

The President's Message.

The Message reviews the events of the past year, and gives the President's views of what should be done in the future. The passages which are of most interest are few. Of the relations of Great Britain he does not say much, but he does say that—

"In view of the security of life and property in the region adjacent to the Canadian border by reason of assaults of desperadoes, committed by inimical and desperate persons who have been driven there, it has been thought proper to give notice that after the expiration of six months the period constitutionally stipulated in existing arrangements with Great Britain, the United States must hold themselves at liberty to increase their naval armament on the Lakes, if they shall find that the present arrangement will be made up on articles consumed by the people of all the Provinces."

"If it be no breach of faith to abolish this duty, surely it would be better we should do it ourselves and impose a burden on the people of the United States, which was imposed on the people of the United States."

"The President knows that, out of Confederation the deficiency caused by the abrogation of the 4 per cent. duty on ships' materials would be made up by articles consumed by the people of New Brunswick, and that Confederation it will be made up on articles consumed by the people of all the Provinces."

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THE WEEKLY FREEMAN FOR 1865!

It is hardly necessary to ask the many readers of the WEEKLY FREEMAN in this Province to renew their subscriptions for the next year. What we do ask is that they should endeavor to extend its circulation by getting up CLUBS, and by every other means, in order that as many as possible may learn all that can be said on all sides about the great question of a Union of the Provinces, which must now be decided, and which concerns the people of this Province more than any question ever submitted to them for their decision.

It is to the FREEMAN in no small degree that they are indebted for the permission to pass judgment on this great question, so grudgingly accorded to them by those who would be their masters, and those who read the FREEMAN carefully will be able, when the time for the people to decide arrives, to understand the question and to judge what is best for their interests. With this we wish other questions the FREEMAN deals fairly, candidly and thoroughly, seeking nothing but the public welfare, and never striving by any paltry tricks to gain a mere party triumph.

CLUBS will get the paper on the usual terms. We hope our friends will set to work early and send us the information so that we may be able to send them the paper.

JOBBING PRINTING

OF ALL KINDS. BY THE FREEMAN. EXECUTED AT THE OFFICE.

177 Pamplico, Postage and Hand Bills, Cards, Circulars, Shop Bills, &c., neatly printed.

The Weekly Freeman.

Friday, Dec. 16, 1864.

Office No. 35, (West side) Prince William Street.

Mr. Tilley's Estimates.

The remaining portion of Mr. Tilley's estimates do not require much consideration. Arts, &c., is a small item. Emigration for some means makes to cost only \$16,000. Last year Canada alone spent nearly \$40,000 over the amount received for what calls passenger duty.

If the great palace at Ottawa and Government House, and all the Customs House and Post Offices in the new nation can be maintained, repaired, &c., for \$106,000 estimated by Mr. Tilley and Mr. Galt, that part of the public business at least will be managed economically.

For the collection of Customs and Excise this year down only \$475,000. The expenditure in 1863 in Canada and New Brunswick alone was \$442,163, and as not a single solitary Customs House can be abolished because of Confederation, this estimate is certainly too low by some \$50,000.

Ocean and Intercolonial steamers \$460,000. This estimate is a mere guess. The subsidy to the Montreal Line of Steamers and for river steam service was \$511,366. The subsidy to the Montreal Line has since been much reduced; but it is very evident that in this estimate no provision is made for a subsidy to the line of mail steamers from Halifax or St. John to Europe. The Montreal Line is at all reliable the only line if the estimate is to be well, and indeed Mr. Tilley stated at the Institute that the only other lines contemplated were those which would maintain a connection between the Provinces themselves. This is particularly worthy of remark.

Fisheries (consumption) \$10,000. Canada expended \$23,769 on account of the Fisheries of 1863. She maintains a vessel—her only fishery—for the protection of the Canadian fishermen in the Gulf and on the Labrador. With the care of the Newfoundland fisheries also, and of the Bay of Fundy thrown on us, the new nation, Messrs. Tilley and Galt, will expend only \$10,000.

