

The President for the past year having resigned the Chair, *John M. Johnson, Esq.*, was called upon to occupy the same. A vote of thanks to the late Chairman, *John Wright, Esq.*, for the urbanity, ability, and strict impartiality with which he had discharged the duties of President, and the deep interest he has ever evinced in all that affects the interests of the Farmer, having been moved, seconded, and carried by acclamation, the meeting proceeded to the election of Office Bearers for the succeeding year.

OFFICE BEARERS FOR 1850-51.

John Wright, Esq., President.
John M. Johnson, Esq., and John Porter, Esq., Vice Presidents.
George Kerr, Esq., Treasurer.
James Caie, Secretary.
Directors—Alex. Goodfellow, Esq., William Loch, Esq., Donald McKay, Esq., Wm. Carman, Jun., Esq., Michael Searle, Finlay McDiarmid, Alex. Jessamine, James Johnson, John Wyse, D. Weatherall, Daniel Elkin, Peter Mitchell, and James Dixon.

JAMES CAIE, Secretary.

ERRATUM.—Weight of best sample of Red Bald Wheat, instead of sixty four lbs. four oz., read, sixty five lbs. two oz.

Colonial News.

New Brunswick:

St. John Morning News, Feb. 6.

Two Women Frozen to Death.—We regret to learn that one night last week, two middle aged women, one named Mrs Lindsey and the other Mrs. Jordan, having left this City for their home—their residence being on the opposite side of the Kennebecasis river—were found frozen to death next morning, close beside each other on the ice about the centre of the river. It seems that both of the women had bundles conveying home, and that they left the road for the ice when near about Mr Appleby's Ship Yard, some eight or nine miles from St. John; and it is supposed that the cold benumbed them, which ultimately led to their death. Further particulars we did not learn.

Coldest Night of the Season.—Monday night was supposed to be the coldest night this season. The people could hardly get their fires to burn in the morning the cold was so intense. A red hot poker became an icicle in a blacksmith's forge while in full blast.

The Thermometer in elevated positions was thirteen below Zero.

St. John Observer, Feb. 5.

Water Company.—At the Meeting of the Common Council, yesterday we are happy to state that the Board decided upon adopting the Resolutions so judiciously proposed by Councillor Keans, and will subscribe for £3000 of the new Stock of the Water Company. We learn, with much pleasure, that in addition to the £1000 so liberally subscribed by his Honor the Chief Justice, £5000 more of the stock has been subscribed by our citizens, which in all, amounts to £9000 of the £10,000 new Stock, now taken up, leaving but £1,000 to be subscribed for. The Company therefore, all must be glad to learn, will thus be enabled to accomplish their projected improvements, and give to our citizens a much more abundant supply of water than heretofore; and the security of property, in cases of fire, will be greatly enhanced.

Fredericton Reporter.

Melancholy Coincidence.—One day last week, Mr Henry Kitchen, of Douglas came to his death by a sled running over his body, after which accident he survived but a few hours. Mr Kitchen's death is attended by the following extraordinary chain of coincidences:—About 12 months ago, his brother Capt. Kitchen, while driving the same cattle, yoked to the same sled, and within a short distance of the same spot, met his death in precisely the same manner.

West Indies.

New Orleans Picayune Jan. 16.

Jamaica.—We have received the Despatch and the Political Satirist of Kingston, the former of the 31st ult. and the latter of the 3d inst.

The Satirist states that a Mr M. Geachy had addressed a very strong appeal to the conductors of the press of Jamaica, enlisting their aid towards inducing the proprietors of the soil to embark in the cultivation of cotton, and advances some very sensible and cogent reasons suggestive of the renewed prosperity of the island thereby.

The Despatch says that the prospects of the crops in many of the parishes are of a very satisfactory character, and that the returns anticipated are likely to be much above the average of many years past.

New York Journal of Commerce.

From Jamaica.—We learn from Capt. Wright, of the schooner Abby Morton, from Falmouth, Jamaica, that a great excitement had been created in that place, relative to the operation of the open navigation laws. A public meeting had been held among those interested in British vessels, and after passing sundry strong and furious resolutions, calling on the residents to support their countrymen &c., &c., adjourned.

Novascotia.

St. John Morning News, Feb. 6.

Nov Scotia Legislature.—There has been an increase of the Revenue in Nova Scotia for 1849 of £8,000—the whole amount of the Revenue being £71,918. The Halifax papers rejoice over this.—They think the better time is coming at last.

The Provincial Secretary introduced a Bill allowing every man to be his own Lawyer in the Courts of Justice.

The Government have introduced their first measure—viz: an Educational Scheme, without reference to Colleges. They think it best to deal with the *sterns* first—the *heads* afterwards.

They are trying once more to dig up the Shubenacadie Canal in Halifax.—Documents have been laid on the table of the House respecting it. What next?

Halifax Novascotian, Feb. 6.

