

they could enter at great length into the benefits and advantages which have accrued to the United Kingdom by the course of policy so long in force with regard to this trade, by diverting to the facilities which it affords to Emigration of a part of the surplus population of the United Kingdom,—the number and tonnage of British ships employed in it—the great (and next to the Coal Trade) nursery for British Seamen,—the consumption, arising from it, of British manufactures,—and in fact a Trade purely and exclusively British in every particular, and one which your petitioners venture to assert forms no small part of employment for a Commercial British Marine, contributing in no indifferent degree to place Great Britain in that enviable position, the greatest Maritime and Commercial Nation of the Earth.

These have all been brought under the notice of Your Majesty's Government by former address on this subject from the Legislature and Commercial Bodies in the Provinces, to which Your Petitioners beg reference.

That the interests of so large, so numerous, so influential, and so loyal a portion of Your Majesty's faithful subjects should be abandoned in the Councils of the Nation, and that, by one sweeping measure and without and previous notice, themselves and their families are to be prostrated, cannot and will not be believed by Your Petitioners; on the contrary, they have the fullest reliance on the wisdom and good faith of Her Majesty's Government, and on the Imperial Parliament, to whom this Province has hitherto never appealed in vain.

Your Petitioners, therefore, most humble and earnestly pray that, should such a measure be introduced to disturb, the existing state of things with reference to the Wood duties, Your Majesty will graciously interpose Your Royal authority to avert from them the evils which they have described, and which, they assure Your Majesty, inevitably ensue.

And as in duty bound, Your Petitioners will ever pray.

NOVA-SCOTIA.

Halifax Times, May 18.

The Election of Common Councillors for the City of Halifax, took place on Wednesday last. The contests in the several wards went on quietly, from the commencement to the close. The day appeared to be regarded as an idle one, and the suspended labour we are certain would form no unimportant item against the benefit of a Corporation. We should like to have the value of the time which will be lost in a twelvemonth in consequence of this new hobby, estimated. Up to Saturday evening the Common Council were engaged in scrutines to determine the elections, and in trying to reconcile the absurdities of the act itself, upon the construction of which no two lawyers can agree. After the election the candidates we understand, did the thing handsomely by their supporters, and many were the bottles of champagne cracked in their respective houses, in honor of the City of Halifax—and many have been the prognostications since of improvements that are to be made within the municipal bounds. We intend when things work smoothly, and all our lawyers have driven their coaches and six through the act, and had the gaps mended, to use our influence with the Gentlemen of the Municipality, that they may bestow upon us an earlier Spring—and keep away a little of the snow and frost which at times visit us rather too severely. When they do this we shall begin to suspect that they are able to accomplish all the good for nothing, which the seekers of the corporation really believe is within the bounds of possibility. Seriously, we think the best thing the people can do, is to expect no more benefit from the corporation, though with an increased assessment to what they have been accustomed, than from the old system; and that, as they cannot help themselves, when they find their taxation increased, to watch sharply the improvements entered into, that they may be assured of every farthing of their money being judiciously expended. The following are the names of the Gentlemen returned to be Common Councillors and Assessors for the several Wards:—

No. 1.—James Tremain, Esq., E. Allison, Esq., Mr W. G. Anderson, Assessors—C. H. Wallace, Esq., Mr J. H. Reynolds.

No. 2.—Mr Thomas Williamson, Alex. Keith, Esq., Mr Wm. Story, Jr. Assessors.—Messrs. Robert Noble and John Strachan.

No. 3.—Stephen Binney, Esq., Mr Ed. Kenny, Mr Wm. Caldwell, Assessors—Messrs. John Slayter and F. Stevens, Jr.

No. 4.—Mr John Duffus, Honorable J. L. Starr, Hon. H. Bell, Assessors—Messrs. Wm. Chapplain and A. Troup.

No. 5.—Messrs. A. McKinlay, W. J. Starr, Conrad West, Assessors—Messrs. W. Cutlip and Wm. Marwin.

No. 6.—Mr John Steele, Nepean Clarke, Esq., John Winters.—Assessors—Messrs. Mitchell and Longard.

A scrutiny has been held in Ward No. 6, which ended in the return of Mr John E. Starr, by a majority of one, instead of Mr.

