

tians. Your attachment to popery only benefits the priest; Christianity will enrich yourselves. Dare to be Christians. The night is far spent; the day is at hand. O be children of the day. Fear God, and then the wrath of the priest inspires no more terror than do the gentle whisperings of the evening zephyr.

Praying with all prayer for your deliverance from the degrading and grinding despotism of popery, and for your full emancipation into the glorious liberty of the gospel, I am, with all the sympathies of my Irish nature,

Yours,
KIRWAN.

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

SATURDAY, 17th February.

Hon. Mr. FISHER moved for leave to bring in a Bill to improve the navigation of the River Saint John—leave granted, and the Bill brought in and read a first time.

Mr. WOODWARD submitted a Resolution for an address to His Excellency the Lieut. Governor for certain Returns to be furnished by the Clerks of the Peace in their respective counties, shewing the amount of real and personal estate on which rates had been assessed during the years 1846, '47 and '48.

Mr. BORD objected to passing the Resolution, on account of the expense which it would cost the Province, stating that if a correct valuation of the property in every separate parish was to be obtained it would cost the Province thousands of pounds.

A short discussion followed, which ended in Mr. Woodward explaining that a mere abstract of the value of the property assessed was all that he contemplated asking for. That the means of furnishing such abstract is, or ought to be, in the office of every Clerk of the Peace in the Province, and in cases where such returns were not furnished it would shew that there was something wrong in that County. The expense, he thought could not amount to more than a mere trifle, and the information thus obtained would be valuable, if not for the present Session, for the use of the House at its next Session.

The question being put, there appeared yeas 9, nays 10, consequently the Resolution was lost.

MONDAY, 19th February.

Immediately after reading the Journals, on motion of Mr. RITCHIE, the House went into committee of the whole, in further consideration of a Bill to incorporate the Saint John and Shediac Railway Company.

The Bill was read, section by section, and passed without any debate or amendment. When the last section of the Bill had passed,

Mr. RITCHIE rose and said, that as that Bill contained some provisions for the appropriation of public lands on the route through which the Railroad passed, it would perhaps be necessary to move a suspending clause, and although he was anxious not to delay the Bill, yet if that was thought necessary he would have no objections to its being added.

The Hon. L. A. WILMOT then moved a clause providing that the Bill should not come into operation until Her Majesty's approbation be first had and determined.

Dr. WILSON rose and said, that before that Bill finally passed the committee, he would like to be informed if the Government were making any exertions to carry out the views of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor as expressed in His Excellency's Speech at the opening of the Session, with respect to the great Trunk Railway. His object in making these remarks, was to ascertain whether the Government meant to bring in any measure with respect to this great undertaking during the present Session, and although he would not put the question until His Honor the Speaker was in the Chair, yet he would then state that if they were prepared to bring in any measure of that kind, and if these local measures, such as the St. John and Shediac Railway, and the St. Andrews Railway, would interfere with the prosecution of that great national object, they should have his most unqualified opposition. He thought all local measures ought to be made to yield to this great Railway measure, and if there was any probability of its being prosecuted, he thought they should husband their resources, and blend all their energies to further that noble undertaking, which they could not do alone, but which would require the assistance of the sister Colonies and of the home Government.

The Schedules A and B, attached to the Bill, were then read and passed, and the Chairman left the Chair, and reported the Bill as agreed to.

Mr. BORSFORD said, as he saw the Hon. the Attorney General in his place, he wished to ask that hon. member whether, under the new system, the Imperial Government still retained the power of creating free ports, or if that power had been given to the Colonial Authorities, on making provision for the necessary officers.

Hon. L. A. WILMOT said, that the Home Government still retained the power, but he might state that all the applications which had been made from this Province were now under the consideration of the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury, and that they might soon expect to hear their decision on the matter.

On motion of the Hon. L. A. WILMOT, the House went into Committee of the whole, on a Bill to incorporate the Grand and Subordinate Divisions of the Sons of Temperance in this Province.

Mr. BORD said, that as the hon. mover had left his place, and he (Mr. B.) being a member of the order, he would say a few words in explanation of the Bill which had just been read. There was, at the present time, somewhere about fifty Divisions of the Sons of Temperance in this Province, and from what he could learn the gross amount of their property fell little short already of six thousand pounds. By the present by-laws of Subordinate Divisions they took bonds from the Treasurers and Trustees, but hon. members knew, and the Sons of Temperance knew, that these bonds were of little use. They wished, there-

fore, to be incorporated that they might legally hold and dispose of their property. Those who knew anything of the order were well aware that it was an institution which had the very best objects in view—that of assisting each other in sickness or in distress. When a member died, if he was a husband his wife got £7 to pay his funeral expenses, and if the wife of a member dies he gets £3 for a similar object. When a member is taken sick he is allowed 15s. a week during the time of his illness, and for all these benefits they only paid in a small monthly fee, too small, he thought, but, be that as it might, they were anxious to have it in their power to manage their property, and have the privileges incident to a Corporation for that purpose. He hoped, therefore, there would be no objection to the Bill. These people were doing a great deal of good; thousands of instances could be adduced of that fact, and they need not go out of that House to see examples of the beneficial effects of the order. He hoped they would soon see more, and in the meantime he would support the Bill, and move that it be read section by section.

