

prove incontestably that the potato has not degenerated. However, the commission recommends that fresh seed should be employed this year; for it will then, at any rate, be certain that it has not been attacked by this scourge.

3rd.—If, notwithstanding every effort, the disease should again break out next year, the moment the first symptoms of it are perceived, the first leaves that turn yellow should be taken off and burnt, or the entire field should be watered towards evening with lime water, or, still better, with diluted sulphuric acid, so as to destroy the seeds of the cryptogamous fungi; sulphuric acid, moreover prevents rotting, and when prepared as above directed, can do no injury to the plants themselves.

3. Use to be made of the Diseased Potatoes.

Those potatoes which have been attacked by the disease appear not to be prejudicial to health, when taken in moderate quantities. The commission has consulted veterinary surgeons as to whether the potatoes can be employed, without danger, to feed cattle. Their reply was in the affirmative. It has been proved, moreover, that pigs have eaten the diseased potatoes without death ensuing. The commission is, however, of opinion that they should be cooked beforehand.

Man may likewise make use of the diseased potatoes, but must carefully remove the brown spots which caused the disease. It has also been shown by experiments that potatoes which have remained unattained on the same plant where there are spoiled tubers may be eaten without hesitation. It is almost useless to remark that potatoes which are completely rotten are hurtful not only to man but to cattle, and too frequent use of spoiled potatoes is equally dangerous to those who make their sole food of them. Dr. Westerhoff remarked, that in the commune of Warffum (province of Groningen), those persons who made use of spoiled potatoes experienced pains in the stomach and nausea, followed by vomiting, after eating them.

It has also been perceived that sheep have been made severely ill by eating attacked potatoes, though they were soon cured by a change of food.

As to the means to be employed to prevent the baneful influence that may be exerted on the health of man by eating the diseased potatoes, the commission proposes to make this the subject of another inquiry. In the mean time, it advises that as much use as possible should be made of the facula of potatoes.

Colonial News.

Nova Scotia:

HALIFAX, January 10.

Speech of Lord Falkland on opening the Legislature.

Mr. President and Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council.

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly.

The necessity which exists for devising means to alleviate the distress and privation to which there is but too much reason to apprehend that a portion of the most rural population of this Province will shortly be exposed, in consequence of the almost general failure of the potatoe crop, joined to a desire to consult the convenience of many amongst you, has induced me to call you together at an earlier period of the year than I have hitherto done; and I feel every confidence that you will readily afford me the best advice and assistance you can give to enable me to meet a conjuncture of unforeseen difficulty.

It is gratifying to me to be able to state that the harvest, with the exception of the potatoe crop, has been in most parts of the Province rather more than usually abundant.

I regret, however to inform you that the fisheries have been less productive than for several years past, although the decrease is not to be attributed to causes likely to be permanent in their nature, or calculated to excite anxiety for the future success of this branch of industry.

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly.

The public accounts, and the estimates for the expences of the current year, shall be submitted to you with the least possible delay.

Assured of the generous sympathy of the people of Nova Scotia for their suffering fellow subjects in Canada, I did not hesitate, on the occasions of the late extensive fires at Quebec, to appropriate a

portion of our abundant resources to the relief of those whom had been visited by such dire calamity, convinced that, in so doing, I but anticipated the wishes of those whom you represent, and that the measure would meet with your approbation and concurrence.

Mr. President and Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council.

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly.

I am happy to acquaint you that the public revenue still continues in a prosperous state.

I have received from the Governor of Barbadoes a letter expressive of his grateful appreciation of your liberality in granting four thousand dollars for the succour of those amongst the population of Bridgetown who were reduced to distress and destitution by the conflagration which took place there in February last; and a copy of a joint resolution, passed by the Council and Assembly of that Island, which I am sure you will be proud to place on your Journals.

The Queen has been graciously pleased to instruct me to signify to the Provincial Parliament Her Majesty's willingness to relinquish the Casual and Territorial Revenues of the Crown in the Colony in exchange for a Civil List on certain conditions, of which I will hereafter apprise you.

I have the pleasure to state that a correspondence, in which I have been recently engaged with the Secretary of State for the Colonies, has terminated happily for the interests of this Country, which are so deeply involved in the protection of the fisheries on its Coasts—further privileges sought by the American Government, the concession of which would have affected the prosperity of Nova Scotia, having been withheld by Her Majesty.

