

ty, both as to time and expense, which would be calculated to make their resources more extensively explored and known.

The intercourse must be always restricted so long as a passage costs thirty five pounds. The cost of a cabin passage should be fixed as low as £10, in order to promote such intercourse as would vivify the colonies.

It is absolutely essential that simultaneously with the production of the steam transport, the Halifax and Quebec Railway should be commenced. The merits of this project will be found set forth in Major Robinson's Report, presented to Parliament last year; and in Lord Selkirk's recommendation of it, from which it will be observed that the proposed Railway will open up a fertile country capable of supporting many millions of industrious inhabitants, besides having collateral advantages too multitudinous here to enumerate. A few extracts from Major Robinson's Report will be found appended to these observations.

There is every reason to believe that, in the course of not many years, this work would be a mere railway, become highly productive; but its prospects, in this paltry view, are a secondary consideration, and they may be too distant to make its construction feasible as a simple private undertaking, from which, without reference to any indirect benefit to be obtained, instantaneous income is the sole object.

It must be undertaken by Government, and the nation would derive so many benefits from its construction that there can be no question as to the policy of Government commencing it at once. If it were called a Road instead of a Railroad, it would never have been hinted that it should be anything else than a Government work.

The estimated cost of this Railway, which will pass six hundred and thirty five miles through British territory, is only £5,000,000; and it is satisfactorily shown by Major Robinson, and confirmed by the Railway Commissioners, that it can be opened up for this sum.

Doubts expressed by the Railway Commissioners as to the Railway being immediately profitable as a commercial speculation, need be no discouragement to the nation undertaking it, even if this short sighted view of the work were to be made the test of its merit.

If the parties who built the light house on the Skerry Islands off Holyhead, as a private speculation, in the last century, in consideration of the right to a toll of a penny per ton on ships passing, had replied for advice to the Railway Commissioners, they would, no doubt, have met with scepticism as to the growth of trade to be then expected in the Irish Channel, similar to that which is now entertained as to the future destiny of British North America; and it would then have been judged necessary to ascertain, and prudent to calculate, what did not, and does not, from the nature of things admit of ascertainment and calculation.

The following is an extract of a Letter which has appeared in a late London paper, on the Colonial Government of the present British Ministry, written by Colonel Sir Edward Cust, of Leasow Castle, Cust:—

But I would fain see it fairly represented to Canada, that she might work out for herself a higher destiny than to be classed in the same category with Vermont and Maine by "biding her time." She should first accomplish a reconciliation of races; she should increase the population of her wastes, and extend the cultivation of her territory; in fine, she should first consolidate her power, and with her own mighty St. Lawrence, she might look to become an important rival to the States without being hampered by a free soil controversy or a Musquito war, for the glory of stars and stripes, in which she can have no previous participation. What effect such representations as these would have upon the Canadian mind, already so excited by their passions, I cannot pretend to say; but at all events I maintain, that the policy of Britain is to view the question of annexation with equanimity; prepared to accede to it if constitutionally demanded, but otherwise exerting the Imperial influence and power in the maintenance of order, and in securing for the Queen's subjects that freedom which shall save them from the evil machinations of faction.

THE SEASON.—Since the present month set in, the weather has been cold and stormy. On the first day we had a heavy snow storm, but it bore no comparison to the one which commenced at noon on Thursday, and did not terminate until Saturday morning. The wind which was from the north and east blew a gale, which drifted the new fallen snow in heaps. All Saturday the wind, at frequent intervals, blew a gale from the north. The roads are blocked up, and it is with the greatest difficulty that either man or beast can make way through them. We have not had such a storm for many years. The Southern mail which was due at noon, on Friday had not arrived when we went to press; and the Fredericton mail which should have been in on Saturday at the same hour, reached Chatham last night.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.—The late hour at which the mail arrived has left us but brief time to note the contents of our exchanges. We have, notwithstanding, made some extracts.