The Bill then passed the Committee without any opposition, and was reported as agreed to.

TUESDAY, 20th February.

Mr. WARK rose, and alluding to the act which passed last year, authorising the Government to admit the produce of our sister colonies free of duty, provided they would reciprocate with us, wished to ask the hon. member of the Government if the Executive Government of this Province had been in communication with Canada, and whether the Canadian Government had acceded to the proposition.

Hon. L. A. WILMOT said that the correspondence alluded to by his hon. friend had taken place, but he was sorry to say that from Canada they had not met with a response;—he meant that the Canadians could not agree to the proposition. The Act of this country was general, and included everything. The Canadians wanted to particularize. They appeared to look on the Act of this Province with something like suspicion, as the duties on some articles imported into this Province were much lower here than in Canada, consequently they were afraid that the Atlantic Colonies would collect the duties on the raw material and send it to Canada in a manufactured state. Their hands were tied by the Act—they could not remove these practical difficulties, consequently the provisions of the Act could not be carried into effect.

Hon. Mr. PARTELOW said, that the principal difficulty which presented itself, was the article of sugar. In Canada raw sugar paid a high import duty, while in this Province it was admitted at a low rate. The Canadians therefore, were afraid that we would import the raw material, erect distilleries, and engage in the business of refining sugar, and by that means be able to send the manufactured article at a rate which would interfere with their revenue. While he was up, he would state for the information of the House, that the Government were prepared to bring in a Bill which would enable them to regulate their trade with all the British possessions. They had obtained the sanction of the Home Government to passing this Act, which he trusted would be the means of placing their inter-colonial trade on a more satisfactory footing.

The conversation then dropped.

Mr. R. D. WILMOT rose and moved the following Resolution:

“Whereas the Trade of this Province is now labouring under a deplorable state of depression, and the Agriculture, Fisheries and Manufacturing Interests are so prostrated that numbers of the inhabitants of the Province have been compelled to seek for employment in a Foreign Land; and whereas, by the recent changes in the Commercial Policy of the Empire, protection has been almost entirely withdrawn from our Staple Products in the British Markets, and, by a Despatch from the Colonial Minister, the right to impose Differential Duties by the Colonial Legislature is assumed to be withheld, and that Royal assent will not be granted to any Act discriminating between articles of Foreign growth and production and those of British growth and produce, when imported into this Colony, whereby British Subjects will have no advantage over the Foreigner in our Provincial Trade;—therefore

“Resolved, As the opinion of this House, That in [preparing a Revenue Bill for the current year Duties may be imposed so that articles of Provincial growth and manufacture may be protected, and the Industrial Resources of the Province, in their several branches, may receive such Legislative encouragement as will afford employment to the productive industry of the inhabitants.”

This Resolution was allowed to pass without opposition, or even any remark.

WAYS AND MEANS.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. PARTELOW, the House proceeded to the order of the day which was to go into committee of the whole, in consideration of the Ways and Means of raising a Revenue. (Mr. Taylor in the chair of the committee.) Hon. Mr. Partelow said, that this was one of the most important committees which could be raised during the Session, and he had prepared a scheme which he thought would simplify the important questions which they were now called upon to consider. He had divided the amounts, absolutely necessary to be provided for, into two classes. That made payable by law, such as the Civil List Bill, the salary, of the Master of the Rolls, Clerk of the Pleas, Clerk of the Crown on the Circuit, College, Grammar Schools, Parish Schools, Act. The other, such charges as might be denominated ordinary services not provided for by statute, such as the collection and protection of the Revenue, the expenses of the Legislature, and the Grants to old Soldiers and School-masters for periods for which the Sessions could not certify. The hon. member then went into a minute enumeration of the charges for all these services last year, and stated that a saving of £1200 would be made in the collection of the Revenue and he also said that the Militia