I strongly recommend to your favourable and deliberate consideration a project for the construction of a railroad from Halifax to Quebec and Montreal, which has lately much engaged the public attention and the execution of which, should it turn out to be practicable under present circumstances, cannot be otherwise than beneficial in its consequences to the British North American Colonies, by facilitating their intercourse with each other, and affording at all seasons an outlet through British Ports for the productions of the British Canadian dominions. I have thought it necessary to address Her Majesty's Government on the subject of this great enterprise; and I have endeavoured to obtain such statistical and other information as may assist your deliberations, both as to the feasibility of the contemplated work, and the extent to which pecuniary aid should be afforded to promote the undertaking, should you deem it expedient to apply to that purpose any part of the public income. The information thus collected shall be imparted to you at the first convenient opportunity.

I have been unable to carry into effect the intentions of the Legislature expressed in the Act passed during the last Session, entitled an Act relating to the funded debt of the Province, but I must remind you that it will be necessary to make provision for the immediate liquidation of that portion of it borrowed in 1836, payable in double, early in the present year; and I rely on your bestowing on this, as on all other matters of deep public concern, that grave and dispassionate consideration which their importance so imperatively demands.

United States News.

BOSTON, January 5, 1846.

Important upon the Oregon Question!

The most important came from Mr. Cunningham, of Ohio, who moved a suspension of the rules, for the reception of the following preamble and resolution:

Whereas the rejection, by the British Government, of the liberal proposition lately made by the President of the United States, to compromise and settle the respective claims of the two countries to the Oregon territory, has terminated all negotiation on the subject:

And whereas, by the extraordinary and inadmissible demands of the British Government, it is made manifest that no compromise, which the United States ought to accept, can be effected:

And whereas the title of the United States to the whole of the Oregon territory including within the parallels of 42 deg. and 54 deg. 40 min. north latitude, and extending from the rocky mountains to the Pacific Ocean, is "clear and unquestionable" and that any further

to settle such title by a surrender of any portion of said country would be a surrender of the honor, the dignity, and the true interests of the American people. Wherefore be it

Resolved, That it is the imperative duty of Congress to adopt immediately, such measures as will fully protect our citizens, who now do, or may hereafter, inhabit that country, and effectually maintain our just title to the whole of the territory of Oregon.

The House refused to suspend the rules to receive the resolutions—ayes 75, noes 89. Mr. Adams, however, voted for the suspension; and upon another question, at the close of the day, produced a most profound impression by the character of his remarks. The committee on Military Affairs had reported a bill for raising two regiments of mounted riflemen, and to give the President discretionary power for adding a few more to each of the regiments of infantry, dragoons, and artillery. The mover of the bill asked that it should be made the special order of the day for Tuesday next. Objections were made, and at a late hour, in consequence, a most important debate arose upon the question. Mr. Douglass, of Illinois, made the first allusion to war, and said that, but for the Canadian possessions of Great Britain, she would strike a blow against us to-morrow. He was for extending military and civil jurisdiction over the territory at once, and called upon the committees who ought to have charge of this subject to act at once. Mr. Holmes, of South Carolina, argued that the one year's notice would result in war, and that, if the notice was given, he should at once vote twenty millions for the defence of his country. Mr. C. J. Ingersoll expressed the belief that no such result would come from the notice; and here Mr. Adams rose, and all was silent as death. I have no time, before the mail closes, to give you a sketch of his speech, and can only allude to it, with the remark, that it has created a most profound impression here, and has been hailed by the Western members, and particularly those of the dominant party, with almost a paroxysm of joy.

Mr. Adams said that he was for giving the one year's notice at once,—to-day, if it could be done; that he would have given it at the beginning of the session, if he could. At the end of the twelvemonths, alluded to in the treaty, he was for taking possession of the whole of Oregon. He had voted to give the notice last year, and he was ready to give it now. Nor did he believe that war would follow from the notice; but if war did—which he hoped in God would not—with the hearts of the people united in defence, and a united hand, he had no fears for the consequence. The time of it would be short, and we should soon be left in quiet possession of Oregon; but until the notice is given, said Mr. Adams, such is my respect for treaties, that I will not vote one cent for fortifications, or for the army.

The House adjourned, as Mr. Adams closed.

In the bill which passed at the last session I myself moved, as a first section to the bill, that such notice should be given. The House did not think proper to agree to it, and passed the bill without any notice.

Mr. C. J. Ingersoll, No. It was put into the bill at the last moment.

