

March 4, 1863.]

Letters Received.

Rev. W. G. Parker, 23rd, 1 sub. H. E. Payson, Esq., 20th, £5.—Yes, it was discontinued, but he ordered it again. Isaiah Thurber, Esq., 12th. W. H. Rogers, 22nd, 1 sub. B. Brown, 23rd.—Much obliged. B. L. Telfer, 16th, £2. Geo. P. Christopher, 18th, 25s. G. V. Rand, 21st, 1 sub. Rev. A. Chipman, 20th. J. McLean, 20th, 10s. Rev. A. S. Hunt, 18th. Dr. Bent, 18th, 20s. Rev. J. A. Stubbert, 17th.—H. P. paid 1862. A. J. Ledtetter, 13th. Chas. Bill, Esq., 23rd, £2 1s. 3d. D. McLean, 20th, £2 4s. 2d. F. Hubley, 24th, 1 sub. W. J. Gates, 21st, £3 15s.—R. N. all right. J. C. Anderson, 23rd. Chas. Tedford, 25th, £3 2s. 6d. Rev. Jas. Stevens. W. Armstrong, 14th, 5s., 1 sub.—Yes, all right.—20s. paid I. H. to Feb. 10, 1863. Luke Harpell. G. S. Parker, Jun., 23rd, 1 sub. W. Churchill, Esq., 25th, £2 10s. John Bradshaw, 23rd, £2 2s. 6.

Provincial Parliament.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT.

Our report of Monday Feb. 23rd, was too brief to admit notice of several items in the Hon. Financial Secretary's Report, and the discussion which followed. We gave but two or three of the totals. A little more information on this will be very acceptable to our readers.

Hon. Mr. Annand stated that the Exports for 1862 were \$5,646,961, showing a decrease of \$127,373 over 1861. But there was a large number of ships built every year, of which no note was taken in the list of Exports. In 1861 there were 201 vessels built, amounting to 39,383 tons, and valued at \$1,566,158, most of which were sold out of the Province, and were, therefore, fully entitled to be classed among our Exports. Then there was a considerable amount realized from our Gold Mines during the past year, of which no account could be found in the Custom Returns, which he, (Mr. A.) felt safe in putting down at \$200,000. Accordingly, adding together the 12 1/2 per cent. on the value of goods sent out of the Province, the sale of ships and the export of gold, it might fairly be assumed that our Exports of 1862 came up to eight millions of dollars at least.

Table with 2 columns: Description and Amount. Includes 'Increased taxation, customs and excise realized' (\$102,851), 'While increased business produced' (138,904), 'The increase in the railway receipts amounted to' (10,378), 'The increased revenue for the year from coal, Crown lands and fees of office, amounted to' (6,958), 'From which deduct decrease in light duty, as compared with 1861,' (900).

And we have \$258,212 as the increased revenue of 1862 over 1861.

The expenses of the Post Office for the year were \$6,187 less than the previous year.

Mr. J. McDonald enquired if all the interest payable out of the Provincial revenue had been paid last year?

Hon. Mr. Annand said they had paid a year's interest within the year. The government had always held that the interest upon the railway was payable not on the 31st December, but on January 1st.

Mr. J. McDonald did not agree with the Financial Secretary that there was such an increased consumption last year. His assertion that increased business had realized over \$138,000 was unsupported by any evidence whatever; on the contrary, the presumption was from the gentleman's own shewing that this amount has arisen in a large measure from the increase in the price of goods.

Hon. Mr. Wier said the trade returns show there had been a large increase of imports in tea, molasses, &c.

Dr. Tupper said he had been a good deal gratified at the tone in which the financial papers had been submitted on present occasion. There had been an absence of exultation, which was quite proper under the circumstances. He differed entirely from the opinion expressed by the Financial Secretary that so long as we get a good deal more money than we anticipated, the error is of no consequence. He believed we must look, in order to see if the trade had increased, to the exports of the country rather than to the imports. If we had large exports then we were warranted in assuming that the trade had increased;—now, the trade returns brought forward that day showed very clearly that our exports were growing gradually less. He had no difficulty in accounting for the increase shown.

He alluded to the surplus of \$12,000 in the treasury, and said it was a less amount than that handed over to the present government by their predecessors. The government seemed actually smothered with this increase. He could not but contrast the statesmanlike course of the British Minister with that of the gentleman opposite. In the speech delivered at the opening of our Legislature a great flourish of trumpets is made over the surplus in the treasury. Now, the Chancellor of the Exchequer in Great Britain had a surplus of several millions of pounds in excess of what he anticipated; but we heard no inducement to extravagance in the Queen's speech. The government of Nova Scotia would have done well to have followed a similar example.

