

# The Gleaner

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## AND NORTHUMBERLAND SCHEDIASMA.

VOLUME III.]

"Nec aranciarum sunt levis ideo melior, quia ex se fila gignunt nec noxter vilior quia ex alienis libamus ut apes."

No. 27.

MIRAMICHI, TUESDAY MORNING, MARCH 12, 1832.

### THE GLEANER.

#### NEW-BRUNSWICK LEGISLATURE.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY, FEBRUARY 17.

##### LUMBER LAW.

The Bill to amend the Lumber Law was committed. The only object of this bill appeared to be to amend the lumber act passed last session, so far as it required boards to be of equal width at both ends.

Messrs. Brown, Clinch, Wyer, Hill, Scott, Hayward and Dow supported the bill; from whose observations it appeared, that although it was requisite and proper that boards should be of equal width at both ends, yet that boards were generally sawed from short logs, which tapered a good deal, and that they therefore could not be of the same width all through; that millmen would not saw boards under the requisitions of the new lumber law; and that sworn surveyors would not survey them or take any oaths respecting them, because they could not do so in accordance with the act; and that the trade was thereby greatly impeded.

Mr. CUNARD opposed the bill as perfectly uncalled for and unnecessary.

Mr. S. HUMBERT thought the lumber act of last session the best ever yet passed, and was for that law only, as it now stood, and therefore against this bill.

Mr. SIMONDS admitted the correctness of the statements of the supporters of the bill, but thought it unnecessary, because the provision complained of, in the lumber law, could never be acted on, and the trade would therefore regulate itself. He was not for filling up the statute books with bills, not absolutely needed.

Mr. WARD said a few words on the subject, which we could not hear.—The bill was agreed to.

February 20.

##### BOUNTY REPEAL BILL.

The bill for the repeal of Grain and Fish bounties, and for appropriating the sums annually granted for the same to the improvement of the roads, was this day committed; and the Committee remained in debate on the general principle of the bill (before reading it,) from half past three to half past 4 p. m.; when progress was reported, and leave obtained to sit again, on account of the lateness of the hour. The debate is to be resumed in the morning.

Mr. CUNARD stated the objects of the bill; and also, that since its introduction, he had received important information on the subject from St. Andrews, which proved, that these bounties, or at all events the Fish bounty, simply assisted the trade of the United States and the sister Province, instead of benefitting those for whom it was intended.

Mr. ALLEN thought it would hardly be treating the people well to repeal the Bounty Act, as it had now only one year to run. He knew but very little about the Fish bounty, but he thought the repeal of the Grain bounty would be injurious at present, because as two years were given for clearing lands and raising grain thereon, he supposed that many settlers had commenced or were now commencing operations, with the expectation of eventually receiving the bounty. He thought the Grain bounty had had a very beneficial tendency, in causing the opening of the interior, and in furnishing settlers with necessary implements, which otherwise they could not have purchased. He thought the faith of the Legislature would be questioned, if the act were now repealed.

Mr. S. HUMBERT in a warm and energetic manner supported the views he had formerly advanced; strenuously contending for the benefits produced by both bounties, and therefore opposing the bill; but declaring his readiness to withdraw his opposition, upon being

convinced that the amount usually expended in bounties would, *bona fide*, be actually expended on the roads, over and above the usual road appropriations.

Mr. BROWN, in a long and luminous speech, examined the principle, nature, and tendency of bounties; coming to the conclusion, that their general principle and operation were bad and impolitic; on the ground that trades or manufactures which require bounties, must, in themselves, be losing speculations, as they will not obtain a remunerating price without them; and that, therefore, such speculations should not be encouraged.

He admitted, however, that there were exceptions, and that the Grain bounty was one. Being practically acquainted with its operation, the hon. member detailed his own experience on the subject, tending to prove that the Grain bounty was paid in sums too small to drive a trade out of its proper channel, and that it had been a material assistance to settlers in the wilderness. On the other hand, however, it appeared, that about one third of its value, or at least one fourth, was lost in the time and pecuniary expenditure required to obtain it. The Fish bounty, the hon. member did not think stood on even the same equitable footing as the Grain bounty, as the operation of the former was directly at variance with the principles of the latter.

This assisted the poor man, while that merely benefited the rich. He thought, therefore, the principle of the Fish bounty the most unjust that could ever have been invented, and that its only plausible tendency was its seeming to fulfil the Scriptural assertion, that "to him that hath shall be given; but from him that hath not, shall be taken even that he seemeth to have." The hon. member thought it only loss of time to inquire whether the public faith would be injured, on account of establishments having been formed in dependence on receiving the bounties. There could be no establishments formed in the woods, where the Grain bounty operated; and as to the Fish bounty, the fish was mostly brought in by fishermen not belonging to the Province. No injury, therefore, could be done by the withdrawal. On the whole, the hon. member advocated the discontinuance of the bounties on the ground of expediency; the want of money for such appropriations; and the much greater necessity for and benefit of good roads throughout the country.

