they intended to settle the representation.

Mr. Hannington had no objection to the division of the County, provided hon. members did not attempt to deprive the old County of its present representation. He had received no instructions from his constituents on the subject, and as for a new County was concerned he presumed the House must determine whether it should have one Representative or two.

Mr. Botsford spoke nearly to the same effect. He was not instructed by his constituents, but presumed they would not object to the division provided they were still allowed to return four members. He did not think the people in the Northeast section of the County wished for the division, nor did they care much about it; but they were aware that the inhabitants of the other section now suffered many inconveniences.

Mr. Connell and Mr. Gilbert both expressed themselves in favour of the Bill, and to give the new County one member.

Mr. Palmer was confident the County must be divided; but as respects the representation he was willing to leave it to the committee. If they decided the new County should have two representatives it was well; if not he would be satisfied with one.

Mr. Hill thought it would be unfair to give the new County but one member, and the old County four; he would propose that the new County have two members, and the old County three.

Mr. Brown described the situation of the two sections of Westmoriand on either side of the Petticodiac. As for the hon. Member for York (Mr. Fisher) who opposed the Bill, he (Mr. Brown) thought if he knew the difficulties of crossing the river—he would not question the propriety of the division; *he wished he was there once, stuck in the mud*, as he would then see the necessity for the measure. (Roars of Laughter). The section proposed to be parted off was well adapted for a County, containing several thousands of inhabitants, and some old and wealthy settlements, &c. The people on the Northeast side of the river did not care whether the County would be divided or not, but the inhabitants on the other side were extremely anxious on the subject. He apprehended that there would be but little opposition to the Bill, but the difficulty would be about the Representation. It might pass if they let the Old County still return four Members and the New County one; but that would not be fair, for the New County was likely soon to have as large a population as the Old, and it would not be fair at all for two Counties nearly equal in every respect to be so differently situated, one of them returning four Members to that House and the other but one.—He thought the only fair way to divide the Representation would be to give the Old County three Members, and the New County two, as this would be according to the population of the two counties, that being as three to two; and as the interests of the two Counties were alike, he considered the population a fair basis on which to found the representation. It was not his (Mr. Brown's) intention to throw obstacles in the way of the Bill, and if the hon. Member from that section of the County which prays for a separation (Mr. Smith) be contented with one Representative, he should not object; although he did not consider it fair.

Hon. Mr. Simonds coincided with the hon. member for Charlotte. He would not lessen the Representation of the Old County, but he would give them three members, as they had always had, and give the New County two.

Mr. Partelow thought differently. It would be unjust to deprive the Old County of any one of its members, and the only question was how many they should give the New County. He thought it would be as well entitled to send two members as any other New County, and as they had hitherto made it their rule of action, he did not see how they could depart from it now.

Mr. Wark did not see the necessity for a division at all; it would increase the number of representatives in the Province, and the House would not contain them all. They would be additional expence to the Province also, and would have the effect of making the Session longer. It would also create work for more Judges, for those we have at present were worked hard enough already. He was opposed to any increase of Representation, though the Bill to divide the County should pass. The population of Westmorland was not equal to that of Northumberland, yet they proposed to give the former six members while the latter had but two, and while the whole Province would be taxed to pay them.

Mr. Hannington contended that the House had no right to diminish the number of representatives of Westmorland proper; as such an act would be disfranchisement and that too without a cause.

Mr. Hill offered an amendment to one of the sections of the Bill, to the effect that the Old County should from and after the next general election return three Members to the Assembly, and the New County should return two Members. This amendment was carried by the Committee dividing 18 to 14.

Mr. Hannington said several hon. members who had professed themselves favourable to the Bill, had now voted for, had been the means of carrying a clause which they knew must destroy it in another quarter. They had passed a clause which would virtually disfranchise the County of Westmorland. He deprecated in very strong terms this conduct, which he characterized as being unworthy of members of that House, for if they had intended to oppose the Bill they should have done so openly.

