

When we view the height to which they have carried the comforts, the knowledge, and the virtue of our species: the extent and number of their foundations of charity: their skill in the mechanic arts, by the improvements of which alone they have conferred inestimable benefits on mankind; the masculine morality, the lofty sense of independence, the sober and rational piety which are found in all classes; their impartial, decorous, and able administration of a code of laws, than which none more just and perfect has ever been in operation; their seminaries of education, yielding more solid and profitable instruction than any other whatever; their eminence in literature and science; the urbanity and learning of their privileged orders; their deliberative assemblies, illustrated by so many profound statesmen and brilliant orators. To desire the ruin of this people would be impious.

## NEW-BRUNSWICK LEGISLATURE.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY, SATURDAY, January 21.  
HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH.

In Committee.—Mr. Ward in the Chair,

Mr. S. Humbert, in expressing his satisfaction with the general tenor of the speech and his assurance that the various matters it embraced would meet with due attention from the House, observed that there were, however, some subjects which the House would deem important, upon which his Excellency had not appeared to touch. The hon. Member then alluded to the subject of the great roads; and observed, that undoubtedly the roads between the chief towns and the principal settlements were of very great importance, but they might exist while other roads were neglected. What, (he asked,) would avail the very best roads between the principal towns and settlements, if the roads in the interior of the country were neglected? These roads appeared to be omitted in the speech; but surely the bye roads (improperly called) received encouragement. It was his opinion that bye-roads, or more properly Cross-roads, were a subject of most important consideration. What could be so important to this country as its speedy settlement, and could the country be settled without roads? What would the first settlement of the country have availed the loyalists, if they had neglected Bye Roads?—The neglect of roads would render any country useless; while by their encouragement it would never remain unprosperous, if the climate and soil were good. The hon. Member then alluded to the example of Nova Scotia, where the cross roads are particularly encouraged.—He thought this Province had not paid sufficient attention to this subject. He hoped the Lieut. Governor had not intended to omit the bye-roads; but that on the contrary, the words, 'every new path opened in the forests,' were intended to include them. The hon. Member adverted to the difficulties new settlers experience for want of sufficient roads, and urged that such persons should be encouraged, not only by personal gifts of money, but by expending money liberally in framing and maintaining roads in the interior. He hoped the House would shew a disposition more than ever to encourage the settlement of the country, by making liberal appropriations for bye-roads.—The hon. Member then briefly alluded to that portion of the speech respecting the disturbances at Madawaska, and expressed a hope that the government had done all that was right and proper in the case.—As to the revenue, he agreed with the opinion expressed in the speech, that the state of the treasury was in fact not so gloomy as had been anticipated; and that the revenue, on the whole, was nearly as good as it had been in former years; inasmuch as, altho' the receipts had not been so great, yet that there was by no means so great a quantity of dutiable goods on hand, entitled to drawback as at this time last year. He hoped, therefore, that without being extravagant, the House would be able to make nearly as good appropriations as they did last year.

Mr. Simonds observed that the improvement of the roads would be the best encouragement to Agriculture; the consequent increased value of property would be the best encouragement to the farming interest. With reference to the recommendation in his Excellency's speech respecting Agriculture, he (Mr. S.) thought the most equitable way of promoting it would be by granting small sums to improve the roads. He took occasion also to observe that as there appeared this year to be a considerable diminution in the revenue, the House must limit its appropriations accordingly. In connection with the subject of Agriculture, the hon. Member alluded also to the Land Office, and observed that there was a sufficient establishment there to manage all land matters. The expense of that office was defrayed by the people, the poor men of the country, the lumberers. Ought the House then to be satisfied to know that immense sums are paid every year into that office, and not to know what becomes of them? He (Mr. S.) believed the casual revenue to be swindling to a mere trifle. The House had no control over those sums; tho' they ought to possess it. But they could not know what becomes of the money paid in there. Could they suppose that the King, if applied to, would refuse to direct those sums to be placed under their control? They ought not to lose one moment in making such application. They were now entirely in the dark respecting them. He (Mr. S.) had reason to believe, that the expenses of that office were far beyond what they ought to be. He could recollect when its whole duties were performed by one individual. The country was then far better satisfied, than now, tho' the office was now crowned with officers, and maintained at a very great expense. There was no calculating the money expended by the present system. Something ought to be done to do away with such a system, and to get the control of the sums paid into that office.—The subject of education and seminaries of learning was strongly recommended in the speech. It quoted the recorded opinion of the hon. Member, that 'the advancement of literature is a real blessing to mankind.' He (Mr. S.) had always been of that opinion, and he thought it therefore the duty of the House to see that all the existing institutions were properly managed. If they were abused and their funds squandered, it would be a material injury to the Pro-