Mr. Adams. But the bill did not pass the Senate, and so the insertion was immaterial. But it is a material fact to me because I proposed it as constituting the first section of the bill. I declared myself ready then, and I am ready now, to give such notice (Great sensation.) I hope it will be given, and that we shall do it as the first measure to be taken—to be followed afterwards by a real occupation of the whole territory. (Great sensation in the House, and an incipient clap, which however was promptly arrested by the Speaker, who called loudly do order.) But it is indispensable that we shall first give notice.

All the other measures much depend on that. While we sit talking here about regiments of riflemen, and regiments of infantry, and stockade forts, and sappers and miners, and pontoniers, Great Britain is arming her steam vessels, equipping her frigates and line-of-battle ships, and sending troops over to be ready. I would press a resolution giving the notice THIS DAY, if I hoped that a majority of the House could be obtained to effect this measure.

Because I have so profound a sense of the duty of adhering to Treaties that I feel debarred from the least act of hostility, or even from meeting hostility manifested elsewhere, till notice shall have been given. While our convention remains, I will vote no increase of the

army or navy, no fort or stockade, no riflemen, no infantry, no sappers or miners. It is mere wasting of time, and whistling to the wind, to talk about raising a military force until our conscience is clear from the obligation of the convention.

And it does not follow that, if we give notice, there must of necessity be war nor does it even follow that we shall then take possession. It will only be saying to Great Britain: After negotiating twenty years about this matter, we do not choose to negotiate any longer; we shall take possession of what is our own; and then, if to settle the question what is our own, you wish to negotiate, we shall negotiate as long as you please—we may negotiate after we take possession. [Much laughter.] That is the military way of doing business. [Increased merriment.] When the great Frederick came to the throne of Prussia his father had prepared and equipped for him an army of a hundred thousand men. Meeting, shortly afterwards, the Austrian Minister, the latter said to him: "Your father has given you a great army; but our troops have seen the wolf; yours have not." "Well, well," said Frederick, "I will give them an opportunity to see the wolf." Frederick then added in his memoir: "I had some old pretensions to an Austrian province which some of my ancestors had owned one or two hundred years before, and I sent an ambassador to the court of Vienna stating my claim, and presenting a full exposition of my right to the province. The same day my ambassador was received in Vienna, I entered Silesia with my army." [A laugh.] So you see that, on the very day his army entered Silesia, he gave notice to the court of Vienna that the convention for the joint occupation of Silesia was ended. [Loud and prolonged laughter.]

I say, therefore, that I hope the first measure adopted by congress will be to give, in the most solemn manner, the notice to Great Britain which the treaty requires: then the coast will be clear for us to do what we please.

It does not, I repeat, it does not follow as a necessary consequence that, because we give this notice, we must take possession, though it is my hope that we shall. It does not necessarily draw after it a war; and if Great Britain chooses to take such notice as an act of hostility on our part, and forthwith commence hostilities on hers, we have been told that we shall all be but one party, and God Almighty grant that it may be so! If it shall be so, the war will have less of those very extraordinary horrors which my friend from South Carolina (Mr. Holmes) has now just discovered notwithstanding the extreme military propensities which he manifested on the floor last year.

The gentleman was a most valiant man when Texas was in question. But I shall draw no comparisons as to what we witnessed then, and what we see now; but this I will say, that I hope if war shall come—which God forbid, and of which I entertain no fears at all—the whole country will have but one heart and one united hand. And of this I am very sure, that in that case Great Britain will not long occupy Oregon, or anything else north of the Canada line. (Great sensation and incipient indications of applause.)

But if you will agree to give notice, strong as is my horror of war, and of all military establishments, if there should then be the breath of life in me, I hope I shall be willing to go as far as any in making any sacrifice to render that war successful and glorious. I can say no more. But, till notice is given, I am not prepared to vote any preliminary measure of a military kind.

But, if we are going to take actual occupation of the country, then some additional force will be needed, to our army, and in that case, however, unwilling I have ever been to increase our military establishment, I think I should get over my difficulties, especially if a disposition should be manifested by Great Britain to take offence at the measure I have just mentioned. All our military preparations must depend on notice to Great Britain: we must not have our hands and feet bound; the obligations of joint occupancy must be dissolved and we left free to act according as the interests of our country may require.

Dreadful Steamboat Accident and Loss of Life.—We learn by the New Orleans papers that on the night of the 18th ult. the steamboat Belle Zante, Capt. Brazier, while on her way from Zanesville, Ohio, to that city struck upon a snag about twelve miles below the mouth of White River on the Mississippi, and immediately turned bottom up. It was twelve o'clock when the accident occurred, and the night