

tive Council of this Province, and Earl Grey while it should not be withheld that the House of Assembly have annually (until the present Session) appointed a Committee to take into consideration all matters relating thereto, almost invariably composed of doctors and lawyers, assisted by an inland agriculturist or two, from some fresh water brook, and a miller to throw dust in their eyes.

It is true that it has not been always convenient for the Chairman to call the committee together until a very advanced period of the session, to report to the House that the protection, encouragement, and fostering care, necessary to develop its latent resources, "have had their most serious consideration."

In conclusion, I have to add, that however unfavorable the result of the policy of the present Government may be to the Fisheries, the knowledge that nothing would be done, is preferable to the uncertainty hitherto; although so nicely is the principle of bounty and encouragement balanced, that the Agricultural Societies will continue to receive a bounty upon this big Bull, and that big Sow, while the poor clam diggers must hang up "the shovel and the hoe."

Your obedient Joe, TARRY OHI Caraque, Gloucester, March 18, 1850.

COLONIAL DESPACHES.

Mr Pierce,

In your paper of yesterday, treating upon discriminating duties, you speak of an "absurd" and "silly" Despatch. Now, Sir, it may be all very well to speak lightly of despatches from the Colonial Office; it has become fashionable, and therefore may be tolerated; but it does strike me that a public journalist should be more cautious in speaking of matters of so much importance—not that I hold a despatch to be a high and holy thing, that cannot be commented upon or remonstrated against, but because I think the public, who have not an opportunity of reading such documents, may be misled, and induced to think that their interests as Colonists are totally disregarded by the Parent State. As long as we are Colonists, we must be content to be governed in some measure by despatches. If they militate against our interests, we can remonstrate, and we will be heard. I do not look upon a despatch from the Colonial Minister as enunciating his views and sentiments only—penned hastily, and without a due regard to the welfare of that great empire of which it is our pride and boast to form a part; but, as emanating from Her Majesty's Ministers, after mature deliberation, and who are responsible for their acts to the Imperial Parliament, and through them to the British people—consequently enunciating their views and sentiments. You say, "Why such silly instructions were sent out to the Colonies, we have never been able to obtain a satisfactory answer." It is very evident from this, that you have never read the despatch, for if you had, you would have found an answer to your "Why" in the despatch itself. You will find it in the Journals of the House of Assembly for 1844, where you can read it, but as many of your readers cannot have the opportunity of doing so, I will, for their information quote part of it. It was a Circular dated in June, 1843, and sent not only to this Province, but to all the British Colonies. It says, "The imposition of discriminating duties on goods imported into the British Colonies, when the discrimination is made for the protection of some branch of British or Colonial industry, is an office of great difficulty. To a right discharge of it, an intimate acquaintance with the commercial treaties and political relations between this kingdom and Foreign States is indispensable. But in the nature of the case, it is impossible that this knowledge should be possessed in the requisite degree by the various local legislatures of the Colonies of this kingdom. They have no means of knowing the state or the objects of pending negotiations, nor even of ascertaining with absolute precision, the terms of treaties actually concluded, &c. Neither is it possible for forty distinct legislatures, having no means of mutual communication and concert, should act consistently with each other on such subjects. The local opinions or interests of each colony must dictate the laws of each, and the general code of the empire, compiled from so many different sources, must be at the utmost variance with itself on a subject on which unanimity and consistency are indispensable. In such a state of the law Her Majesty's Government could not regulate or treat with confidence, with any Foreign State, for commercial purposes, nor could they fulfil such treaties as might be made. Painful and injurious discussions with those States must arise, and perhaps indemnities and compensations have to be paid. For these reasons," says Lord Stanley, "Her Majesty's Government decidedly object in principle to the assumption by the local legislatures of the office of imposing differential duties on goods imported into the respective colonies."

These are the reasons "Why" not the reasons of the Colonial Minister only, but of Her Majesty's Government, approved of by the Parliament of Great Britain. They may not be sound—they may not be conclusive—but they are reasons assigned by men of talent, founded upon experience. At the time that despatch was penned, we were in the habit of imposing discriminating duties in favor of British produce as high as eleven per cent, and therefore it could not have been penned with a view of benefiting Great Britain. In addition to this, there was an Act of the Imperial Parliament subjecting articles the growth and manufacture of Foreign coun-