The Revenue.—It cannot fail to be gratifying to every true friend of Nova Scotia to learn that, during the past year the Revenue has increased more than £8000. The proceeds of 1849, have enabled the Government to pay off the arrears, construct the Electric Telegraph to the New Brunswick Boundary, and reduce the loan from the Bank of Nova Scotia. The balance of the latter is now something over £5000. We are not without hope that Nova Scotia has seen her worst days. The country has, during the past three years been most sorely tried. But it is matter for sincere congratulation that, despite our losses and misfortunes, the credit of the Province is unimpaired. In nothing, perhaps has the good sense of the people been more conspicuous, than in reducing their expenditure within the limits of their means. Hence the diminished Revenue for the past two or three years.

The comparative abundance of the last Harvest had a most salutary effect on the trade of the country. And owing to the limited importations of our merchants, who had wisely regulated their orders to suit the circumstances of the times, they had considerable difficulty in filling up country orders last autumn. We may, therefore reasonably hope that the Revenue for the present, will far exceed that of many preceding years. This will enable our legislators to be more liberal with their expenditures on matters of internal improvement—including education, roads and bridges, &c. &c.

MEETING OF THE LEGISLATURE.

The Legislature of this Province met for the despatch of business on Thursday last. The papers furnish us with an account of the usual ceremony on the occasion of the opening, as well as a copy of the Speech of His Excellency to both Houses, which we give below:—

Mr President, and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council.

Mr Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly.

It is with great regret that I announce to you the decease of an illustrious Lady, the Queen Dowager of England, whose kindness and benevolence had endeared Her to the English Nation.

At the close of the last Session, I expressed a confident hope that, by the blessing of Providence, an abundant harvest might restore the prosperity of the Country. I now with sincere pleasure congratulate you on the Crops which have been vouchsafed to us. I trust with equal confidence, that our Commerce may revive, and that such Manufactures as the Province can advantageously carry on, may thrive within our limits.

Another ground for thankfulness on the part of the people of this Colony, is the fact that we have been spared the ravages of that disease which has proved so fatal in England and elsewhere.

In pursuance of the Resolution of the House of Assembly, passed in the last Session, Professor James Johnston has visited this Pro-

vince, and after traversing it in every direction has prepared a Report, which will be placed in your hands. I am persuaded that the publication of his views with reference to your Agriculture, will greatly tend to promote an Immigration of a satisfactory character, and will stimulate the industry of those who have perhaps hitherto undervalued the resources of their native Country.

I earnestly recommend to your consideration Professor Johnston's suggestions. I think it especially important that an accurate Survey and Report on the extent and probable productiveness of our Coal Field, should be obtained from persons practically conversant with the working of that mineral; and that a plan for imparting Agricultural instruction to all classes, should form the subject of your deliberations.

A most important change has taken place in the Navigation Laws of the Mother Country—a change which cannot fail to interest this Colony. I know that fears have been entertained by many persons as to the effect of this alteration on the trade of New Brunswick. I may be sanguine but I confidently hope that these fears will prove groundless, and that the advantages for Ship building enjoyed by this Province will enable us to compete with any Nation, whilst the removal of restrictions on the Cargoes of the British Ships in Foreign Ports will create an increased demand for those Vessels, which form one of our staple exports.

It will be for you to consider how far it is expedient to address her most Gracious Majesty, under the provisions of the Imperial Act, with reference to the Consing Trade of this Province and the other North American Colonies. The Members of the several Executive Councils of Canada, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and New Brunswick, who met at Halifax in the course of last Autumn, felt, I believe, the full importance of increased facilities for Trade, and I know that her Majesty's Government at home, are anxious to concur in any measures which by promoting greater freedom of intercourse, whether between the Colonies themselves or other Countries, will allow our Commerce to expand and develop itself.

I am deeply impressed with the great commercial importance to Canada and New Brunswick, of improving the means of communication between the Bay of Fundy and the River St. Lawrence. In order to derive the full benefit from the Act of last Session, authorising an outlay on the Survey and improvement of the River St. John, I applied for the services of an Officer of Royal Engineers from Canada. This Aid Her Majesty's Government was pleased to afford; and I have much pleasure in stating that a careful Survey of the Rapids and Rocks impeding the Navigation between Fredericton and the Grand Falls, has been made by the joint labors of Captain George Bent of the Royal Engineers, and Mr John Grant; the final Report itself, with the detailed Plans, is in a state of forwardness, such as may, I trust, allow of its being laid before you in the course of this Session.

An able Report by Mr Wilkinson, on the Railway between Shediac and St. John, will also be laid before you, and I shall be glad to find that any steps may be taken to promote so important an undertaking, consistently with the Financial Resources of the Province.

A Report from Mr Perley on the Fisheries of our Coasts will receive at your hands the consideration which the importance of the subject warrants.

I trust you may be able in the course of this Session, to revise and consolidate the principal Laws of the Province, so as to present them in a form less complicated than that in which they now stand. A measure will be laid before you having this object in view.

