

QUEBEC AND HALIFAX ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH.—The shareholders of this Association held a meeting at Quebec on the 10th instant, when the committee of management submitted the following Report for their consideration:—

The Directors now about to resign their trust, beg to state, for the information of the Stockholders, that immediately on entering office, they, in compliance with the Resolution passed at the annual meeting, viz:—That the capital stock of the association be increased to fifteen thousand pounds currency, in order that the Telegraphic Line between Quebec and Halifax be speedily completed, and it requiring £7,500 new stock for that purpose, used every exertion to effect that object, and have succeeded in raising one thousand seven hundred pounds in Quebec, they sent their Secretary, Mr. Gisborne, to the Lower Provinces, to endeavor to raise the remainder; and he having succeeded in procuring stock to the amount of £5,580 at Halifax, application was then made to the Provincial Government for aid to assist in carrying it out, which was readily complied with by a grant of five hundred pounds, to be paid as soon as the telegraph was completed to the Province Line. The stock having thus been raised, the Directors were very sanguine in being able to complete the line and have it in working order in a short time; but unfortunately on the eve of the House of Assembly of New Brunswick being prorogued, an American company offered to run a telegraph line through that Province to Halifax, via St. John, provided a Bill was passed incorporating their company for that purpose, which was, at once, granted. This unfortunately put a stop to our proceedings; the Halifax Stockholders withholding their stock in consequence of this new line being adopted, and the New Brunswick Bill not being satisfactory to them. The Directors have now no hope of assistance from them.

From these unforeseen difficulties, it is now necessary, in consequence of parties suing for debts due, that the company should either abandon this undertaking and sell the materials, or raise additional stock to carry the Line through to the Province Line on the Saint John route, being of the opinion that the New Brunswick Company would (for their own interest) meet us at the Province Line, particularly as there is no doubt their Government would grant them aid for that purpose, and as this alteration of the line can be effected with little expense, having about sixty miles of wire on the Metis route, which can be used for that purpose, and the £500 grant from the Government to assist, it is to be hoped that measures will be still taken to complete this important commercial undertaking.

At an adjourned annual meeting of the British North American Electric Telegraph Company, held at Quebec on the 17th instant, the following resolution was passed:—

"That the Directors be authorised to communicate with the New Brunswick Telegraph Company as to a junction of the two lines on the Fredericton route."

CANADA.—In answer to the numerous questions put to us respecting the Annexation movement in Canada, we copy below the following paragraphs from late papers:—

We have advices from New York relative to the movements of the Canadians in that city. They held a preliminary meeting on the 10th instant, and were to meet again on the 23rd, in order to agree on an Address to their fellow countrymen in this Province, urging upon them the propriety of joining the Annexationists, and aiding their efforts. We understand that this proceeding has been set on foot by the most respectable French Canadians in New York, and is likely to be followed by similar demonstrations in Albany and Troy.—*Montreal Courier.*

The following Letter addressed to Mr. McConnell, the member for Stanstead, and signed by upwards of 600 of his constituents, appears in the Stanstead Journal of the 27th December:

To John McConnell, Esq. M. P. P. for the County of Stanstead:

Sir—The undersigned, Electors and Inhabitants of the County of Stanstead, feeling that a great political change is necessary to the welfare and prosperity of this Province, and fully concurring in the principles set forth in the Montreal Manifesto, that a peaceable separation of this Colony from Great Britain, and a union with the United States, are the only means of relieving Canada from its present state of depression; respectfully request you to make public your sentiments and opinions upon this subject.

A public meeting was held at Clarenceville, Canada East, on the 22d ult., in accordance with a requisition numerous signed; when, notwithstanding the state of the roads, the assemblage was a large one. After a brief address from the chairman, A. H. Vaughan, Esq., the hon. Robert Jones drew attention to the many disadvantages entailed upon us in a social, commercial, and political point of view, by our connexion with Great Britain—thousands of miles off—and urged as the only effectual remedy for them, the independence of Canada and annexation to the United States.

The following resolutions were then put and carried without one dissenting voice.

