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SAMUEL WATTS, Editor and Proprietor.

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PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

[From the Official Debates.]

BILL TO OBTAIN GREATER FACILITIES TO CUT AND CARRY AWAY LUMBER FROM CROWN LANDS.

HOUSE IN COMMITTEE.

Mr. MUNRO said, that he wished the advocacy of this bill had fallen upon more able shoulders than his own; but he would endeavor, as briefly as possible, to explain its objects. After repeating that part of the Civil List act which relates to the sale of Lumber Licenses by public auction only, he provided that all applications for permission to cut and carry away lumber from Crown Lands, received at the office prior to the week appointed for the general sale of lumber licenses, in the month of July, such applications being for lands not under license the previous year, shall be granted to the first applicant, on the payment of such sum as the Governor-in-Council may, from time to time, determine; provided that he has no other application for the same ground on the same day, and that no application be for less than two, or more than four and a half square miles. The necessity for such a regulation was apparent. It frequently happened that persons engaged in lumbering, previous to returning from the woods, traveled in good timber berths, and perhaps, after many days of toil and fatigue, found a previously undiscovered well timbered district. Now, the object of this bill was to grant this discovery a license, without setting up the berth at public competition; and in such cases the Government might charge more, without being able to do so, and the applicant would not run the risk of losing it at public auction. He thought that such a provision would work equitably, with both the small and the large operator. It was hard that a man should not have a preference when he, at great toil and expense, had discovered a tract, and that he should be obliged to wait for the next general sale, when he could have had it at once. He thought that two or more persons applied for the same lumber berth, on the same day, the Surveyor General should appoint a day for the sale thereof, by public auction, of which due notice should be given, and the sale be made by auction, to the highest bidder, under the existing rules and regulations of the Crown Lands Office. Under those provisions, neither of the applicants would suffer injustice. It would be seen upon examination of the Bill, that it was not the intention to disturb the usual annual sale, but only to authorize the issuing of licenses to the discoverer of new berths (providing there were no other applications for it on the same day) immediately after the Surveyor General to the Crown Lands Office. He was aware that the 6th section of this Bill was somewhat new. It provided that when the occupier of a licensed Timber Berth of not less than three square miles, situate on any of the streams of the Province, shall incur heavy expenditure in rendering such stream navigable for the purpose of drifting logs or timber, and shall provide such expenditure for the satisfaction of the Surveyor General, either by the certificate of the Local Deputy of the District in which the berth was situated, or by the affidavit of two disinterested persons, cognizant of the facts, before a Justice of the Peace of the County containing such certificate, that it should be lawful for the Surveyor General to continue the license of the occupier of such Timber Berth, from one to three years, in proportion to the amount expended in rendering the stream navigable. The Bill proposed, that for an outlay of over \$100, an occupier should be entitled to a license for a longer term than the term for which the license was first granted. For an expenditure of \$500, and upwards, the term should be three years, and so on, in proportion to the amount expended; such extended occupation of licensed Timber Berths, to be subject to the payment of such annual mileage, and to such rules and regulations, as the Governor in Council might from time to time appoint. He thought that the provisions of this Bill would be a boon to the lumbermen of this country, without tending, in the slightest degree, to depreciate the receipts of the Crown Land Office.

Mr. CUSTIGAN said, that lumbering was carried on to a considerable extent, and he was somewhat acquainted with the mode of operations. This might possibly be some objection to this Bill, but the object was to protect the poor man, who was good. He had known cases where poor men had, at a sacrifice of time and expense, discovered good berths; and upon those berths being put up at sale, rich operators obtained them, and the poor man was compelled to lose his labor and expense. He thought it necessary that some protection should be thrown around the poor man in this respect. He did not see much objection to the 6th section. Under the present law there was no encouragement for the lumberer to build dams, or improve the navigation of streams. But if the operator could obtain an extension of license, according to the amount expended in improvements, it would be an inducement for him to do so, and the stream, upon which he was operating, navigable. He felt inclined to support the Bill. Progress was then reported.

BILL RELATING TO THE REVENUE.

The Provincial Secretary moved and moved the House into Committee on a Bill relating to the revenue. In making the motion, the hon. Secretary said, he felt called upon to offer a few observations. Yesterday when he had proposed moving the Bill, Mr. Fisher had intimated his desire that it should be postponed until this day, and gave notice that he would then move a resolution.