Winters. The names of the Common Council will appear, we suppose, in the next Gazette, after which they will proceed to the election of the Mayor and other officers of the Corporation.

Fire.—Three houses situate in Schmiddville, in rear of the city, were destroyed by fire on Friday night last. The houses were owned, one by Mrs. Athol, the other two by Mr Metzler, painter, and all were, we understand, insured to a considerable amount. The fire originated in the centre house, belonging to Mr Metzler, but how has not yet been satisfactorily ascertained. Water was scarce until a supply was obtained from the brook on the Common, by uniting the hose of the engines. A considerable quantity of furniture must have been damaged in the hurry of removal. Mr Metzler lost all his clothes, and the greater part of his furniture. The troops were assisting as usual, and did efficient service.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

We take the following extract from the Speech of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, on the 30th April, on submitting his Budget to the consideration of the Commons.

They had now a sum of £1,800,000 to provide for. It had been his fortune, last year, when he addressed them upon a similar occasion—it had been his fortune, as that time, to call upon the house, and to call upon the country, for additional taxes, for the purpose of placing the revenue in such a position as to make up the deficiency then; and if it became necessary for him again to undertake that duty, he should not shrink from the performance of it, by laying before the house his proposition for any system of taxation, however unpopular it might be. In his opinion, there could not be anything so inconvenient or so injurious that could be for a moment weighed against the great inconvenience and the very great calamity of a permanently disordered financial state. (Hear, hear.) It was with these views, the house might be assured that her Majesty's government had taken into their most serious consideration, and given their most solemn attention, as to the course which it was their bounden duty to pursue. (Hear.) It became then necessary for them either to fall back upon some of these taxes, which not long ago they had themselves repealed—either the house tax or the tax upon coals, or any one of those taxes which they had themselves repealed. He would observe to the house that the sum was so large, that it was absolutely necessary that they must look at the deficiency with some degree of boldness (hear, hear), for it was impossible for them, by any mitigating or small measure, to deal with so large a sum (hear, hear). They had either to return upon those old taxes, which they had repealed upon due consideration, and upon the opinion that they pressed severely upon the trade, the commerce, and the convenience of the country (hear, hear); or, upon the other hand, they must introduce into their taxes those parties who had hitherto been exempted (hear, hear). They must include, for instance, as it had been proposed by the hon. member for Kilkenny last year, including, under the Legacy Duty Bill, real property, and making it pay legacy duty, or they must take away some exemptions, that peculiar classes in the country benefited by, such as taxes on Agricultural horses, and some other exemptions, that would add considerably to the revenue; or they, if neither of these courses were to be taken, must lay a tax upon these new articles of strength—upon gas and steam, which, as being new born in the world, had hardly benefited their system of taxation, which during a long war had been applied to every other article; or, lastly, they must take up that which he now found to be so popular, though he was old enough to remember it had been the objects of the bitterest attacks and execration—he meant an extensive property tax. (Cheers.) He saw no other choice. If they intended to have taxation, it was, then, their duty to consider whether, by some arrangement of the taxes laid on the people, they might not be able to obtain the necessary supplies for the public service, without adding to the burdens of the country. (Hear, hear.) He apprehended that they would have already judged that the two articles that he proposed to deal with in the budget were the two articles of timber and sugar. (Cheers.) The house would recollect from what had occurred last year, that the duty on colonial timber was 10s. a load, while the duty laid upon Baltic timber was 55s. a load. Thus they saw that there was 10s. shillings on the colonial, 55s. on the Baltic timber, leaving a protecting duty of 45 per cent. upon colonial timber. (Hear, hear.) This was a subject that had been repeatedly before different administrations. His noble friend, Lord Spencer, had proposed an adjustment of the duty, by diminishing the protecting duty, which had been 45s., to a protecting duty of 35s. He saw a right honorable friend opposite who was connected with office at the time, and could support the accuracy of his statement. Lord Spencer proposed to deal with this subject by raising the colonial timber duty from 10s. to 20s., and by reducing the Baltic from 55s. to 50s. Subsequent to that a committee of this House patiently went into the subject, and saw all the parties connected with all that were interested. They made a