vince. If the same means would do a great deal more than they now do, the House should of course see to it. He (Mr. S.) was satisfied that the money now granted for these purposes did not produce an adequate benefit. This was the universal opinion of the province. More money was expended than the results justify. He thought this matter required serious consideration. The house ought not to allow the public money to be wasted. The province was now rapidly filling with poor emigrants, who had no means of educating their children, but by the aid of parish schools. The grants to parish schools were therefore vastly more beneficial to the province at large than those to the college and grammar schools. But the present parish grants were but a mere trifle in proportion to the wants of the people. It was of the first importance to the province to educate the poor; to train them to the habits of morality and religion; to make good and loyal subjects of them. When it was considered how much had been done for grammar schools; to which in fact the money would have been far better applied. He hoped the House would revolve this matter in their minds, and adopt such measures as would appear to effect the desired objects.—As to the mention made of the Militia in his Excellency's speech, he (Mr. S.) might not perhaps understand what was intended by the special message. If it was meant to recommend the organization of the militia, analogous to that of England, it would never do for this province. It would only impoverish the people. If they sacrificed sufficient time to become well organized, they must neglect their private business. This could not be done. The greatest object that could be attained in this country were all are struggling for existence, would be to have all the militia-men enrolled, so that the commander-in-chief would know what force could be collected. That was all the organization wanted at present. The best way to get a good militia would be to put the men in the way to have something worth defending, to encourage agriculture and improve private property, by making good roads and bridges. This would be a great and general advantage. When he has all this to defend, would any man hesitate to turn out and meet an enemy? No. This would make good and loyal subjects. Calling them out in this way and under these circumstances would make them better soldiers in 7 days, than seven years of the present system. If it was contemplated to introduce more drill-days and to increase the present militia duty, he (Mr. S.) could never be for that. Perhaps the speech was not intended to be taken in that light. Perhaps it merely meant that all the male inhabitants should be well and properly enrolled, so that the returns may show the real force of the country. So far it was proper enough, and consistent with the state of this colony. If it was intended to organize and drill the men as soldiers, to meet a regular column of the enemy, that was quite out of the question. If they were to be called out to the field for two or three week's exercise; such a drill might indeed be effectual, but it could not be expected in this province. They would be useful enough, when called on, in bush fighting, in which way they would be powerful auxiliaries to the regular troops; but further than that they were not prepared to go at present. The expense of any other system would be too great at present.—The hon. Member observed that the speech in general was very good. He was happy to see that his Excellency, even in the short period since his arrival here, had acquired so much useful knowledge of the country. He would therefore infer a hope, that the administration would be well and satisfactorily conducted. Still there might be things in the speech recommended which would require serious consideration. It was the duty of the House towards the people at large, to advise his Excellency in such things; to acquaint him with the views and sentiments of the province; and he (Mr. S.) had no doubt that their proper recommendations would always be effectual. They knew better than the executive at this early period of the new government, what the public sentiments were; if they failed to represent them to his Excellency, they would fail in their duty to their country.

Mr. Partelow moved that that part of the Speech which related to Agricultural improvements, and also that part respecting roads and communications, be referred to a select committee to report thereon.

Mr. Speaker opposed the resolution, on the ground that it connected two things which should be distinctly considered. The honorable Speaker admitted each of those subjects to be of prime importance, but contended that in all countries where their own (his) interest was studied, the Legislature placed Agriculture in the fore ground, and that this House should do the same. He reminded the House that the fish and grain bounties were about to expire, that they could probably not be revived, and that then there would be a considerable annual sum to dispose of,—and he argued the propriety of establishing a bounty in some other way for the encouragement of Agriculture. He was happy to find that his Excellency placed that subject in the first part of his speech. He (Mr. Speaker) was not now prepared with any specific plan, but he thought it required great consideration. He considered that the benefit of bounties was not confined to the rich or to the poor man, but that it was shared by all classes. He observed, that from the earliest settlement of the Province till within a few years, every thing it produced had been consumed by the military and naval establishments, and by the lumberers. Those establishments had now been withdrawn, and the consumption of the lumberer's had decreased; in consequence of which, there was now an immense surplus of agricultural produce. No one interest could now be found suffering so severely as the farming. The House were therefore called on to take some method of improving it. The former market for country produce had failed. It was necessary to see if another could be found. How could the House do so? By encouraging the farmer to prepare articles for market, by bounties on salted pork and beef and grain. But there existed a great prejudice against the flour of this country: It could only fetch \$6 per barrel in the market, while American produced \$8 or \$8 1/2. This fact, this false prejudice was a reason why the Legislature should be called on to encourage the farming interest. He (Mr. Speaker) would defer further remarks till some specific measure on the subject should be brought forward. In the meantime, if nothing could be done this session, the minds of the people would be turned to this subject. He hoped the House would refer the agricultural paragraph to a separate select committee.

