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Nec araneorum sane textus ideo melior, quia ex se fila gignunt, nec noster vilior quia ex alienis libamus ut apes.

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EXTRACTS FROM THE JOURNALS.
DESPATCHES.

MUNICIPAL ORGANISATION AND FINANCES.

Downing Street, 23d July, 1849.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch, No. 61, of the 27th June, forwarding the annual 'Blue Book,' accompanied by your Report upon the present condition of the Province of New Brunswick.

2. Concurring generally in the views which you entertain, I trust that the Provincial Legislature will see the necessity of seriously considering the state of affairs, and of adopting those measures of reform which appear to me indispensable in order that New Brunswick may attain to that prosperity which, from its great natural advantages, it has a right to expect.

3. Of these reforms, I concur with you in thinking that the establishment of a system of Municipal organization is the one most urgently wanted. It is to her ancient institutions of this kind that the political prosperity of England has been, with justice, in a great measure attributed—and the adoption of very similar institutions in her former North American Colonies, now the States of the North American Union, adjoining New Brunswick, has in a fully equal degree promoted their advance—and I earnestly hope that the Province may not long be deprived of the like advantages.

4. With a view to facilitate the establishment of Municipal Bodies, I would suggest that in each Township or County the receipts arising from Land and Timber should be placed at the disposal of those Bodies, subject only to the condition that they should be applied to permanent improvements, such as the opening of Roads, the building of Bridges, and the establishment of Schools.

5. I regard also the encouragement which would be given to trade by putting an end to the uncertainty which you describe as existing with respect to the rate of Duties to which goods on their arrival will be subject, as a matter of great importance to the prosperity of the Province. I can conceive nothing better calculated to check the commerce of the Colony than frequent fluctuations in the rate of its Customs Duties. I am apprehensive that the remedy you propose for this evil, by merely altering the period of the year at which Tax Bills are to take effect, would be altogether inadequate, and that to give to Trade the extension of which it is capable, the Duties themselves must be placed on a more permanent footing.

6. You are probably aware that in this Country all the Customs Duties are now imposed by permanent Laws, which Parliament has, of course, the power to alter, but which, in the absence of any reason for their alteration, remain in force without being annually renewed. As the produce of the taxes can only be legally appropriated by Parliament, the constitutional control of that body over the public purse is not thus weakened, while Trade greatly gains by the more permanent character of the Duties imposed—and I most strongly recommend the adoption of a similar system by the Provincial Legislature.

7. The improvement of the Financial condition of the Province is a subject to which the attention of the Legislature is urgently required, and I believe that this object can only be accomplished by the establishment of Municipal Institutions to which I have already adverted, accompanied by efficient measures for relieving the general Revenue from a variety of local charges to which it is now subject, and for providing for these charges by assessments made by the Municipal Bodies where established.

I am, &c.

GREY.

Lt. Governor Sir E. Head.
Extract from Despatch, No. 61, dated June 27, 1849, of Sir Edmund Head to Earl Grey.

Reform and economy are to be pursued

for their own sakes—but there is nothing in the contrast between the burthen of taxation here, and in the United States, to place the British Colonist in a disadvantageous condition. There are many who will at once ask,—'How then do you account for the comparative prosperity of the State of Maine? Is it not owing to their high Tariff and protecting Duties which would thus appear to be in their favor rather than against them?'

I am conscious that, in discussing this subject, I am speaking with very imperfect knowledge and information on many points; but I have little hesitation in expressing my conviction that the superior prosperity of Maine, so far as it goes, is attributable principally to two causes—

1st. Not to their protecting Duties, but to the practical enjoyment of Free Trade, notwithstanding those Duties protecting them against European competition.—They have the open ports and unrestricted coasting Trade of the whole Union at their command; and they thrive in spite of the more labored climate and soil with which they have to contend.—So far as it goes therefore, in my opinion, their condition, and that of the other States vying and struggling with each other, and turning to the best account the advantages respectively afforded by every variety of climate, and every variety of produce, afford a practical argument in favor of free trade rather than in favor of protection.

