

The Politician.

The Colonial Press.

From the Saint John Colonial Advocate.

THE TIMBER TRADE.

There is another view of the timber trade which we have yet abstained from taking, as it may appear to many somewhat new, and therefore startling. It is this—that our rulers are selling the public timber for exportation for a present purpose, without looking forward, in the smallest degree, to the future welfare of the Province. It may be supposed by the people of other countries, particularly by those of Great Britain, that in clearing our forests we are, in the best possible way, preparing our lands for settlement. Now exactly the reverse of this is the truth. The clearing off of trees fit for either exporting whole, or being sawn into deals, boards, &c., is not taking away one tree in every forty or fifty of what encumbers our lands; it is therefore of no use whatever for this purpose, while it takes away all those which are valuable, leaving to the future settler all those which are useless to him. He purchases the land therefore, encumbered with useless forest trees, and has quite the same trouble in clearing them off, as he would have had could he sell them to advantage after this was done. It appears to us very evident, that we are thus using our patrimony prematurely, and spending now in our youth, what we may greatly want when we reach a riper age in our history. These trees are already grown to our hands—they are a patrimony given us by the sovereign, and like all spendthrift heirs, or legatees, we are selling away the timber of our patrimonial estate, regardless how our own posterity may be able to get on after this valuable portion of the estate is sold, and squandered away.

But this is not, bad as it is, the most deplorable state of the case. We have always held, that no settler on wild land, as it is called, can make a living altogether on it, if the saleable timber be already taken off, and we have never seen nor heard anything either in fact or argument to stagger, in the smallest degree, this opinion. If a poor man manages to amass £17 or £18, he can purchase 100 acres, we will, for the sake of the argument, allow, of very good land, from which all the valuable timber has already been sold by the government. Suppose him able to clear three or four acres himself, and it is even difficult to understand how he is to feed and clothe himself and family, if he should already have a family, while this is being done; but let this pass. What now is he to do? Suppose him able to burn off, and clear up, a couple of acres in the spring, and plant among the stumps with potatoes to this amount, and this in fact is much more than any one man can do, he still has four or five months to pass, before he can get any use of his crop, and when he does get it, what then? He has nothing to eat but potatoes; and suppose he raises 300 bushels, and cases out of ten; he has no cattle nor cart to carry them to market, and in most cases, no road to carry them on, and if he do carry a few to the nearest market on his back, or even suppose him to hire a team, the sum he will realize will hardly pay his pains in taking them to market, when he shall have paid his dues, and the team, and his keep. And even suppose he get them to market, say 200 bushels, at 1s. clear per bushel, and this is much more than has been realized these two years, even by those having teams of their own, or sending their potatoes by water carriage; but suppose him even to realize ten pounds, will this be enough to feed and clothe himself and family from May in one year, till September in the following; and where, all this time, is his house? which he cannot put up himself, and which, even with the help of his neighbours, will not cost him less than £25, not calculating a single piece of furniture, not even a bed to lie on.—In short, he must starve if he rely on his farm, for subsistence; and not until he can buy a couple of cows, and hay to winter feed them, can he, by any possibility, subsist, without hiring himself out to others for two or three years, until he can effectuate his object. In fact, wood land, with the saleable timber taken off, is worth nothing whatever to the new settler, and if he but knew all that he has necessarily to encounter in endeavoring to become a landholder, he would never make the attempt. Therefore, those who have been at the head of the management of government have done, and are now doing, all in their power to prevent settlement, by making the land valueless; they having sold, and now selling off, the only really valuable part of it—the only thing which a new settler could make available for his support while clearing his land.

And what is the province without inhabitants—a third rate town in the old country contains as many inhabitants as the whole colony; and one of second rate, as many as almost both the two lower provinces;—as for example, Dublin, Bristol, Manchester, or Glasgow; and London more than all the British Provinces together; and how can there be strength without inhabitants, and how can there be revenue without inhabitants, or how can there be either large or profitable trade among trees and stumps. The strength and glory of every state, is not the quantity of its land, or even the excellence of its soil, but the number and quality of its population. The table land of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and other western states, though calculated by Mr Stewart to be capable of supplying all the population of Europe, under proper cultivation, might have been purchased a few years ago for a very trifling sum. One single British nobleman might have bought and paid for, as much land as would, with adequate population,

make a respectable kingdom. And what steps are our rulers taking to create a population, or to retain such as call upon us in their passage to the promised land. Just nothing at all. It is very true, if these emigrants are inclined to try the effect of abstinence on their constitutions, they are ready to sell them wilderness land at 3s. an acre, on which they can starve respectably, being landholders; but these poor people, ignorant as they may be, if they must starve, are not inclined to do so in such good company. They therefore walk off, and in this prove their practical wisdom. In fact, no man in his senses, who has arms to work for a living, should take a present of wild lands, denuded of its useful timber, if on the condition of being obliged to settle upon it.