Mr. Cunard supported the resolution, because it connected two things that ought to go together. It had been admitted that the best way to encourage agriculture would be to improve the roads, and that the grain and fish bounties had not had a tendency to

benefit the the farmers. It was found that good roads benefited agriculture most, why make two objects of these subjects? The hon. Speaker has mentioned a want of market for country produce. But there could be no market without roads, and making roads was the great mode of encouragement to farming. The grain and fish bounties were about to expire, that subject would be taken up by the committee, and they might find the best way to dispose of the money. Those bounties were no benefit. They had been known to encourage a partial tendency was about to expire, and that if the money could be so applied as to benefit the whole country, the House could not do better than so to apply it. It would not do, by artificial means to give a price or market to any produce. They could not force it upon the country, nor give a bounty to overcome prejudice. The committee reporting the best way of applying the money to the general benefit of the province, would not bar the House from giving money to encourage Agriculture in what way they thought best. But the money hitherto generally given for bounties ought to be applied to the improvement of the roads.

Mr. S. Humbert argued that the farming interest of the country is in a prosperous state. The country was increasing in farming labours; the crops had been abundant. But the markets had not risen, and it was therefore said that they were not so productive as formerly. But on the whole, the markets, in comparison with those of the United States, were superior. (Cries of "no, no," from the agricultural members.) As to the price of flour. Country flour produced about \$6, while American was now up to \$9. But the quality was different. Country flour was not so fine as American, and would not therefore make so much bread. But he hoped the country would always prefer its own produce, to encourage the farming interest. The hon. Member then proceeded to urge the policy of encouraging the farming interest, but chiefly by making good roads, and thus improving farming property.

Mr. Simonds agreed with the hon. member from Northumberland, and though the resolution proposed by Mr. Partelow a very proper one. He (Mr. S.) warned the Committee against adopting the suggestions of the hon. Speaker respecting Bounties. The operation of bounties had been to throw the whole benefit into the hands of merchants and exporters. Poor men had not been benefited by them. The former would agree among themselves to give only a certain price for the produce; which consisting of perishable articles the poor men were compelled to take this limited price. All bounties were improper as they did not produce any adequate benefit. It was mistaking the end completely. Farmers could get far less for their produce by their aid, than in the ordinary course of business. The markets were now certainly low, but a farmer could purchase more for his produce than he could seven years ago, as every thing had fallen in the same degree. One thing would regulate another, and there was no necessity for bounties.

Mr. Speaker briefly replied.

Mr. Kinnear supported the resolution. He considered it as an enlightened policy to encourage the produce of the country, and to discourage that which is foreign, where it would interfere with our own; but not where it would merely interfere with the commercial interests, because the agricultural interest is superior to any other. The commercial ranked next in order.—The hon. Member contended that all bounties and all monopolies should be wholly dismissed from off the statute book. All should be free as the sun of heaven under which we live. The Legislature should so manage interests, as to discourage foreign produce, and thus throw into the treasury a surplus revenue to aid the whole Province. It was said that the country flour produced \$6 per barrel, while that of the U. States fetched \$9.—Instead of a bounty to the farmer or capitalist, the House should lay an additional duty on flour from a foreign country. This would bring the price of American flour to nearly double that of this country. The consumers would give an exorbitant price for American flour, which would raise a surplus revenue for the provincial treasury, or it would discourage the use of flour from a foreign country. What would then be the consequence? The people of this country must live; they must have bread; they would then perhaps "Condescend," or they might prefer to eat their own flour. Then the flour of this country would be purchased up to the full extent of its produce; the agricultural interest would be benefited, and instead of the U. States draining the money from this province as they now do, for they will take nothing for their flour but hard cash, it will be kept in the country, and our own interests will flourish in proportion as we keep the specie in our possession. The honourable

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