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OR FRONTIER AGRICULTURAL & COMMERCIAL GAZETTE.

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Provincial Parliament

MR. WILMOT'S SPEECH

ON OUR CONNECTION WITH GREAT BRITAIN, AND THE COLONIAL POLICY OF ENGLAND.

Mr. L. A. Wilmot rose and said, that before the question was put on that resolution, he would like to say a few words on the subject under consideration; and as a more favorable opportunity might not soon occur, he would also like to say something of matters which grew out of the question which were then discussing, and to which he had recently devoted some attention. He would like to take a broader and more general view of this matter than that taken by the hon. members who preceded him. He wished for the present to leave the local question untouched, and endeavour to ascertain our true position as a unit of a great Empire. While considering the subject of taxation, it should be ever borne in mind, that legislate as you will here, there is a legislature armed with Imperial authority, whose policy must be their policy—not from choice, perhaps, but from necessity. They may talk here of laying on this tax, and of removing that impost; of encouraging this branch of manufacture, and protecting that particular interest; but there was something which lay deeper than any measures which they could adopt, in which the social and political welfare of these Colonies was involved. Great Britain has given to her Colonies in North America representative institutions. She has permitted them to legislate on all that concerns their own affairs within the Colony, and she has lately extended the sphere of their legislative powers beyond the limits within which they were formerly confined. She has said to the colonial subject, buy where you please, sell where you can, and levy what duties you think proper on foreigners, provided you tax them all alike. This was indeed increasing the responsibility of that House to an extent which he for one could not contemplate without feeling that they were now placed in a new and, in his opinion, a dangerous position. This great increase of power had been placed in their hands, while the ability to render it subservient to the general interests of the Colonies, or to the strength of the Empire, was withheld from them. That power depended upon a legislature in which Colonists were not heard, on an imperial power whose commercial policy was left for good or evil from the centre to the extremities of the remotest of her wide-spread Colonies. As one who loved his country, who revered her institutions beyond those of any other country on the face of the earth—who loved his Queen, and was ready to rejoice in every thing which could aid lustre to the Sceptre of his Sovereign, he was bound to proclaim that there was danger in this power, unless the policy of the Empire was changed. What was the present policy of Great Britain? It was a pounds shillings and pence policy, urged on by the cotton-spinners of Manchester, and the manufacturers of Birmingham, at the expense of the Colonies of Great Britain. It was a policy which undervalued the importance of the Colonies, and over-estimated that of foreign nations. It was a spinning jenny policy which made threads and tapes and Birmingham small wares the standard by which to measure the value of our Colonial Empire. It was a policy which proclaimed, by the Manchester and Birmingham mouth pieces in the British Parliament, that the Colonies were valueless, and that the sooner Great Britain got rid of them the better. Against such policy, as an honest man and a conscientious legislator, he was bound to raise his voice. He firmly believed that the policy which had laid the landed interest of Great Britain prostrate at the feet of cotton-spinners, and encouraged foreigners to grow bread for the millions of the manufacturing population, was a policy fraught with danger to the parent state, and destructive to the best interests of her colonial dependencies. Who would deny that the British Agriculturist, when he found that he could no longer pursue his avocations in the mother country to advantage, would seek elsewhere for a field for the exercise of his skill, and the investment of his capital? When he found the British market thrown open to the competition of foreigners, would he not seek in foreign countries for a new home, and having established himself and his family under a foreign power, would he not fight for that home and support the Government which protected him? It was contrary to reason and to all experience to suppose that he could preserve his allegiance to the power by whose act he had been expropriated. Would such a man come to the Colonies? He answered no! As a Colonist he would be entitled to no more protection in the British market than a foreigner, while the ports of all the rest of the world were shut against him by high tariffs. Look at the position in which this Colony was now placed. We were told, buy where you please. This was all very well, but the people of this country could not buy unless they could also sell. What was the fact? Go to Nova Scotia and you are met with duties. Go to Canada, and impose