Mr. CLINCH followed, on the same side, at some length, but, from the low tone of the hon. member, we could scarcely catch one perfect phrase. He appeared, however, to advocate in a more simple manner, the principles he had advanced on the same subject on a previous day, deprecating the bounties jointly, severally, and *in toto*, and urging the paramount necessity and utility of great and bye roads.

Mr. SIMONDS said a few words, contending that the Committee had heard enough to satisfy them that bounties were not useful. The arguments of the hon. member from Charlotte (Mr. Brown,) were quite sufficient for that purpose. The hon. member briefly followed up the views of Messrs. Brown and Clinch, and expressed his hope that there would be a majority for the repeal. He thought all the arguments he had heard from those who opposed this bill, were only so many reasons for it.

On motion of Mr. Hayward, the Chairman reported progress, &c.; and, the pleadings having been opened on the demandants' side, the respondents will reply to-morrow.

##### LIGHT HOUSES.

Mr. PARTELOW, Chairman of the Committee on Public and Private Accounts, submitted a detailed report on the accounts, vouchers, &c. of the Commissioners for erecting and supplying Light Houses on the coasts of this Province; which we condense for public information.

1st. Report of the Commissioners of St. Paul's Island Light House, with account and vouchers of expenditures in erecting buildings on that Island, for the reception of shipwrecked mariners; together with cost of provisions, and amount of salaries to be paid to the keepers of the establishment, from 24th Sept. 1831, to 1st July, 1832—amounting, in the whole, to £427 3 3. This sum, the report states, is charged against the St. Paul's Light House fund by the Commissioners, and is to be provided for.

2d. Report of the Commissioners of Cape Sable Seal Island Light House, with account and vouchers of expenditure, in erecting the establishment at that place—amounting to £1009 3 8, one half to be paid by Nova Scotia. Credit is given for the Provincial grant of £500, for this service, leaving a balance of £411 10 due the Commissioners.

3d. Report of the Commissioners of Light Houses in the Bay of Fundy, with account and vouchers of expenditure, in erecting Light Houses on Gannet Rock and Point Lepreau—amounting altogether to £2173 13 10. Credit is given for £1000, voted for the Gannet Rock, and £500 for Point Lepreau, besides the proceeds of the old lantern, belonging to the Partridge Island Light House, &c.—amounting in the whole, to £1556 1 11 1-2, leaving a balance on this account of £617 13 10 1-2, overpaid by the Commissioners, and now due them.

In conclusion, the Committee observe, that in all these accounts now reported upon, independently of the attention the Commissioners have shewn in getting the work done at such unusually moderate rates, a liberality has been displayed by them, worthy of great credit,—no commission having been charged, in any one instance, on the large amounts expended, by which a saving of upwards of £15 has accrued to the Province.

February 21.—On motion of Mr. Simonds, Whereas, in the opinion of this house, it is reasonable and proper that his Majesty's Government should be relieved from the payment of the Civil List of the Province, whenever all the Crown Revenues levied and collected, are to be levied and collected therein, or derived from the sale of Crown Lands, and all other sources, should be placed under the management and control of the Provincial Legislature: And Whereas it is necessary with a view to determine the propriety of making a proposition to his Majesty's Government, to pay the whole Civil List of the Province, that information should be obtained as to the amount of all such revenues, and the annual charges thereon:—

Therefore, Resolved unanimously, That an humble Address be presented to his Excellency the Lieut. Governor, praying that his Excellency would cause to be laid before this house, an account of accounts of the receipts and expenditure of his Majesty's Casual, and all other Crown Revenues, levied, collected, and expended in the year One thousand eight hundred and thirty one—Ordered, That Mr. Simonds, Mr. Kinnear, and Mr. Chandler be a Committee to wait upon his Excellency with the Address.

February 22.—On motion of Mr. Kinnear, Whereas the forms and proceedings of the several Courts of Law in this Province, constituted on the same principles as those of the Mother Country, have long been felt to be unsuitable, in many respects, to the infant state of the Country, and deficient in simplicity and perspicuity: And whereas the Ordinance Fee Table, by which the taxation of costs and the Fees of many Officers in the Civil Departments of the Province are regulated, is confused, uncertain, and unequal in its allowances: And whereas it is apparent, from these evils, that the practice of the Law must not only be