

and Napan Rivers: these streams also pass along channels worn out of the sandstones by the operations of their waters. In some places they are skirted with narrow belts of intervals and tracts of productive red soil: there are however patches of white and yellow sand, covered with laurel and peat. In approaching Miramichi from the southward, the soil becomes more argillaceous, and often resembles alluvium. Eastward of the Napan River a few scattered boulders begin to appear, and near Chatham they are quite numerous; they are of granite, syenite, and trap, and identical with those rocks where they are found *in situ* on the north side of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, whence they have evidently been transported,—but, whether by ice or by water under a former condition of the country, it is difficult to decide. There are many good farms in this quarter, but large tracts capable of affording a due regard to industry, are unoccupied,—the settlements being confined to the sea shores and the banks of the river.

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE. NEW BRUNSWICK.

The following Speech was delivered by the Speaker, Mr Simonds, on the 7th inst., when the House had resolved into a committee for the further consideration of the several Messages of his Excellency:—

His honor the Speaker rose amidst the most profound silence, and spoke nearly as follows:—He said it was not necessary to make a long speech, a few observations only were, in his opinion, required to prove that some speedy change should be made in their present financial system. A debt of £33,000 was hanging over the Province, and they must either stop short with their appropriations, and curtail their expenditure to a considerable amount; if they did not establish some system by which they could contract a loan. The Executive Government of Canada having put in a claim for a loan from her Majesty's Government, for the purpose of carrying on public works, the government of this Province had done the same, but upon an examination into their Provincial system, it had been found so loose, unsettled, and unsatisfactory,—that their claim could not be acceded to until a change should have taken place. What was the nature of the change which was required? How was the state of things so much to be desired to be brought about? A few observations, as he had already said, would convince the committee that under the existing state of their financial affairs, they did not know what their expenditure was nor the amount of taxes to be levied, nor the character of those taxes. How were these things to be made known to the people? were they to be left to honorable members? Their Revenue Bill passed before they knew what their expenditure was.—The duties of all enlightened governments had been defined to be these—to consult for the good and happiness of the people at large, and not for their own benefit and aggrandizement. It was the duty of government to limit the expense of conducting it within the narrowest limits. It might be answered that government was not the best judge, but that honorable members who had come from the different parts of the Province were better enabled to form a correct opinion. That would never do, the principle was bad. When the estimate came down to that house from the Representative of the Crown, the house would still have the power to curtail it if it thought fit. That was the proper office of the Representatives of the people. That was the course pursued in the House of Commons. When the sums specified for the various services were laid before them, they would have the power of pruning them down if they were too large. There was no instance on record where the House of Commons had granted a larger sum than was contained in the estimate, although cases had arisen in which the Government had been obliged to extend the appropriations, which were classed under the head of *Extraordinary services*. The estimates which was before him amounted to £100,000. In the present state of their finances they had no credit, nor indeed did they deserve to have any. If the estimate should be considered too high, let the amounts be reduced. That was the mode adopted in the House of Commons. If one service had been too liberally provided for, and another not sufficiently so, they took from one and added it to another. He had heard on a former occasion, a great deal about *upturning* the whole constitution of the Province, but notwithstanding the assertions alluded to, he would say that, until they changed the system in question, no capitalist in England or in any other country, would enter into a contract with them for a loan. The Province must be in a condition to know what the amount of its expenditure was, before its credit, which was now completely extinguished, could be restored. It had also been said that to change the present system would be a surrender of the people's rights. He viewed it in a very different light. The proposed change was calculated to protect the rights of the people, and to render them more secure. He saw an honorable member shaking his head. For what he had stated he had the authority of De Lolme and other able writers upon the British Constitution, which he was so anxious to see adopted to its fullest extent in this Province. The House would have the power to prevent the expenditure from being carried beyond due bounds;

it would have the power to scrutinize every particular item, and to reduce it when they had reason to do so. The house would have the initiating of Money Bills, and was not that sufficient power to be in the hands of the Representatives of the people? The proposed system would secure them against undue taxation, and a lavish and improvident expenditure of the public money. The opinion out of doors was that improvident grants had been made. Whether such had been the case or not he would not give his opinion. If every member of the House of Commons, which was composed of 658 members, could get up in his place and move for a grant, the business of that house could not be got through. Such a state of things was impossible, and what was impossible must be wrong. With regard to patronage, the members of that house had not been sent there by the people to create patronage, they had no power to do anything of the kind, nor had they any power from the people to create a pension list, yet although it might seem strange and incredible to honorable members, their pension list, comparatively speaking, was greater than that of England. It was radically wrong to grant pensions at their caprices. He had some time since been threatened with the loss of his popularity in that house for having expressed these views. The loss of his popularity was of very little consequence in comparison to the importance of the question, and that led him to repeat that the alteration in their money affairs which had been recommended would secure more firmly than ever the rights of the people. It was the duty of the government to keep the expenditure within the smallest possible limits, and the amount to be raised should be left with the government. If the responsibility was left with the government they would make only such estimates as were absolutely necessary, and if they exceeded their duty or made improper estimates, the consequence would be that they should lose their confidence of the country.—There was no fear that the government would ever recommend an improper outlay. The matter was too plain to require an elaborate explanation. But it had been said that the government wished to break in upon the old system, which time and custom had rendered perfect! he supposed. If they broke in upon a bad system, and introduced a true constitutional principle, was not that to be desired? At present they could not borrow in England £10,000. (Mr End, so much the better.) Whether they wanted the loan or not they ought to have sufficient credit to be able to obtain it. They did not know how soon an emergency might arise that would compel them to apply for a loan in some quarter. The debt was upwards of thirty thousand pounds, the amount of their revenue was £100,000, and their expenditure was also £100,000.