The hon. George Moffatt, as Chairman of the League, recently addressed the League as follows. It will be seen that he is rapidly drawing round towards the annexation point:

With reference to the new annexation movement he deemed the expression of an opinion premature, but thought the Annexationists might have continued to act with them. He (hon. Mr. Moffatt) did not say that Annexation might not finally come to be a matter of consideration and debate; but the time had not come yet. When that question did come he would consider it entirely as a Canadian question. But we ought first to ascertain what Great Britain could and would be willing to do for us. Should it be found that we could not prosper under the policy adopted by Great Britain, then we should consider it an ulterior course; and he (hon. Mr. M.) was persuaded that she would meet the question in a magnanimous and proper manner.

The Johnstown Branch of the League, held at New Dublin, on the 23d ult., passed the following resolution:

Moved by R. Powell, Esq. J. P., seconded by Mr. W. Williams,

Resolved, That while this meeting can refer with feelings of satisfaction, to the course of undeviating Loyalty, ever pursued by the inhabitants of this township, it can be no party to such declarations as have been got up at Toronto, London, and other places, by the office holders, partisans, and parasites of the present Administration, expressive of attachment to Great Britain, and of opposition to the Annexation movement, recently made at Montreal—(carried with one dissenting voice only).

CLARENCEVILLE, C. E., Dec. 31, 1849.

I was gratified, on Saturday last, in attending a meeting at the village of Clarenceville, Canada East, called for the purpose of considering the propriety of annexing Canada to the United States.

Hon. Robt Jones, ex-member of Parliament, made a speech in which he exhibited both sides of the picture, and compared the prosperity of the United States with that of the Canadian Provinces. He did not blame England for the course she had been, and was, pursuing with her provinces, nor did he blame Canada if her subjects felt disposed to endure it. He compared the extent of Railroad in the State of New York, which was a thousand miles, and also that of little Vermont, which was some two hundred miles, with Canada, which in her large extent of territory has but forty five miles of railroad. He also drew a comparison between the cost of Government in the two countries. Canada pays her Governor forty six thousand dollars, while the State of New York, with as many inhabitants, pays her four thousand dollars; and Vermont pays her seven hundred and fifty dollars. He then took into account the expenditures of the Post Office Departments; he says Canada pays her Postmaster and Deputy nearly forty thousand dollars per annum, while the United States—a country extending from the Atlantic to the Pacific, from the Gulf of Mexico to the latitude 45°—pays her Postmaster General six thousand dollars.

He said that the farmer in Canada would go to market with fifteen bushels of wheat, and purchase a hundred pounds of sugar, and have \$3 50 remaining, while a farmer in the United States would go to market and purchase the same quantity of sugar and return with \$9 50 in his pocket; that the difference in the price of wheat and sugar in the two countries would make the difference of \$6. Thus it was with most of the necessaries purchased in Canada. Where, then, does this difference in prices go? It goes into the Government chest to sustain these high salaries.

Never in my life have I seen such an impression made upon an audience as by this speech.

The resolutions favoring the Annexation movement passed with but one negative voice.

It is astonishing to witness the change that public opinion has undergone in this country within the lapse of two years in respect to Monarchy and Republicanism.

IMPRISONMENT FOR DEBT.—The Grand Jury of this County at the late sitting of the Inferior Court, after visiting the Gaol, made some very stringent remarks on the barbarous law authorising the imprisonment of parties for Debt, denouncing it cruel and inhuman, and disgraceful to the statute book. The Editor of the Head Quarters has some strictures on this subject in his last number, which we with pleasure transfer to our columns.—He says:—