report, in which they not only gave their opinions, but it also contained most valuable and important information. They confirmed the propriety of the suggestion of his noble friend, as to the protecting duties, and stated that they ought to be reduced to the exact sum that he had proposed. They recommended that the protecting duty of 45s. should be reduced by 15s. They recommended a protective duty of 3s. They made some other recommendations which could not be adopted. They had recommended that no taxation at all should be laid on; and, if the revenue could bear it, he took it for granted that it would be beneficial to the trade; but, as far as the revenue was concerned, it was impossible to act upon such a suggestion. He proposed to adopt the proposition of his noble friend, as he felt perfectly satisfied that, by such an arrangement, the consumer in this country would be clearly benefited, and the revenue of the country would receive a considerable addition. The report, he conceived, was right in saying, that some alteration should be made in the protecting duties. He should propose also the adoption of certain other regulations suggested in the report, so far as they were practicable. They had recommended that the duty on deals should be arranged in a more equitable and fair manner, and they also recommended that there should be certain accommodation to the trade by the amendment of different regulations. His noble friend had stated that he had satisfied himself that they would derive a revenue of £750,000; but he himself certainly took it at £600,000, which he thought he could guarantee. He felt satisfied after the calculations that he had made, and having consulted with gentlemen conversant with the matter, that sum could be received.

Sir R. Peel was understood to ask what were the present duties?

The Chancellor of the Exchequer said, that the present duty was 11s. 6d. on colonial timber, and 56s. 6d. on Baltic. He proposed that it should be twenty shillings upon colonial timber, and a duty of 50s. upon Baltic timber, making a differential duty of 30s., which was exactly Lord Spencer's proposition. It was known to the right honorable gentleman opposite, to whom he had already referred, that his noble friend had reckoned upon an increase to the revenue of £700,000 from this source, but contented himself with taking it at 600,000 and he also certainly took it at 600,000. He would now come to the other article—that of sugar; and here he felt assured that he need not call the attention of the house to the great inconvenience, and the more than inconvenience, that for the last two years had been not merely experienced, but suffered by all classes, but more especially by the lower classes of the community, from the high, the exorbitant price of this article, which was almost, if not an actual necessity, yet it was certainly the poor man's luxury. (Hear, hear.) Looking then to that very circumstance, which he had alluded to in the former part of his statement, when he mentioned to the committee the falling off that had taken place in Ireland by the leaving off the use of spirits, and taking to coffee and tea as a substitute, if they were determined to give only to the people a high priced sugar, they would interfere with that which every man deserving of the name of statesman, must be most anxious to see introduced—namely, sober and good habits among the population of Ireland. (Hear, hear.) He felt assured that the committee would be most anxious to propose such a plan as that the poorer classes might, through its means, be enabled to obtain a decent supply of this very necessary article. (Cheers.) Now, in this case, he did not mean to propose the adoption of any wild, or what might be called by his noble friend 'a very philosophical proposition.' He proposed still to leave a very considerable protection in favor of colonial sugar. The present duty on colonial sugar was 24s. plus 5 per cent. The duty upon foreign sugar was 63s. plus 5 per cent. It would be better for them to state at once that there was an actual prohibition of foreign sugar than to have a system that apparently admitted, but virtually excluded it. He proposed to give to colonial sugar a protecting duty of 50 per cent. and to reduce the duty upon foreign sugar to 36s. By his proposition the duty on colonial sugar would be 24s. per cwt plus 5 per cent. The duty on foreign would be 36s. plus 5 per cent, being exactly a differential duty of 50 per cent. He had endeavoured to go through the calculations necessary upon this subject, and he apprehended that he might, like his noble friend, state to the house what the probable increase would be, and he would also state what he calculated would be the addition caused by it to the revenue. He thought that it would not amount, as had been calculated, to 900,000, but he took it at 700,000, and persons who were very competent made a calculation on the subject and took it at a much higher sum. The sum, the committee would recollect, that was to be provided for was 50,731,776; the income was 40,310,000; the sugar duties would produce 700,000 and the timber duties 600,000, giving a total of 1,300,000, but if they reckoned it at the highest, and that was a calculation that he did not maintain, it would amount to 1,650,000. Taking, however, the sum that he had first stated as the additional revenue, the committee would perceive that there still was a deficiency left of above 400,000. His noble friend had commenced the discussion this evening by announcing to the house that it was his intention to bring before them for their consideration the duties