[As the hon. Secretary's Speech was in some degree based on Mr. Fisher's Resolution, which had been read to the House on a previous day, it is here inserted, instead of being placed at the head of Mr. Fisher's Speech, which it was in due form, for greater perspicuity.—Barre.]

Resolved, That the further consideration of the Revenue Bill be postponed for — days, and if, in the meantime, it appears that the necessity for imposing additional taxes cannot be avoided by a reduction of the estimate, or greater economy in the expenditure of some public services such as the payment of the interest on the public debt, or the like, or which are only partially taxed, rather than sugar and molasses, articles which enter so largely into the consumption of all classes, and affect all the industrial interests of the country.

He desired to show a case why the House should go into Committee on the Bill without any delay, as proposed in the Resolution. He had had considerable experience in Revenue matters. In 1855 a Revenue Bill was enacted, and another in 1859. This was the last legislation on the subject. The Bill then before the House proposed to alter the present law, which did not expire till next year. Measures of this kind were essentially unpopular. He well remembered when a Bill of a character somewhat similar to the present one was brought in by the Government of a former day to establish the Railway Impost. It met with much opposition; five out of six of the hon. members who subsequently formed the Government of the Country, voted against it. And yet, subsequently, when these very parties came into power, they did not deem it expedient to repeal this law, which had been carried in the face of the opposition. Opposition to such measures afforded an excellent opportunity for exhibiting patriotism and obtaining popularity. The Attorney General of that day, when the Railway Impost was carried, was the proposer of the present Resolution. He was then censured in this Country for the report he had given to that measure, but the present afforded him an excellent opportunity to atone for the unpopularity he had gained, by opposing a measure now, of a very similar character to the one he had then supported; and he could thus show his philanthropy and disinterested zeal for the poor man. It was just possible that such a course might result in his political advantage, and he expected that the hon. gentleman

man would, when the time came to support his resolution, display that fervid eloquence and argumentative power for which he was eminent.

One of the questions on which the public in general was least informed, was that of Tariff and Revenue. The reason of this was because its workings were more remote than direct taxation, in so far as how much he was taxed, and how much tax he had to pay every year. If it was \$5 or \$10 or whatever it was, he knew it, knew how it was collected or how expended. It mattered not how much per cent. he was charged, or whether he was under-rated or over-rated, he knew exactly what he had to pay. The questions, however, before the House were, how much tax or revenue must be collected, and was it properly expended when collected. The manner in which a Revenue was raised was different from direct taxation. A certain sum was required to carry on the business of the country. This was collected in two ways. One was by an impost, on articles manufactured in the Province, or imported from other countries. The other was by a duty on the whole of its industry.

Take a new Country where the whole of its industry was directed to one or two branches of trade or business, shipbuilding and lumbering for instance. The imports into that Country would be much larger in proportion to the population than into this country, and in other countries, where the various branches of trade and industry were all pursued, and many of the wants of the country supplied by the industry and ingenuity of its own people. In Newfoundland, for illustration, the imposts collected showed that there was very much more of the produce of all kinds of industry from other countries imported into that, than in some of the other colonies, for the reason, that most of the industry in that Island was directed to one branch of business, namely—fishing. If the imports of a country were large, and were subsequently diminished by the increase of domestic manufacture, or otherwise, the duties of course diminished in the same rate. These facts were applicable to this Province. Our country had changed materially within the last ten or twelve years. By the laws of 1851 a large number of articles were subject to duties of various kinds, which since that time had been entirely exempted. First there was the Reciprocity Treaty. Under that a large number of articles had been struck off the list of duties, and the duties on the remainder had been reduced. Then came the law which authorized the Governor in Council by proclamation and without further enactment, so soon as any of the B. N. A. Colonies, the United States or West Indies, had extended similar provisions to that Province, to authorize all articles, the growth, produce or manufacture of any such country or countries to be admitted free of duty into this Province. This law had added another large list to the number of exempted articles. Then there was the progress of the manufacturing interests in our Province. In woolen goods; in furniture; in castings; agricultural implements, and a variety of other articles. The duties on these articles had been diminished, and the amount produced by our own industry, and as a necessary consequence the duty which was formerly paid on the quantity of the various articles now manufactured within our own boundaries, was lost to the Revenue. These united causes had created such a diminution in the revenue, that it had become necessary to alter and re-arrange the duties on the imports of the Province. This was done in 1851 for instance one shilling a ton had been paid on all coal brought into the Province. Three shillings on every barrel of flour; one shilling per barrel on rye flour; one shilling per barrel on oat meal; two pounds a head on all cattle and horses brought from Nova Scotia and the United States or elsewhere into the Province. There had been all struck off and the revenue of course had suffered in consequence. There was then a duty on apples, on dried fruit, on peas and beans of one shilling and six pence per bushel, two shillings and four pence per cwt. on oat meal, and one penny per pound on various kinds of salt meats and provisions which entered largely into the consumption of the lumbering and other industrial classes of the Province. These duties had been on the necessities of life, and had yielded large returns to the revenue; but had since all been admitted to the list of articles free of duty. Then there were other articles on which there was then a considerable duty, such as molasses, silk, and a number of other things placed upon the free list.—There was still another class on which the duty had been reduced, articles which then paid in some instances 30 per cent, in others 20, and in others 15. These had been all reduced to 12½, with the exception of a few at 15 per cent, to which was to be added the Railway Impost.

