

dearly purchased. Hence, as it does not appear from your despatch, that the principal public servants receive at present a high rate of pay as compared to that which is given to those who are employed by banks and mercantile companies, I must regard the proposed reductions of salary as injudicious. This question, however, as I have already observed, is one for the consideration and decision of the Parliament of Canada.

4. That portion of the minute of your Executive Council, which relates to the amount of the salary at present attached to the office of Governor General, and your own remarks upon this important point, have attracted the more particular attention of Her Majesty's Government. The present salary of that office does not appear to me to be unduly high; on the contrary, believing it to be an object of the greatest importance to Canada, that the post of Governor General should be filled by men of political experience, and of the highest ability that can be found, I regret that the salary is not at present such as in general to afford any temptation to those who have taken a lead in public affairs in this country, to abandon their prospects at home for the purpose of accepting this office. But I concur with your Lordship and with your Council, in considering the amount of the salary as of far less importance, than that this amount, whatever it may be, should be fixed, and should cease to be the subject of perpetual discussion in the province, since such discussion, it is justly remarked by your Council in their minute, is calculated to impair the dignity of the Queen's Representative. It might have been hoped that the manner in which the present salary of the Governor General was granted for Her Majesty's life by the Provincial Legislature, by an Act of Parliament freely and deliberately passed for that purpose, would have had the effect of permanently settling a question, the agitation of which is attended with so much evil.

Experience has, however, proved this hope to be unfounded; nor can I see the slightest reason for believing that if the existing arrangement were to be departed from, and any possible reduction in the salary of the office assented to by Her Majesty, the question would then be set at rest, or that a still farther reduction would not be proposed as soon as it might suit the views of any political party to renew the discussion.

5. There is but one mode, that I am aware of, by which any further agitation of this question in the province may be effectually prevented, and that is, by making the salary of the Governor General a charge, not upon the Canadian, but upon the British Treasury. This is an alteration which for many reasons I have long regarded as advisable; and it appears to Her Majesty's Government, that a fitting occasion for proposing it is now presented, in consequence of the desire manifested by the Canadian Parliament for a revision of the Civil List. But it is impossible that such an alteration can be recommended to Parliament except as part of a general measure for placing the fiscal relations of the mother country and the colony on a footing adapted to the greatly-altered circumstances of the present time, as compared to those under which the existing arrangement of those relations has grown up.

6. Canada (in common with the other British provinces in North America) now possesses in the most ample and complete manner in which it is possible that she should enjoy it, the advantage of self-government in all that relates to her internal affairs. It appears to her Majesty's Government that this advantage ought to carry with it corresponding responsibilities, and that the time is now come when the people of Canada must be called upon to take upon themselves a larger share than they have hitherto done, of expenses which are incurred upon this account, and for their advantage. Of these expenses by far the heaviest charge which falls upon this country is that incurred for the military protection of the province. Regarding Canada as a most important and valuable part of the empire, and believing the maintenance of the connexion between the mother country and the colony to be of the highest advantage to both, it is far from being the view of Her Majesty's Government that the general military power of the empire is not to be used in the protection of Her Majesty's dominions. But looking to the rapid progress which Canada is now making in wealth and population, and to the prosperity which she at this moment enjoys, it is the conviction of her Majesty's Government, that it is only due to the people of this country that they should now be relieved from a large proportion of the charge which has hitherto been imposed upon them for the protection of a colony now well able to do much towards protecting itself.

In adopting this principle, I need hardly observe to you that Her Majesty's Government would merely be reverting to the former colonial policy of this country. You are well aware that up to the period of the war of the American Revolution, the then British colonies which now form the United States, as well as the West Indian colonies, were required to take upon themselves the principal share of the burden of their own protection, and even to contribute to the military operations undertaken to extend the colonial possessions of the British Crown. The North American colonies defended themselves almost entirely from the fierce Indian tribes by which these infant communities were frequently imperilled, and furnished no inconsiderable proportion of the force by which the contest of British power with that of France was maintained on the continent of America; and the West Indian colonies

did not, in proportion to their means, make less exertions.