Mr. Brown could not conceive how dividing a County and giving it *five* members instead of *four* could be called *disfranchisement!* He could assure the hon. member that he at least was sincere in the vote he had just given, whatever the other hon. members might be who had voted with him. Nor could he conceive why the amendment they had adopted should be fatal to it in another quarter.

Mr. Hannington then moved that they report progress, and stated that his object in doing so was to move—when the Bill should be committed again—a reconsideration of the vote which had just been taken. This was agreed to, and the Committee arose and reported progress.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, Feb. 27.

A Bill to facilitate the settlement of Accounts between the Justices of the City and County of St. John, and John R. Partelow, Esquire, late County Treasurer, having come up for a third reading previous to being passed.

The Hon. Attorney General rose and said that before they should pass a Bill of so extraordinary a nature as this, they had better consult the Royal Instructions.

Hon. Mr. Chandler thought the Royal instructions did not apply to Bills of this nature, it was merely a Bill authorising an arbitration between the Parties.

Hon. Attorney General said there never was a Bill of this nature passed before; he thought they had better let it go Home, it would not take more than two months, communication had now become so rapid. The Home Government were latterly looking very minutely into our Acts, and had frequently written out to him inquiries why such a Bill was passed. He thought they had better make it a dropped order.

Hon. Mr. Chandler said he thought it would be a most extraordinary interference on the part of a Colonial Minister to write out, or interfere with a simple Bill of this kind. He however had no objection to take the opinion of the Crown Officers upon the subject, and if it was thought necessary, insert a suspending clause.—It was therefore made a dropped order.

FROM THE JOURNALS.

SATURDAY, March 1.

On motion of Mr. Partelow, the House went into a committee of the whole, in consideration of Supplies to be granted for the Public Service—Mr. Botsford in the chair:—

Resolved, That there be granted to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor or Administrator of the Government for the time being, a sum not exceeding £12,000 towards the encouragement of Parish Schools, agreeably to a law of this Province.

To His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor or Administrator of the Government for the time being, the sum of £150 towards the support of the Roman Catholic School established in the City of Saint John.

The sum of £100 to pay a Sub-Collector and Deputy Treasurer at Woodstock, in the County of Carleton, the duties of both Offices to be performed by one Officer; this to be in addition to the allowance made to Deputy Treasurers by Law.

To the Governor and Trustees of the Madras Board, the sum of £400 towards the support of that Institution.

To the Trustees of the Wesleyan Academy at Sackville, the sum of £300 towards the support of that Institution.

To His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor or Administrator of the Government for the time being, the sum of £200 to be paid to the Managing Committee of the Baptist Seminary at Fredericton, under the controul of the Committee, when it shall be certified to His Excellency or the Administrator of the Government, that the Institution is in an efficient state.

To the Clerk of the Crown in the Supreme Court the sum of £100 for his services for the year 1844.

To His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor or Administrator of the Government for the time being, the sum of £50 for a Missionary for the Miniecte Tribe of Indians stationed at Fredericton, for the year 1845.

The sum of £25 towards remunerating a Missionary stationed at Madawaska, for the purpose of giving attendance to the Tobique and other Indians established in the neighbourhood.

To His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor or Administrator of the Government for the time being, the sum of £30 in aid of individual subscription towards the Free School in the Parish of Portland, the same to be expended by the Board of Commissioners for the Roman Catholic School at Saint John.

To His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor or Administrator of the Government for the time being, such sum as will purchase a Bill of Exchange for £200, sterling, for the services of Henry Bliss, Esquire, Provincial Agent, for the year 1844.

To John Simpson, Queen's Printer, the sum of £275 for printing the Daily Journals of the Legislative Council and House of Assembly the present Session; and the further sum of £150 towards printing the Revised Journals and Appendix of both Houses of the Legislature for the present Session.

To Elizabeth Fairchild, a Schoolmistress at Saint John, the sum of £10 for her services in that capacity.

To Mary Ann Smith, for upwards of forty years a Schoolmistress at Saint John, for her services in that capacity, £10.