Mr. Tobin said that he did not know where the evidences of prosperity were to be seen. The very fact of the diminution of the Exports proved very conclusively that the country was

not in so satisfactory a condition as pretended by gentlemen opposite. Because a country had a large revenue, it could not be justly argued to be prosperous. In England a large portion of the people was in a state of destitution, which was obtaining the sympathy of the whole world; and yet her revenue was unusually large. If he saw an increase in the Exports of our fisheries and our agriculture, then he would be ready to acknowledge that this province was advancing in prosperity.

Mr. Longley did not think a large revenue was an indication of prosperity. The amount that can be screwed out of a people by heavy taxation should not be a matter of laudation. All through the country there was an unusual scarcity of money; and on all sides much embarrassment prevailed. The chief portion of our revenue was derived from the duties imposed upon liquors; but this could not be considered as a matter of congratulation, or a criterion of prosperity. (The revenue derived from Intoxicating liquors is £42,452, about one fifth of the whole).

By the Report of the Post Master General to Sept. 31-1862 we learn that 22 Way Offices and 8 new Post Routes were established during the past year. The length of mail route now existing is stated at 4,509 miles, and the actual distance travelled, 960,144 miles. There has been an increase over 1861 of 129,000 in the number of letters posted at, delivered from, and passing through the Halifax office. The postal revenue of the year is stated as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Description and Amount. Includes 'Gross Postage' (\$54,390.61), 'Net income' (45,100.62).

The total expenditure of the Department for 1862 has been \$63,305,763—of which salaries absorbed \$28,773 80—mail service, \$89,316—commission on stamps, stationery, rent and other miscellaneous expenses, \$5,215 96. It appears that there was a decrease in the cost of the Department, as compared with 1861, of \$1,138 59, and a decrease in the deficiency to be provided for of \$6,186 08.

10,689 dead letters containing money, bills of exchange, and promissory notes to the amount of \$5,135 86 were received at the Dead Letter Office in Halifax, last year.

Cumberland has more way offices and more miles of postal route than any county in the Province, not excepting Halifax.

The money order system has worked well.

TUESDAY, Feb. 24th.

Petitions were presented from various persons and places asking for land surveys; increase of postmasters' salaries; grants of land; amendments to Gold Bill; additional electoral districts, &c. &c.

Mr. Cochran presented a petition from certain parties in Hants County, who prayed to be relieved from Militia duty on religious grounds. Referred to Militia Committee.

Mr. Longley introduced a bill to amend the Licence Law, which was read first time.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 25th.

Petitions on a variety of subjects were presented.

Mr. Brown introduced a bill to reduce the postage rate on letters from five to two cents on all letters passing between one post office and another in the same county.

Mr. Blanchard introduced a bill to limit the franchise in the city of Halifax.

Messrs. Pryor and Tobin both protested against the course of the honorable gentleman in doing this as there were, no petitions asking for such limitations as those provided by the bill.

Mr. Hatfield presented a petition from Argyle for the erection of a Light-house.

LUNATIC ASYLUM.

Hon. Prov. Secretary laid on the table the report of the Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum by which it appears that on the 1st Jan. 1862, there were 117 patients in the Institution—62 males and 55 females; and that during the year 43 have been admitted—31 males and 12 females; making the entire number under treatment during the past year 160. The daily average for the year has been 121. The number of patients discharged last year was 30—19 males and 11 females. The number in the Hospital on the 1st Jan. 1863, was 130, which included 3 absent "on trial." Of those discharged, 15 have been restored, 8 more or less improved, and 5 have died.

Thirty private pupils have been under treatment during 1862—15 males and 15 females.

INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY.

Hon. Mr. Howe also laid on the table a letter from Messrs. Sicotte and Howland, concerning the Intercolonial Railway, which shewed that those gentlemen had entertained no intention of accepting the terms of the Imperial Government, that they consider these terms anything but liberal towards these provinces and such as they could not advise Canada to accept. They consider that the proposals of the British government are less favorable than former proposals, and that to ask for the conveyance of troops free of charge over the road, whilst only giving their guarantee—contributing nothing towards the cost of the road,—would be really relieving the parent country of a heavy item, at present borne by Britain. The former proposal to carry troops free of charge, was with the understanding, that the mother country should bear one half the cost of constructing the road.

The letter states that better terms might be made with private parties on the credit of the province.

Dr. Tupper inquired why this very important document had not been submitted to the house earlier, whereas a copy had been received by the New Brunswick legislature some days since.

Mr. Howe explained that he had only received a copy by sending to Quebec for it.

Dr. Tupper thought it strange that Nova Scotia should be so treated, as if she had no interest in the matter.