The policy of the law authorising imprisonment for debt, has long occupied the attention of Statesmen in England and the United States, and as these great commercial countries have in certain cases abrogated this 'relict of barbarism,' the time has now come when the attention of the people of this Province should be directed to the state of the law in this important particular. The late case in St. John, where the Sheriff's bail was held to be unable to render their principal until after the return of the writ under the authority of which he had been taken into custody, has done a good deal to open the eyes of the public to the policy of imprisonment on mesne process, and we

doubt not will lead the Legislature to the careful consideration of an adequate remedy for cases of this description. Perhaps the most efficient remedy which could be devised, would be to abolish imprisonment on mesne process altogether, giving the creditor in lieu thereof some ready way of securing property until final judgment be had, such as is given in several States of the American Union. At any rate it will never do to hold Sheriff's bail answerable for the debt, unless at the same time he be armed with the power of surrendering his principal into custody at any time when he may think it expedient and proper for him to do so. If a man is held to bail, and can immediately afterwards dispose of his property and leave the country in defiance of his bail, there are but few individuals who would like to sign a bail bond, and the consequence would be, that in nine cases out of ten where a bailable writ is issued for a large amount, the parties on whom it is served would be obliged to go to gaol and there remain until the return of the writ, when special bail could be taken.

MELANCHOLY ACCIDENT.—A Correspondent has furnished us with the following account of a most distressing accident which occurred at Big Tracadie:—

On the night of the 22d instant, the house occupied by Mr. GEORGE DRYSDALE, with all its contents, was burnt to the ground, and distressing to relate, his eldest son, 18 years of age, another son, 6 years old, a daughter 3 years, and a grand daughter aged 2 years, all perished in the flames. The eldest got safely out of the building, but hearing the screams of the children, rushed in again, but never returned. Mrs. D. in endeavouring to rescue one of the children through a window, lost her balance, and got her face and breast dreadfully burnt. Her sight is much injured, and it is feared she will ultimately lose it. A daughter broke in a window, and at considerable hazard saved one of the children. They had nothing on them but their night clothes, and the night being stormy, they suffered much from cold before they reached a place of shelter. The bones of the four children who thus perished, were collected together on the following day, and interred in the burial ground. A large concourse of persons assembled to witness the ceremony, who expressed deep sympathy for the family, who have thus been so severely visited. Mr. D. was from home during the time the accident occurred.

CANADA.—The Toronto Globe denies the truth of the rumour that Lord Elgin's conditional resignation has been accepted by the Home Government.

A public meeting was held in the Quebec Exchange on the 19th instant, to consider what steps should be taken to open the communication between the Saint Lawrence and Lake Temiscouata. The following resolutions were unanimously passed:—

That in as much as the Province of New Brunswick have voted Two Thousand Pounds annually for five years, to improve the Navigation from the harbour of Saint John to the head of the Lake Temiscouata, it is incumbent on the inhabitants of Canada generally, and the district of Quebec particularly, to call the attention of the Legislature to this important subject.

That the Chairman of this meeting be requested to draw out a Petition to be signed as generally as possible, to the Governor in Council, praying that a Survey be at once made to take into consideration the practicability of constructing a Railroad or Canal, with estimates of the same.

Some very interesting speeches were made at the meeting; and should no matters of more importance come under our notice during the week, we shall take some extracts from them.

It is rumoured that Mr Merritt intends to resign the Presidency of the Council, as his colleagues have decided on the expediency of the measure.

The inhabitants of Amherstburg, have presented Colonel Prince with a splendid gold watch, chain, &c., as a token of their regard for his noble conduct during the late rebellion, and for his exertions in opposing the Canadian rebellion losses bill.

THE PROVINCIAL REVENUE.—For some years past it was the practice to publish quarterly a brief statement of the receipts of the Treasury. This year the practice has been abandoned, for what reason we leave those who know more of the movements of the Executive than we do, to explain. The last number of that favored paper, the St. John Courier, puts us in possession of the following abstract of the Revenue, by which we are happy to perceive that the amount received

is very satisfactory, shewing a considerable increase over last year.

