

TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 1862.

Thus it will be seen, that when the article is high, in the United States, the excessive duty here makes it still higher it, bears heavier upon consumers; and is a severe check upon consumption, whereas, when the first cost is small the revenue is little benefited, and the consumer could afford to bear a heavier tax.

Let a heavier duty of 12½ cents per gallon be substituted for the present uncertain ad valorem rate, and the Revenue will be increased from \$3,600 to \$10,000 on the quantity named as the probable import of the year—leaving a difference of \$6,400 upon an article of general consumption, which can much better bear the tax than molasses, and while leaving room for a healthy competition between the importer and manufacturer, at the same time affords an incidental and reasonable protection to our own manufactures.

A Capital Idea.

This year, a highly important and capital municipal law comes into force in Canada. It provides that the expenditure of any city or municipality for one year, shall not exceed the amount of receipts during the preceding year, added to the balance of such receipts, which may remain unexpended; and further, that the Mayor, Aldermen, and Councilors who shall have sanctioned the expenditure of any sum of money beyond the amounts at their disposal, shall also be personally responsible for the same.

We hold this to be a capital enactment, and the sooner such a law is enacted in this Province, the better it will be for the whole country. More especially is such a law necessary to restrain the Common Council of Saint John, which seems possessed of but one idea,—that of getting into debt. Not satisfied with having as large a debt as the City can bear,—not satisfied with having an array of interest of more than \$80,000, which it cannot pay, it is not ashamed to say, it cannot even fund with the hope of paying interest on it,—this same Common Council is endeavouring to get further into debt, for a Wet Dock, and a City Hall, and in every other way that its members can devise. Shame on them!

Like everybody else, the Corporation of the City of St. John should keep within its income; and if the members of the Common Council, who, in their private affairs may be very prudent and economical men, should be made personally responsible, and liable to pay every shilling of over expenditure during the year, a thousand good reasons would quickly be found for economy, and in homely phrase for "cutting their coat according to their cloth."

We call upon the members of the Legislature to introduce a Bill forthwith, for the enactment of a similar law to that now coming into force in Canada, applicable to all civic corporations and municipalities in New Brunswick. There cannot be a doubt as to its having a most salutary effect, and it may tend to prevent the Sheriff having to wind up the affairs of certain Civic Corporations, as is being done just now in Upper Canada.

CANADA.

At the opening of the Canadian Parliament last week, the Legislature Council for the first time exercised its right of electing its speaker, or as we say in this Province, its president. The Council did not act to itself by closing as its presiding officer, the Hon. Sir Allan MacNab, Baronet, who was proposed by Sir E. P. Tache, seconded by Mr. Macdonald Cameron.

The Lower House selected as its speaker, Joseph Elward Tupper, Esq., member for Three Rivers.

The opposition availed themselves of the election of a speaker, to make it a party question, and thus test the relative strength of parties in the Assembly. The vote for the Government Candidate was 66, and for the opposition 58, thus showing a majority for the Government of 13, in addition to three or four of its supporters who had not arrived at Quebec. It is stated also, that the members for Upper Canada are divided exactly equal between the Government and the opposition. The Government majority being Lower Canadian members.

Sir John Beverley Robinson Bart, Chief Justice of Upper Canada, has retired from the Court of Queen's Bench, and Mr. Justice McLean has been promoted to the Chief Justiceship. Mr. Justice Ingalls has been promoted from the Common Pleas to the vacant Judgeship on the Queen's Bench, and the late Solicitor General, Mr. Morrison, is Justice Ingalls's successor in the Common Pleas.

The Hon. Mr. Vankoughnet, Commissioner of Crown Lands, has accepted the Chancellorship of the Court of Chancery of Upper Canada, vacant by the retirement of Chancellor Blake.

It is believed that Mr. Merwood, at present, Receiver General of Canada, will succeed Mr. Vankoughnet in the Crown Land Department.

CANADIAN SHIPPING IN FRANCE.