To John Simpson, Queen's Printer, the sum of £150 towards printing the Laws of the present Session.

To the Justices of the Peace for the County of Westmorland the sum of £35, to enable them to pay a Courier between the Bend of the Petitcodiac and Harvey, through the Parishes of Coverdale, Hillsborough, and Hopewell.

To His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor or Administrator of the Government for the time being, the sum of £20 to aid the inhabitants of the County of Westmorland in employing a Courier to carry the Mails from Cape Tormentine to the Great Road of Communication through that County.

MARCH 4.—Mr. Boyd, from the Committee on Fisheries, submitted their Report; as follows:—

"The Committee appointed on the twenty ninth day of January last, to take into consideration all matters connected with the Fisheries, and to report thereon to the House, Report that they have attended to that duty:—

"And first, having taken into consideration the Petition of Joel Ingersoll, and forty other Inhabitants and Fishermen in the County of Charlotte, praying for Legislative enactment in the restriction of the use of Weirs in that Parish;—also, for an Armed Vessel to be stationed in their vicinity, to prevent encroachments on the Fisheries;—also, the Petition of Plato Lloyd, Archibald Haney, and three hundred and eighty-four others, inhabitants of the Parishes of Saint George, Penfield, West Isles and Campo Bello, Fishermen, praying for restriction in the use of Wiers, and for protection to the Spawning Ground at Grand Manan;—also, the Petition of George McKenzie, William Guptail, and one hundred and twenty two others, with a similar prayer;—also, the Petition of Wilford Fisher, Esquire;—also, the Petition of John Allan, John Frankland, and two hundred and sixteen others, praying that the prayer of the three first named Petitions be complied with;—and after due investigation of the several matters set forth in the first named Petitions, they are of opinion, that the several matters therein set forth require Legislative enactment:

"The Committee have taken into consideration the Petition of Samuel Strange, William Olive, and one hundred and sixty-three others, setting forth the obstructions to which persons prosecuting the Fisheries about the Island of Grand Manan are subject, and praying that measures may be taken by the Legislature to protect that valuable Branch of Provincial industry.

"The Committee have also had under their consideration the Petition of Samuel Strange, Henry Nice, and forty-nine others, praying that an Act may pass to preserve the Deep Sea Fisheries between Point Lepreaux and Cape Spencer, in the Bay of Fundy, and are of opinion that the prayer of the Petitioners is very important, and should stand over for consideration until the next Session of the Legislature.

"Your Committee also recommend that application be made to Her Majesty's Government, by Address to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, that an Armed Vessel may be stationed in the Bay of Fundy during the Fishing Season, to enforce the Law for regulating the Fisheries, and to prevent the infringement of existing Treaties by Foreigners.

"Your Committee recommend that Bills be prepared to meet the views expressed in the several Petitions herein-before recommitted; also, to revise and amend the Laws relative to the Inspection of Fish. All which is respectfully submitted."

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY.

We subjoin a summary of the most important subjects which have come up for discussion in the House since Friday the 28th ult.

On Saturday, Mr. Boyd's Bill for the inspection of Fish, underwent a rigid examination; after which, progress was reported.

There was a Debate on the propriety of continuing a grant of £200, which Mr. Bliss, the Province Agent, has been in the receipt of for several years past. A motion was made to fill up the blank with half that sum, but upon a division, the £200 was carried by a majority of four. After some further routine business, the House went in Committee on a Bill for the division of Westmorland, and a most animated Debate took place which lasted for several hours. The principal subject of Debate was confined to the amount of Representation which should be conferred on the new County; or rather the old and new County together. On Monday morning the subject was again resumed, and after another hard fight, the new County—to be called SUFFOLK, was voted a single Member, being all that was demanded, and the old one was left in possession of its present Representation. The division was, 16—9.

The next subject of engrossing interest was Mr. Street's Bill for the Registry of Votes at Elections. This was a fair trial of strength on both sides, and the most powerful effort of influence and talent were brought to bear on it. It lasted for the greater part of the day, and on a division, the numbers were, 15—15; and Mr. Gilbert, who filled the Chair of the Committee, decided in its favour.

