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Provincial Parliament.

From the Fredericton Reporter.

After the return of the Members to the Assembly Room, His Honor the Speaker read a copy of the opening Speech; and then the House proceeded to the usual Committee; Mr. Partelow having first moved for leave to bring in a Bill to revive and amend the Act to establish a Board of Health in this Province. Immediately after, Mr. Montgomery was legally qualified by direction of the Speaker; and introduced to his place by Messrs. Barbour and Read.

The Committee were moved by the following Members, respectively:—

Trade, by Mr. Partelow; Agriculture, by Dr. Thomson; Public Accounts, by Mr. Taylor; Finance, by Mr. Wark; For receiving Petitions of School Teachers, by Mr. Steeves; Fisheries, by Mr. Boyd. Here Mr. Jordan moved in Blank the day of limitation for Bills and Petitions; which after some discussion was fixed for the 12th of February.

On Mr. Wilmot's being nominated one of the Committee to draft the answer to His Excellency's Speech, he rose and declined acting, on the ground that he believed that duty should, in accordance with the Parliamentary usages both at home and in the neighbouring Colonies, be performed by the Government Members. This he called the *new old* way of doing business; and considering it to be right, he begged leave to be struck off the present Committee.

Mr. Partelow saw no reason to depart in this instance from the *old way* which had hitherto been pursued.

Mr. Fisher said his Colleague's request was perfectly reasonable; he had only objected to serve on a Committee, which he deemed not in accordance with Parliamentary usages. He had said nothing to which could be attached a new light or double meaning.

Mr. End said the good old way should not be departed from without good reason; and there was danger of their eyes getting so dazzled with too much light that they could not find their way. Mr. Wilmot's name was then taken off the Committee, and that of Mr. Barbour put in its place.

Mr. Fisher introduced a Resolution for appointing a Committee to ascertain the laws about to expire and also for consolidating and simplifying several others, which he described as so complicated that a vast number of them might be compressed in one. He thought the Government should have attended to this duty, but as they had not done so, he brought the present Resolution.

Mr. Carman suggested the propriety of appointing the usual Committee in the first place, and afterwards that which would meet the views expressed in the latter part of the Resolution. He said that during the recess he had bestowed much attention, and spent a good deal of time in making a digest of the proposed measure, and this he would in proper time introduce for consideration.

Mr. Partelow, and one or two others, thought the double plan proposed in the Resolution, the best, and a Committee was appointed accordingly.

The only subject beside, which elicited any remark was that of the Contingent Committee; Mr. Wilmot declaring as a member of it, that every item of expenditure, with the name of the person to whom it had been appropriated, must be published.

Thursday morning was occupied with the presentation of Petitions on various subjects.

Mr. Partelow moved that a Select Committee be appointed to investigate the report upon the expenditure of the various sums advanced for the use of sick and disabled immigrants for the last year.

Mr. Boyd brought in a Bill to repeal the Act regulating Tavern Keepers and Retailers, and to prevent the sale of intoxicating Liquors. The Bill was read a first time. He also brought in a Bill for repairing the Streets and Highways in the Town of St. Andrews.

The appointment of Dr. Hampden to the see of Hereford, has, despite the violent opposition that was raised against it, been consummated. The final election took place on the 28th Dec. when the votes polled were as follows:—For Dr. Hampden—3 Canons Residentary, 5 Prebendaries of the old order, 6 Junior Prebendaries. Against Dr. Hampden, the Dean, 1 Canon Residentary.

Dr. Hampden has published a long letter explaining his position, and repelling the charges of heresy, which have been preferred against him.

The Dean of Hereford, the Rev. John Merewether, wrote to Lord John Russell, declaring positively that he would never consent to elect Dr. Hampden, to his see. His Lordship replied:—

"Sir,—I have had the honour to receive your letter of the 22d instant, in which you intimate to me your intention of violating the law."

"I have the honor to be your obedient servant."

"The Very Rev. the Dean of Hereford."