The Baron Bouilleau, Consul General of France in Canada, has addressed a letter to the Toronto *Globe*, in which he states that the *Globe* was in error in stating that Canadian built vessels were to be admitted to registry in France, on terms less favourable than those built in the United Kingdom. "The Baron says that the terms are identical with those which are required of vessels constructed in the United Kingdom, or in Belgium, the only countries which at present possess, with Canada, the advantage of being able to sell their ships in the French Empire. The Consul General avails himself of the opportunity to state, that the decree of the 5th of Feb., only completes a series of custom modifications which have been accomplished in France during the last three years, all tending to relieve from duties the products of Canada, which are now admitted into all the ports of the Empire, either free, or at nominal rates. It appears that these valuable concessions extend only to Canada, and not the other North

American Colonies, and that these privileges are granted because Canada by its tariff has wisely provided for the admission of the light wines of France, and also of its products, at low rates of duty.

The Baron Bouilleau visited this Province last summer, with the view, as is said, of inducing the Government of New Brunswick to enter into a similar arrangement with France, as had been effected in Canada, but had no success.

It will be a proper subject for enquiry in the House, and we trust the Executive will be called upon to state, if any, and what, negotiations or correspondence took place with the Baron on this very important subject.

So far from following the discreet course of Canada, which has already set the principal ship rig of Quebec in active motion, our Provincial Secretary proposes duties on French wines which will amount to an almost total prohibition. "Let our Shipbuilders look to it!"

A Family Compact.

It has long been known to us, and to the public generally, that of all the members of the Government, the man who had done most to secure situations for his friends and relatives, was the Hon. Peter Mitchell. Not only has he succeeded in quelling a goodly number of them on the public Treasury, but he has managed also to give them favorable opportunities for putting money in their pockets out of the Provincial chest.

A correspondent of the *Freeman* has drawn attention to certain extraordinary facts, in the Report of the Auditor General's Report, and in the Report of the Superintendent of Schools, and for which there appears strong foundation, casting a curious light on the management of public affairs in Northumberland, and showing how the Hon. Peter Mitchell's relatives are cared for, in that quarter.

It is pointed out, that in the School Report for 1861, there is no account of the Newcastle Grammar School; but on reference to the Auditor's Report for 1861, it is found that Mr. Hardie has been paid \$300 for teaching a Grammar School at Newcastle, also \$300 for teaching a School, making \$600 for the year, while in the Appendix to the School Report, he is mentioned as an "untrained" teacher!

Now, this same Mr. Hardie is married to the sister of the Hon. Peter Mitchell, and it is somewhat extraordinary, that he is an "untrained" teacher (the correspondent of the *Freeman* uses a stronger term in addition) should receive \$500 a year, while men who are regularly trained, and supposed to be much better qualified, get less than half the money.

This case is one which does not look well on its face, and certainly demands a full explanation.

The correspondent of the *Freeman* further points out the fact, that in the Auditor's Report for 1861, there is an account of Sheriff Mitchell, the brother of the Hon. Peter Mitchell, amounting to \$240, for holding an election in Northumberland. It happens that no polls were opened in Northumberland, at the last General Election, there being only four candidates who were elected by show of hands.

In the County of Westmorland, where a hotly contested election did take place, Sheriff Mitchell's charges were but \$120; and in the County of Kent, where there was an election, but not contested, the charges of Sheriff Mitchell were but \$100.

As in the case of Mr. Hardie, this charge of the Sheriff of Northumberland has an unpleasant appearance, and demands such an explanation as will satisfy the public that there has not been great favoritism, and that a "family compact" of the worst kind, headed by the Hon. Peter Mitchell, does not exist under his power and patronage.

The Newfoundland Fisheries.

A telegraphic dispatch from Washington states, that the French Government refuse to appoint a Commissioner on the part of France, to meet other Commissioners on behalf of England and the United States, for the purpose of making enquiries, and suggesting measures, for the protection and preservation of the fisheries of Newfoundland, which of late years have greatly fallen off, in consequence, as is alleged, of the improper modes of fishing adopted by French fishers.

A Political Crisis in Nova Scotia.

By the secession of the Hon. Colin Campbell from the Government of Nova Scotia, and his vote with the opposition on Dr. Tupper's amendment to the Revenue Bill, the Government have been reduced to a minority of two. They are under a pledge, made by Mr. Howe to the Government in 1860, that if materially weakened they would re-construct the Government or appeal to the country; and have been called upon to fulfil their promise.