Then came the manufacturers. When the Corporation Bill was before the House on a previous day, it had shown that there existed a unanimous opinion on the part of the hon. members that these interests should not be sacrificed in any way, but on the contrary, be encouraged by all consistent means. The House had then, and the Legislature had then, and carried it so far as to decide for the encouragement of parties investing funds in manufacturing companies that they should not be liable for the debts of those companies beyond the amount of the stock they had invested in the company. Although the growth of domestic manufacture had increased, and the duties on imports did not prevent them from diminishing its revenue by reducing the quantity of imports, these interests could not be sacrificed but from the rapid growth it became necessary to re-arrange the tariff so as to keep the revenue up to the requirements of the country, and to make it in amends for the diminution occasioned by the increase of these manufacturing interests. It was necessary to put the duties on articles which were still imported, and which were not likely to be manufactured in this country.

The first question was, what was the extent and value of our imports? Whenever a proposition was put forth to increase duties, a great outcry was made about increased taxation. Nothing was more successful for political purposes than this cry. But to come to the fair state of the case—the house should ask itself, whether the amount sought to be collected was more than required, and if it was proposed to be levied upon such articles as would make it least felt by all classes? How much revenue was required, and how was it to be best obtained?

The policy of the present Government, and also of the Government of which Mr. Fisher was the head, had been to extend as far as possible the benefits of free trade between the British North American Colonies.

The measure already alluded to, authorizing the Governor in Council by simple proclamation to admit all articles the growth, production and manufacture of any other British North American Colonies, of the West Indies or the United States, into this Province free of duty, upon their extending a like privilege to this Province, was passed during the administration of which Mr. Fisher was the head. It was also during his administration that this act called to establish a reciprocal free trade, was forwarded to the Colonial Secretary of Great Britain for the purpose of receiving Her Majesty's consent. Objection was then taken to the Bill, based on two grounds; 1st—because it admitted into this Province articles, the growth, production and manufacture of the West Indies and United States, on a footing more favorable than that extended to British goods. The 2nd, because it extended that privilege to articles of these Colonies which was not extended to articles of British production or manufacture.

The Royal assent was not formally withheld from this measure, as the Revenue could not then have been collected under it in that case, but it was consented to only, on condition that this clause should be carried into effect. Just after this communication from Canada was received by the Governor of this Province, stating their willingness to carry out the arrangement. This communication was also sent to the Colonial Secretary, and of course received the same reply. From the wording of the ob-

jections taken by the British Government to this measure, the Pro. Government were led to hope that if its operation were confined exclusively to the British North American Colonies, or at least to Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and this Province, the principle might be conceded.