The Parliament of Great Britain have passed an Act, enabling the Colonial Legislatures to deal with the subject of the Post office.—I think you will be able to frame such a measure as will materially relieve the people of the Province, and facilitate the transmission of Letters within its limits. The Act regulating the Common Schools requires renewal and revision.—The zeal which you have hitherto shown in the cause of Education, makes me confident that you will devise means for extending its benefits and improving its character.

I regret that I have no definite information which I can afford you with reference to the settlement of the Canadian Boundary, but I know that the subject is under consideration, and that its importance to the welfare of New Brunswick, as well as Canada, is appreciated.

The Act relating to the Corporation of Saint John has been brought into operation. I have every reason to believe that the Police of that City is properly organised, and answers the purpose for which it was intended.

I have taken care that the rules and regulations should be framed for carrying out the Act of last Session, on the subject of Lands sold by the Crown. I wish you to consider whether that Act can produce its full effect without some modification of the Tax of Emigrants. It is essential, however, that due security should be maintained for the protection of the health of Passengers, and that object is greatly facilitated by recent enactments of the Parliament of Great Britain.

Mr Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly.

The Accounts of Revenue and Expenditure for the past year will be laid before you without delay. You will see with satisfaction, that the moneys paid into the Treasury show a con-

siderable improvement in our Finances, and I trust you will find that all proper economy has been exercised in expending the sums appropriated by you.

In the event of your passing any Act imposing Duties on Imports, I seriously recommend for consideration the expediency of promoting Commerce, by insuring greater certainty in our Revenue Laws.

The mere fluctuations of Markets render commercial speculations hazardous without the additional risk attaching to the shipment of goods, whilst the rate of Duty which those goods may have to pay is wholly conjectural.

I am persuaded that such uncertainty is more injurious to the shipper and importer, and consequently to our own Revenue, than a higher Tariff would be on which they could calculate beforehand with tolerable security.

I trust you will not suppose me desirous of suggesting any course which should imply a diminished controul over the Taxation of the Province by the Representatives of its People.

Under all circumstances, in your hands must rest the directionary power of altering the duties, and your hands must remain the appropriation of the monies so levied.

These Constitutional rights would not be affected by the adoption of a Bill exceeding in its duration the ordinary period, and whilst on the one hand it would be perfectly understood that the Provincial Legislature might alter or repeal any of the duties at any moment the merchant would feel secure that no such change would take place without due deliberation, and without a special reason for such a course.

This is virtually the state of things in England, and this, I am fully persuaded, would be the principle most likely to fester commerce in our own Province.

Mr President, and Hon. Gentlemen of the Legislative Council.

Mr Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly.

I cannot conclude this speech without expressing to you distinctly my own convictions on one or two constitutional matters of the highest importance.

I believe in the first place, that it is most desirable to define more accurately the responsibility attaching to the initiation of money votes. This can only be done by throwing such responsibility on the Executive Government.

The undisputed right to originate money votes is vested in the House of Assembly; and the members of the Executive Council, it is now understood, practically retain their seats only so long as they are presumed to enjoy the confidence of the people, expressed in the Legislature.

To the people therefore through their Representatives, as well as to the Crown, they are strictly responsible; and although the burden of being answerable for the introduction of money votes would be a heavy one, that burden might be lightened by leaving to local controul such local charges as no central government can by any amount of vigilance efficiently check. Local controul over local charges, presents more advantages of its own which every man of English race is sufficiently familiar. Economy would be promoted—habits of self reliance and self government would be fostered—and the elements of true political freedom would be developed by the management of the affairs of each separate district.

I believe too, that an audit based on powers more stringent and more searching than those which now exist, would ensure greater regularity in all our accounts, and would give confidence to the public at large.

It implies no mistrust of the people or the Legislature of this Province to advocate principles and measures practically a part of the Constitution of England, and of the constitution of other colonies, where free and Responsible Government is acknowledged as completely as in New Brunswick.

In themselves these measures would bring to the Representatives of Her Majesty, and to Her Majesty's Councillors, nothing but an amount of trouble and responsibility from which they are now exempt.

I name them to you with the full conviction that they contain the best means by which the people may be assured that their expenditure will correspond with their probable income—that the credit of the Province may be properly upheld—and that no abuse of public money is likely to take place with impunity.

I will only add that I believe such changes may be combined with an actual and immediate saving to the provincial revenue.

I could not properly meet you in this, the last Session of the present Assembly, without imparting frankly my hope, that in the course of your deliberations you may, at any rate, pave the way for measures such as these to which I have adverted.

To these deliberations you will now proceed, and I entertain a conviction that they will be guided by a spirit of loyalty to the Queen, and zeal for the public welfare, worthy of this Province. When we last met we had to look back upon a year of tumult and war in Europe—the wrecks of mighty states seemed to float around Great Britain, and to justify our confidence in the strength and soundness of those institutions, by help of which she had, under Providence, ridden out the storm;—that confidence therefore you have every reason to maintain unimpaired, and it will always be my duty to foster and encourage it by all constitutional means.