What course Mr. Howe will take does not yet appear, but the excitement in Halifax therefore is very great. The following is a copy of the pledge referred to:

"Should the Government be materially weakened, so that public business cannot be carried on, it will be my duty to advise its reconstruction, and should I fail in strength of it, I shall not hesitate, having wound up the business of the session, to appeal to the country."

Railway Matters.

The following notice of the recent debate on Mr. Kerr's Bill to prevent the further issue of Railway Debentures, we take from the last number of the *Head Quarters*:

"Victoria, Carleton, York, Sunbury, and Queen's Counties sold again!!! Among the very few important measures that have been brought before the House during six weeks' sitting, one brought in by Mr. Kerr to restrain the further issue of Railway Debentures, has been pretty fully discussed, and was virtually rejected yesterday by a majority of two, on the division on the last section. It may be as well to state again, that according to the official report of Mr. Jardine, the Chief Commissioner of Railways, the total cost of the railway up to the last November last, was four millions five hundred and eighty-seven thousand five hundred and eighty-four dollars; that during the past year nearly one hundred and eighty-seven thousand dollars have been expended in the construction of the railway between St. John and Sackville, and debentures to that amount, sold in England, although Mr. Jardine stated in his report in January, 1861, that the railway was completed and in

good running condition, and "all the contract accounts settled and the balances paid." The object of Mr. Kerr's Bill was to stop this expenditure for one or two years, and to compel the Government to obtain the authority of the Legislature before incurring a further debt for a work that was already finished. It could hardly be supposed that the representation of the River counties would oppose such a reasonable proposition—that with the evidence of the past year's expenditure before them, they would be willing to leave it in the power of the Government to go on with a further expenditure on this line of railway which has already cost the country \$22,000 per mile—yet such is the case, for we find Mr. Fisher voting against the Bill. And what for? To enable the Government to issue further debentures and raise money to build a deep water wharf at Saint John, at an expense of at least \$200,000, for the special benefit of one of their supporters who owns some wharf property. What possible benefit will the people of these counties derive from it? We say unhesitatingly, none. Do the people of the country know that they are taxed to raise \$200,000 annually, and sent out of the country to pay the interest on the money which was expended on the St. John and Sackville Railway, and that they will be asked to ask the right to impose further taxes on tea, sugar and molasses, to make up that interest; and not content with this, they still retain the power of increasing the debt to any extent they please, and that representatives of counties who have to pay their share of the railway debt, with the interest, directly or indirectly you have got to pay it every year. You or your children will be obliged to pay this railway debt of a million and a half, and you are the only ones who are interested in the means to pay it, and you are represented by men who are willing to go on and incur your burdens. We ask you, are you willing to submit to any further impositions?"

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THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIAL EMPIRE.

Poetry.

The Mountains of Life.

BY JAMES G. CLARK.

There's a land far away mid the stars, we are told,
Where they know not the sorrows of time;
Where the pure waters wander thro' valleys of gold,
And there is a treasure sublime;
Tis the land of our God, tis the home of the soul,
Where angels of splendour eternally toil;
Where the way weary traveller reaches his goal
On the evergreen mountains of life.

Our gaze cannot soar to that beautiful land,
But our visions have told of its bliss,
And our souls by the gale from its gardens are fanned,
When we faint in the desert of this;
And we sometimes have long'd for its holy repose,
When our spirits were torn with temptations and woes,
And we've drunk from the tide of the river that flows
From the evergreen mountains of life.

O! the stars never tread the blue heavens at night,
But we think that the ransomed have found;
At the day never smiles from its place of light,
But we feel the bright smile of our God;
We are travelling homeward, thro' changes and gloom,
To a kingdom where pleasures unchangingly bloom,
And our guide is the glory that shines through the tomb,
From the evergreen mountains of life.

NOT TOO FAR APART.

BY J. T. D.

Where a merry little streamlet
Goes laughing on its way,
In the golden summer sunset
Nell and I were wont to stray,
To watch the little wavelets
As they caught up one by one,
And ran off with all the kisses
Of the fast departing sun.