2nd. The Township organisation, and the habit of managing their own local affairs, which have generated and fostered, both in England and the New England States, habits of self reliance and self government.

It is in these two points, and in these alone, that the people of the State of Maine enjoy more true freedom than the people of the British Provinces.

They offer unrestricted access to the industry of the rest of the Union, and they have the benefit of an extended market for their own produce. Each man has, moreover, his own faculties and his own capacity for economical management constantly exercised in the control of the affairs of his own township. They look after their own roads, and their own schools, and exercise those Municipal rights which fit a man for sound and prudent action on a large scale, by developing his political intelligence in matters which he readily understands and appreciates.

The people of this Province, on the other hand, are shrewd and sharp enough, but they have habitually relied upon the Government for the management of their Roads and Schools, and have looked to the Executive Council or the Legislature for help in every emergency. My predecessor, Sir W. Colebrooke, clearly saw these defects, and he urged the adoption of Municipal Institutions throughout the Province as the appropriate remedy. The general feeling however, then was, and I daresay still is, adverse to any change which would throw the inhabitants more on their own resources. Public opinion may alter; and I think it my duty to state explicitly that, in my opinion, Sir W. Colebrooke's views were founded on a just appreciation of the real difficulties of the case. At any rate, let it not be supposed that these elements of real political liberty have been withheld by the influence of the Crown or its Representatives. In this, as in most other things, the true interests of the Government and of the people completely coincide.

The population of these Colonies are made up of the same materials as those of the Northern States of the American Union, and they are nowise inferior to their neighbors in native energy, shrewdness and industry, though from a want of self reliance, and other causes, to which I have adverted, they do not always employ those qualities with equal success.

Extract of Despatch, No. 79, from Sir Edmund Head to Earl Grey dated, Sept. 17, 1849.

It is well however to point out that the proposed mode in paragraph 4, of the Despatch of July 23, that

namely of appropriating the receipts arising from Land and Timber in the different Counties or Townships to permanent improvements in each District, under the superintendence of Municipal Bodies, would be hardly practicable, since the receipts from these sources in different Counties of the Province are so extremely unequal as far to exceed what would be necessary in one County whilst another would be left almost without funds.

BOUNTIES.

Downing Street, 4th Dec., 1849.

SIR,—I have to acknowledge your Despatch No. 38, of 10th April last, enclosing an Address to Her Majesty, presented to you by a committee of the Assembly, on behalf of the House, the prayer of which is, that Her Majesty will direct the instructions given to Lieutenant Governor Sir William Colebrooke in my Despatch of 2d March, 1848 may be reconsidered so far as regards the proposal of a Bounty on the cultivation of Hemp.

2. You will acquaint the Assembly that I have laid their Address before the Queen, and that Her Majesty was pleased to receive it very graciously; but you will also inform them, that after having given the fullest consideration to the subject, Her Majesty's servants do not feel themselves able to advise the Queen to comply with the prayer of the address.

3. Parliament has for many years steadily persevered in a course of policy which has had for its object gradually to relieve the commerce of the Empire from restrictions, and to abandon all attempts to direct Capital and Industry by artificial means into channels which they would not naturally seek. In pursuance of this policy, laws enacting such restrictions, and imposing high duties upon imports, have been successively repealed, and Bounties, which were formerly granted to some extent in this country, have been discontinued, until the Trade of the Empire may now be said to stand on the footing of being nearly free from such interference.

4. The benefits which are expected to arise from this policy will be greatly increased through its general adoption by the principal nations of the world, which Her Majesty's Government hope to see eventually brought about. But it would materially interfere with the attainment of this happy result if it should be observed by Foreign Countries that the former and narrower policy of endeavoring, by Bounties or restrictions, to divert Capital and Industry to other than their natural channels, was again adopted with Her Majesty's assent in any part of Her Dominions.

5. I cannot, therefore, alter the instructions given to your predecessor, and thus authorize you to assent, in Her Majesty's name, to enactments which would be prejudicial to the interests of the Empire at large.