force cost the Province nearly £1000 a year. On this service he thought a saving of one half might be effected.—Adjutant's get now £15 a year each, and Sergeants Major £7 10s.—he would propose giving the one £7 10s. and the other 3 15s. The whole of these services, including a balance due on the Restook Bridge, would bring the sum necessary to be provided for, to something like £65,000. They could not, he thought, have less than £20,000 for Roads and Bridges this year, and as any appropriations which they might make for Railroads would not be required during the present season, he only proposed to raise such a Revenue as would be sufficient to meet the ordinary demands of the country, and provide for the Roads and Bridges; and they would also require a sum for improving the navigation of the St. John River. Taking all these things into consideration, he did not think they would get along with a much less Revenue than £100,000. As they were now prohibited from imposing differential duties, he would propose to raise this sum by levying ad valorem duty of ten per cent, including the one per cent. to pay off the loan—on all articles imported into the Province, with the exception of Wines, Brandy, Rum, and other Spirits and Tobacco, and such other articles as they might think it advisable to levy specific duties upon, over and above the ten per cent. The hon. member explained the state of the funded debt, amounting now to £45,000 sterling—the deficiency of last year amounting to £28,000 currency. The assets which were expected during the present year, exclusive of the ordinary Revenue, among which were Bonds to be recovered, £2,000. Balance due on Emigrant expenditure, £7,400, and an advance on the Territorial Revenue from the Crown Lands, which he thought would be made to yield £2,000 per annum. The hon. member also gave a clear but rapid statement of the specific duties he proposed on the excepted articles of Wines, &c., which ranged a little higher than the rates of last year, taking as his data the average of the importation of 1847 and 1848, and giving a comparative statement of the quantities imported in each year, and the amount of duties paid thereon, and contrasted them with those levied in Nova Scotia. In this estimate he had not taken into account the duty on Flour, but he did not see why Wheat Flour should be exempted from duty while all other bread stuffs were allowed to come in free. (Hear, hear.) In the Resolution which he was about to move, he would leave the rate of duty per cent. blank, which could be filled up when the Revenue Bill itself should come up for discussion. In the meantime he would state that he did not bring in this as a Government measure, but submitted it as a scheme of his own, which he thought would produce a Revenue of about £100,000. That amount of Revenue, he thought, it would be necessary to raise, and this scheme would, he thought, accomplish it, but if hon. members were of opinion that a less Revenue should be raised, and a less sum expended on the Roads, a lower rate of ad valorem duty might be levied. He would state, before he sat down, that he saw no reason for any extraordinary alarm respecting the financial affairs of the country. The credit of the Province had been fully sustained, and in order to assure himself that the means of continuing to do so was still in the power of the Government, he had taken steps to ascertain whether the cash credit with the Bank of New Brunswick would be continued after the present year. A meeting of the Directors had been held, and they had resolved to continue the accommodation to the Province. He had, therefore, prepared a Bill on the subject, as the law authorising the Government to avail itself of that accommodation was about expiring. He thought if they adopted the scheme which he had proposed, or any other which might be thought preferable, which would raise a like sum, they could get along very well.

To be Continued.

[The length of this debate will compel us to continue it from time to time.]

WEDNESDAY, 21st February.

This morning, on motion of Hon. L. A. WILMOT, the House went into committee of the whole, on a Bill to authorize the commutation of Debts due the Crown on Sureties in certain cases for work on the Public Roads.

Hon. L. A. WILMOT explained that his object in bringing in this Bill was to enable settlers on Crown Lands, who were indebted to the Crown for the balances of the purchase money due on lots on which they had settled, to pay off such encumbrances by work on the roads in the neighbourhood of their own settlements. He had had some difficulty in fixing on a maximum amount to which the privileges of the Bill should be extended, but as £10 and under would include all the hundred acre settlers, he had, after a good deal of deliberation, fixed on that sum. This would enable the poor but industrious settler, who had gone into the wilderness to make a home for himself, to get rid of the Crown debt which was hanging over him, and give him new heart to prosecute his improvements. There was due the Crown on those small lots something like £20,000, scattered over the north and the south, the east and the west—he believed there was not a single county in which there was not some parties who would be relieved by the Bill. His plan was this, to appoint one or more commissioners in each parish, whose duty it should be to give notice to all settlers within his district who wished to avail themselves of the Act to enroll their names, and after this was done to point out where the work should be performed, and when it was performed to the satisfaction of the said commissioner, that he should then make a return to the Crown Land office, certifying the value of the work so performed, and the party would immediately get credit for the same on his indebtedness to the Crown, and when the balance was paid up, the grant for his land would issue immediately. The way he proposed paying these commissioners was this, he would oblige every applicant, on enrolling his name with the commissioner, to pay into his hands five per cent, or one shilling on the pound, on the amount of work which he proposed to perform to pay off his Crown debt. In this