His Honor the Speaker, however, who was a warm advocate for it while in Debate, decided with that degree of candour which belongs to him, that the Bill was virtually lost in the House; as two Hon. Members, Messrs. Fisher and End, who were absent on business, would, if present, have voted against it. It was then decided that progress should be reported; the Hon. Mr. Hazen promising that he would assist its talented framer in making it more perfect.

The Hon. Mr. McLeod, by command of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, laid before the House the Report of Dr. Key, on the subject of the Leprosy case; and the Hon. Mr. Wilmot read the Report of the Committee appointed to investigate the Petition of the Messrs. Porter's, on the subject of extensive sales of Crown Lands in the County of York. Upon which Mr. Brown made some remarks, shewing the cause why he, as a Member of the Committee had not signed the Report. This Petition is reserved for a future investigation in the House.

On Tuesday the House was principally occupied in regulating the terms of the grants on the new Military Road from Halifax to Quebec, and the following day, (Wednesday,) no very important Debate took place, although a good deal of business was done. Mr. Fisher's Bill for reducing the amount of Statute Labour Tax to 2s. 6d., and also to exempt Apprentices and Minors altogether, was opposed by several Members, on the ground that it would be giving to Fredericton an advantage which is not enjoyed in any other part of the Province. The clause placing the amount at 2s. 6d., was after a stout resistance on the part of Mr. Fisher, fixed at 4s. and the other clause in favour of the Apprentices was also carried.

The House yesterday went into Committee of the whole on the Report of a Select Committee on the Lunatic Asylum, and a long Debate followed; the principal grounds of difference being whether the Province of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, should be consulted on the propriety of making the projected Asylum a joint undertaking; and also what site should be selected for the projected building.—*Reporter, of Friday.*

On Tuesday the House was occupied in passing a Bill for the settlement of lands on the Line of Road about to be opened by Her Majesty's Government from the Bend of Peddiciodiac to the Grand Falls. By this Bill one mile on each side of the road, of all the wild lands through which it passes, are set apart, to be divided in lots of 100 acres, and given to actual settlers. Free Grants to be made out to every person who clears five acres and erects a house thereon.—There was no objection to the general principles of this Bill, and the debate was all in reference to the details.

Yesterday the House went into Committee of the whole, and passed a Bill to amend the act relating to highways in the Parish of Portland. After which they went into Committee of the whole on a Bill introduced by Dr. Earle, for the inspection of flour manufactured at St. John from foreign wheat. The general principles of this Bill were sustained, and the Committee arose and reported progress. The House also went into Committee of the whole on a Bill to amend the Militia Law so far as to repeal that part authorizing the appointment of an enrolling officer at St. John. This Bill was passed.—*Fredericton Loyalist.*

GOVERNMENT OF THE BRITISH COLONIES AND DEPENDENCIES, 1845.

COLONIAL OFFICE.

Secretary of State for the Colonies, Lord Stanley.
Under Secretaries, { George Wm. Hope, Esq. / James Stephen, Esq.

BOARD OF CONTROL.

President.....Earl of Ripon.
Secretaries, { Hon. W. B. Baring, / J. E. Tennent, Esq.

COLONIAL LAND AND EMIGRATION BOARD.

Commissioners... { T. F. Elliot, Esq. / J. G. Shaw Lefevre, Esq. / C. Alex. Wood, Esq.

GOVERNORS AND COMMANDERS OF COLONIES.