6. Her Majesty's Government have felt it the more necessary to come to this determination because they are persuaded that measures of the kind thus proposed, injurious as they would be to the Empire for the reasons already assigned, but would be particularly so in New Brunswick itself. Indeed one of the grounds assigned by the Assembly in favor of the policy which they recommend, seems to afford strong reasons against it. They state that in a new colony, where capital is scarce, and the resources of the country little developed, the granting of Bounties may be not only consistent with good policy, but in many instances, necessary. But this argument appears to lose sight of the principle, that the scarcer capital may be the more necessary it is that it should be applied to the best advantage. The effect, and indeed the object of Bounties is, to cause Capital to be employed in pursuits which, without the assistance of such Bounties, would not offer sufficient returns to induce individuals to follow them, while it is obvious that no capital can be devoted in any country to new branches of industry unless it be withdrawn from old ones; and consequently the effect of the Bounty would be to induce individuals to give up some business, naturally remunerative,

in order to embark in some other in which they would have a bounty in addition to the natural and legitimate return. And this bounty would of course, be derived from the taxes levied on the general industry of the Colony.

7. I trust that the Assembly will, on further reflection, perceive how little such a result would tend to the real advantage of the Province.

I have, &c.

GREY.

Lt. Governor Sir E. Head.

RAILWAYS.

Downing Street, 5th April, 1849.

SIR,—I have hitherto deferred answering your Despatch of the 6th January last, on the subject of the proposed Halifax and Quebec Railway, because I was unwilling to abandon the hope that in doing so I might be enabled to communicate to you the determination of Her Majesty's Government to submit to parliament some definite proposal, with a view to the execution of this great national undertaking. I regret however, to have now to inform you that, for the present at least, it has been found impracticable to overcome the difficulties which have stood in the way of every plan, which has hitherto been suggested for providing for the cost of a work of such magnitude as the proposed Railway. While I entirely concur in your estimate of the extreme importance of that work to the Empire at large, as well as the North American Provinces; and while I gladly acknowledge that the Members of your Council have shewn a disposition to do all that lies in them to promote its accomplishment, and have suggested a measure which has much to recommend it for effecting this object; still Her Majesty's Government have reluctantly come to the conclusion, that in the present circumstances of this country, they would not be justified in applying to Parliament, for the appropriation of so large a sum for this Railway as it has been estimated it would cost.

You will express to the members of your council my strong sense of the ability and judgment they have displayed in the consideration of this important subject, although the measure which they have suggested has unfortunately been found open to objections which have proved insurmountable. It would be to me a subject of deep regret if I believed that the determination not to adopt this particular measure implied that all hope of hereafter carrying the projected railway into effect by other means, must be given up,—but I see no reason for coming to any such conclusion, nor will I despair that this great design may at no distant period be resumed with a happier result.

I am, &c.

GREY.

Lt. Gov. Sir E. Head, Bt., &c.

SALE OF CROWN LANDS.

SIR,—I have had under my consideration an act passed by the Legislature of New Brunswick, entitled "An Act for the adjustment of claims of certain purchasers of Crown Lands," and although I shall be prepared to advise Her Majesty to assent to it, the act in its present form appears to me to be open to certain objections to which it is desirable that your attention should be directed.

2. The Act provides that to purchasers of tracts of Land exceeding 500 acres, between the years 1832 and 1837, who, after having paid a portion of the purchase money, have abandoned their Land, the Lieutenant Governor and Council shall be authorized, upon receiving Petitions to that effect, to grant portions of the same Land equal in amount to the instalments actually paid, at the price originally bid by the purchasers, and in the event of no portion of the Land originally granted being vacant, then the Lieutenant Governor and Council shall be authorized to grant a portion of such Lands as shall be selected by the individual to whom such grant is intended to be made.

3. In the absence of any information with regard to the circumstances which led to the introduction of this act, or the number of persons for whose relief it is intended, I am unable to form any opinion as to the manner in which it will