

PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE.

The proceedings of the Legislature since our previous dates from Fredericton, have not been very important. We have given under the proper head, some extracts, which will enable our readers to form a pretty correct idea of what has been done in the Assembly, and also put them in possession of some things that have been said there.

We have copied some extracts from an admirable speech made by Mr. Wilnot on introducing his Resolutions in reference to our Revenue Laws. The Head Quarters makes some sensible remarks on the absurd Despatch obtained a few years ago, refusing to our Legislature the right to make discriminating duties. Why such silly instructions were sent out to the Colonies, we have never been able to obtain a satisfactory answer. The effect has already been detrimental to British interests; and if the United States do not speedily make some reduction in their tariff in favor of Colonial productions, necessity will compel the Colonial Legislatures to exact still higher duties on articles imported into the Colonies; and as they have not the power to make any discrimination, the British manufacturer will have to fare like the Foreigner. When this occurs, we shall not be surprised to see a Despatch issuing from the Colonial Secretary, complaining of the injury thus done to the British Manufacturer, and instructing the Lieutenant Governor to withhold his assent to any similar bill in future. Why does not the British Government allow the Colonial Legislatures to regulate their own tariffs: they are much better able to perform this important duty than a Secretary who resides on the other side of the Atlantic, and cannot be acquainted with our wants. British interests would then be better taken care of than at present, tampered and interfered with as they are with absurd instructions from Downing Street.

We have received the following racy communication from a Correspondent at the Seat of Government:—

FREDERICTON, March 13, 1851.

Dear Pierce,—The principal matters before the House during the last few days, would not interest your people much; but a Bill has been brought in and carried through the House, by a rather large majority, 23 to 12, reducing the fees of County Registrars from 1s. per folio of 100 words, to 5s. for the first 10 folios, and 6d. per folio after the first 10; acknowledging a Deed, &c., from 3s. to 2s.; discharge of Mortgage, from 5s. as now charged, to 3s. The old law was 3s. for discharge, but 1s. was charged for the search, and 1s. for something else: the present act says 3s., including the search, and other necessary duty to complete the discharge; and another clause provides that no practising Attorney shall be capable of taking or holding the office.

The Attorney General yesterday moved the House into Committee on a Bill entitled, "a Bill to amend the Law, and for the administration of Justice," or to that effect. The substance of the Bill was to enable the Government to employ three or five Commissioners to report at the next session on this subject. This was opposed on the ground that it was the duty of the Law Officers of the Crown, and of the Government, to do this work, and bring in a Bill to amend the whole law; and the Journal of last year was referred to, showing a Resolution similar to this Bill, moved, and the hon. Mr. Parlelow, then and now in the Government, moving and carrying an amendment that such was the duty of the Government, and that they would be expected to bring down a measure at this Session. The Attorney General found he was going to lose this Bill, though one of those mentioned in the Speech, and he suggested that the Committee should report progress, until another Bill, prepared and introduced by a member of the opposition, should be committed; and stated, that if such Bill pleased the House, he would himself move to withdraw the Government Bill. This was a side wind, to get clear of the measure, and succeeded so far that the Government carried the motion to report progress by a majority of one vote the division being 18 to 19. Cutler and Chapman voted with the government, and Gilbert and Hayward, with others, against them. Of course three of your members voted with the government.

To day the Attorney General committed the Municipal Corporation Act, and it met with a severe rubbing, though the opposition to it was not made a party question, as the principle of Municipal Corporations was supported by all the opposition. But the bill was attacked as a half measure; as, one which, instead of extending the rights of the people, would in fact curtail those rights; because, when they had the election of their own parish officers under the present law, this Bill took away that power and placed it in the Council, who were to be elected.

There was some hard knocks during the debate between the parties. It was stated that there were no petitions from Northumberland in favor of Municipal Corporations; and the Attorney General said that if his col-

league (Mr Johnson) voted to force it upon the County, he might find that the majority of the people were against it.