BRITISH NORTH AMERICA:—
Canada—Lord Metcalfe, Governor General of British North America.
Nova Scotia—Viscount Falkland, Lieutenant Governor.
New Brunswick—Lieut. Col. Sir W. M'B. G. Colebrooke, Knt., Lieut. Governor.
Prince Edward Island—Capt. H. Vere Huntley, R. N., Lieut. Governor.
Newfoundland—Major General Sir John Harvey, Governor.
BERMUDA—Lieut. Colonel W. Reid, Governor.
WEST INDIES:—
Jamaica and Dependencies—Right Hon. Earl of Elgin, Capt. Gen. and Governor.
British Guiana—Colonel H. Light, Governor.
Trinidad—Lieut. Col. Sir H. G. Macleod, Governor.
Windward Island—
Barbados—Sir C. E. Grey, Bart., Governor.
Tobago—Major General H. C. Darling, Lieut. Governor.
Grenada—Lieut. Col. C. J. Doyle, Lieutenant Governor.
St. Vincent—Lieut. Col. Sir R. Doherty, Lieut. Governor.
St. Lucia—Colonel Torrens, Lieut. Governor.
Leeward Islands:—
Antigua—Sir C. A. Fitzroy, Governor.
Dominica—
Montserrat—
Nevis—
St. Kitt's—C. Cunningham, Esq., Lieutenant Governor.
Virgin Islands—
Bahama Islands—G. B. Mathew, Esq. Governor.
Honduras—Colonel Fancourt, Superintendent.
FALKLAND ISLANDS:—Lieut. R. C. Moody, R. N., Gov. and Commander-in-Chief.
WESTERN AFRICA:—
Sierra Leone—Lieut. Col. M'Donald, Capt. Gen. and Commander-in-Chief.
Gambia—Com. C. Fitzgerald, R. N., Governor and Commander-in-Chief.
Cape Coast Castle—George Maclean, Esq. Lieut. Governor.
Gold Coast—Com. H. Worsley Hill, R. N., Lieut. Governor.
CAPE OF GOOD HOPE:—
Lt. Gen. Sir P. Maitland, Gov. and Commander-in-Chief.
Eastern Division—Colonel John Hare, C. B. Lieut. Governor.
MAURITIUS:—Major-General Sir W. M. Gomm, Governor.
CEYLON:—Lieutenant-General Sir C. Campbell, Governor.
HONG-KONG:—J. F. Davis, Esq., Gov. and Superintendent of Trade.
AUSTRALIA:—
New South Wales—Major-General Sir G. Gipps, Governor.
Van Diemen's Land—Sir J. E. E. Wilmott, Bart., Lieut. Governor.
South Australia—George Grey, Esq., Governor.
Western Australia—John Hutt, Esq., Governor.
NEW ZEALAND:—Captain R. Fitzroy, Governor.

GOVERNORS OF DEPENDENCIES AND STATIONS.

GIBRALTAR:—Lieutenant General Sir R. Wilson.
MALTA:—Lieut. Gen. the Hon. P. Stuart, Gov. and Com.-in-Chief.
IONIAN ISLANDS:—Right Hon. Lord Seaton, Lord High Commissioner.
HELIGOLAND:—Capt. J. Hindmarsh, R. N., Lieut. Governor.
ST. HELENA:—Lieutenant Colonel H. Trelawney, Governor.

GOVERNORS OF EAST INDIA COMPANY'S TERRITORIES.

INDIA:—*Bengal*—Lieut. Gen. the Right Hon. Sir H. Hardinge, Com.-in-Chief, Gov. Gen. of India.
Madras—Marquis of Tweeddale, Governor.
Bombay—Sir G. Arthur, Bart., Governor.
Aden—Captain Haines.

From the London Times, February 4.

QUEEN'S SPEECH.—We believe that we can, with some degree of accuracy, anticipate what will form the principal topic of to-day's speech.

There will be, first, the usual assurance of a mutual good understanding with foreign Courts—a theme that must ever prove gratifying to the lovers of peace, but which ought not at any time to supersede the necessity of being prepared for a reverse of those amicable relations; a reference to the Queen's former congratulations upon the prosperous state of the country; a repetition of those congratulations upon the continuance of the national prosperity; and some appropriate remarks upon the improvement in almost every branch of manufactures, in the general trade and commerce of the country, both foreign and domestic; and upon the loyalty of the people, and their obedience to the laws.

