

Legislative News.

New Brunswick:

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY, April 11.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF FINANCE.

Table with columns for DEBTS and ASSETS. DEBTS includes Warrants, Grants of Money, Savings Bank Deposits, etc. ASSETS includes Bonds for Loans, Saint John Water Company, etc.

On the 22nd February last, the Committee reported an Estimate of the probable Revenue of the current year, with the amount to be granted in Supply during the present session...

The sums payable by existing Laws, and not granted in Supply this present Session, are: The salary of the Master of the Rolls, £890 0 0; Judges' Travelling Charges, 250 0 0; Clerk of the Crown on the Circuits, 550 0 0...

Table listing Sums granted in Supply: Ordinary Services, £11,710 0 0; Extraordinary Services, 14,465 0 0; Roads and Bridges, 20,047 0 0; Pockets and Couriers, 890 0 0; Improvement of Navigation of the River Saint John, 1,100 0 0; Postages of both Houses, 2,250 0 0; Contingent Expenses of both Houses, 250,462 0 0.

The committee beg to state, that their Estimate of the Revenue of the current year was deemed by the Road Committee to be at least £8000 too low; and that the sum of £12,000 proposed for the Road Service in accordance with that estimate, was therefore raised to a sum exceeding £20,000.

Should this additional amount be realized, it would raise our estimate of the 22nd February last to £68,000. Amount payable by Law during the year, and not granted in supply, £17,918 0 0. Amount granted in Supply, £50,462 0 0. Estimated Ordinary Revenue of the current year, £68,000 0 0.

The Joint Address of the Legislative Council and House of Assembly to Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen, upon the subject of the Post Office Department, was read and engrossed, and is as follows:—

TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY The Joint and Humble Address of Her Majesty's Legislative Council and House of Assembly of the Province of New Brunswick, in General Assembly convened: May it please Your Majesty,

We, the Legislative Council and Assembly of New Brunswick, in Provincial Parliament assembled, beg leave to approach Your Majesty with feelings of the most devoted attachment to your Majesty's person and government.

partment in this province, with a view to obtain such improvements as may be practicable in its future management. We regret to inform your Majesty, that very general dissatisfaction exists throughout the province, with regard to this Department, as well on account of the high rates of Postage established by the Treasury Warrant of October, 1843, as from the recent increase of the expenses of management, and the diminished accommodation lately afforded to the people of the province.

By the accounts of Income and Expenditure laid before the Assembly in 1844, it appears that the amount of salaries for the two years ending 5th January, 1843, was as follows:— For the year ending 5th January, 1842, £1,211 15 7. For the year ending 5th January, 1843, 1,289 1 6. And by the return laid before the Assembly at the present Session, it is shewn that the amount of Salaries for the year ending 5th January last, was £2,580 13 8; from which it will manifestly appear to your Majesty, that under the system introduced in July, 1843, the salaries and allowances to Officers have more than doubled; and when we inform your Majesty that the number of Mails has, during the same period, been materially reduced, and the Postages in several instances increased, your Majesty will, we humbly conceive, graciously admit that we have abundant cause to complain of the present management of the Department in this province.

By the recent abandonment of some of the Lines, many of the oldest and most cultivated districts of the Province are now left without any Post Office accommodation; and for the purpose of affording partial relief to those and other districts, we have, during the present session, appropriated upwards of £600 towards the support of sixteen additional Couriers and Packets in various parts of the province for the present year.

Whether any surplus Revenue has been collected since the half year ending 5th July, 1843, we are not informed; but by the Returns laid before the Assembly at the last session, it appeared that there was a surplus on the two and a half years ending July, 1843, of £4,858, and we humbly submit to your Majesty, that such surplus as may from time to time accrue, should not be expended out of the Province, but applied towards the establishment of additional lines of post communication.

The present high rates of Letter Postage, and the tax upon printed papers, are considered so onerous, that not only is a large amount of correspondence altogether prevented, but every opportunity by private conveyance is resorted to, and thus the Law habitually and generally violated, and that with impunity; and we are therefore unanimously of opinion, that if the charge on printed papers were abolished, and the letter postage reduced one half, the income of the department would, in a short time, be much larger than at present.

The provincial Legislature, during the last ten years, have expended over £145,000 on the great roads of communication within the province, which has contributed very materially to reduce the rates of contract for mail carriage, and it is therefore the more unsatisfactory to the provincial public, that less accommodation should be now afforded by the department than in former years; and the general dissatisfaction is much increased by the fact, that the reduction of public accommodation has been accompanied by a concurrent increase of salaries; and we humbly represent to your Majesty, that a much larger amount of Revenue is absorbed by the salaries of the present officers, than is required for the efficient management of the department.