EXTRACTS FROM THE JOURNALS.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY, February 8.
Report from Province Treasurer on subject of Financial Affairs.

(Copy) Frederick, Jan. 29, 1842.
Sir.—Having been called upon to furnish his Excellency the Lieutenant Governor with the information required in Mr Pennington's Report, transmitted to his Excellency in Lord Stanley's Despatch, dated 2d December, 1841, I have the honor to submit the following remarks, viz.

The accounts referred to by Mr Pennington, of the 30th June, 1837, shewing a surplus or balance in favor of government at that period of £46,484 0 4, were the statement of the Casual Revenue previously to its transfer to the General Revenue of the Province, in consideration of the Civil List being provided for by the Legislature; the outstanding Warrants of £2,857 7 11, were Warrants on that particular Revenue due at that date, out of the stated balance, and farther portion of that balance has never, I believe, been made available to the Provincial Treasury, in consequence of engagements previously made by the Government for work to be performed on the Royal Road. In July 1837, the securities for the £35,000 were transferred to the Province Treasury, and Bills of Exchange to the amount of £15,000 Sterling, drawn on the Lords of the Treasury, on account of payments made by the New Brunswick and Nova Scotia Land Company. The proceeds of these Bills were applied towards the payment of the outstanding Provincial Debts.

The Expenditure of the Province in consequence of very large sums being appropriated to opening of and improving the Roads of Communication; having since that period exceeded the Revenue; the amount of £29,000, loaned to the Banks at 3½ per cent interest, part of the 35,000 above mentioned, was called in, and at the close of the past year, viz. 31st December, 1841, the Financial state of the Province stood thus—

Debts and Liabilities	£108,677 7 6
Assets, exclusive of the balance due by the Land Company,	75,113 11 3

Amount of Actual Debt. £33,563 16 3
The Bank Account, under the Act 2d Vict. cap 44 allows an interest of 4 per cent. on Deposits, as well as on sums that may be drawn out by the Treasurer. A credit being allowed on the payment of Provincial duties, this account was deemed expedient to enable the Treasurer to pay promptly all demands against the Province, but the increased expenditure having outstripped the limits of this

account, the Treasurer has been obliged to put a number of Warrants on interest, at the rate of 6 per cent, agreeably to the provisions of the previous Act of 4th Wm. 4th, cap 43.

Of the above debts and liabilities, about £20,000 bear 4 per cent interest, and £8,000 bear 6 per cent interest, against which £25,000 of the assets bear also an interest of 6 per cent.

I have the honor, &c.
B. ROBINSON, P. T.
February 9.

Mr. Hanington, by leave, presented a Petition from William C. Smith, and 118 others, inhabitants of the Counties of Westmorland and Kent, praying that the grant for the encouragement of the packet plying between Shediac, in the said County of Westmorland, and Bedeque, in Prince Edward Island, may be continued; which he read. Ordered, That the said Petition be received, and referred to the Committee on Internal Communications, to report thereon.

Mr Rankin, by leave, presented a petition from James Holmes, of the Parish of Northesk, in the County of Northumberland, praying compensation for expenses in blowing Rocks and in clearing obstructions in the Little South West Branch of the River Miramichi: which he read. Ordered, That the said Petition be received, and referred to the Committee on Internal Communications, to report thereon.

Mr Street moved for leave to bring in a Bill, to repeal certain parts of an Act, intitled 'An Act to authorize the appointment of Commissioners to lay out a Street or Highway through the Town of Chatham, and to establish and regulate Public Landings in the said Town,' and to make other provisions in lieu thereof. The said Bill being brought in, was read a first time.

Mr Barberie, by leave, presented a Petition from Hugh Montgomery, Arthur Ritche, Dugald Stewart Esquires and 30 others, Magistrates; Merchants and Inhabitants of the Parish of Dalhousie, in the County of Restigouche, praying that a special grant may pass to open a Road from Eel River Bridge to the Town of Dalhousie, the grant of last year for that Road not having been expended as was provided by the appropriation; which he read. Ordered, That the said Petition be received, and lie on the Table.

February 11.
Read a second time—A Bill to authorize the Justices of the Peace for the County of Northumberland to levy an assessment to discharge the debts due by the said County.