Mr Johnson replied that the people, by public meetings, had called for these Institutions, and referred to the resolutions.

The Attorney General asked who were at the meeting in Newcastle.

Mr Johnson said he could tell him who were not, viz; the Magistrates, for those gentlemen had refused the use of the Court House to the people of Newcastle for their Parish meeting. The Attorney General had spoken of his (Mr J.'s) lecturing on Municipal Corporations. Such was the case; for he and the Attorney General had found it necessary to lecture on some subjects prior to the late general election; that he had chosen this, and the Attorney General that of *Rural Economy*, and perhaps it might yet appear which had best satisfied the constituency.

Mr Williston replied, defending the Magistracy, and stated that the affairs of the county had been better conducted by them than in any county in the Province. This, of course, is in direct opposition to Mr Williston's petition in the Looshtauk affair, which accuses the Magistrates of the most iniquitous conduct, of downright dishonesty, and of a system of persecution unheard of in the Province.

Mr Johnson said he had no right to speak again on this subject at present, but when the question came up, he would reply to this part of Mr Williston's speech. The Committee reported progress. The speeches will be reported. You will hear more on this subject, and your people will understand, that if the Looshtauk money be not obtained, Mr W. has his own tongue to blame. This is not the first time he has been his own enemy in this way. The Emigrant Committee have reported these petitions to the consideration of the House, and stated that if the statements in the petitions be true, the conduct of the Magistracy has been highly reprehensible. But some of the Committee have since stated that as the petitions and statements of Mr Williston are in direct contradiction, they have changed their minds upon his claim. One thing is very certain, viz., either the pen or the tongue of the hon. member has departed from the strict line of truth.

Three of your members pull pleasantly together, acting in concert on all occasions, and it is to be hoped patriotically; the other does business altogether on his own hook. Yesterday, when the vote was taken on the Law Bill, Mr Williston was not standing, when the Attorney General looked round, calling to him 'get up Williston, get up;' another member (one of the opposition) very quietly said, 'oh, don't be alarmed Mr. Attorney General, Mr. Williston is all right,' and Mr. Williston immediately rose. It must be satisfactory to your people to find such dissonant material—men of such opposite feelings on all past occasions—sinking all personal animosities, burying the hatchet, and in the pure spirit of patriotism, lending their energies on the same end of the political line, and thus not only for the purpose of upholding the present unpopular Provincial Government but the twice unpopular, Bench of County Magistrates. The Debate on the Despatches will not come off till Monday or Tuesday, and there will be some sharp shooting and heavy artillery fire. I have little doubt a large majority of the house will vote in direct opposition to the expressed opinion of the Attorney General on these Despatches. There is a great desire manifested, that plain and strong language should be used, and the reports on the question will I think, be of more interest to the country than any others during the session. The period has arrived when the question must be taken up boldly or abandoned for ever. Some folks over your way, may endeavour to persuade the people that there is a factious opposition formed against the Government. In this, however, they will be wrong, because, though two or three of the opposition may or may not have personal motives, the majority have nothing to gain further than what they will acquire in common with the people—that is, a better state of things in the Province—the principles of Responsible Government purely carried out—irrespective of Home dictation; and the same principles of self government in local matters extended to the Counties and Parishes; and there is no doubt but by perseverance, these principles will be successful. The downfall of the present administration is a question of time only. The tide of popular opinion must ultimately undermine the government as the only obstruction now before it. The Attorney General having been once or twice, called upon to say if the Government had been filled up, replied to day, that they had not yet been able to fill the vacancies. That the interests of the Province were not suffering, and that the vacancies would be filled so soon as it could be done. Rumour is rife as to the many persons—but there is no certainty. Report says the Solicitor General would be got rid of if the Government could make good use of the vacancy; that he would get the Clerkship of the Crown and that of the Executive Council. There is no doubt but this office and that of Surveyor General, were offered to two of the opposition prior to the meeting of the house, and that other means were taken to prevent opposition, and this fact is quite sufficient to convince me that the opposition is honest, even though feelings being aroused by debate may sometimes carry individual members too far: one thing I do believe, that none of the opposition would accept office unless with a government entertaining their own political views, and are determined to carry them out.