An abstract of the Revenue of this Province for the year 1849, has been made up at the Treasury, together with a comparative statement of 1848 and 1849, from which we make a few extracts. The total revenue for 1849 is £95,532 17s. 4d. while for 1848 it was £86,813 14s. 2d., shewing an increase of £8,719 3s. 1d. on the last year. On the Loan Fund duty (which is one per cent. on all goods imported) there is an increase of £537 4s. 9d., which would give an increase on the sworn values of the importations of £53,700. On the ordinary Revenue there is also a large increase of £15,157 3s. 11d., which was for 1849, £63,997 14s. and for 1848, £48,840 10s. 0d. The only other item on which there is an increase is the Supreme Court Fees, which amount to £1402 18s. for 1849, and £666 18s. 2d. for 1848—making an increase on last year of £735 19s. 19d. On all the other items there is a decrease on 1849, as compared with the previous year: on the Export Duty the decrease is £1807 0s. 11d.; on the Casual Revenue, £827 9s. 11d.; on monies received from the Imperial Customs, (which are now abolished) the sum of £2711 15s. 4d.; on the Auction Duties, £142 1s. 8d.; on the Pedlars' Licences, £7 0s. 10d.; on Emigrant Duties, £952 10s.; on Light House Duties, £549 3s. 9d.; on Sick and Disabled Seamen's Duties, £219 3s.—It therefore appears that on the Loan Fund, Ordinary Revenue, and Supreme Court Fees, there is an increase of £16,430 8s. 6d., and on the Export Duty, Casual Revenue, Imperial Customs, Auction Duties, Pedlars' Licences, Emigrant Duties, Light House Duties, and Seamen's Duties, a decrease of £7126 5s. 5d.—making a total increase on 1849, of £9214 3s. 0d. as compared with 1848. This looks very encouraging, notwithstanding the dull times which have been prevailing during the past year.

THE REVENUE LAW.—To enable our readers to form a correct idea of the absurdity of our present Revenue Law, we advise them to read the communication from Restigouche County, where parties living on the other side of the river, in crossing over to the New Brunswick side, with a little hay, beef, mutton, or a few geese are compelled to make an entry—and pay duty. Truly this is the height of absurdity, and we do not wonder at the folks in Dalhousie being annoyed at rigid manner in which the law is now enforced. We trust such an absurd law will never again be allowed on our statute book.

GLEANER OFFICE, 4 o'clock.

The Mail has just arrived, and after a hurried glance through the papers, we perceive nothing of consequence in them.

Marriages.

At St. Mary's Chapel, Chatham; on the 25th inst., by the Rev. Samuel Bacon, Rector, Mr CHARLES VANSTONE, to Miss PRUDENCE PERKIN, eldest daughter of Mr Michael Searle, all of the Parish of Chatham.

Deaths.

At Halifax, on the 15th inst., Mr ROBERT CLOWRY, formerly of Chatham, in the 21st year of his age.

Caution to the Public.

Whereas JAMES RYAN, of the Head of the Bay Chaleur, in the Parish of Dalhousie and County of Restigouche, obtained a Deed of Conveyance from the Subscriber by fraud, circumvention, and misrepresentation; I do hereby caution all persons from purchasing the Lands and Premises contained in the said Deed, from the said James Ryan, or any part thereof.

PASCAL CHARLFOUR, mark.

Witness—PETER HACQUOIL, Dalhousie, 17th January, 1850.

PUBLIC NOTICE.

Whereas by an advertisement in the Gleaner of the 21st instant, I am charged by PASCAL CHARLFOUR with having obtained a Deed of Conveyance of certain Lands, &c., from him, by "fraud, circumvention, and misrepresentation;" I do now declare that the said Deed was drawn by, and executed in the presence of, ANDREW BARBERIE, Esq. Barrister of this town, and if such means had been used, as stated, it must have been with his knowledge and consent. All parties equally agreed in the instructions given him for drawing the Deed in the first place; and when executed, was read previously over in a deliberate manner by Andrew Barberie, and plainly translated to the said Pascal Charlefour, who expressed himself as perfectly acquainted with, and agreeable to its contents. Moreover, the said Andrew Barberie in his official capacity, took aside the wife of the said Pascal Charlefour, and examined her previous to signing away her rights of dower. I further declare, that I was reluctantly persuaded by the said Charlefour and his wife to enter into such arrangement as the said Deed specifies.

JAMES RYAN, Dalhousie, January 25, 1850.