

community; diminish the best and most profitable market for their own industry; augment the weight of the national and parochial burdens, which, in default of the landed interest, must be borne by themselves, as the producers of its manufacturing wealth; and disable the state from maintaining that contest for its own, and the general independence of Europe, with the Colossus of northern ambition, which every one sees is fast approaching?

In truth, more momentous considerations than even those of national wealth or prosperity depend upon the vital question which is now at issue between the manufacturing and agricultural classes. The national independence—the national existence—is at stake. It requires little penetration, indeed, to perceive that the general peace which we have so long enjoyed is not destined to be of very long endurance; and that a contest, possibly as serious and protracted as that with Napoleon, awaits us with the power which has already arrayed more than half of Europe under its influence. Poland, Prussia, the Ukraine, are all provinces of Russia—they all equally take the law from the Cabinet of St. Petersburg. Odessa, Dantzic, Memel, and Riga, are alike Russian harbours. Yet these are precisely the ports from which our supply of grain must inevitably be obtained, if we throw open our ports to foreign competition. The provinces from which we shall almost exclusively obtain our food will be those that wait at the beck of the Emperor Nicholas. To the permanent ambition of the Russian Cabinet, the British possessions in India afford an attractive object of desire; to the jealousy and apprehensions of their despotic government, our free institutions and unrestrained press are a constant subject of disquietude. Everything, therefore, both in political combination and national interest, conspires to indicate that the seeds of permanent rival hostility between the British and Muscovite empires have not only been sown, but are already fast springing to maturing. And yet it is at the very moment that this fact has become clearly apparent to the inhabitants of both countries, that the infatuated manufactures of England propose to place their necks under the feet of their formidable rival, by placing in his hand the keys of the granary from which they are to be fed. With what joy would the measure be hailed in the saloons of St. Petersburg? How rapidly would all apprehensions of the British power vanish before the effects of this once suicidal act! Vain, then, would be the prowess of the British arms—vain the reflections of their former glory! Without fitting out one ship of the line—without raising one hostile banner, the Emperor of Russia would beat down the once dreaded power and independence of England. By simply closing his harbours, by shutting up the granaries of Dantzic and Hamburg, he would speedily starve us into submission. The populace of Great Britain, deprived of their wonted supply of bread, would become ungovernable, and submission soon be felt to be a matter of necessity. Can we, who, with our eyes open, propose to do such things, blame the Carthaginians who first surrendered their galleys and arms to the Roman generals, and then, when the legions were encamped around the walls, found themselves without weapons to withstand an inveterate enemy, and perished through the impotence they themselves had created?

LEGISLATIVE NEWS.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

EXTRACTS FROM THE JOURNALS.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY, January 27.

Mr End, by leave, presented a petition from John Barnes, William Dobree, James Wall, John Saunders, and William Stevens, on behalf of the Gloucester Mining Association praying that the time for exploring, as limited in their Lease of the Mines and Minerals in the counties of Gloucester and Restigouche, may be extended, which he read. Ordered, That the said petition be received and lie on the Table.

To his Excellency the following sums:—£75 for the services of a Tide Surveyor at Miramichi, for the year 1841 £50 in aid of individual subscription to pay a Courier between Bathurst and Pokemouche, via Shippegan, in Gloucester. £50 in aid of individual subscription, to pay a courier between Pokemouche and Miramichi, in Northumberland and Gloucester. For the Grammar School in the county of Kent £100. For the Grammar School in the county of Northumberland, £100. For the Grammar School in the county of Gloucester £100. For the Grammar School in the county of Restigouche £100.

Mr End, by leave, presented a petition from Xavier Bidean, a licensed Teacher, praying that the Provincial allowance may be granted him for teaching a school in the parish of Saumarez, in the County of Gloucester, for a period of one year and six months, prior to the 1st day of July last, which he read. Ordered, That the said petition be received, and referred to the Committee on School petitions to report thereon.

Mr Fisher, from the Committee appointed to wait upon his Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, with the Address of this House to her most gracious Majesty the Queen, congratulating her Majesty upon the auspicious birth of the Princess Royal, reported that they had attended to that duty, and that his Excellency was pleased to say, that he would have great

pleasure in transmitting the said Address to be laid at the foot of the Throne.