On Tuesday, the 25th ult. the election took

place at Hereford. The dean and the canon, Dr. Huntingford, made violent speeches against Dr. Hampden, and actually voted against him; fourteen votes, were, however, recorded in his favour; and the chapter finally declared him elected. Some doubts have been raised whether the archbishop of the diocese will confirm Dr. Hampden which formality is requisite to perfect the ceremony; but as his Grace, at his time of life, will scarcely allow himself to be made the tool of a few active designing prelates, we have no doubt that the prescribed ceremony will duly take place, and thus prevent any further disruption in the Church. A report is circulated that Bishop Wilberforce has withdrawn his opposition to Dr. Hampden, which, if true, will go far to break up this mischievous confederacy of disappointed bishops.—*En. Times.*

NEWSPAPERS.

It has been conjectured the name originated from the junction of the letters of the cardinal points, which imports, bringing information from all parts.

In the year 1621, King James sent forth a proclamation against "lavish and licentious talking on matters of state, either at home or abroad," which, he said, "the common people knew not how to understand." At that time there was printed every week, for a short period, a sort of "Coranto," with all manner of news, and as strange stuff as any we have from Amsterdam. Ben Jonson ridiculed this paper, calling it "news from the moon."

But "Surly Ben" was a courtier, and had ample reasons (but not the most honourable) for thus employing his satire. The most honest and far more amiable Cowper, spoke of them in the following pleasant manner:—

"The folio sheet of four pages, happy work,
Which not even critics censure."

This pedantic king had as great an objection to newspapers as he had to tobacco, against both he handled the quill and spoiled paper. In his "Comberstall to Tobacco," 1693, he says: "it is a custom loathsome to the eye, hateful to the nose, harmful to the lungs, and the black stinking fume thereof, is the nearest resemblance to the horrible Stygian smoke of the pit that is bottomless."

From the "Year Book," it appears that from 1558 to 1722, there were but few newspapers; the thirty years' war of Gustavus Adolphus excited much curiosity, and there was then a weekly paper, called "News of the Present Week" by N. Butler, 1622; one was continued till 1636, under the title of "Mercurius Britannicus," that was succeeded by the "German Intelligence," 1639, also the "Swedish Intelligence," 1631, compiled by William Watts, of Caius College. There was a newspaper, in 1644, under the title of "Mercurius Fungosus," or Smoking Nocturnal; luckily King James was dead, or this would have killed him.

There was more than one hundred with different titles, between this date to the death of the king, and upwards of eighty from thence to the restoration of Charles II., at first weekly, then two or three a week, in 1642; after which they came out daily, and were sent to all parts, even to Scotland.—*Spelling.*

The number of them for twenty years to the restoration, was not less than 30,000, which is from four to five new ones every day.

"The Public Intelligencer," published by Sir Roger L'Estrange, appeared 1661. The first daily, after the revolution, 1688, was the "Orange Intelligencer." From an advertisement in the "Athenian Gazette," 1696, coffee houses had then the exclusive votes of parliament, and nine newspapers every week, but there seems to have been but one, although nine were occasionally issued. In 1709, there were eighteen, one daily, the "London Courant;" in 1724, there were three daily, six weekly, and two evening, three times a week.

In 1681, votes of parliament were first printed, (but the parliamentary proceedings were prohibited after the restoration,) published as a pamphlet, by Burton, who says: "If any read nowadays, it is a play book or pamphlet of news."—*Year Book.*

The first Gazette was printed 7th November, 1665, at Oxford; the court being there in consequence of the plague being in London; this paper is official, and is still continued.

There have been provincial newspapers of longer standing than any of the London ones, if I except the Gazette.

The Nottingham Journal, began 1714, (printed on two octavo leaves) which still lives, and without knowing or caring about its politics, for, like all others, it has changed with the times. Agreeable to the following quotation of De Toqueville, I say, long may it live. "A newspaper can drop the same thought into a thousand minds at the same moment; it is an adviser who does not require to be sought, but who comes to you of his own accord, and talks briefly every day, without tracing your private affairs. Newspapers, therefore, become more necessary in proportion as men become more equal, and individuals more to be feared; to suppose that they

only serve to protect freedom would be to diminish their importance; they maintain civilization."