tries to duties of Customs when imported direct from such countries into the Colonies, which was considered sufficient discrimination, without our imposing additional duties. Lord Stanley, in his despatch, refers to this, and says, "Parliament having already prescribed the rules by which such duties are to be discriminated with reference to the place of origin or of export—to Parliament alone the power of altering these rules must be reserved." This Act was in force in this Province till 1847, and from 1843 to 1848 our Legislature imposed no differential duties. In 1846 the Imperial Parliament passed an Act authorizing the respective local Legislatures, if they saw fit so to do, to reduce or repeal those duties. The Imperial duties were loudly complained of, and our Legislature embraced the earliest opportunity of repealing them. In 1848, when the Revenue Bill came up for discussion, a question arose as to whether Lord Stanley's despatch was in force, or whether it was superceded by the imperial act. Different opinions were expressed in the House of Assembly, and the question was referred to the Crown Officers, the majority of whom were of opinion that it was; consequently an Act was passed imposing one class of duties on British and Colonial produce and manufactures, and another on Foreign. When this Act went home for Her Majesty's assent, the Ministry was changed, and Earl Grey was then Colonial Secretary, and he sent out a despatch disapproving of the Act (although it was allowed to prevent inconvenience), and with it the copy of a letter from the Board of Treasury to the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade, explaining the objections entertained to the law. Another despatch was sent in answer to a question put by Sir William Colebrooke, whether the Imperial Act of 1846 had the effect of modifying Lord Stanley's despatch. This despatch was dated in March, 1848, and says that the instructions conveyed in the circular despatch of Lord Stanley continue in full force, and Earl Grey expresses a hope "that the Legislature will not adhere to an intention of reviving a class of duties, of which Parliament has so recently, and on such strong grounds, condemned the policy, and abandoned them as detrimental to the general interests of the empire." So, Sir, you will perceive that the principle of levying differential duties has received the deliberate consideration of two sets of Ministers—of the Board of Treasury, and the Privy Council for Trade—and of the Imperial Parliament.

You say that the effect of Lord Stanley's despatch has been detrimental to British interests. Surely, Sir, that is no ground of complaint on our part. If the British people are content to be placed upon the same footing with Foreigners, we should not complain. They say, tax our commodities as high as you please, but do not put us on a worse footing than foreigners; we are content to be on an equal footing with them, but not on a worse. If our Legislature possessed the power of regulating their own tariff, instead of imposing additional duties upon foreign manufacture, they might impose them upon British. If they are disposed to retaliate upon the United States, by imposing high duties, they have it in their power, by enumerating such articles as are usually imported from that country, and imposing prohibitory duties if they see fit. Shoes, and Wooden Wares, and a variety of other articles are now subjected to a duty of 20 per cent; they can make it fifty, or what they please. But in doing so, they must be careful lest they punish more than the Americans. The Farmers now complain that "articles not the production of the soil are not allowed to come into the Province without a heavy duty." But do the farmers know that the productions of the soil are subject to duties, and that in 1849 the consumer of these articles paid £8,728 on the following articles, viz: apples £100, butter £105, cheese £60, lard £67, horses and cattle £135, meats £2048, wheat flour £6,213.

The subject of duties is a very difficult one to deal with. Duties should never be levied except for revenue, for the moment you impose them for the protection of one class of operatives, you tax all the others. The farmer is deserving of every encouragement; so is the mechanic and the laborer. If you protect the farmer by imposing high duties on bread stuffs, you tax the two latter, and consequently raise the wages of the laborer, which operates against the farmer. If you protect the manufacturer, you tax the farmer and laborer, by compelling them to pay higher for the manufactured article. As to our compelling the United States to reduce their tariff in favor of our productions, it is impossible. Impose duties as high as we will, it will not have the effect; we should be only taxing ourselves to no purpose. Protection has been, and still is, the policy of the United States, as Free Trade is now the policy of Great Britain. The British Minister at Washington has thus far been unsuccessful in his endeavours to induce the United States Government to reciprocate with us; and Mr Hincks, of Canada, has failed in his mission for the same purpose—so that our government leader may, if he deems it sound policy, at once carry his threat into execution.

I cannot agree with you that British interests are "tampered and interfered with by absurd instructions from Downing Street." The British Parliament will take care of that—or that they would be better taken care of if the Colonial legislatures were allowed to regulate their own tariffs. The Colonial legislatures would be too much engaged in looking after their own interests to attend to those of Britain. I am, Sir, Yours, A COLONIST.

NEWCASTLE, March 19, 1851.

Mr Pierce,

Sir,—It is rather surprising that notwithstanding the large quantity of Firewood that is annually cut on Queen's land in rear of Newcastle, no steps have ever been taken either to stop or punish those unprincipled and daring robbers, who have hitherto been in the habit of hauling it to the town, and selling it at reduced prices, in order to prevent honest men, who cut on their own property, from getting a market.

So extensively has this business been carried on during the present season, that I should think, at the lowest calculation, that not less than one hundred cords have been hauled up to this time.