7. Her Majesty's Government would have thought it right at an earlier period to revert to this former policy of the empire, and to extend to Canada measures of the same description with those which have already been adopted as respects the Australian colonies, had it not been till lately there were circumstances connected with the general and commercial condition of Canada which seemed to render the time unfavorable for effecting so important a change. The difficulties under which commerce and industry labored were of a very aggravated description, and produced their usual consequences of political excitement and discontent; nor ought it to be concealed that much of the prevailing distress was attributable to the changes which had taken place in British legislation. The combined effect of the stimulus given by the Act of 1843 to the investment of capital in preparations for supplying this country with flour from Canada, and of the subsequent general repeal of all restrictions on the importation of corn and flour into the United Kingdom, had undoubtedly been to cause very heavy losses in Canada, and till these had been recovered, it would have been inexpedient to add to the burthens of the province.

8. But the season of commercial depression in Canada has now passed away, the repeal of the Navigation Laws, and the opening of the St. Lawrence Canals, which the province has been enabled to construct by a loan raised on highly favorable terms on the credit of the British Treasury, has given a great impulse to its trade, and the remarkable increase of the customs' revenue, which you have lately reported to me, affords a clear and striking proof of the return of prosperity. Under these circumstances, it appears to her Majesty's Government, that no more favorable opportunity could be found for placing the fiscal relations of the mother country and the colony on a permanent and equitable footing. They are the more induced to adopt this view of the subject, because they are prepared to recommend to Parliament that assistance of the same kind with that which has proved so eminently useful to Canada in the construction of the St. Lawrence Canals, should be extended to her in respect of another public work, calculated to be hardly less beneficial to her than these canals. In another despatch I will explain to your Lordship the views of her Majesty's Government with regard to the means by which it is hoped that the construction of the Quebec and Halifax Railway may be accomplished. I only advert to this subject at present for the purpose of observing, that while the credit of this country is exerted to enable Canada to extend her public works and to develop her resources, I feel confident that the Parliament of Canada will readily co-operate with her Majesty's Government in adopting measures for diminishing the charge on the British Treasury for the defence of the province.

9. Having thus explained to your Lordship the principles of the policy which her Majesty's Government propose to adopt, I will now proceed to state more particularly the measures by which it is contemplated that this policy should be carried into effect. In the first place, it is intended, that in future, with the exception of a certain number of enrolled pensioners, for whose location in the province arrangements are in progress, the troops maintained in Canada should be confined to the garrisons of two or three fortified posts of importance, probably only Quebec and Kingston. The terms of amity upon which this country now is with the United States, and the fortunate termination of all the questions in dispute between the two nations, removes, as I trust, all risk of any attack upon Canada from the only Power from which there could be any danger; and it appears to her Majesty's Government, that if the Provincial Militia is maintained upon a proper footing, so long as peace continues, enough would be done to provide for the security of the province, by maintaining garrisons of regular troops in the two important posts I have mentioned. In the unfortunate, and I trust improbable, contingency of a war with the United States, it is obvious that both the colony and the mother country would be called upon to submit to great sacrifices, and to make great exertions for their defence; but I have no doubt that these would be cheerfully made by both if the exigency should unhappily arise.

10. Upon the reduction of the British force in Canada to the garrisons of these fortified positions, it would become necessary that the warlike stores which are kept in the colony should be reduced, and that the barracks and other buildings which are no longer required, should be disposed of; but if the Parliament of Canada should be willing to undertake to keep up these barracks and buildings, in case of their being hereafter required, there would be no objection on the part of her Majesty's Government to make them over to the provincial authorities, and if the maintenance of a British force at any of the posts now occupied, should be desired for the preservation of internal security, such a force would be readily supplied by her Majesty's Government, if the actual cost thus incurred were provided for by the province.

11. Another charge which her Majesty's Government would also expect that the province should take upon itself, as part of the above arrangement, is that of maintaining the canals now in charge of the Ordnance Department. You are aware that these canals were executed at the sole expense of this country, and at a very heavy cost, chiefly with a view to the military defence of the province. Her Majesty's Government con-

ceive that the charge of maintaining them ought now to be undertaken by the province, and I trust that no difficulty will arise on that head. With regard to the Indian Department, as by the arrangement lately made, the extinction of the charge (except so far as regards some payments for their lives to individuals) is provided for within five years, no further steps are required to be taken.