"Post Office deficiency and miscellaneous, \$100,000." This may mean anything or nothing. The amount put down as "miscellaneous" in Canada alone in 1863 was \$68,469. "Estimated receipts from public works, railways, canals, and loans \$800,000." This is a very large amount on the credit side of the account, and we do not know how it can be made up. The whole amount received in 1863 from Public Works, Provincial Steamers, Quebec Loan, Quebec Fire Loan, Law Society, Canada Building Fund, Eastern Railway Interest account, Northern Railway, Montreal Harbour Commission, Investment, ex Consolidated Loan and Consolidated Fund Investment account was only about \$782,000, out of which must be deducted the cost of maintaining the canals, the salaries of collectors, &c., which amounted to \$236,761, leaving a balance of only about \$545,000, to which Mr. Tilley would add \$100,000 on account of our Railroad income, or perhaps as much for the Nova Scotia railroads.

But in calculating the amount of revenue from the public works of Canada, it should be remembered that the Dominion administration imposed anew Canal tolls which the Currier Government had taken off, and thus increased the receipts about \$166,000 over the receipts of 1863. The Currier Government, carrying out the policy of the previous administration, have now added these tolls, or they have taken them off, and if this be taken into account, the net receipts from Canadian public works, loans, &c., will divide to less than \$400,000. In the management too of those works the Government effected a saving of over \$77,000 a year. The reign of corruption and extravagance being now restored, it is not at all probable that the expense of such a thing as a canal will be less than \$300,000.

Perhaps Messrs. Galt and Tilley take into account the amount of the interest on the investments in East India and other securities, made by way of a sinking fund.

It would hardly be fair to calculate on the Government's account of the debt of Canada as Mr. Galt does, and at the same time to calculate on the interest derivable from them, as part of the income of the new nation.

We would like to see how the \$800,000 is made up.

We think we have shown that in almost every item the estimates of Messrs. Galt and Tilley are wholly unreliable.

GREAT OPPORTUNITY.

A better state of things also prevails in England. The National Assembly has been called at Indian Town at a comparatively small cost. The condition of the wharves and their approaches was most disgusting and disgraceful. We heard Coles, Cranlock and Fordyce, when in the Province on special service, declare that there was no worse port of Call in the world than the worst port of Call in Constantinople.

A public wharf at least fifty or sixty feet wide should be constructed along the river side as far as practicable, and the main street should run right on this wharf, on which the stores, offices, &c., may all front.

FROM OUR LONDON CORRESPONDENT.

London, Nov. 26th, 1864.

Everybody here was prepared for the rejection of Mr. Lincoln; therefore the news has come upon us with no surprise. We now know that we may expect a continuance of the horrors of the past four years. The rejected President is not the man to change. He went in for the Union at the outset, and he has kept "pegging away" with the same object in view ever since, and will doubtless continue to do so until he succeeds, or, in the event of his resources lasting as long, until the South is converted into a barren waste and not a creature left to be united with. By electing as their Chief Magistrate, Mr. Lincoln—who is intellectually, morally, and socially unfitted for the office—the Federals have assuredly given their cause a downward impetus. They wildly cry for Union, and at the same time render what they are so anxious for more difficult of attainment than ever.

The Northern people have not only surrendered their own liberty, but are striving with their might to deprive the Southerners of theirs. It is "Union at any price" for "the North is fighting." "Slavery" and "Emancipation" are simply make-weights, to be used or not as convenience may dictate. So far as Great Britain is concerned, the rejection of Mr. Lincoln is a matter of very little moment. We shall probably get on well with Mr. Lincoln—as we should have done with General Grant—as long as we can get on with the present friendly relations with the Cabinet of Washington. It observes a neutrality in its practice as to the question of the North and all prejudicial to the South. It has abstained from recognizing the Confederacy for fear of offending the Unionists, and the result of this time-serving policy is that we are despised and mocked by both.

The recent dispatch of Mr. Webb, the Federal Minister at Rio—addressed to the Brazilian Government—shows clearly the attitude of the North towards England. The "Frankie diplomat" accuses this country of wanting "manhood" to recognize the Confederates in the future, and of an independent power, and the unpardonable of his abuse. He had limited himself to the reputation of the Florida outrage his official note would have passed as an honorable act on the part of the country he represents. But in attacking England so bitterly, the American envoy shows a lack of logic and a want of dignity that deprives him of all consideration.