The Government, on this matter, and subsequently when the (Provincial Secretary) went to Nova Scotia to confer with the members of that Government upon this subject, and relative to obtaining Her Majesty's assent to it. The members of that Government concurred with his views on the subject. He had also visited Prince Edward Island and found the same opinion prevalent there. After his return, a memorandum was forwarded to England, of the state of the case, and shortly after his (the hon. Secretary's) arrival in London, during the past season, he had been informed that the principle, so far as these lower Colonies of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island were concerned, had been conceded. When he returned to Fredericton the Government took up the subject and a proposition was made to the Financial Secretary of Nova Scotia to establish a Uniform Tariff. All the specific articles were taken up, and suggestions made of the manner in which the duties on each in the different provinces should be assimilated to the duties on the same articles in the other provinces might be made to correspond. This was the proposition to Nova Scotia, and it was so arranged as to meet as near as possible the requirements of the two Provinces. It was found, however, in working it out, that there were several difficulties in the way. The establishing a uniform tariff, involved a limited uncertainty amount of revenue of the previous year, of \$1,000,000 in other words, might not exactly suit each country, as the rate might give more to one than it required and less to the other. From recent communication with Mr. Howe of Nova Scotia, he (the Secretary) had learned that this measure could not be carried into effect at the present time. From communications from Mr. the Hon. the Attorney General, the Minister of Finance, he had also been informed that there was no probability of its being effected in that quarter this season either, and so the matter stood. The position of the Province at the close of the fiscal year was this; last year the revenue fell short in the value of our imports of last year as compared with those of the previous year by \$1,000,000. In other words, our imports last year only amounted to \$5,000,000 while they amounted in 1860 to \$6,000,000. This was attributed to two causes, one was the increase of manufactures in the province, which diminished the demand for a supply from abroad. The second was owing to the depressed state of trade which rendered people unable to import as much as in the last year. The revenue of the Province for the year 1860 was \$2,400,000 or \$2,500,000 as formerly, but only paid \$1,940,000. This was the practical state of the case. He desired to impress upon the minds of the hon. members the fact that it was absolutely necessary to collect a certain amount of Revenue to maintain the credit of the country. As the duties on imports were reduced, and the amount of our imports, this amount had not been raised, and the object of re-arranging the tariff was not to increase taxation, but to place the duties on articles in such a way that the Government should receive the necessary amount, and bring the Revenue again up to the expenditure. This amount of \$1,940,000 was the amount which had to be raised, and it was necessary to make up the deficiency of last year, and also to make arrangements for the present year's emergencies, with a sufficient surplus to pay back the deficiency of last year in the next ensuing year. The question was, how should the additional duties required to make this up, be imposed, to the best advantage, and in such a manner that they would be distributed and least felt. It was suggested in the resolution that the Bill should be postponed for a number of days, in order to consider if some expenditures might not be struck off and reference was made to relieving the working classes. Let the House take up the list of expenditures and see if any of them could be struck off, and let the Government have the articles of public expenditure from the civil list down to the expenses of Wardens in the House of Assembly, with a brief Committee on a number of them, for the purpose of showing that they were small, as they could be made, without exception, and that if any expenditure was struck off, it would be a great advantage to the expenses of the present year. Allowing to the \$1,000,000 appropriated for the military and militia duties, he observed, that previous to last year the province had apparently been removed from the ravages of war. The present difficulties which existed in the United States, had caused a large army to be raised, and organized and maintained there. The revenue of the United States, under Trent with their other concomitant circumstances, had shown the state of public feeling everywhere, and now all were aware that a possibility of war existed, into which the provinces might be precipitated at any time. Our position with our republican neighbors had changed within the last year, and the duties on imports, and the duties on goods between Great Britain and the American States, these provinces would in all probability be its fields. Common prudence dictated that some preparation should be made to meet all such emergency, and he held that any hon. member would be guilty of dereliction, who did not co-operate in making such preparations. The hon. Secretary of Nova Scotia might at any time be surprised, and it was the duty of the representatives to use every precaution, even though it involved a considerable expense.

Reverting to the duties, were they acceptable? That proposed on molasses had been the most objectionable. It was first proposed to tax molasses four cents per gallon. When this proposition was made, negotiations were pending between this Province and Nova Scotia to establish free trade. Since then it has been found impracticable to carry out this design at present. The four cents per gallon and the Railway Impost would have made our duty on this article nearly equal to the five cents, imposed on it in Nova Scotia, but the necessity for assimilating those duties had ceased for the time, and the Government did not feel called upon to press this duty for that reason. It was therefore proposed that it should be reduced to two cents per gallon, and in lieu of the amount struck off a half per cent, should be added to the Railway impost which would make up the deficiency.

Up to the year 1854, a duty of 1d. had been charged on this commodity; this had been struck off. One of the reasons urged for striking it off was, that it would give this Province an advantage over the other Colonies where duty was charged on it, and increase our trade with the West Indies. Another reason was, that the amount derived from it was small, while the expense of collecting it was just as great as if the duty had amounted to five times what it was. It was just as much a nuisance to collect it, as if it had been increased fourfold. In P. E. Island, the duty on molasses was 2½c. in Newfoundland, 4c. in Nova Scotia, 5c. and there was also a duty on it in Canada. Now, were the reasons urged for removing that duty in 1854 correct? They were not, as the exports and imports since had proved. The import of molasses in 1852 was 6,372 cwt., (it was estimated in cwt., at that time) in '53, 8,879; in '54, 19,204; making an average up to that year of 10,551 cwt. Then the duty was repealed. In 1855, 15,161 cwt. was brought in; in '56, 2,775 cwt.; in '57, 4,237 cwt.; in '58, 1,328 cwt.; in '59, 4,968 cwt.; in '60, 2,122 cwt.; making an average for each year, since the repeal of the duty, of only 5,110 against the former average, 10,551, or a falling off over one half, which conclusively showed that the object of repealing the former duty had not been realized. And he believed that the proposed duty on this article being within a fraction the same as that previous to 1854 would now be cheerfully paid.