12. In conclusion, I have now only to assure you that—while Her Majesty's Government consider that justice to the people of this country requires that Canada, which is now so well able to support whatever establishments are necessary for her own defence and for her own advantage, should cease to occasion so heavy a charge as formerly to the British Treasury, and that it is a fitting opportunity for introducing the change, when, in consequence of proceedings which have taken place in the province, it becomes expedient to call upon Parliament to provide for the salary of the Governor General—it must not for a moment be supposed that these measures are contemplated under any idea that the connexion between the mother country and the colony could be dissolved without great injury to both, or that there is any probability that it will be so. On the contrary, these measures are regarded as safe, because Her Majesty's Government are persuaded that the great body of the people of Canada are so fully satisfied of the great benefits they enjoy from the system of Constitutional Government now happily established in the province under the authority of the British Crown, that it may properly be left to themselves to take their share of the burthen of maintaining and defending an order of things from which they reap so much advantage. Under this impression, and in the earnest hope and confident belief that Canada may long continue to form an important member of the British Empire, Her Majesty's Government have adopted the conclusions which I have now explained to you.

I am, &c,

GREY.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, &c. &c.

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI,

CHATHAM, MONDAY, MAY 19, 1851.

EUROPEAN NEWS.

The Royal Mail Steamer Cambria arrived at Halifax on the afternoon of Tuesday last, and the Mail by her was received here on Friday. Our papers are to the 3d May. A very large portion of them is occupied with the opening of the Great Exhibition in London on the 1st. A sketch of the affair, as well as a summary of other matters will be found under the proper head.

COUNTY OF RESTIGOUCHE.

HALIFAX AND QUEBEC RAILWAY.

In pursuance of a Requisition to the High Sheriff, a Public Meeting was convened here on the 9th instant, for the purpose of taking consideration Earl Grey's proposition respecting the Great Trunk Railway from Halifax to Quebec. The meeting was the largest and most influential ever held in this County; the Court House, in which the people assembled, was crowded to excess; notwithstanding which the utmost harmony and unanimity prevailed throughout the entire proceedings. The Sheriff having read the requisition and notice, and declared the meeting open, ALEX. CAMPBELL, Esq., J. P., was called to the Chair, and GEORGE B. COWPER appointed Secretary, when the following Resolutions were passed unanimously, and by acclamation.

Moved by Adam Ferguson, Esq., J. C. P., seconded by David Sadler, Esq., and

Resolved, That the construction of a Trunk Line of Railway from Halifax to Quebec would be in the highest degree beneficial to the British North American Possessions. That the advantages accruing from such an undertaking would not be limited to anticipated commercial prosperity; but its accomplishment would necessarily be a means of strengthening and perpetuating the bond of union between these Provinces and the Parent State; and of opening up a rich and fertile country as a home for its surplus population.

Moved by Chipman Botsford, Esq., seconded by Alex. Fraser, Esq., J. P., (Canada East) and

Resolved, That this meeting view with great regret and distrust the hasty rejection by the Legislature of this Province, of the terms proposed by Her Majesty's Colonial Secretary, to advance the required capital for such undertaking,—for the following among other reasons: 1st, That the continuation of a trunk line from near Shediac (the contemplated junction of the "Portland" and "Halifax and Quebec lines") to the Restigouche, although about the same length as that part of the proposed "Portland" line from said junction to the State of Maine, yet it can be made at much less expense, owing to the natural advantages of the country through which it will pass. That therefore the interest of the capital which will be required to complete the latter line, as at present contemplated, would be more than the interest upon capital sufficient to complete both lines under Earl Grey's proposition; the most favorable