that were now imposed upon corn. It was a subject of the deepest and greatest importance, and it was one which could not be well brought incidentally into discussion upon a debate of the budget. At the same time he could not overlook it in the statement he was about to make. He certainly admitted that there were 400,000 that were left unprovided for by him, feeling satisfied that if the proposition of his noble friend were adopted, that sum would be found sufficiently provided for by the increase of the revenue. [Hear.] He wished to state that it was his determination, whatever was the result of his noble friend's proposition, to make up the revenue to the amount he had already stated. His determination was, before the close of the year, to make a provision for the 400,000; and if the house did not take the course suggested by his noble friend he meant to propose raising that sum by direct taxation as the means of providing for it. [Loud cheers.] It was quite true that he had felt some difficulty as to the mode of dealing with this question; as he had been anxious to avoid as much as possible the mingling the revenues of the country with the great and important question of the corn laws [hear]; but he could not conceal from himself nor from hon gentlemen, on whatever side they sat, that a question of principle was involved in it. It was not a mere scramble for mere sums of money and the collecting them from one quarter or another; but it was a question whether they would have still some large protecting interests, or whether they would repeal laws that as they stood, imposed additional burdens upon the people. [Hear.] And if they took it in that view they must consider not only the question of protecting the West India interest or the Canadian timber duties, but they must look also into the principle of the protection given to the growth of corn. [Hear.] They must see that this involved a question of great and of vast importance. He would state and had stated only this point, with respect to what he considered would be the effect upon the revenues of the country.

His right hon. friend, the President of the Board of Trade, as belonging to his department, would submit to the committee measures which, with safety to the revenue, could be recommended to parliament for the revision of certain duties that were now pending. [Hear, hear.] The whole question was a measure of finance. He had come before the house to state to them the revenue and the income likely to accrue for the present year. He asked them for what he was sure they would not refuse, whatever their decision might be. He called upon them to make proper provision for preserving the good faith and to sustain the honour and interests of a country. (Cheers.) It had become the question with them—in what mode was the deficiency to be made up? And therefore it was that he proposed to them a direct tax; and whatsoever that tax might be, whether a tax upon property, or whatever else might be their decision, still he asked them whether they would be prepared entirely to refuse the consideration of the interests of their own population, or whether they would, by reducing these protective duties, obtain what was required to keep up the revenue, and not add to the burdens of the people. [Cheers.] At the same time, although he put it as a revenue question, he could not forbear calling the attention of the house somewhat to the position of our trade, and to the advisability and importance of the step which her Majesty's government proposed for the consideration of the house. Gentlemen would admit that this was not a question of mere abstract principles, that it was not merely a question of raising a revenue as something to discharge all the obligations laid upon it. They had it at present admitted that there was a heavy debt, and even if there were no deficiency, even if they had not to decide as to the amount they had to provide for, even under these circumstances he would venture to recommend to the house to adopt a more liberal policy with regard to the imposition of duties. (Cheers.) He did not ask the house to adopt all the opinions they might hear from different quarters, but he did ask them to look at the present state of affairs. (Opposition cheers, re-echoed by the ministerial benches.) They had the German league [cheers] extending its ramifications, and every year if he mistook not, growing more inclined in favour of protecting duties. They had the American tariff coming under consideration this year. They had the treaty with the Brazils (cheers) which soon must be the subject of negotiation. He could not but feel that they were coming to a most important crisis, and that upon the division to which the house might come upon these propositions must depend the commercial policy and prosperity of the country. [cheers.] They might negotiate as they pleased; but what would be the answer given by the parties with whom they would negotiate? They would tell them 'Certainly you press to have our markets thrown open to your commerce, but it has so happened that lately you had that question brought before yourselves, that it was a question not whether you would make a few abstract changes upon risk, but whether you would raise one million and a half or more by taxation, or by admitting foreign goods into your country?' They will further tell you—'We hear what you say, and see what you do.' (Cheers.) They will say—'You have written your own condemnation; you have given the answer that must be returned.' It would be in vain that they would press upon