

so its liquefaction or solidification, tempers the severity of the coldness of mountains and table lands. Rain affords heat as it is formed out of vapour, and the production of snow is only effected by the discharge of a great amount of caloric. Hence we say it is too cold for snow, because we always observe, even at the surface of the earth, the warming influence of the radiant caloric which comes down from the snow-clouds as invisible particles are aggregating into snow-flakes. It is highly probable that the heat, extricated by the snow which is first formed, prevents the degree of cold by which more might be produced, and thus sets a limit to the quantity, and prevents a too heavy fall, by which the earth might be covered to an inconvenient or destructive depth. Were it not for the immense evolution of heat when rain and snow are formed, the mountains and higher table land would not be habitable. But the air of these lofty regions is continually warmed by the caloric, which is brought up by evaporation from the sultry plains and valleys, is extricated in the middle air by the rain drop and the snow flake.

Thus water is, as it were the regulator or balance-wheel of temperature, acting on the production and limitation of heat, as the governor of a steam engine does on the admission of vapour and the movements of the machinery. [To be Continued.]

## PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

NEW-BRUNSWICK.

February 5.

### HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH.

Pursuant to the order of the day, the House went into Committee of the whole, in consideration of His Excellency the Lieut. Governor's Speech.—Mr. Ward in the Chair.—The debate took a very wide and discursive range; but in consequence of the fatiguing length of both this day's and yesterday's proceedings, it is absolutely necessary to condense the present report into as brief an epitome as possible.

Mr. Partelow opened the debate, by observing, that the speech gave a deplorable statement respecting the finances of the country, and by recommending the appointment of a Committee of Finance, to investigate and report on that subject. He had hoped, that before going into Committee on the Speech, the house would have been in possession of the Treasurer's accounts, from which the truth might have been gathered. But since Monday last, he (Mr. P.) had endeavoured to obtain information on the subject, and he was now happy to inform the house, that instead of the desperate state described in the speech, the Finances of the Country were actually in a much better state than they were 5 or 7 years ago. The Revenue of the last year was £42,451 11s. 1d. exclusive of the duties collected under the Light House, Marine Hospital, and Emigrant Acts, which would be about £4000 more; while the drawbacks would amount to about £5000.—There was an increase of Revenue at the port of St. John of about £5000; but on the other hand there was a great decrease at St. Andrews; the Revenue for the past year there being only £2800 or £2900, instead of from £4000 to £5000, which was the amount in the preceding year. There certainly must be some peculiar reason for so great a falling off of the Revenue at that port, altho' he (Mr. P.) could not state what it was. But taking the whole Provincial Revenue for the year, throughout, it would be found to be only about £1000 less than that of last year. The unpaid Warrants amounted to £27,000; to meet which there were in the hands of the Treasurer and his Deputies, in Balances and Bonds, £27,000, of which £5000 were cash; so that all those unpaid warrants could be met by the sum in the hands of the Treasurer, when collected. The warrants not yet issued amounted to about £5000, and there were Debentures unpaid, and due February 1st, amounting to £1700. The sum due to the Fire Insurance Company, with interest, was £10,600; and to the several Saving Banks, 3000l. He (Mr. P.) thought there would be, altogether, about 6000l. to provide for, besides the public debt, which was about 14000l.; making the whole deficiency about 20,000l. He recollected, that in 1829 a Report was made to the house by the Finance Committee, which showed the unpaid appropriations at that time to be about 65,000l., while there were also about 6000l. or 7000l. chargeable for Fish and Grain Bounties, making the total deficiency about 72,000l.; therefore it was evident that the house had actually been reducing the public debt, and the finances were in a better state than they had been in for some years past. For himself, however, he was decidedly for retrenchment; and though the house had been rather lavish in some things heretofore, yet they had been eminently successful in reducing the debt to its present amount. His Excellency, in his speech, called the attention of the house to the necessity of prompt payments at the Treasury, and there certainly had been difficulties in that respect, in consequence of the Treasurer not having been able to command funds in proportion to the demands. If the Executive had, informed the house last session, that it was intended to depart from the old mode of issuing warrants, the house could have made some provision against the inconvenience; but without doing so, the warrants had been numbered; they could not therefore be paid as they were presented at the Treasury, and the consequence was, that they were obliged to be sold at a very great discount, which was a serious loss to the holders. The system of numbering the warrants he (Mr. P.) considered to be the cause of nearly all the distress experienced of late for want of money. The intention of adopting such a system ought to have first been communicated to the house, and then provision against inconvenience would have been made. Warrants, formerly, were never at more than from 1 to 1 1/2 per cent. discount, when the demands on the Treasury were actually greater, and the capability to meet them much less than now. He thought that a discretionary power ought to be vested in the Treasurer, as to the payment of the most necessary

warrants first, so that Commissioners of Roads, Schoolmasters, &c. should be first attended to; but from the present system of paying them as they are numbered, those persons were compelled to hawk their warrants about for sale at any discount that might be offered. The old system of discretionary power in the Treasurer worked much better for the country, and he would like to see it returned to.