Mr End, by leave, presented a petition from William Stevens, on behalf of the Gloucester Mining Association, praying pecuniary assistance for the improvement of the Public Roads in the vicinity of the works of said Association; which he read. Ordered, That the said petition be received and referred to the committee appointed to take into consideration what sums will be required for the improvement of Roads throughout the Province, to report thereon.

On motion of the hon. Mr Weldon, The House went into Committee of the whole, on a bill to continue an act, intitled 'an act to restrain the provisions of the Fifth Section of an act for the support of the Civil Government in this Province,' and to establish sundry regulations for the future disposal of Crown Lands and Timber in certain cases. The chairman reported, that the committee having gone into consideration of the Bill referred to them, had made progress therein, and that he was directed to ask leave to sit again. Ordered, That the Report be accepted, and leave granted.

January 28.

Read a second time the following Bill, viz. A Bill relating to the Mines and Minerals in the County of Gloucester.

Mr End moved for leave to bring in a bill to authorize Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the County of Gloucester, to contract for the erection of a new Gaol in the said County, and for other purposes therein mentioned. Leave granted.

On motion of the hon. Mr Weldon, The House went into committee of the whole, in further consideration of a bill continue an Act intitled, 'an Act to restrain the provisions of the Fifth Section of an Act for the support of the Civil Government in this Province,' and to establish sundry regulations for the future disposal of Crown Lands and Timber in certain cases.' Mr Palmer in the chair of the committee. Mr Speaker resumed the chair. The Chairman reported, that the committee having the bill referred to them again under their consideration, it was moved—To expunge the whole of the said Bill, and substitute the following:—

Whereas in and by the Fifth Section of an Act made and passed in the eighth of the Reign of his late Majesty King William the Fourth, intitled 'an act for the support of the Civil Government in this Province,' it is enacted, That all disposals of any of Her Majesty's Lands, Woods, Mines and Royalties within this Province, made during the continuance of the said Act, shall be utterly null and void and of none effect, unless made at Public Auction to the highest bidder; and whereas it is deemed advisable to restrain the operation of the said Fifth Section in certain cases;

Be it enacted by the Lieutenant Governor, Legislative Council and Assembly, That nothing in the aforesaid in part recited Act contained, shall extend or be construed to extend to prevent his Excellency the Lieutenant Governor or Commander in Chief for the time being, by and with the advice and consent of the Executive Council at any time during the continuance of this Act, from disposing of any Tract or Tracts of ungranted Crown Lands, to any person or persons for immediate settlement by private sale, and to make the purchase money payable down or by instalments, as to his Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, by and with the advice of the Executive Council, shall seem best calculated to promote the settlement of the country and most consistent with the circumstances of the Applicant; Provided always, That in no case shall more than one hundred acres be granted to any one person, and that no grant be made for less than two shillings and sixpence per acre, down, or three shillings and sixpence per acre, payable by four annual instalments, and that the names of the grantees, with a statement of the quantity of Land granted to each individual, where situate, and the terms and the conditions of Sale, be laid each year with the other Casual Revenue Accounts, before the General Assembly.

That upon the question for adopting this amendment, the committee divided as follows, —Yeas—Messrs. Barberie, M'Almon, Wilson, End, Woodward, Taylor, Jordan, H. T. Partelow, Freeza, M'Leod, Fisher, Street, Owen, Hayward, Brown, Connell, Boyd, Hill; Nays—The hon. Mr Speaker, hon. Mr Johnston, hon. Mr Crane, hon. Mr Weldon, Messrs. Harrington, Partelow, J. M. Wilmet, L. A. Wilmet, Gilbert.

The hon. Mr Johnston, by command of his Excellency laid before the House, a Report from Abraham Gesner, Esquire, F.G.S. being the third Geological Survey of the Province, accompanied by a map of the several parts of the said Province, which have been examined, also accompanied by an amount of the expenses incurred therein during the past year.

January 29.

Read a second time the following Bills, viz: A bill to continue an Act to provide for the summary punishment of persons committing Trespasses upon square Timber and other Lumber, and a bill to impose a Tax upon Wild Lands.

On motion of Mr End, The House went into committee of the whole, on a bill relating to the Mines and Minerals in the County of Gloucester. The chairman reported that the committee having had the bill referred to them under their consideration, made progress therein, and that he was directed to ask leave to sit again. Ordered, That the Report be accepted and leave granted.