The oldest London newspaper, now in existence, is the "Morning Herald," which is only 76 years old. "The Times," which has the largest circulation, has only existed 57 years; this paper first began to be printed by steam power, 29th November, 1814, but it was not until after a series of experiments, continued until the 3d December 1824, that they considered the experiment completed; at first the machine only threw off 1100 in one hour, but at the latter period, the machine invented by Messrs. Koenig and Egger, was so far improved as to throw off 2000 per hour. For a long time the writer had a paper of each trial by him, but he regrets they are now lost.

The tax on newspapers began 1711. The attacks on the ministry generally appeared in short pamphlets, new-papers, and loose sheets which were sold at a penny each. Lords Oxford and Bolingbroke, laid a tax of a half-penny on cheap publications; but they failed in their object of suppressing them. Swift sorely complains, that while the Tories were discouraged by the sum, and left of buying the loose sheets of their party, the Whig papers continued to flourish, a proof of the superior wealth, popularity, or wit, of the opposition.

—*History of Europe.*
This tax, in the shape of a stamp, still continues, and by some small talking people, is called "a tax on knowledge." But if we look closely into this affair, perhaps we shall discover the contrary. In consequence of their being stamped, they go free all over the country; positively free of any cost by post, and so have they gone, I believe, from the beginning. In Pope's day he wrote—

"Gazettes, sent gratis down and frank'd,
For which any patron's freely thank'd!"

If it was not for this stamp, the postage would have to be paid by some body, in some shape or other, if out of London. But by having the stamp, which the printer has already paid to the government, this arrangement greatly facilitates the delivery; the postman hands in the newspaper as directed, and is off in the newspaper as directed, and is off in an instant.

Shenstone, the poet (who died 1763), divided the readers of newspapers into seven classes, viz: 1. The illiterate to look at the list of bankrupts; 2. The poor to the price of bread; 3. The stockholder to the list of the day; 4. The old maid to the marriages; 5. The monopolizers to the hopes of a bad harvest; 6. The boarding school, and all other young miscreants, to all matters relative to Grotius Green.

The writer has often made enquiries, why the farmers take a county newspaper? and has invariably been informed: "The master to know the state of the London markets, in corn and cattle; the mistress to read the horrible accounts of fires, accidents, and murders; the sons to know where the hounds throw off, and other sporting subjects; the daughters to know who are married and dead."

There is a marked difference between the newspapers of France and England: in France every journal has its party; in England, every party has its journal; in France, the people are made by the journals; in England, they are edited by men, who write similar opinions to those to whom they are addressed.

LONDON BY NIGHT.—There are few, whether in town or country, who have not heard of the dry arches of the bridges, of the arcades of Covent Garden, and of the refuge of the Park. In each of these there are to be found regular tenants, who possess, by long established and undisputed right, a prescriptive claim to occupancy. In the first and last, the same places are frequently occupied by the same individuals for several winters in succession; and before the cold season sets in, a becoming preparation for contending with its inclemencies is made by the future tenant. Hay and straw, bits of rag, wool, or any other soft material that chance may throw in their way, are carefully collected and deposited in the chosen air. This statement, it should be remarked, is based on the evidence adduced at the police-courts, and rests not on any other authority. It was computed not long since that upwards of 60 human beings dwell on the banks and hollow trees of Hyde Park alone during the winter season. The discovery led, of course, to the suppression of what was very justly considered an exhibition utterly disgraceful to a civilized nation. But although strict watch is kept by the park rangers, it is nevertheless believed that many of these wretched beings yet find means to elude their vigilance, and still continue to occupy their old haunts in the accustomed place. These people, it is said, generally belong to the lazzaroni, or professional beggars, whose privations, if they suffer any, are self-inflicted; for the trade is found to be very profitable, and will furnish more comforts than fall within the reach of many a honest and industrious labourer.—*Mirror.*

The shop of Mr. H. Eakle of St. John, was robbed on Saturday night last.