The next article was rum. Five cents additional were sought to be imposed on this article. It was an article which should be taxed to its utmost capacity; but the difficulty to be met was, to find the exact amount of tax it would bear. If the tax was increased too much, it would find its way into smuggling. That the law was evaded and the revenue consequently lost this duty, the question was, could that amount be collected, without smuggling? The duty on this article had formerly been much higher than it was now sought to be made, but it had induced so much smuggling that the duty on it had to be diminished, which was done in 1850. The Government of this Province had yet to consider, for next year, what duty they had to lay, besides what they had to lay on this article, in the United States, which would greatly diminish the probability of smuggling, by taking away many of the facilities for it, and now the inducements would be rather the other way, as their duty was higher than ours, in this Province. The duty had formerly been 30 cents per gallon, and the present Bill would make it 35 cents—five cents additional.

He wished again to refer to the article of molasses. It was estimated that the importation of that article would be, for the present year, \$75,000. A part of the present year had already elapsed, and of course the duty would be collected only on the part of the year which had elapsed. For next year, when the duty would be paid during the whole year, the value of its importation was estimated at \$400,000, which would be an increase to the revenue of \$8,000.

Next came gin and whisky. On gin it was proposed to add 10 cents—50 cents were already imposed; 50 cents was the duty of Nova Scotia, and the duty of the United States was 50 cents. It was estimated that this source would yield the revenue \$8,000. On whisky the same duty would also be imposed. It was estimated that the imports in these articles for the remainder of the present year would be \$80,000, and for the next whole year, \$140,000 which would yield the revenue for the remainder of this year, \$4,000, and next year, \$8,000. On wine a duty of 50 cts. per gallon were formerly imposed—15 cents additional were now sought to be added. The re-arrangement of the tariff proposed in the Bill, relative to this article, would give about \$1,000 to the revenue, and was so arranged as to be heavier upon the heavy wines and cheaper upon the light ones.

Next came additional duties on sugar. It was sought to be added to green tea, this was an article used generally by the wealthier classes, and would not affect the poorer portions of the population. From this source \$800 would be derived. The probability was that an amount of duty would be paid on quantities of this article which was not consumed in this Province. There was a duty of 15 per cent. on sugar in the United States, and as ours was less, parties who lived on the borders would buy from us in preference; and although we would not in any way encourage smuggling, yet the probability was, that whatever smuggling did take place would be to the advantage of our revenue.

Sugar was next. On this article 20 cents per hundred pounds were sought to be imposed. The duty on Nova Scotia was \$1.00 per hundred pounds. In this Province it had been \$1.40, and the additional 20 cents would make them alike. Objection was taken to the duty on this article by the ex-Attorney General, but the duty was not large, and the amount expected from it would be small—not more than \$2,000. It was suggested, that parties who imported sugar largely into the Province, and who were less, parties who lived on the borders would buy from us in preference; and although we would not in any way encourage smuggling, yet the probability was, that whatever smuggling did take place would be to the advantage of our revenue.

It had been suggested that an additional duty might better have been imposed on Iron, of three per cent., than on the articles of sugar or molasses. But suppose there was such a tax, it would give a small amount, and would have been heavy on all our manufacturing interests, particularly on ship building. The ship builder would then be placed at a disadvantage in foreign markets, by being obliged to pay 34 per cent. on the anchors and chains which he imported into the Province only to send out again, with his ship, to market.

Then again, it was proposed to tax articles of luxury—five per cent. on silks and satins. There were some reasons for not doing this. He had supposed that a large quantity of these articles were imported into this Province, and had communicated with a number of the leading merchants of the Province, to find out the amount. From them he learned that the annual imports amounted to no more than \$25,000 or \$30,000. Five per cent. on these would only give \$1,500 after all.