terms upon which capital can be obtained under the present Provincial guarantee, for the Portland and St. Andrews' lines, being at 6 per cent., with a further probability of the debentures being hereafter at a discount in the money market. 2nd, That the continuation of a Trunk Line through this Province will open up an immense extent of ungranted lands of superior quality, and so enhance their value, as to repay the outlay for its construction; and by inducing immigration to a great extent, will double both the population and revenue of the Province in a short time. 3rd, That from the hasty rejection by the Legislature of Earl Grey's proposition, by which the permanent advancement and interest of the Province have been so far sacrificed, this meeting is led to believe in the rumours that many of the Legislators, from being shareholders in the Portland and St. Andrews lines, have been influenced by other motives than the general welfare of the Province. 4th, That this rejection of the offer made by the Colonial Secretary, and the re-guarantee by the Provincial Legislature of their former pledge (which was not entertained by the British Government), thereby virtually closing all further negotiation, may be very injurious to the future interests of the Province, by leading to a determination on the part of the British Government, to withhold any offer in future, or even to carry out the late proposition of the Colonial Secretary with respect to the Great Trunk Railway.

Moved by Charles Simonds, Esq., seconded by George B. Cowper, Esq., and

Resolved, That the only guarantee for the proper expenditure of the money for building the great trunk line, will be in the appointment of Commissioners under the authority of the British Government, to superintend the same, who will be wholly disinterested in the road being laid elsewhere than on a line most beneficial to all the colonies; the combined interests in the Provincial Legislature, of the Portland and St. Andrews lines, tending to have a most prejudicial influence, not only against Provincial, but also British interests, with respect to the selection of a proper route. That these combined interests, in the event of Her Majesty's assent being given to the Bills passed at the last Session of the Provincial Legislature, providing for the building of the Portland and St. Andrews lines, will, without doubt, have a much greater effect in swamping the whole Provincial Revenue in future, for the exclusive benefit of only a section of the Province, than the proposition of Earl Grey, even if accepted in its most literal sense.

Moved by Dr. Taylor, seconded by Charles Simonds, Esq., and

Resolved, That it is a ruinous and injurious policy to grant large tracts of Crown Lands to Railway Companies, as these lands, during the construction, and after the completion, of the roads, will be the most valuable resources within the Province. That all great public works such as the Halifax and Quebec Line of Railway, should be Government undertakings, and not in the hands of private Companies; and, further Resolved, That a Committee be appointed to prepare and forward a petition to the Lieutenant Governor, with a copy of these Resolutions, praying that His Excellency will be pleased to transmit such copy to the Colonial Secretary, and to recommend to His Lordship the necessity of the Royal assent being withheld from the Bills passed at the late Session of the New Brunswick Legislature, in aid of the "European and North American" and the "St. Andrews and Woodstock" Lines.

Moved by Charles Murray, Esq., seconded by Daniel Ferguson, Esq., and

Resolved, That the able and unwearied exertions of the Honorable Joseph Howe, in bringing the condition and resources of the British North American Colonies so clearly before the Home Government and the British public, and in advocating the interests of the Great Trunk Railways, deserve the most unqualified approbation of all Colonists; and this meeting desire to express their sincere thanks to Mr Howe for his valuable services.

Resolved, That Adam Ferguson, Chipman Botsford, Dr P. Taylor, Charles Simonds, George Moffat, and George B. Cowper, Esqs., be the Committee to carry out the object of the 4th Resolution.

Moved by A. Ramsay, J. P. seconded by G. Moffat, Esq., and

Resolved, That the Secretary do furnish copies of these Resolutions to the Editors of some of the New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Canada Newspapers, with a request for publication in their respective periodicals.

ALEX. CAMPBELL, Chairman.
G. B. COWPER, Secretary.

UNITED STATES.—The Roman Catholic Cathedral at Pittsburgh, the oldest and largest place of public worship in that place, was totally destroyed by fire on the 6th instant. It cost \$30,000, on which there was an insurance of \$5,000. The organ which cost \$6,000 was also consumed. A paper states that while the building was burning, a man was arrested in the act of setting fire to the Bishop's residence adjoining.

We are requested to state that a vessel from 70 to 90 tons register can get a freight at Dalhousie, Bay de Chaleur, for New York.