IRELAND AND AMERICA—RAILWAY COLONIZATION.

From the Railway Record.

We have now, in a series of papers which we are happy to say, have attracted the favorable attention of almost the whole of the British American press, dilated sufficiently upon the absolute necessity which now exists to retrieve the evils of past emigration, and to establish a system of Railway Colonization attractive to all classes of society, and for the mutual benefit of the Colonies and the mother country. The subject acquires an additional importance, both from the last intelligence from New Brunswick, and from the notification by Lord John Russell in the House of Commons, on Monday night, to Lord Lincoln, to the effect that the subject of British American Immigration, as connected with the condition of Ireland, should be brought before the House after the recess. On the one hand, it is understood that an official Report has been received by the Government of the completed survey of a practicable trunk line to connect the three provinces of British America. Whether such interconnection shall take place by a continuous coast line along the northern boundary of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, leaving the interior of the Province, to be developed by a congeries of railways from St. Andrew's and Woodstock, and the frontier of Maine, or else by a short steam-ferry line by Windsor and St. Andrew's, certain it is that the time has now arrived when delay is out of the question. The postal communication with Canada, via the States, is at this very moment, and always has been, a bone of contention and jealousy between the two powers. Last month the United States Post Office notified, that after the 16th of November, the transit of British mails through the Republic should cease, nor should any British mails leave the United States until the uttermost farthing of postage should be paid.

But a speedy postal communication by the United States Railways, instead of through the forests of New Brunswick, important as it is to the commercial interests of Canada and England, is as nothing compared to the vast popular interests involved in some immediate economical measure for the relief of suffering at home and in the colony, such as would be effected by the adoption of a self-working system of Railway Colonization—a process which, we have demonstrated, might be carried on without costing the country a farthing, or adding a shilling to the taxes. The accounts of distress, and consequent crime, in Ireland, are sufficiently notorious in the daily papers; but our readers are perhaps not aware that the condition of Irish Pauperism is not less appalling in New Brunswick than in Tipperary. In terms of resolutions submitted at St. John on the 10th ultimo, to a Common Council, by the Mayor of the town, it was determined—

"That the Board were wholly unable to suggest measures by which the already grievously-overburdened community can shelter and support such an unheard-of mass of misery thus heartlessly thrown upon its shores, at an inclement season of the year."

"That as all the public buildings erected for almshouse purposes were already filled to overflowing with Irish pauper emigrants, and no other houses were available for their accommodation, either in St. John or the adjoining parish, the Board apprehended the most fearful consequences from the want and exposure to which these distressed people will necessarily become subject; and no other remedy, in the opinion of the Common Council, could be had to arrest the evil, except by inducing a large portion of those lately arrived, and others begging from door to door, to return to their native country."

"That a free passage, with provisions and water, should be afforded to all those in such circumstances as might accept the same."

The mass of the immigration appears to have consisted of superannuated people, of broken-down constitutions; lone widows, with very large helpless families; and feeble men; and that all those causes which rendered them paupers upon the hands of their landlords are now in existence, with added force, from recent and chronic disease; and almost the whole of those thus exposed to the severity of a New Brunswick winter were unprovided with the common means of support, and in almost a state of nudity."

To remedy such a state of things—to establish some proper system of colonization to relieve distress at home, and to form healthy and prosperous communities in the colonies—to the development of the colonial resources, the reacting encouragement of home manufactures, and the amelioration of all classes of society—the Earl of Lincoln has pressed upon the Government the nomination of a Commission of Inquiry. Doubtless the colonial interests, as well as our own countrymen, ought to be grateful to Lord Lincoln for pressing the subject upon the consideration of Parliament; but we cannot but acquiesce in the principle which we conceive to have been enunciated the other night by the Premier, that the case is one more for the action of Government, than for the tedious, unstrategic

tory, and, we hesitate not to say, altogether unnecessary investigation of the Legislature. There is, it appears to us, only one question open for discussion, and that is—*could anything worse than the present system possibly be devised?* The answer must be, No!—and that some system, based upon past Blue-books, might surely be forthwith attempted rather than prolong the miserable naked outcasts whom the New Brunswick authorities are re-shipping to England, a new Blue-book some time next summer; for this, in sober seriousness, we affirm to be, judging from past experience, the only probable result of a Commission of Inquiry.

