

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI: CHATHAM, MONDAY, MARCH 25, 1850.

GAZETTE.—The Editor of the Gazette still continues to urge on the inhabitants of Gaspé the necessity, and the benefits that would result from a direct communication by steam between that place and Quebec.

From the nature of its trade, Gaspé will be for years to come an importing country. The avocations of our fishermen preventing the pursuit of agriculture, and the great number of transient persons employed during summer amongst us (upwards of 1500) require a considerable quantity of provisions—two houses alone in the country annually importing upwards of 6000 barrels from Quebec.

We cannot expect that all this trade will be at once transferred to the Steamer, but we have no hesitation in saying that more than sufficient will be given during the first season—neither have we least doubt but two boats, before the expiration of three years, will be on the station.

As far as regards freight, there is no doubt therefore of the new Company obtaining sufficient—and the salubrity of our air with the facilities for sea bathing will induce many to visit our coast, and consequently add greatly to the profit of the concern from passenger traffic alone.

The same paper contains the following paragraph detailing the success the scheme has met with:—

It is only five days since the Prospectus for the formation of a Steam Boat Company has been issued or made public, yet, within that short time, we are happy to announce to our friends, that the sheet lying in our office for the signatures of those willing to forward the prosperity of Gaspé by taking Shares, &c., &c. amounts to upwards of four hundred and forty pounds for shares!! besides a quantity of promised freight. We have every prospect of now going a-head provided our Gaspé friends exert themselves.

The above amount has been subscribed for by persons not engaged in trade or commerce.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—The Communication signed 'A Voice' and headed the 'Great Question,' has been copied into the St. John Morning News, and Gaspé Gazette.

Friday's Mail.

This mail did not arrive until Sunday morning. Intelligence of the arrival of the steamer having been telegraphed to Sackville, the Postmaster very properly detained the Courier until the arrival of the express conveying the mail to Saint John. Our papers are to the 9th March, but the news they furnish is not important, nothing of stirring interest having occurred in the old world, since the departure of the previous mail. We have made some extracts which will be found under the proper head.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE.—We have devoted a very large space to Legislative matter to-day. The papers by the Fredericton mail, which came in on Sunday morning, furnish some later intelligence, which we shall briefly notice below.

Mr Wark brought the following admirable resolutions before the House, which was on Committee on the "State of the Province," on Monday last. It appears a very warm discussion took place thereon, but we have not heard what action the House took on them.

Resolved, That British Colonies have been reared up under a commercial system, by which the productions of the various parts of the empire enjoyed natural protection in their respective markets—the abandoning of this system must check, derange, and in a great measure destroy our commerce; while the interposition of Imperial authority prohibits our entering into treaties with foreign countries, or so regulating our affairs as to give what we conceive would be the most advantageous direction to our trade. We have, therefore, reason to fear that unless timely remedy be applied, these courses, depreciating the value of property, cramping our energies, and retarding our prosperity, will produce such feelings of dissatisfaction as must inevitably lead to a separation from the Mother Country.

Resolved, That we have heretofore reposed

unbounded confidence in the wisdom and justice of Imperial Legislation in all matters affecting our interests; but of late the tendency to advance the manufacturing interests of the mother country, at the expense of colonial interests, is so apparent as to create alarm and distrust, and to lead to the conviction that our interests are no longer secure in the hands of a Legislative power over whom we can exercise no constitutional control, and that the well being of this Province requires that the powers of its Legislature should be greatly enlarged.

We wish Mr Wark had gone a little further, and added—and the unconstitutional, and seemingly unlimited power of the Colonial Secretary curtailed, leaving the local government to transact the business of the Province, according to the well understood wishes of the people, unchecked by his officious, and too often impertinent meddling.

A special correspondent of the Saint John Morning News contains the following notice of this gentleman's speech on introducing these Resolutions:—

The debate on the State of the Province opened this morning, upon Mr Wark's resolutions, moved on a previous day. The hon. gentleman acquitted himself in a spirited and straight-forward manner. He traced our Colonial progress in the lumbering business—and showed that England's free trade policy was the ruin of her North American as well as West Indian colonies. He said that the colonies ought to have united years ago, and demanded of England a proper commercial treaty. But the time had gone by to think of any such thing now. Necessity required more prompt and beneficial steps, since the foreigner is now treated in the English markets the same as the colonists, and against whom it was impossible for us to compete. He said our energies were in every way cramped. We were even denied the privilege of granting bounties for the raising of hemp, or catching fish. He said he had not read all of Earl Grey's despatches—but he had read enough of them to be convinced that we were not at liberty to employ our energies upon the best means for developing our resources. He said the Province was fast going to decay, and he thought it to be our duty to try and ward off the calamity that was besetting us on all sides. He was seriously afraid that the present *laissez faire* policy of England would tend to alienate those feelings of loyalty and attachment so peculiar to the people of this province. He stated in one of his resolutions that unless a timely remedy were applied a separation must take place, and he entertained serious fears lest such would be the result. As he said before the people of this province were still loyal; but though loyal we may be, we have a patriotism for our country; we have our offspring to provide for and our interests to subserve; and however gallant it would be to our feelings to sever those ties that bind us to our father-land, we have still matters of paramount importance which we cannot overlook.