Mr. Howe said that a copy might have been received by Lord Mulgrave.

Mr. Henry asked if the government had not received a copy.

Mr. Howe promised to make the enquiry and inform the house.

THURSDAY Feb. 26th.

The morning was occupied in presenting and reading a large number of petitions on various local and personal matters.

In the afternoon some discussion arose on a petition of Ephraim Sandford concerning a contract for building a bridge at Walton, Hants, charging the government with acting unfairly on political considerations.

Hon. Prov. Secretary and Attorney General defended the course of the government, in having given the contract to those whose tender was above the petitioner's, because his bondsmen were not satisfactory. Several members took part in the debate, and correspondence was read, the petition was laid on the table.

Hon. Prov. Secretary laid on the table a number of returns—on civil suits from Prothonotaries, crown lands, Board of works,—and correspondence with the home government concerning the proposal made by Dr. Tupper, to reduce the Lieutenant Governor's salary.

The Prov. Secretary promised to lay the Railway Resolutions on the table on Saturday.

FRIDAY, Feb. 27.

The following bills were read a second time,—To divide the Electoral District in Halifax; a bill to enable Notaries Public to perform certain acts in reference to Dower; a bill to amend chap. 4f, of Revised Statutes in reference to County Assessments.

The Prov. Secretary laid on the table the report of J. P. Fairbanks, Inspector of Mines. He also read a communication from the Chief Gold Commissioner, stating that the information asked for in reference to arrears could not be given until it were obtained from the local deputies.

Mr. H. McDonald called attention to a discrepancy between the amount returned by the Gold Commissioner and that in the Receiver General's account.

Mr. Shannon introduced a bankruptcy bill. Hon. Mr. Johnston brought in a bill to prevent undue preference by insolvent debtors.

MR. HOWE'S CORRESPONDENCE WITH ROMAN CATHOLIC MEMBERS.

In the afternoon after some correspondence with the Duke of Newcastle asked for by Dr. Tupper was laid on the table.

Hon. Mr. Johnston spoke in reference to the despatch concerning the interference with the Civil List, and noticed that the pledges given by the government at the close of the last session to make a reconstruction of the government had not been fulfilled, and moved the following resolution:—

Resolved,—That an Address be passed to His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, respectfully praying that His Excellency will be pleased to cause to be laid before this House a copy of the letter sent by the Hon. Mr. Howe, the Prov. Secretary, since last session, to Mr. John McKinnon, the hon. member for Sydney, and to Mr. Hugh McDonald, hon. member for Inverness, by which the leader of the Government proposed to Mr. McKinnon that he would permit himself to be nominated by the Provincial Secretary to the seat then vacant in the Legislative Council; and proposed to Mr. Hugh McDonald a seat in the Executive Council, with the office of Solicitor General; and the answers of those hon. gentlemen declining the offer made.

He (Mr. Johnston) explained that he thought this resolution necessary in consequence of the refusal of the Hon. Prov. Secretary, to produce the correspondence alluded to. The house had a right to those letters. The action of the Lieutenant Governor and the leader of the government rendered it necessary that the information asked should be supplied, and considered it necessary to know how far efforts had been made to reconstruct the government.

The Hon. Mr. Howe replied that if it were criminal in a public man to forfeit his pledges then the hon. member for Annapolis had failed to fulfil his respecting the Maine Liquor Law, the Elective Council Bill, and several others. He contended that the practise of the British parliament did not always demand the production of public documents. When information is desired a member of the government may give it wholly or in part as may be judicious. He had no objection to the honorable gentlemen giving publicity to the letters, and to the answers but he would not do so.

The discussion continued to increase in warmth, several members speaking till about 8 o'clock, when

Mr. Shaw rose and stated that he intended to vote against the resolution. He accused the Opposition of leaving the principles of Conservatism and becoming Radicals. He was unwilling to continue to act with them. He had disliked the retrenchment scheme last session, as he considered it disloyal, and he did not think that the government should be compelled to produce the papers mentioned in the resolution.

Mr. Longley was glad to find the honorable member now appearing in his true colors. He had been vacillating last session and had betrayed his constituents. He had been looking forward to the time when he (Mr. S.) would take one side or the other, and not be deceiving

a part of his constituency by misrepresenting them in the Assembly.

Mr. Shaw replied that he was prepared for the attack of his colleague who had for some time been seeking to damage his character, by stating that he had been bribed to forsake his party. He knew that his preventing a dissolution last session, was with the full approval of his constituents, and he believed that his present conduct would also.