The principle of preparation—physical and moral preparation—of the lands to be disposed of, and the enhancement of the price to cover the investment, was long since adopted by the Government. Soon after the promulgation and able exposition of his views by Mr. Gibson Wakefield, that principle, where it has had a fair trial, has worked more or less favourably. All that we have urged is such a modification and extension of the principle as will better adapt it to the means of the parties to be benefited, and yet, at the same time, ensure a larger measure of good. We shall briefly recapitulate the principle and system we have so frequently elaborated.

A scheme of railways—says 1,500 miles in extent—to connect Halifax, Quebec, St. Andrew's, Montreal, St. John's, Annapolis, and Windsor, might be constructed for 3,000,000 sterling—being only 5s. per acre of the vacant lands of the single province of New Brunswick, or less than 10s. per acre of the territory which we may presume would, in that province alone, be immediately benefited by the interconnection. A further outlay on particular settlements of, say, 20s. in the introduction of labour and in aid of the passage-money of settlers of the employing class 10s. per acre in clearing, and in ordinary roads, 10s. in educational and religious endowments, and 10s. in payment for land to the Government, and for expenses, &c.—making 30s. per acre in all—would make these settlements attractive to the educated as well as to the working man. To recover this outlay, we have suggested the adoption of the method of the English Building Societies; that is, to secure the freehold to the tenant in consideration of thirteen annual payments of 10s. per cent., which on 30s. would be 6s. per acre, being a replacement of the capital of the Company, with 5 per cent. interest; leaving the income from the railway a clear revenue, while legitimate reserves of portions of the land would also be a source of great profit. Town and suburban lands would of course be charged at greatly enhanced prices, as compared with this average of 6s. an acre; but upon these details we have already on former occasions sufficiently enlarged. It might be, that 100l. or more per acre might be charged for town sites, and the 30s. reduced to 11s. for country farms.

We also submitted that, on such a security as the returns by an annuity certain of this kind accruing from the profits of cultivation—a security constantly increasing in value—it would be open to Government to create the capital by an issue of hand-notes redeemable over the period indicated.

We now leave the matter in the hands of those interested, and trust that the coming year may bring with it new hope for all legitimate enterprise.

Melancholy Accident.—The New Brunswick of Thursday says:—We regret to state that as Hewitt's wagon, from Fredericton, was crossing the ice on Grand Bay on Tuesday evening, the horses were driven into an air hole, and two of the passengers unfortunately drowned.—The names of those lost were Mrs. Taylor, an aged lady residing in Portland, and a Mr. McGinty, who arrived here last season from Ireland. The bodies were afterwards recovered. The other passenger in the wagon, together with the driver, succeeded in getting to land. At the time the accident happened, they were very near the shore, and the ice had been crossed on the same spot during the day. The horses and wagon disappeared under the ice.

The letters by the steamer "Cambria" reached Quebec about noon on the 20th inst. The letters for this City reached here on the night of the 21st, one day and half after the arrival of the letters at Quebec.—*Id.*

The New Canadian Legislature.—The Quebec "Morning Chronicle" publishes a list of the members elected to the new Assembly, from which we learn that out of 85 members constituting the Lower House, 78 have been elected; of these, 23 are set down as ministerial, and 55 opposition. The Chronicle observes:—There seems to be little doubt now, that the so-called Riform party will again come into power; and it is confidently predicted that the cabinet will be constituted almost similar to what it was in Sir Charles Bago's time. Whether the country will be governed better under a new regime, time alone can tell. Judging from past experience, however, the prospect is anything but encouraging.