We annex a summary of the proceedings of the House from late papers.

The principal debates which have occurred since our last, have arisen on a Bill, brought in by Mr Carman, to continue the old act relating to highways, which expires on the first day of May next, to which Dr. Wilson moved, as an amendment, the Bill which passed the House last year, relating to the same subject, but which was lost in the Legislative Council. A protracted debate ensued, in which the opinions of members, generally, were had on the new scale, which commutes statute labour at 1s. 3d. for each day assessed, and ranges from two days to sixty, according to age and property. The scale was sustained, and progress reported, to allow time to incorporate the amendments, and consolidate the old acts with the provisions of the new Bill. A Bill to continue the act relating to a certain disease now existing in the county of Northumberland was also passed, on which a very interesting debate occurred, respecting the state of those suffering from what was supposed to be Leprosy, and the cures which have recently been made.

On Thursday the Road Committee sat for the whole day, and as it consisted of one member from each County, the House was constantly occupied in business, which elicited no debate.

Yesterday the Hon. Mr Partelow, from the Road Committee, brought in a report on the amount which the committee recommended should be granted for bye roads. The committee report £13,700 for this service. A very animated debate followed on the reception of the report, which was finally received and referred to the committee of supply. The order of the day was then read, and the House went into committee of the whole on the supplies to be granted for the public service. Several very sharp debates took place, one of which was on a grant to a teacher on the Madras School establishment, another on the amount to be granted for the contingent expenses of the Lieutenant Governor, both of which were carried.—Head Quarters, March 18.

On Monday the House of Assembly was in committee of the whole, on the State of the Province. We have brought down a sketch of the debate to the speech of the Hon. the Attorney General, who spoke nearly an hour, and when he had concluded it was 5 o'clock. The House soon after adjourned.

At 2 o'clock the Usher of the Black Rod came down from the Council Chamber, with a message from his Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, requiring the attendance of the Assembly in the Council Chamber forthwith.

The House immediately proceeded to the Council Chamber, in the usual order, and his Excellency was pleased to give his assent to the Revenue Bill, and a number of other Bills which had passed during the Session.

Yesterday the House of Assembly were employed in discussing the Post Office Law, which will come into operation on the 6th of October next. The uniform rate of postage is fixed at 3d. per half ounce on all letters passing through the Post Office within the Colonies. Mr Barberie divided the house on the postage of 3d. each on newspapers, which he wished to see abolished. The names were taken, and the division on the question will appear on the journal. Mr Barberie's motion was lost, but not by a large majority.

The principal debate occurred on the salary of the Postmaster General, which was finally fixed at \$400 currency per annum, and this was carried by a bare majority. There was a strong feeling among some honorable members that even this moderate sum was too high. The salary of clerks in the Post Office department in Saint John continue nearly the same as formerly. The junior clerks get £110 instead of £105, as formerly. Mr Hopley's salary remains the same, although there was a feeling in the house that it should be increased.

The office of Post Office Surveyor was abolished by nearly the unanimous consent of the House.

Progress was reported on the Bill about 5 o'clock, and the salaries of the Postmasters throughout the province will, in all probability, be fixed to-day.—March 20.

It will be seen by the above, that the vexatious postage on Newspapers is to be retained. That this is a direct tax on knowledge there cannot be a difference of opinion, and that the members of the Legislature who are constantly talking of the necessity there exists of educating the people, but more especially the yeomanry, can be sincere in their declarations, and retain a tax which materially retards the circulation of intelligence and knowledge, more particularly among that useful class of persons, is to us a mystery.

Under the present system, it is impossible for newspapers to circulate extensively in the rural districts. The Couriers cannot leave them on the roads because they cannot stop to collect the postage, and the way-offices are in many instances, too remote to be of any accommodation; besides, it is well known, that such is the scarcity of money, that a farmer finds it often a great difficulty to obtain even a half-penny weekly, to pay the postage of his paper. We understand that a motion was made to exempt the exchanges of publishers from the tax, as is the case in the U. States, but it shared a similar fate, and while we are catering for the instruction and amusement of the people, their representatives put a tax on one of the principal articles from which our journal is made up. Is this tax imposed upon the principle of free trade or protection? we should like to be informed.