SENTINEL.

THE SCHOOL BILL.

Last week we gave a brief synopsis of this Bill, with a running comment thereon. To-day we publish the remarks of some of our contemporaries, who agree that it is a failure, inasmuch as it does not meet the wishes of the people.

The Morning News thus alludes to it:—

"We copy below a condensed Report of the new Government School Bill, for the information of our country friends, and all others interested in educational matters. We stated last week from certain knowledge we possessed, that this Bill would turn out to be quite the opposite to what the country requires. The old garment remains the same, except that a new patch is added here and there, and the thread-bare parts are clipped off; to render the whole as much in keeping as possible. It is a cumbersome piece of machinery—scarcely a single wheel or cog, can be made to rotate in harmony with the rest, and it must retard rather than accelerate the object it has in view. So wise are the Government that they do not know how to begin to teach the people. They suggested the appointing of Commissioners for the purpose of looking into the laws of the Province and reporting upon them. As a School Bill is of as much importance to the country as Law Reform, why not appoint Commissioners (half out of doors) consisting of experienced schoolmasters, and men of judgment, to concoct a scheme, and lay it before the Government? Most of the present government are familiar with nothing, so to speak, except—LAW.—What can such men know about the most suitable methods of inducting the youthful mind into the paths of study? Mr Street would make the School Bill like the Municipal Bill, affect the people of each parish in a voluntary way—that is, the people have the option of accepting its provisions and taxing themselves whenever they get ready, which will never be. If free education is thought to be a blessing to a country, the people must be taxed for its maintenance. The Government do not ask the people to accept laws made for the repression of crime, and the protection of their properties. Such laws are enacted because they are wanted, and the same principle is applicable in the case before us."

NOVASCOTIA.—The House of Assembly of our sister Province has been the scene of some angry discussion of late, particularly on an important measure introduced by Mr Johnston, for making the Legislative Council elective. It is a singular thing, that while the Liberals in this Province have forced this measure on the Government, the Tories have introduced a similar one into the Novascotia Legislature, which has been most strenuously opposed by the Liberals.

PUBLIC MEETING IN NAPAN.

A Public Meeting was held in the School House, in Napan, on Monday evening, 10th instant, pursuant to public notice, for the purpose of taking into consideration the Attorney General's plan for advancing the Agricultural Interest of the Province; and also to consider the best method of calling the attention of the Legislature to the Farming classes of the community.

Mr MICHAEL SEARLE was unanimously called to the Chair, and Mr LUKE BYRON requested to act as Secretary. The Chairman explained the purport of the meeting, and several practical farmers having stated their opinions relative to the same, the following resolutions were unanimously passed.

Moved by Mr James Kerr, and seconded by Mr James Creighton, and

Resolved unanimously, That this meeting deeply regret that the honorable Attorney General should be so unmindful of the Agricultural Interest of this Province, in his not bringing a Bill into the Legislature to promote and advance Agriculture, as we are of opinion that the cultivation of the soil must in a short time become the chief dependence of this country, now that the lumber trade is nearly exhausted. And further Resolved, That the system of rural economy which he propounds for the improvement of the farmer is altogether unnecessary and uncalled for, in this part of the Province at least.

Moved by Mr John Nicholson, and seconded by Mr James Dickson, and

Resolved unanimously, That the farmers of this Province should arouse themselves from their apathy; and look more to their own interests, and not depend so much on others as they have hitherto done; but unanimously petition the Legislature for their just and equitable rights.

Moved by Mr John Graham, and seconded by Mr John Jardine, and

Resolved unanimously, That we present a petition to the Legislature, praying for equal protection with the rest of the community, as we are laboring under many disadvantages, inasmuch as all articles not the production of the soil, are not allowed to come into this Province without a heavy duty, whereas nearly all agricultural produce are admitted free, which oppresses the farmers more than any other class of persons.