Then these were articles which offered every inducement to the smuggler, and for fraud in every way. It was small bulk, they could be easily and secretly transported from place to place, or secreted in barrels of cotton goods, and entered in that way; to avoid duty, and although affidavits were required at the Custom House, of contents of these barrels, still means would be found, by tension or otherwise, to defraud the Revenue. The articles were those of luxury, but at the same time, could not be taxed with any guarantee that the amount would be paid.

To jewelry the same arguments applied, as well as to lace, and other valuable articles.—If the duty was made too high, smuggling increased, and the Revenue generally lost by it.

The hon. Secretary here again referred to the negotiations which had taken place between the Province and Nova Scotia, and stated that the policy of the Government would be if they remained in office to establish a free trade between these lower colonies, though he was not prepared to say what course they would pursue so far as Canada was concerned.

The first proposition had been to have a uniform Tariff, and divide the revenue according to population. The objection to this was that the vigilance of either Government might be relaxed in collecting its own revenue when it knew that at all events it would be paid by the other Government.

By the Bill, the revenue expected to be derived would be about \$31,800 additional this year as this was only for a portion of the year the sum next year would be greater; probably \$50,000, that was if the imports were the same as in 1860. Rum \$7,000; Gin and Whisky \$10,000; Wine \$1,000 Sugar \$4,000; Green Tea \$1,000; and molasses for the whole year \$15,000 or \$16,000, treble included; altogether about \$40,000. Then there was the one-half per cent additional on the impost, which would amount to about \$60,000, to be added next year. This would enable the Government to pay back the \$35,000 they proposed to borrow by loan at three years, besides enabling them to meet the payments of the present and each successive year as they come due.

With regard to the resolution of the ex-Attorney Gen. so far as retrenchment was concerned, it need not affect the Bill, if a small sum could be struck off it would leave that much surplus, and this could be added to the By-road money.

The whole policy of the Government was to increase the manufactures of the country as they gave employment to our own people, but it must not be forgotten that the increase of these manufactures while it denoted prosperity at the same time diminished the revenue.

One note with regard to British goods. It should not of course influence the House to diverge from the path of this country's interest; but when recently in England endeavoring to enlist the sympathy

of capitalists in favor of the Intercolonial Railway, the question which assailed him everywhere was: What made us impose duties on British goods? and where was the use of advancing means to construct an Intercolonial Railway and encourage trade with the mother country, while we evinced such a desire to repress it by imposing these large duties. This alluded more particularly to the duties of Canada, and the Canadian delegate refused to go down to Manchester lest he should be questioned on this particular subject.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

BILL TO AFFORD GREATER FACILITIES TO CUT AND CARRY AWAY LUMBER FROM CROWN LANDS.

MARCH 27.

Hon. Mr. TOWN.—Had the title of this bill been "A Bill to afford greater facilities for the lumberers of the Country dividing among themselves, the wild lands of the Province without any adequate return to the Revenue," it would have been a much better expression of the true tendency of the measure. This bill is one which demands a serious and careful consideration, the most careful, discreet, and unprejudiced consideration. To whom I ask do the Crown Lands of the Province belong? They belong to all classes alike. The Agriculturalist, the Fisherman, and the Lumberman all alike are interested in and have a claim upon them and for their mutual advantage the public domain should be given to the people. But this great fact has been forgotten and the Legislature of this country has for a long time ignored and by the Lumbering interest and have solely aimed at one end the enlarging and increasing the facilities for lumbermen to strip our lands of its timber. Is this correct? Are we not under the most solemn obligations? Is not our people entitled not only to the Imperial Government on the surmount of the casual and territorial revenues, but to Messrs. Barings to preserve the timber lands of our Province, in order to make them available to meet that for which they are pledged in both the above cases,—the payment of the Civil List and the Railway debt. In a letter to Messrs. Barings, dated London, 25th Dec. 1850, the then Attorney General says—

"The money to be raised by Debentures issued by the Government redeemable in twenty years or upwards, not exceeding thirty, bearing interest at the rate of six per cent, per annum payable semi-annually in London. The form amounts and time of payment of the principal and interest to be paid to the Bankers of the Province, and to the Civil List and any existing liability, to become a first charge on all the Revenues of the Province derivable from duties of customs, sales of lands and timber, export duties on lumber, and the royalty on the mines and minerals, which with the road itself, shall be pledged to the holders. For the purpose of extinguishing the principal and interest of the Debentures, a sinking fund to be created out of the sale of all the lands and timber in the districts it traverses or more directly benefits, amounting to about \$800,000 acres, and one and a half per cent. annually, of the profits of the road; the interest to be paid out of the general Revenue without interfering with this fund."