"Let's go this time," said Nell,
As we one day left the door,
To a place where we together
Have never been before;
We've gone against the streamlet
In all our other walks,
Let's follow now the water,
Till it leaps among the rocks."

"No, no," I quickly answered,
"The truer, in its life, it is,
Makes such a constant clatter
We could not talk at all."
"Oh yes," we could, she whispered—
And I saw the little streamlet
I'm sure it will be no trouble,
If we're not too far apart."

We went as Nell suggested,
And I found, upon my word,
That every single syllable
Was quite distinctly heard,
And somehow, ever after,
Our August evening walks
Were down beside the streamlet
Where it leaps among the rocks.

Miscellaneous.

NOVA SCOTIA POLITICS.

In consequence of the virtual defeat of the Government of Nova Scotia on the estimates, Mr. Howe, in conformity with former pledges, has resolved to dissolve the House, so soon as the necessary business of the country is transacted. A general election may therefore be expected in our sister Province, which will be as bitter and as hotly contested as any election ever was before.

The Conservatives are very jubilant, and perfectly satisfied that they will obtain a decisive victory at the coming election. It cannot be denied that Mr. Howe has greatly damaged his position before the country, by the appointment of the Hon. Wm. Young to the Chief Justiceship. An appointment most distasteful to men of every shade of politics, and which nobody attempts to sustain. And in this matter, also, Mr. Howe has in a manner stultified himself, by his own severe condemnation of the appointment, couched in the strongest language, at his first parliamentary dinner.

On the other hand, Dr. Tupper as one of the leaders of the opposition, has moved a resolution for the reduction of salaries, that will not be sustained by his party, or by the good sense of the people of Nova Scotia. It is exceedingly unwise for a party when out of office, to agitate and advocate measures, which when in power, they would never dream of supporting.

Many of the reductions proposed by Dr. Tupper are altogether wrong in principle and not to be justified in any way. It will be hard to make people believe that Dr. Tupper is perfectly sincere in proposing these reductions, or that if he should again obtain office, he would stake his own position, and the fate of his administration upon carrying them out. Nobody would believe that for a moment.

It is perfectly well known that the salary of the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia is altogether inadequate to meet his expenses, and that for a long period, all the Lieutenant Governors of that Province who were not military men, have had to draw largely on their private means to meet the deficiency. Nobody knows this better than Dr. Tupper; yet he proposes to reduce the Lieutenant Governor's salary by no less a sum than \$3000 a year. He also proposes to deduct \$400 a year from the salary of each of the Judges, a class of men exceedingly hard worked, and by no means overpaid—who above all others should be placed in the most independent position, far beyond extraneous influences.

The office of Private Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor, Dr. Tupper proposes to abolish altogether, which is really a piece of meanness, especially when he follows it up by deducting only \$2150 from the pay and expenses of the Legislative Council and but \$3790 from the pay and expenses of the House of Assembly, where the pruning knife is greatly needed, and could be applied effectually.

Various other reductions are proposed by Dr. Tupper, who further wishes to discount the grants to certain steam and other packets of great public convenience, to

whose abolition the Doctor would not listen for an instant, if he were Provincial Secretary.

The speech of Mr. Howe in closing the debate on Dr. Tupper's amendment for these reductions, pointed out most forcibly, that the opposition which had supported the extravagance of Mr. J. H. J. Government from 1857 to 1860, with a revenue falling off every year—which had wasted away enormous salaries to Railway Engineers, and squandered money by haphazard railway contractors—could not now propose to be the friends of retrenchment and reform. It left a strong and vivid impression that Dr. Tupper's resolution, professing to be a scheme for retrenchment, was only an absurd, impracticable, and utterly delusive party "kite."

We care for neither party in Nova Scotia, conceiving that in the management of public affairs, each has been equally to blame; and now that the electors will have very shortly an opportunity of expressing their opinion on these matters, we trust they will do it in such a decided manner, as will introduce new men and a new order of things, thus effectually quieting the political agitation which has so long stood in the way of the advancement and substantial property of their Province.

Nova Scotia Politics.