And what return is the province receiving for all this prodigal waste of its timber. Raising a revenue, forsooth, without population, and when all is spent and irretrievably gone, we will have to commence *de novo*—to commence then to endeavour to make some living otherwise, but what that may be, heaven alone can tell, for our governors are too busy providing for present difficulties, to take into any consideration, with what we are to pay for the thousand and one thousands we are yearly importing, and likely to import for our use, or convenience from abroad, and which it appears we cannot do without, and which they shew not the smallest wish that we should ever do for ourselves.

And having such a public fund as our extensive territory, and heavy timber tracks, all public property; we see no traces of provision being made for public education, or for the support of religion, and surely it can never be intended (religion at present out of the question) that our public schools should continue, in all future time, to be supported out of the public revenue, to be voted for, now less, and now more, as caprice may dictate; instead of having a permanent endowment, which cannot be touched by the hands of our pullers and haulers in the Assembly.

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, SATURDAY, JULY 26, 1845.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE OF THE MAILS.

The mail for Fredericton, direct, closes on Monday morning at 7, 30 o'clock; and arrives on the morning of Friday, at 3 o'clock, A. M.

The Southern mails are closed at 5, 30 o'clock, on the mornings of Tuesdays and Saturdays, and arrive at 7 o'clock on the mornings of Mondays and Thursdays.

The mails for the Northward are despatched soon after the arrival of the mails from the southward on Mondays and Thursdays; and arrive here on the mornings of Friday, at 6 o'clock.

A mail is also made up, to and from Prince Fortnight.

FIRST JULY MAIL.

By the mail on Monday last, 21st inst., we received our usual files of British papers. Having glanced at them we did not discover anything of particular interest to require the issue of a half-sheet at an earlier period of the week. In this day's No. will be found extracts of the most interesting British News we could find.

From the Halifax Guardian we learn that the mail was brought to that city by the Britannia, after a passage of 13 days; having been detained about 20 hours off the harbour, in consequence of the thick fog.

The grant to Maynooth College, which has created of late so much excitement, received (as was generally expected) the Royal assent.

The commercial intelligence is in every respect satisfactory, and there is every probability of an abundant harvest.

The account of the first Quebec fire had reached the Mother Country, and as will be seen in another part of our paper, Subscription Lists were opened forthwith to relieve the sufferings of our fellow-colonists.

The Attorney General, Sir W. Follett, died on the 27th ult. He was only 47 years old.

Joseph Somes, Esq., M. P., one of the most eminent ship owners of London, died on the 2nd inst. His vessels at the present time, are in all parts of the world. He was of humble origin, and by his industry and perseverance, amassed immense wealth.

The Augsburg Gazette announces the death of Cardinal Cappaccini, one of the most eminent diplomatists of the Papal See.

Colonial Timber continued to maintain its price.

The complicated question of Parliamentary privilege is likely to be at length unravelled, so that Hon. Members and the country generally will shortly know where the boundary line exists beyond which they dare not legally go.

We clip the following sensible remarks on this subject, from the London Watchman of 2nd July:

The question of Parliamentary Privilege, as raised in the case of "Howard v. Gossett," has acquired increased importance in the progress of its discussion, and, as it now stands, involves interests and conclusions of considerable moment. The last debate upon the subject, presents a development of the real points at issue sufficiently clear and startling to command public attention in a degree, that must lead, we should hope, to a speedy and honorable adjustment of what now wears too much the aspect of a collision between the House of Commons and the Courts of Law. The actual facts do not, indeed, necessitate any such collision; for the Court of Queen's Bench has not taken upon itself to pronounce what is or is not the extent of Parliamentary privilege. It has merely declared that a warrant issued by the Speaker, in which neither the cause nor the time of imprisonment was specified, was technically illegal. But, although the House has wisely resolved to submit this decision for the consideration of a Court of Appeal, yet the belligerent tone of several of the speakers evinced a disposition to go to extreme lengths, should the Court of Errors affirm the judgment of the Court of Queen's Bench.

The predisposition of every loyal citizen, must, of course, be to respect the powers that be, to obey to the uttermost the laws of the land, and, not only submit to, but to maintain the rightful claims of parliament. But before a law can be obeyed, it must be promulgated; before claims can be acquiesced in, they must be known: And when the inquiry is proposed, What are the constitutional privileges of the House of Commons?—Where is the law to be found by which they are guaranteed or defined? no answer can be returned, except the vague employment of such conventional expressions as "the High Court of Parliament," and "the law of Parliament," which have no tangible or practical signification; or a reference to an incomplete and inconclusive array of precedents. As interpreted by certain Honorable Gentlemen—(some of whom, we may remark, are on other occasions amongst the loudest declaimers on behalf of popular rights and liberties)—the privilege of the House of Commons is no less than the authority to do whatever it pleases, without law and without responsibility. So thinks Mr Hume. So thinks Mr Roebuck, who would (as he expresses it) "at once lay his hands on every man who made 'the least motion in a Court of Law, to impeach the privileges of the House.'" So thinks Lord John Russell, who is prepared, if the Judges should decide against the Warrant, to apply to the Crown for a military force to carry it into execution. Amongst our "Contemporary Opinions" will be found comments, (selected from journals differing widely in politics) which are so forcible as to render it unnecessary that we should here dwell upon the arbitrary character of these claims. Surely, British freedom would, so far, be but an empty name, if the majority of a House of Commons,—which, by possibility, might be corruptly constituted or unduly influenced—could seize upon, "lay by the heels," or imprison whomsoever it pleased, without being able to point to any law beyond its own will in justification of the procedure, and without an obligation to assign any reason for adopting it. We agree with the Morning Herald, "He is no freeman who is subject to imprisonment by any authority, however respectable, without some cause shown, and without a refuge in any tribunal."