The course we have pursued has given the Lumbermen of the Province a controlling power over the affairs of the Province; their influence is felt at elections, and within the Legislative halls that influence directly or indirectly effects our deliberations. The trade and influence of those concerned in the lumbering interest, is within the Province, and it is among the things that were, and I thought, would agree with him, that they were not necessary, and ought to be taxed all they would bear. It had been suggested that instead of the duty on molasses and sugar, it should have been on the article of Salt. He had no doubt such a duty would have given the Revenue money on much of which the Province was not entitled to a cent, but on the other hand it would particularly affect the Fishery interests, and the fishermen ought to be encouraged to push their trade, by every legitimate means.

It had been suggested that an additional duty might better have been imposed on Iron, of three per cent., than on the articles of sugar or molasses. But suppose there was such a tax, it would give a small amount, and would have been heavy on all our manufacturing interests, particularly on ship building. The ship builder would then be placed at a disadvantage in foreign markets, by being obliged to pay 34 per cent. on the anchors and chains which he imported into the Province only to send out again, with his ship, to market.

Then again, it was proposed to tax articles of luxury—five per cent. on silks and satins. There were some reasons for not doing this. He had supposed that a large quantity of these articles were imported into this Province, and had communicated with a number of the leading merchants of the Province, to find out the amount. From them he learned that the annual imports amounted to no more than \$25,000 or \$30,000. Five per cent. on these would only give \$1,500 after all.

Then these were articles which offered every inducement to the smuggler, and for fraud in every way. It was small bulk, they could be easily and secretly transported from place to place, or secreted in barrels of cotton goods, and entered in that way; to avoid duty, and although affidavits were required at the Custom House, of contents of these barrels, still means would be found, by tension or otherwise, to defraud the Revenue. The articles were those of luxury, but at the same time, could not be taxed with any guarantee that the amount would be paid.

To jewelry the same arguments applied, as well as to lace, and other valuable articles.—If the duty was made too high, smuggling increased, and the Revenue generally lost by it.

The hon. Secretary here again referred to the negotiations which had taken place between the Province and Nova Scotia, and stated that the policy of the Government would be if they remained in office to establish a free trade between these lower colonies, though he was not prepared to say what course they would pursue so far as Canada was concerned.

The first proposition had been to have a uniform Tariff, and divide the revenue according to population. The objection to this was that the vigilance of either Government might be relaxed in collecting its own revenue when it knew that at all events it would be paid by the other Government.

By the Bill, the revenue expected to be derived would be about \$31,800 additional this year as this was only for a portion of the year the sum next year would be greater; probably \$50,000, that was if the imports were the same as in 1860. Rum \$7,000; Gin and Whisky \$10,000; Wine \$1,000 Sugar \$4,000; Green Tea \$1,000; and molasses for the whole year \$15,000 or \$16,000, treble included; altogether about \$40,000. Then there was the one-half per cent additional on the impost, which would amount to about \$60,000, to be added next year. This would enable the Government to pay back the \$35,000 they proposed to borrow by loan at three years, besides enabling them to meet the payments of the present and each successive year as they come due.

are being squandered and that which should be a source of income now makes comparatively no return. That the present system is ruinous in its effects involving the complete loss to property of what we should guard and watch over and preserve for the benefit of posterity. And now the question arises whether in view of these experiences we should not stop and hesitate about proceeding any further in the direction in which we have been too long and rapidly going. It was urged by some that the Government increases the power vested in it and raises the stampage so as to make it equivalent with that made to private proprietors that it cannot be collected. I think this an unjustifiable reflection upon the Province. We are a law abiding people and I contend that private individuals can not collect duties which the Government fails in doing. One instance in proof of what can be done by a deputy in Charlotte made a fortune by looking sharply after trespassers receiving a percentage of 25 per cent. on what he collected—the stampage charged being 7s. 6d. per thousand. One fact we should remember in connection with these mentioned that our stock of Lumber is fast disappearing. And in view of the large and constant consumption in the United States as well as in the Province, it may not be long before we will need all we have to meet this home consumption without seeking a market across the Atlantic. How essential then that we should husband our resources.—And too while we have a reserve from which with wide and easy management we could create a fund sufficient to pay off our Railway and other debts. How, can we justify ourselves in disregarding this only resource left us for such a purpose and failing to avail ourselves at once of the means within our reach. We can not justify ourselves in such a course. The settling lands of our country are valuable but they can not be sold for more than a few shillings an acre, and the settlement of nearly the whole value of these lands must be expended in roads and bridges. The only source from which we can hope to form a sinking fund to pay off our debts must be from our Timber Lands.