The hon. Mr Johnston, by command of his Excellency, laid before the house copies of the following Despatches, viz:

1st. From the Right Honourable Lord John Russell, relative to the repayment to the Province of the expense incurred in the construction of Barracks, a Magazine, and Boats at the Grand Falls and the Degelee

2d. From his Excellency Lord Sydenham, the Governor General, and his Excellency Lord Falkland, Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, in reply to despatches from his Excellency Sir J. Harvey relative to the survey of a Line for a Rail Road or Canal to connect the Bay of Fundy with the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

The following is one of the documents above alluded to:—

CANAL BETWEEN BAY OF FUNDY AND ST. LAWRENCE.
Government House, Montreal, }
9th January, 1841. }

Sir,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's Despatch of the 19th ult. No. 43, on the subject of the Survey of the best Line for a Rail Road or canal to connect the Bay of Fundy with the Gulf of St. Lawrence. In reply I have to inform you that I have proposed to the Special Council a vote of £500 from the funds of Lower Canada towards this service, and that sum having been granted by them has been embodied in the appropriation ordinance, to which my assent has this day been given.

I have the honor to be, &c.

SYDENHAM.

January 30.

Mr End, by leave, presented a petition from Samuel L. Bishop, of Bathurst, in the County of Gloucester, setting forth that he had leased a building for the purpose of offices for the Treasury and Custom House Departments, and praying that a sum may be granted to him to defray the expense of certain repairs upon the said Building, for the reasons set forth in the said petition, which he read. Ordered, That the said petition be received and referred to the committee of Supply.

Mr Barberie, by leave, presented a petition from the Justices of the Peace for the county of Restigouche, praying that a grant may pass to reimburse the Overseers of the Poor for the Parishes of Durham and Dalhousie, in the said County, for advances made for the care of two transient Lunatic Papers, which he read. Ordered, that the said petition be received, and referred to the Committee of Supply.

Mr Barberie, also by leave, presented a petition from Robert Ritchie and Robert H. Montgomery, Overseers of the poor for the Parish of Addington, in the County of Restigouche, praying that a grant may pass to enable them to defray the expense incurred in the support of sick and distressed Emigrants at that place, during the past year; which he read. Ordered, That the said Petition be received and referred to the Committee of Supply.

Mr Street, by leave, presented a Petition from Henry Swim, resident at Blissfield, in the County of Northumberland, praying that a grant may pass in aid of the Ferry kept by him over the South West Branch of the River Miramich, which he read. Ordered, That the said Petition be received, and referred to the Committee on Internal Communication, to report thereon.

The Honorable Mr Johnston, by command of his Excellency the Lieut. Governor, laid before the House:—Report from Henry W. Baldwin Esq., Commissioner for building a bridge over Doucett's Cove, in the County of Gloucester, accompanied by an account of expenditure thereon; also Report from William End, Joseph Read, William Napier, and Henry W. Baldwin, Esquires, Commissioners for building a Bridge over Bathurst Basin, in the County of Gloucester, accompanied by the Contract entered into for that work, as also account of the expenditure of several grants made therefor.

From the Fredericton Sentinel, Jan. 30.

CIVIL LIST BILL.

The House resolved itself into a Committee for the consideration of the fifth section of the Civil List Bill, which is about expiring.

Mr FISHER saw no necessity for the great hurry there appeared to be with this Bill. He thought the least the Committee could do was to wait till there was a full house. As it was a measure affecting the lumbering interests, they should defer it out of courtesy to Mr Rankin, who was deeply engaged in that business: there were various clauses that required amendment, and it would be useless to legislate upon the sale of the Crown Lands till the Emigration Committee reported, they might recommend an alteration in the system, and it could be embodied in the Bill. As it had been hurried on he had only applied his mind during the few moments afforded him for considering it to the most obnoxious part of it, the 6th section, which authorised the granting of land to certain half pay officers upon a certain graduated scale, the benevolent intentions of the Legislature in passing the section had been completely prostituted. It pre-supposed an intention on the part of the officers to settle; now it was notorious that large grants were made to officers when no such intention existed. Out of all the lands granted upwards of 350,000 acres; and upwards of 12,000 acres since the passing of the Civil List Bill, he did not know of two actual settlers. They obtained the lands without any idea of settlement, and were locking up the best part of the County of York and Carleton whilst the Province was deriving no benefit therefrom. There was great complaint made if a poor