It is impossible, too, that the visits of the Emperor of Russia and the King of the French, and the cordial reciprocation of civilities between the crowned heads of England and France can be overlooked.—A reference to the visit of the Emperor of Russia, attended with so much personal inconvenience to himself, may therefore be expected, together with the expression of a hope that the result will be to draw closer those ties of amity which have so long existed between the two countries.

The peculiar pleasure which the visit of the King of the French afforded to Her Majesty, on account of the discussion which had taken place between the two countries, and which might have had an unpleasant termination, will also be observed upon; nor will the King's enthusiastic reception, and the feeling of the nation upon the subject corresponding with that of the Queen, be left unnoticed. The cordial union between France and England, calculated to produce the happiest results to both nations, will be another subject of congratulation.

To the consideration of the House of Commons the extension of steam navigation, and the necessity for providing for the defence of our commerce by an increase of our naval force, will be especially recommended.

In Her Majesty's Address to the House of Lords and Commons, the Queen will remark with satisfaction the abatement of political and party violence in Ireland, and, as the natural consequence, the extensive employment of capital in that country for measures of public utility.

The success with which the Charitable Bequests Act has been carried out by Government in a spirit corresponding to that in which the measure was conceived, will also be observed upon; and it will be suggested that a measure should be adopted for promoting and advancing academical education in Ireland.

The Bank of Ireland, and the Banking system in that country and in Scotland, will also engage the attention of Parliament, with a view to their being placed upon a more substantial footing.

With respect to measures of finance, Her Majesty will remind the House, that Parliament having, by establishing the tax on income, restored the finances of the country from the embarrassed state to which they had been reduced, and that tax being about to expire, it will be for the wisdom of Parliament to consider whether it may not be continued for a further period, so as to give stability to our finances, and afford the means of reducing other taxation. It will be, however, recommended, that, whatever is done in this respect, the Legislature will see the necessity of pursuing such a course as shall leave our financial system safe and unimpaired.

These important subjects will be submitted for the consideration of Parliament; and Her Majesty will conclude by expressing her earnest hope that such a course will be pursued, by the blessing of Divine Providence, as may redound to the prosperity and happiness of her people.

PARLIAMENTARY DINNERS.—The customary political dinners were given by the respective party leaders of the two Houses. The Duke of Wellington, as leader of the House of Lords, received a numerous party of the Conservative Peers at dinner at Apsley House. Sir Robert Peel gave the "full dress Parliamentary dinner" at the family mansion, to a distinguished party of the supporters of the Government. At the removal of the cloth, the Queen's speech to be delivered on the succeeding day, was read by Sir Robert Peel, as it was also by the Duke of Wellington, before the separation of his guests.

The prominent members of the opposition in the House of Commons, were also feasted by Lord John Russell, the leader of the opposition in that House, and a select party of the opposition Peers, dined together at Brooks' Club.

THE TEXAS QUESTION.—The joint resolutions, from the House, annexing Texas, have *passed the Senate*, though with important amendments which entirely destroy the apparent decisiveness of this action. When the resolutions came up, Mr. WALKER moved to amend them by adding the following:—

And be it further resolved, That if the President of the United States shall, in his judgment and discretion, deem it most advisable, instead of proceeding to submit the foregoing resolution to the Republic of Texas as an overture on the part of the United States for admission, to negotiate with that Republic; then—

Be it resolved; That a State, to be formed out of the present Republic of Texas, with suitable extent and boundaries, and with two Representatives in Congress, until the next apportionment of representation; shall be admitted into the Union, by virtue of this Act, on an equal footing with the existing States, as soon as the terms and conditions of such admission, and the cession of the remaining Texan territory to the United States, shall be agreed upon by the Governments of Texas and the United States.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That the sum of one hundred thousand dollars be, and the same is hereby appropriated to defray the expenses of missions and negociations, to agree upon the terms of said admission and cession, either by treaty to be submitted to the Senate, or by articles to be submitted to the two Houses of Congress, as the President may direct.