The vote in the Assembly, leaving the Government in a majority of two only, and the defection of Hon. Colin Campbell, an Executive Council member, who has not only left the Government, but gone over to the Opposition, has placed political affairs in Nova Scotia in a critical position. On Monday last Dr. Tupper said it was impossible for any Government to be more thoroughly defeated than they were on Saturday night last. A member of the Executive had left himself bound conscientiously, to abandon his position, and state that he could not sustain a Government in power, without additional taxation, and in opposing the proposed reductions. Accordingly, he resigned his seat in the Executive, and voted against the Government. But he could not conceive that the Lieutenant Governor, afterwards expressed sentiments, could hesitate for a moment as to the course he would pursue, when the Government stood so clearly in an admitted minority before the country.

Hon. Mr. Howe then replied that he presumed that the Lieutenant Governor would act as was due to his position as Queen's representative and to the people of Nova Scotia. It was his own intention, he went on to say, to pass the Revenue Bill; and when that was done, he might endeavor, as head of the Government, to reconstruct it on a legislative basis. But if he should fall in that course, it was not for him now to state what were his intentions.

The Hon. gentleman also stated that, out of deference to the feelings of the country, he had last, he had written to the Lieutenant Governor requesting him to ascertain from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, whether his salary could be reduced. He also read copies of letters which he had addressed to the President of the Council, Postmaster General, Commissioner of Crown Lands, head of the Revenue Department, asking them what amount of reduction could be made in their respective departments. Beside this, he was a letter to the Chief Justice and Judges, in respect to their salaries. He concluded by stating that if he found by their answers that any saving could be effected, he would not refuse to reduce the estimates in Committee of Supply.

Dr. Tupper and Mr. Johnston then addressed the House, denouncing the vote taken by the Government as unconstitutional and as positively lowering the dignity of the representatives of the people. It was almost incredible said the former, that the leader of an administration in a country which enjoys Responsible Government should assume a position which was equivalent to affirming that the purse strings of the Province are held not by the Assembly composed of men elected by the people—but by the Lieutenant Governor, by the Judges, by subordinate officers and by the Legislative Council, an alleged constitutional body. No words of his were sufficient to express the humiliation that he felt when he saw such a position as had been assumed that day. He had seen many acts committed by the Government that lowered their position before the House and the country; but he had never dreamt that the Lieutenant Governor would make such a statement, in the presence of the people's representatives, take the position that he had, and surrender up the functions which he derived from the people themselves. It was the duty of the President of the Council to have obtained the information he now sought improperly before he had asked his supporters to vote for a resolution declaring that no reduction could be made consistently or practically in the way proposed by the Opposition. Hon. Mr. Johnston spoke to the same effect. He furnished his observations by the remark that many might suppose that the moment of the humiliation of a man with whom he had crumbled during long years of political strife, would have been to him a moment of triumph; but he could tell them, whilst about passing away from the stage of politics and of life, whilst speaking as it were in a higher presence than that of earth, that he felt for that humiliation, and that he could rejoice if the Hon. gentleman could obliterate the single last humiliation, and remove the degradation in which he had placed himself. The President of the Council, he concluded, ought not to have pursued the course he had taken, if he at all regarded the dignity of his position. But it was too evident that he was but grasping at the retention of power, when power was left him; and the Government of the country when the Government had slipped out of his hands.

The Nova Scotia Tariff.

On Tuesday last, the Assembly passed a Tariff Bill, making the following important changes: Coffee, from 3 to 4 cents per lb; gin and whiskey, 80 to 70 cents per gallon; sole leather, 3 to 4 cents per lb; rum, 60 to 50 cents per gallon; brandy, 80 to 60 cents; distilled spirits, excepted, 50 cents per gallon; black tea, 5 to 6 cents per lb; green tea, 10 to 11 cents; on wines, such as Tokay, Champagne, claret, burgundy, malvose, moselle, \$1.40 per gallon, instead of 50 cents; port and sherry costing \$20 per pipe, 80 cents per gallon; stout, 20 to 40 cents per gallon; cigars and snuff, 20 to 40 cents; patent medicines, 20 per cent; adulterated duties increased 25 per cent; ale, beer, and porter, 10 cents per gallon; tobacco, 4 to 5 cents.