LEGISLATIVE PROCEEDINGS.—We have encroached on the space usually devoted to Agricultural matters, to make room for some important Despatches received from the British Government, which have been laid before the House. Earl Grey, it appears, still persists in his refusal to allow the Provincial Legislature to grant BOUNTIES. Our readers will recollect, that when the subject of indemnifying the Canadian Rebels came before Parliament, the Colonial Secretary stated in the House of Lords, that the British Parliament and Government had no right to interfere in the matter. It was a money question—it had originated in the Canadian Legislature—passed through the proper ordeal, and the Canadian people had a right to expend their own money in the way they pleased. We would ask his Lordship, with what consistency he now advises her Majesty to withhold her sanction to a bill which has passed the Legislature of this Province, granting Bounties to encourage our trade. It is a money bill, and if the people of Canada have the sole right of expending their revenue, why then should the same privilege be withheld from New Brunswick. We trust the Legislature will have the manliness again to remonstrate with the Colonial Secretary, and point out how inconsistent he has acted in this matter.

A despatch has been received from his Lordship, urging the adoption of Municipal Institutions and other measures calculated to enlarge the privileges of the people. The doctrine he propounds is in keeping with the spirit of the age, and we hope it will have the effect of awaking the members of our Assembly to the necessity of breaking up that system of local government, which has cramped the energies, and curtailed the natural rights of the Colonists. It is truly refreshing to see such a document emanating from Downing Street. Had all his Lordship's despatches breathed such a spirit, he would not now see the colonial empire up in arms as it is at present, complaining of neglect, and the injustice of the British Government.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—We have devoted a large space to our Correspondents this week, which has enabled us to get nearly through our budget. We would recommend to the attentive perusal of our readers a Communication on MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS. The people are now fully aroused to the importance of the subject, and we are induced to believe they will not cease agitating this important matter until they possess a due share in the management of their local matters. When this period arrives we may expect to witness many useful reforms among us, but not until then.

COUNTY RESTIGOUCHE.—Private letters which reach us from this quarter inform us that the foolish embargo is still kept up on sleds with shingles, hay, beef, &c., coming from the Canadian side. We are informed that duties as low as two pence half penny have been paid into the Treasury on a parcel of hay. Much dissatisfaction appears to exist on the subject, and we wonder that the people have not pointed out to the Legislature the absurdity as well as the impropriety of the present regulations. A Correspondent thus writes:—

"Our merchants had laid in their usual winter stock of goods, and expected by taking shingles, hay, &c. in part payment for goods, to have got their old debts in. In conversation with — he said, that the loss to their house from the restraint was not less than £1,200 this season. Another merchant had a contract for supplying a large quantity of a particular kind of shingles, and had procured supplies to exchange with the Frenchmen, and he cannot procure half the required quantity in consequence of the restriction. It is computed that not less than £3,000 worth of goods, on which a heavy duty has been paid, will remain in the stores, which, had it not been for the unusual strict watch instituted by the local authorities to enforce our ridiculous revenue law, would have gone over to the Canadian side. The Landing Officer is kept constantly on the tramp, seeing to the weighing of 5 cwt. of hay, which in many instances has been brought over by a poor Canadian to raise means to keep his family from starving, the duty on which will not exceed a shilling. To amend for all this loss, trouble, and annoyance, I understand that about £3 of revenue have been collected."

STEAM COMMUNICATION.—Our Contemporary of the Gaspé Gazette has for some time past been pointing out the necessity there exists for Steam communication with Quebec. We feel persuaded that if a good Steamer were placed on the route between Pictou and Quebec, calling regularly at some port in Gaspé, Dalhousie, Miramichi, Charlottetown and Pictou; and when freight offered of sufficient consideration, touching at any of the intermediate ports, the enterprise

would pay handsomely. Several steam-boats on the St. Lawrence are offered for sale—the proprietor of one of them, we think, could not do better than make a trial in the spring.

MIRAMICHI FOUNDRY.—We have much satisfaction in being enabled to state that this establishment has been disposed of to Mr Bain, and that it is now in full operation.