General News.

MR. WEED IN PARLIAMENT.—In his last letter from London, Mr. Weed says:—

"I go when I get time to the Parliament House, and this evening in some of the debates on American affairs, but it did not come on."

I begin to like the way business is done in Parliament. The manner is business like. There is no 'buncombe,' no 'spread eagle' declamation. Men who have sense talk sensibly, and to the purpose. The Ministers who are members also, sit on the right of the Speaker, to explain the views of the Government, and to answer the questions of the Opposition. Although the body is composed of some 600 members, the Chamber is not half as large as our Hall of Representatives. The House is only full when it divides on important questions, and then many stand up.

In reading as we do in English papers, reports of debates, the frequent occurrence of a 'Heard' or 'seems' sentence, and in listening to these debates, you soon discover a reason for, and a fines in, these interjections. They occasion no interruption, but rather add than embarrass the speaker."

J. B. Gough is very much disgusted with Canada. He recently said in 'Troy'— "There are a great number of good people in this country, but the people in Canada. The British residents there endeavor to be much more English in their habits, customs and prejudices, than the people who dwell in England. They play second fiddle to English snobbery. The present season I had engagements for three weeks there, but after lecturing nine evenings in different places, and having seen the people in reference to this country, became so unbearable that one day I sat down, wrote a letter, and declined to fulfil the remaining engagements."

John C. Hoeman, alias the "Benbow Boy," sailed for England on Saturday in the steamer City of Washington, accompanied by his brother. It is said that he has been engaged by Tom Sawyer at a salary of \$250 per week; and expenses, to accompany his old antagonist and his circus on a tour throughout Great Britain, but the Fancy are of opinion that his ulterior object is to make a match with the present champion, who has on several occasions boldly expressed his desire to enter the ring with him. This latter report is predicated upon the fact that Hoeman has been offering to bet that he would yet bring home the English Champion's Belt.—Boston Advertiser.

A pedlar, named Kerr, hailing from Watertown, N. Y., was very ingeniously caught lately while passing soldiers belonging to the 62nd Regt., stationed at Montreal, to desert. It appears that the fellow started from Montreal on the ice for the land, which Yankees call the land of liberty, in company with eight soldiers of the above named regiment, but unfortunately the gentlemanly schemes were frustrated, for the soldiers whom he was thus encouraging to desert their allegiance, were the policemen of the regiment, whose duty it was to secure the arrest of any one enticing the men to desert.—Toronto Herald.

A CONSIDERABLE SHOWER.—A correspondent writing from San Jose, California, says: "About a week ago we had a slight shower that lasted about three weeks, when it set in to rain and has kept it up ever since. A rain gauge, carefully kept and registered by Dr. Snell, of Sonoma, Tuolumne County, shows that from the 11th of November, 1861, to the 14th day of January, 1862, seventy-two inches of water fell at that place. This is sufficient explanation to all the world of the cause of our unprecedented deluge. It is also asserted by several persons that the Klamath was forty-two feet above its normal height, and the wire bridge being ninety feet high, makes it one hundred and thirty-two feet perpendicular. The river is narrow at this point, and the measurement was taken on the trees above the bridge."

A singular corroboration of the account of the general famine in the time of Joseph in Egypt, given in the Bible, is found in some ancient Chinese records, which have recently come into the possession of the Chronological Society of London. Chronologists make the famine to have been, as many as a dozen different dates being assigned to it. The Chinese account places its commencement at the year corresponding to 1764 before Christ, and makes it last seven years just as the Hebrew account does.

The London Times of the 25th ultimo says:—In consequence of the case of John Anderson, the escaped slave, the Duke of Newcastle has before the House of Lords a bill providing that in future no writ of habeas corpus shall issue from England into any colony where there is a lawfully established court of justice, authorized to issue such writs.

SINCE PARIS.—A Paris correspondent of the Philadelphia Inquirer writes that Sidiell, the envoy from the South, not to be belittled with the diplomaticateness of the North, entertains most hospitably in the avenue des Champs Elysees. His lady is highly accomplished, and distinguished for her conversational talents and agreeable manners. The salon of the private of the French has become one of the most fashionable rendezvous of the gay world.