Dr. Tupper spoke of the inconsistency of Mr. Shaw's conduct stating that he (Mr. S.) had not once mentioned the grievances of which he now complains. Dr. T. in the course of his speech alluded to the conduct of the Lieutenant Governor and asked if the Provincial Secretary wished to place him in the position of a partizan and compel him to become the instrument of intrigue and deception.

The Speaker here called Dr. Tupper to order when he turned to him and said "Sir if you call me to order for this, then Sir you have yet to learn the first principles of parliamentary usage." On Dr. Tupper refusing to be called to order the galleries were immediately cleared, and the house sat with closed doors for about an hour. On their being reopened about 10 o'clock at night

Hon. Mr. Howe spoke for a short time in his usual humorous strain.

Hon. Mr. Johnston then addressed the house in a very forcible speech.

Mr. Shaw and Dr. Tupper also spoke again. It was then near 12 o'clock when the house divided on the question as follows:—

For—Messrs. Henry, Shannon, Cowie, Pryor, Townsend, McFarlane, H. McDonald, J. McDonald, Tupper, Churchill, Longley, Johnston, Tobin, Bourinot, Robicheau, McKinnon, Donkin, More, Caldwell, Smyth, Wade, C. Campbell, Martell, and Harrington. 24.

Against—Messrs. Robertson, Brown, Hatfield, Ross, Smith, Coffin, A. Campbell, Morton, Burgess, Bailey, Hefferan, Gammell, Grant, McKenzie, Cochran, Locke, Wier, Shaw, McLellan, Blanchard, Chambers, S. Campbell, Morrison, Attorney General, Prov. Secretary, Chipman, Fin. Secretary and Mosely. 28.

After the vote had been taken Mr. Hugh McDonald said he thought it due to the house that the correspondence to which the resolution referred should be placed before them. He therefore in his place read the letter he and Mr. McKinnon had received from Hon. Mr. Howe and the reply he had made as follows:—

HALIFAX, May 28, 1852.

Gentlemen,— For many years the constituencies which you represent and those who share their opinions, gave me their confidence and support. We were separated in 1857 by causes over which they had little control; and they have of late had no share in the Government of the country, and are still unrepresented in the upper branch of the Legislature.

Having by justice and courtesy in the conduct of administration for the last two years shown that I have no desire to injure or oppress any class of Her Majesty's subjects, I am happy that it is now in my power to place at your disposal honorable positions which will enable you to watch over and protect the interests of your friends, and to bring your local knowledge to the aid of Government and of the Legislative Council.

I desire to do this in the most frank and open manner, avowing that my policy is to strengthen the administration by securing the adhesion of a large and valuable part of the population, and to throw open as opportunities may offer, the highest offices of the country to those qualified to fill them, and to those who enjoy public confidence, without distinction of origin or creed.

If you, after due reflection and consultation with your friends, are disposed to re-establish the kindly relations out which so much of public advantage resulted in times past, I shall be prepared to submit Mr. McKinnon's name to the Lieutenant Governor to fill the vacant seat in the Legislative Council, and to advise the appointment of Mr. McDonald to the office of Solicitor General, with a seat in the Executive Council.

I have the honor to be, gentlemen, Your obedient servant, JOSEPH HOWE.

John McKinnon and Hugh McDonald, Esqrs. MR. McDONALD'S REPLY.

ANTIGONISH, June 7, 1862.

Hon. Joseph Howe,— Sir,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th ult., addressed to Mr. McKinnon and myself, in which you do us the honor to say that you are prepared to submit Mr. McKinnon's name to the Lieutenant Governor, to fill the vacant seat in the Legislative Council, and advise my own appointment to the office of Solicitor General, with a seat in the Executive Council.

Leaving Mr. McKinnon to take such course as he deems right, I can only say, for my own part, that as you are aware, I took my seat in the Assembly on the Conservative interest, and have given that party my support, throughout, in opposition to the Government of which you are the leader. I did so without, as far as I am aware, without being factious or obstructive, and with a view to my own consistency, and the best interests of the country.

While the party with whom I have hitherto acted in the Legislature, have not abandoned any of the principles which they made their platform, I have failed to see such a change in the political condition of the country or the government, as to justify me in taking the step proposed.

I have much pleasure in acknowledging the uniform courtesy and justice which in my intercourse with yourself, I always received at your hands. I have the honor to be, sir your most obedient servant. HUGH McDONALD.

Hon. Jos. Howe, Halifax.

Mr. McKinnon said that he had not a copy of his reply in Halifax, but it was to the effect that he would accept the appointment offered him on condition of his not being required to leave the party with which he was associated.

SATURDAY, Feb. 28.

The house sat but for a short time and adjourned till Monday.

For Monday's proceedings, see page 71.