The policy of your Majesty's government in reducing the rates of postage in the mother country, has recently been adopted in the United States. By an enactment of Congress the rates of postage in that country have been reduced on single letters not exceeding half an ounce, to five and ten cents, as the distance may be under or over three hundred miles, to take effect from the first day of July next; and as we are deeply impressed with the importance of extending the advantages of post communications throughout the remotest settlements of this province, we respectfully submit that a very considerable reduction of rates, and the establishment of additional Lines, are absolutely necessary for the beneficial attainment of this desirable end.

Admitting the absolute necessity of preserving the Metropolitan control of the department, we do not venture to ask for a transfer of such control to the provincial government, but we humbly and earnestly submit the following propositions for your Majesty's most gracious consideration:—

- 1st—That the rates of provincial postage be reduced on letters not exceeding half an ounce to a maximum of six pence, and a minimum of two pence, according to the distance.
2nd—That the postage on printed votes and newspapers be abolished.
3rd—That the Deputy Post Master General of the province shall, from time to time, under the direction of the Post Master General, establish such additional lines of communication as may be suggested by the Provincial Legislature.
4th—That a full and particular account of Income and Expenditure be annually laid before the Legislature by the Deputy Post Master General.
5th—That any surplus revenue collected within the province, after appropriating such sums as may be required to keep up those proportions of the great lines of communication between Nova Scotia and Canada, and between Nova Scotia and the United States, which lie within this province, and to maintain an efficient establishment here, may be applied in

extending the facilities of inter-provincial communication.

6th—That in consideration of the foregoing propositions being acceded to by your Majesty, the Legislature of this province should guarantee by Legislative enactment for a term of years, such additional sum of money as may from time to time be required to defray the current charges of the department.

We therefore, in behalf of your Majesty's loyal subjects, the inhabitants of this province, confidently submit this our humble and dutiful Address to your Majesty's gracious consideration, and we earnestly and respectfully pray your Majesty to grant such relief in the premises, as the exigency of the case may require, and as to your Majesty may seem meet. And as in duty bound will ever pray.

WILLIAM BLACK, President Legislative Council. J. W. WELDON, Speaker House of Assembly.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

The Select Committee on Education submit the following report.

Having attentively considered the joint Report of the School Inspectors, and concurring in the views therein expressed, the Committee have prepared the Draft of a Bill, in conformity therewith, under the Title of "A Bill to provide for the support and improvement of the Parish Schools," which they herewith submit to the House, and recommend that the same, together with the joint Report of the Inspectors, be printed in Pamphlet form and circulated during the recess.

The Committee are deeply impressed with the importance of this great subject, and hope that the legislature will be prepared at the next Session to adopt such improvements in the present system, as will carry with them the approbation and support of the country, and at the same time ensure those educational advantages which are, in a great measure, denied by the present defective system.

The Committee recommend that an Abstract Table of the School Returns should be prepared by one or more of the late inspectors, as soon after the prorogation as possible, and that the same should be printed, and four copies thereof supplied to each Member of the Legislature, for which service the House should make provision at the next Session.

The mass of School reports before the House exhibit a great amount of valuable information, and afford a gratifying proof of the ability and industry with which the Inspectors discharged the onerous duties devolved upon them; but in order that the information contained in those reports should be rendered easy of reference, it is, in the opinion of the Committee, absolutely necessary that an Abstract thereof should be prepared as above recommended.

Respectfully submitted. L. A. WILMOT, Chairman.

TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

The Humble Address of the House of Assembly of New Brunswick.

May it please Your Majesty,

We, your Majesty's faithful and loyal subjects, the Representatives of the people of New Brunswick, in reiterating our assurance of devoted attachment to your Majesty's person and government, approach your Majesty with this our dutiful address, on the subject of the salaries chargeable upon the Civil List of this province.

We have on several occasions brought this matter under the consideration of your Majesty, and your Majesty's illustrious predecessor, King William the Fourth, of blessed memory, and referring to the scale submitted by the Assembly in 1843, we continue to entertain the opinion, that the several rates then suggested are amply sufficient for the respective services at that time enumerated.

By that scale it will be observed, that the salary proposed to be given to the successor of the gentleman who then held the office of Provincial Secretary, including that of Registrar and Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, is £600 currency, per annum, in addition to the sum of £500 currency, per annum, for clerks and contingencies, making the whole expense of that establishment not to exceed £1,100 currency, per annum. A provision for all the duties attached to the various offices held by late incumbent to the extent then recommended, would be a liberal compensation for their faithful discharge; and should it be deemed necessary that the office of Secretary should be distinct from the clerk of the Executive Council, which the Assembly consider very questionable, the late Secretary and his predecessors having performed the service since the organization of the province, the duties of the Secretary's Office will be so diminished as to admit of a reduction in the expense of that establishment; out of which the salary of the Clerk of the Executive Council, which should not exceed £200 currency, might be partly or altogether paid.