Mr. S. Humbert, at great length, coincided in the views of Mr. Partelow respecting the state of the Finances and the numbering of warrants, and dwelt forcibly on the evils arising from that system; especially as to the inconvenience felt by Merchants, who held Treasury warrants in their possession, and yet could not be allowed to pay their duties at the Treasury with those warrants, because their numbers were too high to render them payable at the time. The hon. member also commented on the tone of the Speech, which he represented as not so polite as that of last year, but, on the contrary, of a more dictatorial nature, and drew from thence the inference, that an unhappy collision still existed between the different branches of the Legislature, and was visible in the language of the Speech.—The hon. member attributed the pecuniary difficulties of the country to the want of sufficient circulating medium, the demand for Spanish Dollars at the Custom House, and for Cash at the Treasury, while it would not pay or take in payment its own warrants, except in the order of numbers.—He also strongly insisted on the necessity of general retrenchment in the appropriations of the house, and recommended a commencement, by reducing the Members' pay, which would enable them consistently and fairly to proceed in reducing other salaries and expenses.

Mr. Simonds entirely disagreed with Mr. S. Humbert respecting the tone of the Speech, and saw nothing in it which could for a moment lead the house to suppose, that any collision existed between the branches of the Legislature. There was nothing that would bear any such construction. There really was no collision. Whatever difficulties existed last session, it should not now be inferred that any collision existed. On the contrary, the tenor of the Speech directly led to the inference, that the Executive was fully disposed to go hand in hand with the house, in devising measures for the public good.—The house did not want to see flattery in the Speech, but plain matter of fact, and there they had it.—The hon. member, however, could not agree in the gloomy representations, in the speech, of the state of the Finances; he certainly could not say they were in as good a state as they ought to be, because there ought to be no debt at all; but he did not consider them to be quite so desperate.—With respect to the numbering of warrants, it was certainly an extraordinary system, and the inconvenience of it was very palpable. The warrants were the Lieut. Governor's orders on the Treasurer to pay certain monies. They went to the Treasurer for payment, but then down came an order from the Provincial Secretary not to pay them. It seemed that the Government was dishonouring its own paper. The impropriety of the system was manifest, as it put it into the power of persons at Head Quarters to exercise a controul over the public expenditure, which they had no right to exercise. Warrants ought always to be paid as they were presented, when there was money in hand; and if warrants got into the hands of persons owing duties at the Treasury, Common Justice required that they should be taken in payment of such duties. He (Mr. S.) hoped the house would adopt measures to do away with the system of numbering.—He (Mr. S.) liked many parts of the Speech very much, particularly that part relative to retrenchment, which was certainly very gratifying.—The hon. member then proceeded to advocate general retrenchment, and particularly expressed a hope, that from the tenor of the speech, it was to be presumed and hoped, that his Excellency intended retrenchment to be carried into every department, as well beyond as within the controul of the Legislature. He also lamented the existence of contraband trade, and wished a remedy could be applied; altho' he felt unable to suggest one. The hon. member then touched on the subject of the Casual Revenue, &c. and congratulated the house on the probability now appearing of a satisfactory settlement of that question. He also expressed his happiness on seeing the sentiment conveyed in the Speech, that the Legislature as a whole could have but one subject, "the public good;" observed, that he had never thought his Excellency had any other object in view, but that if he was induced to adopt opposite measures, the fault should lie at the door of the bad advisers who had so induced him.—On the whole, the hon. member thought the speech liable to very few objections, and to be a gratifying and conciliatory document.

Mr. Slason had one very great objection to the speech, and only one; which was, the highly coloured representation respecting the state of the Finances.—The hon. member then proceeded to corroborate the views of the preceding speakers respecting the real state of the Revenue and the numbering of warrants; and with regard to retrenchment, he thought that the house should not aim at small things, but should lop off large expenses. He did not think the state of the country would allow the abolition of Members' pay; for himself, being a resident in Fredericton, he did not care about it; but he thought it must be a very useful thing to those who came from a distance.