Reverting to home matters, we have to note that Mr. Cobden has been making a great success in his length—his campaign in the Middle. A large portion of the address was devoted to praise of the North and abuse of the South, who Mr. Cobden declares will never get their independence.

Mr. Spooner, the member for North Warwickshire, and who for many years was the opponent of the Maynooth grant, and in the House of Commons, on Thursday afternoon, in his 82d year.

The Bank of England on Thursday reduced its minimum rate of discount from 7 to 6 per cent., and in the city affairs are altogether more reassuring.

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DEFENCE.

London, Nov. 26th, 1864.

Mr. Archibald, like Mr. Tilley and Mr. Galt, estimates that "Military—military and naval defence" will cost nearly a million dollars a year, and his passage in his speech goes to prove that he is not a very liberal spender.

He next went on to point out the heavy burdens imposed on the people of the mother country for the purposes of defence, and compared them with the expenditure of the United States for the same object. The people of this Province paid six cents ahead, while those of the mother country had to pay nearly 80. He strongly urged the necessity for the people of the Province doing more than they yet have done in the way of defence, and dwelt on the feeling that exists in England on the subject.

And Mr. Tilley said:— "But there are other reasons existing which have drawn the attention of the public mind to the necessity and importance of considering how far the energies of all British America can be united and consolidated for the benefit of all."

We have seen for the last few years what no public man could witness without feeling that it is a matter which demands his most constant attention—the great neighbouring republic, no longer simply a commercial rival, but a power which will not be content with the status of a simple neighbour, but will be content with the status of a great power.

Mr. Archibald, like Mr. Tilley, makes the estimate of a million dollars. This amount the exponents of finance all seem to have agreed they would stick to. For steam service Mr. A. puts down \$160,000 less than Mr. Tilley does, and he reduces the gross amount of his estimate by omitting some items altogether, and by calculating that the Railway debt will only pay 4 per cent., and that the rest of the debt will be paid off by 6 per cent. while Mr. Tilley, with a much more cautious approach to this in this matter, calculates that this will pay 5 1/2 per cent.

Mr. Tilley estimates the revenue to be derived from the public works at \$800,000. Mr. Archibald puts down the revenue from all the works of the three Provinces at only \$600,000—another discrepancy between the Delegates of \$200,000!!

Dr. Tupper says:— "The question which is to be submitted from one end of British America to the other is, whether the people of this country, in the Constitution here devised better for us than that we now enjoy? There is no person who can look at this question of Confederation but who will be struck by the fact that the people of this country are not a nation, but a collection of nations."

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ever becoming less and less in proportion to our population, and consequently, while the amount that we shall be paying into the general revenue, in the shape of customs, excise, stamp and other duties, will of course increase with our population, it may be worth our while to do so, and Mr. Galt entered into that aspect of the question, we would feel that his speech was far more convincing than the speech of Mr. Archibald, who, in his speech, dwelt on the taxation and increased expenditures of the economy of a higher order of Legislative and Executive administration, and on the support of the old local Legislatures, increased expenditure on Defence, &c. As we cannot accept such statements or mere authority, how high, and have had to compare documents in order to satisfy our own mind, we must say, that we have no confidence in the case as thus presented. We see certain advantages, and with some perils in Confederation. We intend in due time to try and strike the balance between them, and should we be able to embrace Confederation, it will be on the ground that our tariff is to be 25 cents or even 31 a head less than it is at present; that it is a position which we must not be broken down by Mr. Galt himself being judge.

Those very ardent advocates of Confederation, who cannot bear to see the case presented by Mr. Archibald, consider that our representation in the Federal Legislature is much more favorable than that of Scotland or Ireland at the time of the Union with England. I also find that this Union, looking back at the early history of the Province, was not a Legislative Union, but a political union. I find that the Province was founded on a principle that can be defended in any one of the Provinces comprised in the Confederation. It has been asked, why we should create a colony by making representation the scale? Yes, as a colony against colony. I find that the Province was founded on a principle that can be defended in any one of the Provinces comprised in the Confederation. It has been asked, why we should create a colony by making representation the scale? Yes, as a colony against colony. 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et as Secretary for the General Committee.

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