thought, would not long continue; he trusted it would yet see the day when these Colonies would stand in a closer relation to each other, when sectional barriers would be broken down, and the glorious institutions of England equally diffused throughout British North America. At present the minds of the people of these Colonies were circumscribed by the peculiarity of their position. He had said that little pieces made little men; he believed it, and when someone belonging to the Colonies, whose mind had expanded beyond the narrow views with which he was surrounded, and had turned his attention to science or the arts, for the benefit of himself and others, what was the effect? That individual was immediately lost to his native country. There was no field for the exercise of his genius; he was compelled to go to England, or to the United States to find a field wide enough for him to operate upon, and it was but lately that an instance of this kind had happened in Nova Scotia. A young man belonging to the sister Colony had turned his attention to mechanics, particularly to the construction of locomotive engines; in Nova Scotia there was no field for him, consequently he was obliged to go to the United States, to seek for employment, what was the result? That young man had discovered an improvement in the locomotive engine, the merits of which, in saving fuel, and in the increase of speed, were so great that orders for more than seventy of these engines had been received by his employers, in Boston, from all parts of the United States. This was but one example, but it proved the principle which he set out to establish, that if you narrow the sphere of exertion you counteract the development of useful talent, and that when, in spite of adverse circumstances, it bursts the barriers which confine it, you lose the benefits which are conferred on other countries by the native of your own Province. There was still another danger, and the greatest danger of any, to the minds of the youth of these Provinces, which had grown out of the operation of the former policy of Great Britain, and he would mention one circumstance to illustrate the feeling which prevailed in England some time ago, with respect to articles produced in these Colonies. When he had the honor to form one of the deputation to carry to the foot of the Throne the address of that House, he and his colleague, Mr. Crane, sailed on a British port, in a British ship, and landed at a British port; the Officers of the Customs came aboard, their trunks were opened and searched, a copy of the Journals of that House was found. He remarked to the officer that they had come to England on public duty, that these were on their face that they were public documents, but the answer was, "I can't help it, sir, I must seize them," and seize them he did, and, for aught he knew, they were still in the Custom House at Liverpool. He mentioned this to show the jealousy which then prevailed with respect to any thing like Colonial manufacture or produce coming into England. (It is not so now, from Mr. Partelow.) He was aware that that feeling had been modified, but it still prevailed, and he feared, to a great extent. Circumscribed as the Colonists have hitherto been, and as a Colonist himself, feeling that there were barriers erected round them which had cramped their growth, and set meets and bounds to the prosperity of their country, he felt it his duty to warn, as far as his humble voice could warn imperial power, that there was danger in the power now committed to Colonial Legislatures, unless Colonial policy be changed. He would bring only one example to shew the effect of shutting out Colonial produce from British markets. There was a Hatter in St. John, who manufactured 3000 hats a year—this was all he could sell; open to him the British market and he could compete with the British Hat-manufacturer, and export 30,000. Let him cross the river which divides this Province from the State of Maine, and a market would be opened for him from Maine to Florida. Were he in the Councils of the United States and wished to annex these Colonies to their great Union, he would counsel the Government to "Free Trade" with the British Colonies. Let uninterrupted intercourse be had with the United States, and restrictive impositions in England, and these Colonies would fall without the firing of a single shot. Let it not be said that he was disloyal when he gave utterance to these sentiments. He uttered them because he believed them, and he believed them because their truth was forced upon them by the experience of all ages. Let the people of this country be freed from the Home market and their interests of necessity will be interwoven with those of the neighboring States. Then when the hour of danger to British Institutions on the Continent of America arrived, when war was threatened, would these Colonies be ready, as heretofore, to lay the whole available resources of the country at the disposal of the Queen's Representative, to protect the integrity of the British Empire, and maintain her foot hold on the North American Continent? He feared such an intercourse must weaken those feelings of devoted attachment to the British Crown, which British policy