THE LEPERS.

Mr Editor,—I think it would be judicious in you to caution the public how they give credit to the reports respecting the Lepers. Many of the patients, I have no doubt, appear to be cured, and others, to all appearance, may seem to be improving under the recent treatment. But this may be only outwardly; time alone will tell, whether the disease, internally, is eradicated. If it be not, the friends of the parties, as well the public, may have cause to regret the injudicious haste of the Board of Health, in allowing them to quit the establishment.

Chatham, March 11, 1850.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

MARCH 13, 1850.

The Southern Mail has not yet arrived, and the Fredericton Courier came in about 12 o'clock last night. He gives a desperate account of the roads. From the papers we copy a few extracts respecting the proceedings of the Legislature, and a letter from a Correspondent.

FREDERICTON, March 5, 1850.

DEAR PIERCE.—I did not write you last week, because I had nothing to communicate worth postage. You will see by the Debates that the report of the Committee on the Bill for the Election of Parish Officers has been adopted, and a clause introduced into the Bill brought in by the Attorney General relative to County and Parish Affairs. The law provides that the rate-payers shall meet in their respective parishes on the Friday before the Sessions, and elect the Parish officers (except Trustees of Schools); if they do not so elect, the Sessions appoint as usual. At these meetings the Overseers of the Poor, and other Parish accounts, are to be laid before the people. A duplicate of these accounts is to be sent to the Auditor, appointed by the Sessions, who is not to be a Justice of the Peace, Coroner, or Treasurer. These accounts are then to be laid before the Grand Jury, for their inspection and observation. The Session may assess for the contingent expenses of the county, with the consent of the Grand Jury. The Sessions have the same power that they now have in making regulations relative to trespasses by cattle, &c., as also the additional power of regulating the Harbours, Fisheries, Quarantine, Fires, and appointing Firewards; in fact, a great variety of matters intended to prevent so much county and parish legislation. This act will add very materially to the duty and responsibility of the Justices in Session, and to the Clerks of the Peace, and will no doubt create additional expense, as it will cause the detention of the Grand Jury and officers of the court longer than at present.

You appear to be anxious for Municipal Corporation. If you had been in the House on Monday, and heard the debate on the bill for amending the Fredericton Corporation act, and the making of that corporation, you would not, I think, be very anxious for their introduction into your county. But this is part of the system of Responsible Government, and as we have it in part only, and the worst part, it behoves our representatives, if they wish to give it a fair trial, to adopt as much of the system as can be worked out with safety to the community. Do you really think that the Sessions would divide the bye road money better than your Members? Would the Commissioners be appointed more impartially, and would the money be better expended? These are questions to be considered; and if the people wish to relieve their representatives of a very onerous and unpleasant duty, you may rest assured they will yield it with pleasure. If the division of the money is to be made by the government, they must look to the representatives for information, and they would then, in fact, divide the money as at present. The yielding up of the money grants would impose additional responsibility, and give more power to the government; but it is part of the system, and should be tried. There may be some abuses in the present system, but it will be some time before we get a better; and it behoves the people and their representatives to weigh the matter well before they effect a change.

A Committee for framing a Revenue Bill, have reported a Bill the same as last year, not because it was the best, but for fear they might get a worse. If it is broken into, there will be three days discussion on free trade and protection, and as there are numerous petitions before the house, and the protection members are the most numerous, in all probability the duties will be higher than last year. It is not contemplated to make the Bill for more than one year, but at the next session a bill may pass for a longer period. You were led to expect a good deal from the Governor's speech but you will be disappointed—it meant nothing. The Government have not come down with a single measure, and do not intend doing so. They cannot, as there is not one general measure they can agree upon.

Yesterday the House resolved to go into Committee on the State of the Province on Monday the 18th instant.

Dr. Thompson presented a Petition from Donald McKay, Esq. and other inhabitants of

Newcastle and Northeast, praying that no Grant may pass to the Mechanics' Institute. This I fear, will prevent the grant.

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY.