Under such circumstances, therefore, I consider it to be the duty of those who are appointed by government to protect ungrated lands (if any such appointment exists), to lose no time in bringing the parties to whom I have alluded (as they are well known), to justice. Yours truly,

A FARMER.

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI,

CHATHAM, MONDAY, MARCH 31, 1851.

RAILWAYS IN THE STATE OF NEW YORK.

—We have been kindly favored with a copy of the Hamilton Spectator, from which we have copied the following table, which shows the number of Railways in the state of New York, the cost of their construction, and the receipts of the different lines. As the utility of railroads is at the present time claiming a large share of public attention, it will afford our readers some valuable information on the subject.

Table with columns for Year (1846-1850), Receipts, Expenses, Profits, and Name of Corporation. Includes sub-headers for Miramichi, 1849, 1848, 1846, and 1850. Rows list corporations like Albany and Schenectady, Utica and Schenectady, etc.

tive to the building of a New Market-house in this city was referred, reported at some length on Tuesday last. The substance of it amounts to this:—the proposed Edifice is virtually knocked in the head, by the recommendation of the Committee to purchase the Government Fuel Yard as a site for the Market House! The Provincial Government to bear a proportion of the expense of building it!

EUROPEAN NEWS.

The American Steamer Arctic arrived at New York yesterday week, having left Liverpool on the 8th instant. Lord John Russell, together with his associates, have been re-instated in the Ministry, Lord Stanley being unable to form a Cabinet.

On Saturday we obtained our papers by the Steamer Canada, at Halifax. They are to the 15th instant. She must have arrived after the papers of Wednesday went to press, as none of them mention her arrival. The news they furnish is not important. We have made a few extracts, which will be found under the proper head.

Mr Howe's Mission.—Monday's mail will inform us if this gentleman, as was expected, came out in the Canada. The Nova Scotian of Wednesday last has the following paragraph in reference to this subject:

"From other quarters the intelligence received by the Asia, at New York, is most satisfactory. A gentleman belonging to this city, now in London, of the highest respectability, writes that, although but two days in the Metropolis, he has seen and heard sufficient to convince him of the entire success of the mission, no matter what party is in power. Another equally respectable, and with better means for acquiring information, writes that Mr Howe has been presented at Court, and most graciously received by Her Majesty. This gentleman says there is no room to doubt the complete success of the Railroad Delegation to England."

THE ARCTIC STEAMER.—It is stated in the papers that this steamer ran down a vessel off the Mersey on her passage out. There was nothing ascertained respecting her name, destination, and where from.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Our Correspondent 'A Colonist,' takes us to task for the comments we made a fortnight ago on Lord Stanley's Despatch relative to discriminating duties. If we could imagine that Despatches were what A Colonist reports them to be—documents emanating from Her Majesty's Ministers, after mature deliberation, &c. we should entertain more respect for them than we do; but we believe they are often framed by the Colonial Secretary himself, and more frequently by subordinates in his office, to carry out their peculiar views, than to forward the interests of Her Majesty's dependencies. If this were not the case, we should not see the Legislatures and people of the different Colonies so frequently arrayed in hostility to those mandates. We have an idea also (although in this we may be mistaken) that they are framed in accordance with the wishes of Colonial Governors, irrespective of the expressed and known wishes of the Colonists, promulgated by resolutions at public meetings, and by addresses to the throne from their Legislative bodies, and thus use the Colonial office to carry out measures which they could not otherwise do. We have, in our opinion, an instance of this in the refusal to allow us to grant Bounties. Have we not a right to make use of our own money in such way as we may conceive will be beneficial to our interests, foster our trade, or beget enterprise. Would this matter interfere with treaties, or encroach upon any law of the realm. No. The secret we believe is—that granting bounties did not meet with the approbation of the head of the government in the Province at the time—hence the refusal. A Colonist says—we could not have read the Despatch referred to above—otherwise we should have found an answer to our why. In reply we state—we read the document immediately after it was promulgated, and recollect distinctly the hue and cry raised against its contents, and the difficulties it threw in the way of our Legislature in framing their Revenue bill. It certainly furnishes us with an answer, but not as we said, a satisfactory one. The crowded state of our columns prevents us from saying more on the subject at present.

A Freeholder of Northumberland shall appear in our paper of Monday next.

P. E. ISLAND.—The Legislature of this Colony was summoned to meet for the despatch of business on the 25th instant.

NOVA SCOTIA.—In the Legislature of this Province, a Bill for repealing the permanent grant to King's College, passed its third reading—27 to 13.

Mr Young's Bill for the establishment of a Normal School, has also passed the lower House.

The Nova Scotian says:—"The Committee, to whom the affair rela-