The course recommended by Sir R. H. Inglis, is that which the dictates of constitutional principle—and, we may add, of common sense, enjoin. Let Parliament legislate on the subject. Instead of claims varying in their amount and nature according to the judgment or the pre-conceived opinion of the individual by whom they are stated, and regarded by many as dangerous in proportion to their vagueness, let there be law defining and establishing the privileges of the House. Let those privileges be acceded with a liberal hand. There is no desire on the part of the country to circumscribe them within narrow limits. On the contrary, we believe, the public voice would unhesitatingly say, let all that is requisite to uphold the dignity of the House, and to enable it to maintain its authority in the exercise of its high functions, be secured on such a footing as will guard against inconvenient or derogatory interference from any quarter. But let those who are amenable to the authority of the House, and who, within all constitutional limits, desire to be so, have means of knowing what is the extent of the power to which they are subjected, and what are the requirements of the law which they are bound to obey. Thus may the real dignity of the House be defended by the best and surest rampart,—the intelligent acquiescence and support of a free and loyal people.

LAUNCH.—At Shediac, on Monday the 7th ult., the fine new barque *Marchioness of Clydesdale*, 530 tons, new measurement. This splendid vessel has been

pronounced by several competent judges to be equal to any heretofore built in these provinces. She is composed entirely of Hachmetac. Her beauty and elegance of mould, and superior workmanship and construction, reflects the highest credit on the builder, Mr Joseph Trenamain. She may therefore justly be classed as one among the many of that gentleman's masterly specimens of naval architecture. She is to be commanded by Captain Thomas Fergusson.

DEATH BY POISONING.—An Inquest was held at St. Andrews, N. B., on the 9th instant, on view of the body of Ann Julia Hatt, who destroyed herself by taking poison. It appears that a short time before her death, she purchased a quantity of arsenic, a portion of which she took mixed in tea, which caused her death in a few hours. A man named Charles Howattson, with whom the deceased cohabited, was committed to jail to stand his trial at the assizes, as an accessory to the death, he being in the room at the time, and made no effort to prevent the deceased taking the poison, knowing it to be such.

ST. JOHN.—A splendid new steam ship, of 350 tons register, was launched from the ship yard of Justus Wetmore, Esq., on the 18th inst. She was named the "Robert Rankin," in compliment to Robert Rankin, Esq., of the firm of Rankin, Gilmour & Co., of Liverpool, for many years one of the most respectable merchants of St. John.

P. E. ISLAND.—We perceive by the Charlotte Town papers that a number of accidents have lately occurred in this Island, attended with loss of life.

An inquest was held on the 13th inst., on the body of a young woman named Margaret Stewart, who had been missing a week previous. She had left her home in search of her father's cows, and not returning in a reasonable time, 400 or 500 men volunteers were daily employed in ranging the woods for her, when she was found deceased in her father's mill dam.

A most distressing occurrence took place at a place called Big Cape, on the 11th inst. Angus McDonald, of that place, with his four sons, and two lads named McIntyre and McDonald, proceeded to sea in an open boat for the purpose of fishing. While they were out, the wind veered round from the north to the south, which caused a heavy swell, which upset the boat, when they were all drowned, except one of the sons of Angus McDonald, who was washed ashore in a state of insensibility.

STEAMBOAT DISASTER IN NEW ORLEANS.—The steamboat *Marquette*, from New Orleans to Cincinnati, burst both boilers, tearing into fragments her boilers, dock, and cabin, as far aft as the wheel house on the starboard side, and killing and wounding between 30 and 40 passengers and crew.

BRITISH LETTERS BY THE FIRST JULY MAIL.—The following communication was kindly handed to us on Thursday morning last, which will we trust prove satisfactory to those who were disappointed in not receiving their British letters by Monday's mail:

General Post Office, St. John,
21st July, 1845.

Sir,—I am sorry to inform you, that the Letter portion of the Liverpool mail for this Province, which left England on the 4th inst., has unfortunately been carried on in the steamer to Boston by mistake. In communicating this information to the public, you may assure them that every effort will be used by the Post Office Department to correct this error with the least possible delay. I am, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,
T. B. LANG, P. O. Surveyor.
The Postmaster, Chatham.

We call the attention of our readers to an able article on the Timber Trade, taken from the St. John Colonial Advocate, a paper which promises to be no discredit to the Colonial Press.