forced upon them. But open to the Colonies the British market; let them have free and unrestricted intercourse with England and with each other. Let the jenny-spinning policy of British statesmen be no more heard in British Parliament. Let the voice of the Colonial subject be heard within the halls of the Imperial Legislature. Let the interests of foreigners and of foreign merchants be made to yield to those of the native born subject of our Gracious Queen, throughout her wide dominions, and then England against the world! (Studdard applause.) It was love for the venerable institutions of their forefathers which prompted him to speak so plainly. If they saw a friend about to take a road which they knew to be beset with danger, would they not warn him to beware of the path which he was about to pursue? Was it not, then, his duty, and the duty of that House, if they saw danger in the policy of Great Britain, to warn her of the danger which surrounded her Colonial Empire? Did they not see the whole of the noble Colonies of the West Indies laid prostrate by the policy which brought the produce of foreign islands and slave labor into competition with them in the British market? and if they believed as he did, the same policy, if persisted in, would produce similar effects in this Colony. Would they stand quietly by until the evil day had arrived, which would throw them helpless and ruined into the arms of a foreign State? They did not want the serried bayonets of England to protect her power within these Colonies. They did not require her fleets hovering on these coasts to maintain her authority. All that they required was free intercourse with England, and with all her Colonies. Give them this, and these Colonies would soon be able to defend themselves. As loyal men, as good subjects, they were bound to give timely notice of approaching danger; and if it should so happen, that after knocking at the gate of the paternal mansion—after imploring admission beneath the roof of their forefathers—they were cast off and denied the right to enter the family circle, they would know, at least, that they had done their duty, and that the glory and power of Great Britain had not been tarnished by Colonial hands. He would say no more at present. The subject was of vital importance, and before the Session closed he would endeavour to throw together his views on this important matter; in the mean time, they must go on and frame such a Revenue Bill, as, under the present circumstances, would bear as equally as possible on the community. He hoped the committee would think of the matters which he had already brought under their notice, and at a future time he would be prepared to go more fully into the subject. In the meantime he thanked them for the attention they had given him.

(When Mr. Wilmot sat down, a round of applause burst from all parts of the House and Gallery.)

Gen. Scott has not been able to put on an efficient police.

Mr. Wilmot's Speech.—We should have said in our Report, that Mr. Wilmot mentioned that Nova Scotia exports, from 1835 to 1844, inclusive, exceed the exports of New Brunswick £2,779,391.

In a statement of the whole Colonial tonnage in 1844, the North American Colonies owned four-sevenths of the vessels, three-fifths of the tonnage, and out of 40,000 sailors, had 20,500.

When 709,846 tons were employed in the British trade with the North American Colonies, only 466,109 tons were employed in the same trade with all the other Colonies in the world, including India. The following is a statistical information brought forward by Mr. Wilmot in the course of his speech.

Compiled from Returns laid before the House of Commons, August, 1846.

Imports to Canada from the United States, £	Exports to U. S., £	Imports to U. S. from Canada, £	Exports to Canada from U. S., £
1835	184	1835	184
1836	184	1836	184
1837	184	1837	184
1838	184	1838	184
1839	184	1839	184
1840	184	1840	184
1841	184	1841	184
1842	184	1842	184
1843	184	1843	184
1844	184	1844	184

Compiled from Returns, &c.

Imports to Canada from U. Kingdom, £	Exports to U. Kingdom, £	Imports to U. Kingdom from Canada, £	Exports to Canada from U. Kingdom, £
1835	184	1835	184
1836	184	1836	184
1837	184	1837	184
1838	184	1838	184
1839	184	1839	184
1840	184	1840	184
1841	184	1841	184
1842	184	1842	184
1843	184	1843	184
1844	184	1844	184

GOD SAVE THE PLOUGH.

BY MRS. SIGOENEY.

See how the shining share
Marketh earth's bosom fair,
Crowning her brow!
Bread in its furrow springs,
Treasures to unknown kings—
God save the plough!

Look in the warrior's blade,
While o'er the tented glade
Hate breathes its vow,
Wrath, its unshathing wakes,
Love at its lightning quakes,
Weeping and woe it makes—
God save the plough!

Ships on the deep may ride,
Storms wreck their bannered pride,
Waves when their prow:
But the well-loaded wain,
Garn'ring the golden grain,
Gladdens the household train—
God save the plough!

Who are the truly great!
Minions of pomp and state,
Where the crown bow?
Give us hard hands and free,
Culture of fields, and tree,
Best friends of liberty—
God save the plough!

City of Mexico.—The Philadelphia North American publishes the following extracts from a commercial letter received in that city, giving a deplorable account of the condition of the city of Mexico, at the present time. The disorders therein described, are incidental to the presence of a large army:

You may judge, from the condition of the country, how business is in this city. The Mexicans are without money—credit there is none—and all the principal families have left the city. No person is safe out of doors after sunset as there are a number of followers of the army who rob every one they meet in the streets even the officers of the army have been robbed in the principal streets. As yet,

D. Antons.—The weathercock, after all, points to the highest moral truth, for it shows man that it is a poor thing to be a spire.

The horse guards are the bright pointers of the army. They are kept exclusively for show, most highly polished, but never intended to go into the thick of the fire. Shell and the clam said to the oyster.

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