settler got a hundred acres of land payable by instalments if he did not pay up, but there were individuals getting land enough at once for a whole settlement for nothing at all. The grant made was generally a complete prostitution of the intentions of the Legislature. During the last summer one tract had been sold at auction for 1s. 10d to 2s. 3d. an acre under the Absconding Debtors Act. Another had been offered at Sheriff's Sale, two others had been assigned in trust to pay debts; in this way lands granted under the provision of the 6th section had been disposed of. This clause formed no part of the compact with the Government for the surrender of the Crown Revenue; it had been productive of evil, and he proposed to repeal it.

Mr END hoped the hono would not hastily make any alterations: particularly with the present benches. Mr Rankin, who was concerned with one of the largest houses engaged in the timber business was absent, and was at least entitled to be heard upon the subject, that is if the house wished to obtain information. It was not asking too much to request that hon. member might be heard before any determination were had, and also the colleague of the learned member for the County of York. He would ask if the operation of a general measure were to cease, because there were a few causes of complaint. Men were not faultless, it was one of the attributes of human nature to be defective. Was there ever a legislature that passed laws in which there was no defect. In his opinion the character of the country would suffer, were they to expunge what was allowed to officers on half-pay; which had been given to men who had fought and bled for their country, to enable them to settle in the province upon better terms than civilians; a boon founded upon regard and admiration for a service, which every lover of his country must feel a pleasure in upholding. Would the members of that house dash at, and trample this boon under their feet, and declare unanimously against those brave men who should come among them. Would gentlemen say they would not have them in the province. It was well known that if a facility was removed, an obstacle was created; and if this facility for settling half-pay officers in the province were removed, their introduction would be prevented. It ought not to be said that when the House of Assembly got the control of the crown revenues into their hands, they would prevent those retired officers from taking up lands in the province, to whom they should look up with pride. God forbid they should do so. The learned gentleman for York had said his object was not to excite feeling; but the whole tendency of his remarks was to that effect. But because one or two half pay officers had been unfortunate, were the Legislature to stop the influx of brave men to these shores. Let the law be made as binding with reference to settlement as gentlemen pleased; but let them not throw obstacles in the way of settling the country. He concluded by saying that to do away with the clause as had been proposed, would be a reflection upon the well known loyalty of the people of New Brunswick. Let the house wait till other members had arrived: but let them not even then commit an act which would implicate the character of the country.

Hon. Mr CRANE must give the House some information which gentlemen did not seem to possess. The revenue was given up without reference to any provision for half-pay officers. And whatever credit was due for the provision, belonging to the House of Assembly for the time being, who voluntarily made the usual allowance with reference to that valuable class of men. He said he had taken the pains to enquire why they formerly received those grants, and ascertained that a certain sum was allowed as a commutation for the purchase of lands. But the object of the Assembly was to fill the country with a valuable set of loyal inhabitants; and therefore they were willing to extend the boon which had been animadverted upon. For his own part he should always be glad to see those persons arrive here; and he was satisfied the province would be a gainer by the indulgence that was afforded. If it were necessary the act might be better guarded, but nothing more should be done.

Hon. Mr WELDON said it was not necessary that the bill should lie any longer on the table. They should proceed to business with all due diligence, and if members absented themselves, they should take the consequence. But what was the effect of the bill, which had been in operation for four years. There had been no very general complaints against its operation. In passing the bill now in operation, it was deemed necessary to retain the present rates; and no injurious effects had resulted from that determination. That act is about expiring, and the present bill is brought in to continue it in force. There did not appear to be any practical evil existing, and it was not desirable therefore to effect any change in its enactments. So far as related to Half-Pay Officers, he said his learned friend's Bill to tax wild lands would effect all that was required; and if roads were made thro' their lands, by which they were rendered more valuable, a corresponding assessment should be made. Therefore as no evil existed, the bill had better continue as it is, than that it should be changed. The learned gentleman concluded by saying that he was certainly opposed to reducing the duty on logs; a revenue was wanted, and from this source that for the payment of the civil list must be raised. The hon member for Northumberland might complain