Fredericton Head Quarters, March 6.

Our readers will notice by our Legislative reports in this day's impression, that the knotty point of repealing the Act, incorporating this city has been disposed of in the House of Assembly, in such a way as should, we think, be satisfactory to all parties. Although the House refused to sweep away the municipality altogether, yet they have made such inroads on the former act as will let in a large number of citizens, who were formerly excluded from the elective franchise, and have also placed the qualification for City Councilor on a more liberal footing than it formerly stood. Although there was a disposition manifested to laugh at the fickleness of the Frederictonians, yet those who were the readiest to raise the laugh were also the first to aid in helping them out of the difficulty, and we have no doubt the amended charter will work well.

There was a great deal of business done yesterday with little debate, and the following is a synopsis of the proceedings:—

"A Bill to amend an act providing for the summary punishment of persons committing trespasses on square timber and other lumber," was opposed at the third reading by Mr Gilbert, who closed a long speech against the bill by moving that it be read a third time that day three months, upon which the House divided, yeas 6, nays 18. The Bill was, therefore sustained, and sent to the council for concurrence.

The Bill authorising limited partnerships was also opposed, at the third reading of the amendments made thereto in the Legislative Council, by Mr Ritchie, who moved an amendment, the object of which was to deprive the members of such limited partnerships of the protection which the Bill gave them, if they failed within 30 days to make a return of the amount of dividend they received from such partnership concern. The House divided on Mr Ritchie's amendment, yeas 10, nays 17, it was consequently lost.

The Attorney General's Bill relating to landlord and tenant was also recommitted and agreed to.

The Attorney General's Bill to consolidate all the laws relating to the value of coins, was also committed and agreed to.

The Attorney General's Bill to consolidate all the laws relating to the establishment of great roads, was committed, and progress reported thereon.

A Bill to incorporate the New Brunswick Association for the encouragement of Agriculture, Home Manufactures, and Commerce, was likewise committed, and progress reported thereon.

A Bill to Incorporate Pirate Brook River Company was committed and agreed to.

A Bill relating to Emigrants arriving in this Province was committed, and progress reported thereon. The same Bill was recommitted this morning and agreed to.

EARL GREY'S BOUNTY DESPATCH.

The Amaranth concludes a long and justly severe article on the Colonial Secretary's "ukase," as he calls it, as follows:—

"Our limits prevent us from going more fully into this subject at present, but we must observe, ere we conclude, that the time has come when Downing Street dictation can be submitted to no longer. If we put up with this, we are the veriest slaves on earth. We will also point out a course by which this ukase can be successfully resisted. Sir Edmund Head is instructed not to give his assent to a Bounty Bill. Very well; let the House of Assembly pass a Resolution, authorising the Executive Government to draw on the Treasury and pay certain sums as Bounty for the growth of hemp and the catching of fish. Of course the Lieutenant Governor's warrant is necessary to draw that money, and if he refuses to sign it, let the Executive Council resign at once en masse, and let us see how Sir Edmund and the Dictators will get out of the scrape! If the members of the Assembly and Executive Council are men and not slaves, they will adopt this course without hesitation or dread. Should the Governor call a new Council, it could not stand a week: the whole country would stand by those who were patriotic enough to bring the matter to a test, and the iron rule of the Whig Dictator to an end,—they might rely upon the support of all parties. For ourself, we can only say that, notwithstanding our present want of confidence in them, we would then support them with our best energies."

MOOSE.—We are glad to hear that these fine animals which were at one time supposed to be nearly extinct in this Province, are again to be found in our forests.—Fredericton Amaranth, March 5.

As we see no prospect of the arrival of the Southern Mail, we have determined to go to press this morning.

PROVINCIAL APPOINTMENTS.

Joshua Alexander, John H. Harding, and John Mackintosh, Esquires, to be Commissioners of the sick and disabled seamen's fund at the outports of Caraquet and Shippegan, in the county of Gloucester.

Mr Charles L. Hawbolt to be a Comraiss