The saving thus effected in the establishment will be about £500 currency, which will increase the amount of surplus accruing on the Civil List Fund to about £2,200 currency, per annum, with a prospect of further increase at no very remote period; and as such surplus, from the assurances we have had from your Majesty's government, is to be applied by your Majesty for beneficial services within the colony, we beg leave humbly and dutifully to express the wish entertained by your Majesty's Faithful Commons, that permanent provision may be made therefrom for the respective salaries of the Treasurer of the Province and the Master of the Rolls, amounting to £1,400 currency, per annum; thereby still leaving at the disposal of your Majesty an annual amount of surplus greater than that at the passing of the Civil List.

The Assembly do therefore most humbly implore your Majesty to take the premises into your Majesty's royal consideration, and assent to the prayer of this their humble and dutiful address.

And as in duty bound will ever pray. J. W. WELDON, Speaker House of Assembly.

POLITICS OF NEW BRUNSWICK. To the Editor of the New York Albion.

SIR: In the "Albion" of March 29th, there is inserted a letter, signed "The Descendant of an old Loyalist," professing to give you "a plain unprejudiced statement of the causes which have given rise to the present position of affairs" in New Brunswick, and on that ground claims its insertion in your paper. If you have, Sir, perhaps properly, inserted that letter, because I can easily believe that you would deem the Descendant of an old Loyalist, and who, as you state, "is a distinguished individual, fully conversant with the whole matter," incapable of giving even a false colouring to facts, much less of perverting the truth, I therefore deem it an act of justice to yourself your readers, and a righteous cause, that his misstatements should be corrected.

In the 4th paragraph, the Lieut. Governor is charged with having "evinced a restless desire to tamper with the existing institutions of the colony, and of having commenced a systematic agitation of the principles of Responsible Government." Such grave but general charges can only be met by a solemn, general, but full denial. Let the writer point out any instance of such tampering, or such systematic agitation, and he may (having proved them) claim some credit for many other like general assertions; but, until he does so, I must unhesitatingly deny that His Excellency either did the one or the other; and the credit to be attached to the writer's general assertions may in some degree be measured by that due to his first specific charge, viz., that the Governor, "instead of consulting those men in the Province to whom you refer in your editorial," of known loyalty, "surrounded himself by persons notoriously proven to be ultra radical in their sentiments." Now, Sir, will it be believed, that the Governor did not make one single change in the confidential advisers of the Government whom his predecessor had selected, but retained them all, until at the Session of 1842, one resigned from disapproving measures which the others unanimously supported—and another (not from any disapprobation of them, for he supported them in the House) but for reasons reasons which have never transpired—and when (after a period of two years) these changes were made, whom did His Excellency call to his counsels? Of the four who replaced the outgoing, two were men connected with the chief families in the Province, with the families of the Chief Justice, of Judge Botsford and their numerous branches—and one of them standing in close connection with the "Descendant of an old Loyalist." A third was Mr Johnston, who had previously left the Council, and whose politics, though unknown, are such as have induced either party to claim him as their own; the fourth was Mr Wilmot (the only known liberal) and who, it was understood, was introduced through Mr Johnston, with whom it is generally reported, that he stands in some relationship or connection.

Now these are facts which cannot be controverted, and in view of them, I ask can the writer's assertion be for one moment sustained, that "the Governor surrounded himself with persons notoriously known to be ultra radical in their sentiments." He works on as long as he can with the Council he finds on his arrival, and when the accession of two of the members of this Council compels him to make a change, he fills the vacancies by two who pride themselves on being old Loyalists—by a third who is in their confidence, and the fourth being of the opposite party—but a connection of one of the three.

And as to the measures, why did not the "Descendant of an old Loyalist" preface his remarks about measures, by telling you the state of the Province when the Lieut. Governor arrived here? Why did he not say that in the four preceding years, the Legislature had expended above £100,000, (which had accumulated under the careful management by the Government of the casual and territorial revenue, and which had been handed over to the Province), besides their ordinary yearly revenue;—amounts to from £60,000 to £90,000, so that when Sir William Colebrooke arrived, after the session of 1841, he found a debt of £35,000 to 40,000, which at the close of the year had reached £90,000;—and in consequence of no provision having been made for the payment of this debt by the Legislature, the Government warrants bearing six per cent interest, were scarcely negotiable at a discount of 15, 20, or 25 per cent; indeed, a vast number of cases, were not negotiable at all. He should in fairness have alluded to these things, and your readers would have at once seen that something was necessary to be done to retrieve the public credit; to restore the public confidence; and that a Government, which, under such circumstances, could have sat with its hands folded, would have preserved public security.

But what were the measures proposed by Sir William, which proved him "imbued with mischievous principles?" The "Descendant of an old Loyalist" says these were municipal corporations, Boards of Works, the initiation of money grants, and local Government by Heads of Departments. The three first he has correctly stated, but where he learnt that the Lieut. Governor ever proposed "local Government by Heads of Departments" he is bound to show, if he wishes his statements to be believed. The public is unaware of any such