Mr. End in very great length commented on the whole speech and particularly mentioned that the picture drawn therein of the pecuniary embarrassments of the Province was by no means over-coloured. He contended that, in his part of the country, the greatest distress prevailed among those entitled to payment for public services, from the difficulty of getting warrants cashed at the Treasury. The hon. member stated his belief, that payments at the Treasury were in such a state, that unless some remedy were speedily applied, persons would not be found

to accept the office of Commissioner of Roads, or to contract for any public work, on the faith of Treasury warrants. He very much doubted the fact, of these difficulties having been caused by the numbering of warrants, and stated that he knew of several Bear Bounty warrants in Gloucester, granted in 1831 and 1832, being still unpaid, altho' they were due before the numbering system commenced.—The hon. member also strenuously urged the necessity of general retrenchment, commencing with Members themselves, and herein particularly, took occasion to express his disapprobation of the annual grant of 100l. to the hon. Chairman of the Committee of Public and Private Accounts.—He entirely agreed with Mr. Simonds, that there was nothing in the speech to give any idea of collision; that tho' it did not come "trippingly on the tongue," yet that it was the language of a soldier, plain and honest; and he liked it the better, because it was the language of truth; there was no "humbug" in it, as in some speeches during former administrations, which were so flattering and courtly, that they seemed more like Lord Chesterfield's letters to his son, than speeches to a Legislature. He saw nothing dictatorial in the speech; it declared the object of the Legislature generally to be "the public good," and evidently shewed that the Executive was disposed to go hand in hand with the house.—The hon. member then proceeded to express his approbation of the various paragraphs relative to the Casual Revenue, Parish Schools, and Contraband Trade, and his hearty desire to coincide in the suggestions therein contained, and to provide such remedies as the matters respectively required; and concluded by alluding to the paragraph respecting the issue of Government paper, and expressing his opinion that it would be far more beneficial to the Province to issue Provincial paper than Debentures, whereby the whole amount of interest would be saved.

Mr. Chandler considered the speech very satisfactory, and liable to very few objections. He thought the Hon. member who deemed it not quite polite enough, must have had a great disposition to cavil, when he made so frivolous an objection. He considered the speech had not too highly coloured the picture drawn of the pecuniary distress of the country, altho' he did not deem that it arose from the numbering the warrants. He thought that system very superior to the old one; because formerly, those who had means of applying first at the Treasury by themselves or agents, obtained payment of the warrants, whereby it frequently happened that those of latest dates obtained first payment, while those living at a distance, and holding warrants of a much older date, were obliged to wait a longer time for their money; but, by the numbering system, every warrant would be paid according to its date, and those of oldest standing would be cashed first. The hon. member considered the pecuniary evils existing to have been caused by the improvident grants of the house in former sessions, and that the moment general retrenchment was carried into effect, the difficulty would vanish.—The hon. member then, at considerable length, dwelt upon the subject of Smuggling, stating his desire to see a remedy applied, but particularly contending that the only remedy for that evil, as far as regards the country at the head of the Bay of Fundy, would be by establishing a Free Port in that section of the Province; and insisting that at present, the inhabitants there, even conscientious persons, who were in the habit of exporting grindstones, gypsum, &c. to the U. States, and taking American produce in return, were absolutely compelled to smuggle from the want of a free port in their own neighbourhood, and from the delay and expence attendant on entering the port of St. John or St. Andrews.—The hon. member, on the whole, considered the speech to be highly satisfactory, and hoped that not a member of the house would hesitate to respond the expressions and feelings of his Excellency as therein displayed. Mr. C. concluded by strongly reproaching the attack made upon the hon. Chairman of the Committee of Accounts, by the hon. member for Gloucester, and stated his decided conviction that the duties of that office were performed in the most laborious and satisfactory manner, and that so far from the remuneration to that gentleman being a useless or extravagant expenditure, it was one of the most beneficially bestowed payments ever made to the house, since the labors of the hon. gentleman had been the means of saving thousands of pounds to the Province.

Mr. End, in reply, insisted that he had made no attack on Mr. Partelow, although he considered the money improperly given.

Mr. Street very lengthily commented on the speech. The hon. member particularly insisted on the facts, that the finances certainly were in a deranged state; that public servants and others depending on Treasury warrants, were suffering in consequence very severely, and that public works, such as roads, &c. could not be attended to for want of money.—The hon. member responded to the suggestions of the speech relative to schools and the sufferers at Madawaska, and then proceeded to state his opinion that the numbering of warrants was not in itself the cause of the present pecuniary difficulties, but that probably it proceeded from the change having been too abruptly made. He observed that by law, the mode of payment of the warrants was left to the discretion of the Executive. Whether they had exercised that discretion properly or improperly was another question; but he (Mr. S.) thought it better that the payment of the warrants should proceed in some regular and definitive manner, than that it should be left to the discretion of the Treasurer. In remedying any public evil or inconvenience, if it had existed for some time, the alternative might lead to some temporary embarrassment. The old system he considered to have been an evil; the Executive had attempted to remedy it, but they had done it rather too abruptly; and perhaps, some notice of their plan should have been first given to the public. The hon. member concluded with some deprecatory remarks on Smuggling.