The Tariff being thus secured, it remains to be seen whether Mr. Howe and his Government will resign, or go to the people. One, or the other, the Government ought to do, in conformity with the pledges heretofore given. But they may do neither, and may continue to hold office, in a manner by no means creditable.

ty with the pledges heretofore given. But they may do neither, and may continue to hold office, in a manner by no means creditable.

On the recent "Message" sent by the Governor to Sir Robert Peel, in order to arrange a duel after the most approved fashion of the old time, the London Times has the following remarks:—

"The O'Donoghue has been making one of those exhibitions, which can only be made in such a place as the British Parliament, and at just such a time as this middle of the nineteenth century. With the perfect certainty of an unpleasant consequence, he has even gone to the length of his allegiance, to defy his Sovereign, and finally to insult his opponent on the floor of the House of Commons. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, singular personages appeared in the streets of London, under quaint fresh denominations, with lands of retainers in barbaric settlements. The Court controlled the breath of the law, that would not have been tolerated in any rational Englishman, and which only amused the rabble, for there was no power way to lay the ghost of Irish independence, than to let it show itself in the streets at midday. The O'Donoghue does not walk down Parliament-street with a score or two of half-bred savages at his heels, carrying axes and crossbows, or Sir R. M. M. would certainly resign. So he is obliged to content himself with a standing appeal to the equally obsolete usage of trial by battle. It is only a form, but it is effectual for distraction. For those who like that sort of thing, the O'Donoghue will have no fault to find with the Government, in particular; provoke some just remarks in Parliament; walk out of the House with an indignant frown; send a friend to demand an explanation; and when finally called on to apologize for the breach of privilege, take the opportunity for any further remarks that may occur to him, upon the heat, or the heat, or the person, or the history, of the man you wish to annoy. There is only one way in which this process can possibly be disappointed, and that is, if your man has the wisdom to say nothing about you, or to content himself with the barest allusion. This requires more self-command than everybody possesses. It would have been enough, if the Irish Secretary had merely called attention to the failure of the meeting at the Rotunda, as admitted by the Chairman himself. He did more. He said, what was perfectly true, that the authors of the demonstration did not succeed in getting any respectable people to attend. It was only too true, and so it gave the O'Donoghue an opportunity of performing on the stage of Parliament, an old Irish farce, of as thoroughly fictitious a character as the *Calderon* drama or the *Ulysses* of *William Shakespeare*. With the O'Donoghue we had no fault to find, but he can do as he pleases. It is not for us to allow him as few occasions as possible, and to see that he confines himself to the proper place and time."

THE FIRST PRIZE HATS.

THE FIRST PRIZE HATS, for the Best Hats was awarded to the Hats made at the Provincial Exhibition, held at Sussex. A large stock always on hand. Parties in want of a good Hat can be supplied calling at 27, King street.

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Miscellaneous.

BAPTIST SEMINARY, FREDERICTON.

PRINCIPAL, - - - - - REV. C. SPURDEN, A. M.
PRESIDENT, - - - - - Miss C. MAJOR
First Term commencing 1st July, 1861.
Second " " " 25th March " "
TUITION FEES, MALE DEPARTMENT
Under 10 years of age - - - - - 10s. a Term
Between 10 and 14 years of age - - - - - 15s. " "
Above 14 years of age - - - - - 20s. " "
Fuel each Spring Autumn - - - - - 2s. 6d.
Board 10s. a week. Half to be paid in advance
Students if possible will bring their own beds.
Bed is a w. & d. furnished by the Committee.
DINING ADULTS, TUITION FEES.
Each Term of seven weeks, - - - - - 20s.
Fuel as above. French extra.
Dec. 14th, 1861. C. SPURDEN.

Condensed and Cough Powders.

HAVE now ready for delivery five Gross Sarsaparilla Compound and Cough Powders, one of the best medicines for Coughs and Cattle now in use. Also, one Gross Sarsaparilla Compound, for the cure of Spindles, Cuts, Kingdums, Callus, and all other eruptions of the skin, for all common purposes of a blister. This Ointment far exceeds all other preparations, in certainty, safety, and speedy action. For sale by J. F. SECORD, King Square.

Molasses, Molasses.

JUST received per Emperor, via Windsor, No. 8-20, pure, bright and heavy Porto Molasses, for sale by JOHN W. NICHOLSON, 7, Nelson Street.

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