February 12.
Read a second time the following Bills.—For the Consolidation of the Departments of Revenue in this Province, and to provide for the collection and protection thereof:—To provide for the establishment of Municipal Authorities in this Province:—To establish a Board of Works in this Province:—To repeal all the Laws now in force for regulating and making out and repairing Highways and to lay more effectual provisions for the same:

Mr Street, by leave, presented a Petition from James Gilmour, Esquire, and 23 others, of the Parishes of Newcastle and Nelson, in the County of Northumberland, praying that the grant in aid of the Grammar School at Newcastle may be continued; 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 John M'Donald, Esquire, Benjamin Williston, Robert Noble, 270 others, inhabitants of the County of Northumberland, praying that the Road from Chatham to Point Escuminac, may be established as one of the Great Roads of Communication in the Province; which he read. Ordered, That the said Petition be received, and lie on the Table.

Mr Street, by leave, presented a Petition from John Wilson, of Northesk, in the County of Northumberland, praying to be reimbursed loss sustained in running a Team Boat across the North and Southwest Branches of the River Miramichi, and for a farther grant to enable him to continue the said Boat; which he read. Ordered, That the said Petition be and referred to the Committee on Internal Communication, to report thereon.

Colonial.

NOVA-SCOTIA.

Halifax Register, Feb. 16.

Mortality among the Children.—The present season is an unusually melancholy one to several families in the capital, many of whose younger members have fallen victims to the Measles and Scarlet Fever.

On Saturday morning last, an attempt to shoot a Sergeant of the 76th Regt., named Gingell, was made by a private soldier in the New Barracks of the Citadel. It appears that the man was reprimanded and threatened with punishment by the Serreant for some offence committed on the previous evening while in a state of intoxication,—and the latter being in the Barrack room of the offender at the time of breakfast, received a discharge from a musket, when the ball entered his back and passed through his left breast. It is

expected that the wound will not prove fatal.

A resolution, increasing the duty on pork, imported into the Province from all colonies except P. E. Island, to 10s. per barrel, has passed the Assembly.

The House has resolved to Petition Her Majesty for the removal of the Imperial Duty on Flour imported into this province.

NEW-BRUNSWICK.

St John Morning News, February 14.
The steam Ferry Boats Victoria and Lady Colebroke, were seized by the Sheriff on Friday, for debt. We understand they will continue their trips under their new owners.

St. John New Brunswick, February 15.
Petition of the Common Council to Mortgage the City!—We were last evening put in possession of this *precious Document*, and have now the satisfaction of showing the Public the nature of the Petition. The Prayer of which is as follows:—

'Your Petitioners humbly and respectfully ask the aid of Your Excellency and Honors in obtaining a loan to the extent of eighty to ninety thousand pounds sterling from the Imperial Government to be applied in total discharge of their debt, and to enable them to effect the improvements adverted to, and others which are loudly called for to benefit the City. To secure the payment of the loan they would respectfully tender the whole of their property and income; and become subject to such restrictive Legislative enactments with reference to incurring further Bond debts, as to Your Excellency and Honors may seem meet.'

After having read the above, our readers will be enabled to judge for themselves of the conduct of our Civic Rulers;—here is a subject which ought to arouse every Inhabitant of this City against such an unwarrantable and daring infringement of their Rights, and compel the Corporation to withdraw a Petition, which if allowed to pass, will entail the greatest Calamities upon the City.

We see it stated in the *Official Organ* of the Corporation of Saturday last, that the funded debt of the Corporation amounts to about £78,000, while it is stated in the Petition that the funded debt is about 80,000! besides some floating demands! Will our Citizens under the present circumstances look silent on, and raise no voice against the violation of their rights? Let them arouse in this emergency and act as become wise men. Let a Petition be instantly forwarded to the Legislature, praying them to put the City in the hands of Commissioners to ascertain its debts and arrange its affairs, previous to a revision of the Charter.

CHINA.

The barque Valparaiso, Captain Lockwood, arrived at New York on Monday morning from Canton, having sailed on the 14th of October. By its arrival we have the Canton [Macao] Register of October 12, eight days later than our advices by the Probus.

Of news there is not much. Nothing farther had been heard from the expedition, and scarcely any thing of moment had occurred at Canton or in its vicinity. The most important item of intelligence, perhaps, is the official notification from Pekin that Keshen was to lose his head, contradicting previous accounts that he had again been taken into favor. It is known that Keshen was an advocate for buying off the invaders by commercial and pecuniary concessions, and it is a fair inference from his condemnation that the hostile intents of the Emperor have in no wise abated.

Great fears were entertained at Macao that the Nerbudda, transport, with 117 souls on board had been lost. A boat from her, with 33 souls on board, and chiefly soldiers, had been picked up; they reported that they had left the Nerbudda in a sinking state, having driven over a large reef off the north end of Formosa. The boat had been eight days at sea when picked up. The Nimrod sloop of war had gone in search of the Nerbudda.

The Register says that four or five English gentlemen, attached to the English firms, were still at Canton, and adds the following—

'Canton was, on the 9th inst. as open to British as to neutral merchants: it is so now, and we think it will continue so to be. Any British merchant will be as safe in Canton as any neutral; that they do not choose to go and conduct their business there is their own affair; if, indeed, the hong merchants were to flatly refuse to transact any business with the