These resolutions it will be seen, embody Mr. BENTON's bill, (which was identically the same with the last two paragraphs of these amendments,) *subject to the discretion of the President.* If he thinks best to *negotiate*, then Mr. Benton's bill will have force and validity. If not, then the House resolutions will stand unamended.

The amendments were adopted, 27 to 25; and then by precisely the same vote the resolutions were read a third time and *passed*, the following being the vote—

Yeas—Messrs. Allen, Ashley, Atchison, Atherton, Bagby, Benton, Breese, Buchanan, Colquitt, Dinckinson, Dix, Fairfield, Hannegan, Haywood, *Henderson*, Huger, *Johnson*, Lewis, McDuffie, *Merrick*, Niles, Semple, Sevier, Sturgeon, Tappan, Woodbury—27

Nays—Messrs. Archer, Barrow, Bates, Bayard, Berrien, Choate, Clayton, Crittenden, Dayton, Evans, Foster, Francis, Huntington, Jarnagin, Mangum, Miller, Morehead, Pearce, Phelps, Porter, Rives, Simmons, Upham, White, Woodbridge—25.

The three names in *italics*, in the affirmative, are Whigs. *All* the "nays" are Whigs.

The resolutions will, of course, now go to the House, and may be at once forced through that body. If passed as amended, they will simply leave President Polk to choose, at his discretion, between the House bill and that of Mr. Benton.—*New-York Courier & Enquirer, March 1.*

THREATENED BREAKING UP OF THE AMERICAN UNION.—The people of Massachusetts seem at last in earnest about Slavery. Meetings of a convention of all parties were held at Faneuil Hall, in Boston, on Wednesday and Thursday of last week, when an Address to the people of the United States was agreed to, strongly condemning the Annexation of Texas, and expressing their resolution not to hold it binding on them. An amendment was moved that the moment Texas was annexed, Massachusetts would leave the Union, and form a coalition with any other free State which would join with her. It was not carried, for they are not quite ripe for it, but it must be very soon. We say "Go a-head, old Massachusetts!" there is some British spirit in you at any rate. Just hoist the British flag and all will be right. You must either give up the idea of liberty, or blow up the Union. We go decidedly for a re-annexation of the New England States to Canada, especially as the petitions for adding Canada to the Union have actually been presented to Congress. It would be a curious thing, if Faneuil Hall, which first hoisted the flag of independence, should be the first to raise the British standard again.—*Toronto Banner.*

Tunnel under Brooklyn, in connection with the Long Island Rail Road.—This truly splendid and gigantic work is so far completed, that the cars are running through the whole length. This great project was commenced on the first of May last, but it was not until August that much progress was made, since that period there has been the greatest activity. The excavation begins at the mouth, near the South Ferry, in the city of Brooklyn, and runs up under Atlantic street, three thousand feet. The tunnel from the first arch to the last, is eighteen feet high, and twenty-one feet wide in the clear. The base of the sides is seven feet thick, and the arches are laid in water cement, with solid brick and stone. Nothing can be more substantial or firm. Indeed, great solidity is required, for there is resting on this arch one of the finest streets of that growing city, with all the requisite carts, carriages, &c., &c., passing and repassing.

The cost of the whole work it is believed, will fall short of $70,000, a sum very far below the calculation of the most experienced in these matters. At the entrance are gates, admitting no person, nor any carriage but the cars. The trains are whirled through this tunnel with the flight of an arrow, and nearly the whole distance in darkness.

There is no work in this country that has so often been in the "slough of despair" as this. For years all who had the slightest acquaintance with the work predicted that it must fail, and that the money expended would be a total loss. Fortunately for the road and for the public, a class of men took hold of it who had the firmness, energy, and enterprise to go on, to surmount all difficulties, and carry out the plan, and this too, in a manner that is in the highest degree creditable.—*New York Express.*

Communication.

FOR THE OBSERVER.

The outbreak of Puseyism at Upham.

MR. EDITOR.—A writer in the Chronicle of the 21st ult., who appears to be an admirer of the "*Oxford Schismatics*" has given a "*brief notice of