The committee on Fisheries, we are informed, reported unanimously, that there was a necessity for offering bounties to our Fishermen. The House, no doubt, will adopt a Report—but what then? As it is in defiance of our Master's instructions, to grant bounties, it will be necessary to proceed by address. If so, we have a word of advice to offer. Let the address be drawn up in a manly, vigorous, and straight-forward manner. Let Earl Grey see that we mean what we say, and are determined to do what we like with our own money. If the House of Assembly proceed to the foot of the Throne in their usual whining, crouching manner, we hope Earl Grey will send them back a thunderbolt instead of a lock of his hair, as a token of Her Majesty's gracious solicitude. Depend upon it the broth will be spoiled by the cooks who have the preparing of it. However, perhaps it will be best after all, for it will have the effect of serving "the cause" of separation amazingly.—St John Morning News, March 20.

UNITED STATES.—The papers are sanguine that the vexed question of Slavery which has kept the assembled wisdom of the republic violently agitated ever since its assemblage in December last, will be satisfactorily arranged. All bitterness of feeling has ceased since Mr Webster made his speech on the subject.

BUFFALO, March 11—9 A.M.—A tremendous fire broke out in this city about 2 o'clock yesterday morning, commencing at Stewart's Globe Saloon. The flames rapidly spread to the American Hotel, Bloomer's Hall, Lalayette Street Church, Metzger's stable, and 15 or 20 other buildings, all of which were destroyed.

NEW BRUNSWICK.—We copy the following paragraph from the Fredericton Reporter:—

Rumour was once more busy with the resignation of the Chief Justice on Saturday last; and indeed the changeful dame seemed to have assumed a pretty tangible shape at one period. The report then run to the effect that the Hon. Mr Justice Carter, the senior Puisne Judge, would be promoted to the vacant chair of the Chief Justice; and that the Hon. Solicitor General would take his place. We

have since learned that these reports are premature: the Hon. Chief holds on with both hands. How long?

SHERIDAN.—A correspondent in this place writes us to say—that "a Worthy calling himself a Yankee has been playing off his pranks upon the good people of this quarter; at one place calling himself a smuggler, at another that he was authorised to get out four cargoes of scantling for the American Market and offering to contract with the people for the getting of it. In Boctouche he appeared in the 'character' of a Merchant, taking care at all the places he stopped to get his board, &c., without paying a cent. My motive for thus troubling you is that you may warn the people through the medium of the press to be guarded against the impostor; his personal appearance is rather prepossessing, he wears blue trowsers, frock coat, black, and a red flannel shirt, he is gone to the North.

Theatrical Entertainment.

At the urgent request of a large body of the public, the Amateurs will repeat

THE COMEDY OF Speed the Plough,

On the evening of WEDNESDAY, the 3d April, in the Temperance Hall, in Chatham, to which will be added several scenes from

SHERIDAN'S COMEDY OF The Rivals.

Doors open at half past seven, performance to commence at eight.

TICKETS.—Upper Boxes 2s, Lower do 1s, which may be had of Messrs Forbes in Chatham, and on the evening of performance, in the lower part of the building. Chatham, March 25, 1850.

ENTERTAINMENT!

An ENTERTAINMENT will be given at the Douglastown School Room, on Thursday Evening next, March 28, to consist of Vocal & Instrumental Music and Recitations.

Doors open at half past 7, performance to commence at 8 o'clock. Tickets—1s each; Children 3d; Family ticket 2s. To be had of Messrs. K. B. & W. Forbes, Chatham; and of Mr M. Salter, Douglastown. March 25, 1850.

Salt, Salt, Salt.

ABOUT

4500 bushels Liverpool Salt

In Store, on Blackstock's Wharf, for sale low for Cash, in exchange for Fish, or approved credit. Apply at the store of

W. JOHNSTON.

Chatham, March 25, 1850.



Victoria House, 25th March, 1850.

The Subscribers being about to close their business in Miramichi, will SELL OFF

The Remainder of their Stock UNTIL FIRST OF MAY,

at greatly reduced prices for CASH ONLY. E. DALEY & SON.

Auctioneer and Commission Merchant.

The Subscriber begs leave to inform his friends and the public, that he has received a Commission to act in the above capacity, and shall be happy to attend to any orders in that line.

CHARLES L. HAWBOLT.

Chatham, 25th March, 1850.

TO LET,

FOR TWO YEARS,

The PRIVILEGE OF FISHING in front of the Lots at GRAND DOWNS, granted to JOHN THOMAS and ALEXANDER LYONS, measuring 180 Rods or thereabouts. Apply to

R. HUTCHISON, } Executors of Estate of J. PORTER, } late John Lyons. Douglastown, 26th March, 1850.

WANTED!

300,000 Pine shingles,

16 inches long, 1/2 inch thick, by

WM. J. FRAZER.

February 11, 1850.