The first resolution was reconsidered and amended, there being one or two dissenting voices to the first motion; but on its being put under the amendment, it was carried unanimously.

A Petition to the Legislature, praying for relief to the Agriculturists of the Province, having been prepared and presented to the meeting, it was unanimously agreed to, and notwithstanding the lateness of the hour, and

many persons having left, it received thirty-five signatures.

It was moved by Mr John Jardine, and seconded by Mr James Creighton, that Mr Pierce be requested to publish the proceedings of this meeting in the Gleaner.

M. SEARLE, Chairman.

COUNTY OF RESTIGOUCHE

SONS OF TEMPERANCE.—On Thursday evening, the 20th ultimo, the *Dalhousie Division*, No. 64, of the Order of the Sons of Temperance was organised by Henry W. Baldwin, Esq., D.G.W.P. A large number of the Sons of the Campbellton Division attended. This Division is opened under the most favorable auspices, and the benefits of the order beginning to attract notice, where, heretofore, but little appreciated or understood. The following Office Bearers were chosen for the current quarter.

D. Sadler, W.P.; Charles Lloyd, W.A. Charles Simonds, R.S.; J. L. Barberie, A.R.S.; A. Wallace, F.S.; G. B. Cowper, T. J. Montgomerie, C.; A. Vaughan, A. C.; J. Wands, I.S.; D. Purinton, O. S.

The New Division comprises fourteen members, with a prospect of a gradual but certain increase.

Marriages.

On the 3d instant, by the Rev. John Turnbull, Mr JOHN SCOFIELD, to Miss MARY J. CONNERS, both of the Parish of Blackville.

On the 5th instant, by the same, Mr JAMES DOWER, of the Parish of Nelson, to Miss JANE SULLIVAN, of the Parish of Blackville.

Deaths.

On the 9th ult., at her residence in the Parish of Blackville, Southwest Miramichi, Mrs CAMPBELL, wife of Mr Charles Campbell, Sen., aged 72 years, after a short but severe illness, evidently mature in grace and ripe for glory, deeply regretted by all her kindred and friends, her neighbors and fellow Christians, by whom her memory will be long cherished and revered as a kind sympathising friend, a skilful and an experienced nurse, who was always ready and anxious to exert herself to the utmost for the good of others, and continued instant in season and out of season attending to the calls of duty to all in the community in every time of need, and whose beneficial services will be greatly missed in the sphere of usefulness which she was enabled to occupy with so much credit to the honor of God, and for the benefit of many in her day and generation.

AMATEUR PERFORMANCE.

MORTON'S CELEBRATED COMEDY

"The Road to Ruin."

Will be performed in the large Temperance Building now in course of erection, near the residence of John M. Johnson, Jun., Esq., Chatham, on the evening of WEDNESDAY, the 26th instant, at half past 7 o'clock. The proceeds of the Play will be applied to the completion of the Building.

Tickets—to front seats 2s., back seats 1s.; to be had at the stores of Messrs. Johnson & Mackie, Alex. Loudoun, and C. L. Hawbolt. Children admitted at half price. Chatham, March 17, 1851.

CARD.

MARCH 1, 1851.

MR PIERCE,

Sir,—You will oblige us in giving through your Journal our sincere thanks to the Hon. ALEX. RANKIN, for the gift of a *Stove* and *Pipes*, for our School House, in the Back Settlement of Tabusintac, called Mount Pleasant.

CHARLES M. FOWLER, ALEX. McLEOD, DOUGALD McLEAN, RODERICK McKENZIE.

Highland Society of New Brunswick at Miramichi.

A General Meeting of the Directors of the above Society, will be held at *White's Hotel*, Chatham, on the FOURTH TUESDAY of March, instant, at ten o'clock, A. M., being the 25th of the month.

A. LOUDOUN, Secretary. Miramichi, 10th March, 1851.

Notice to the Public.

A Contract has been entered into with Her Majesty's Government, by which the communication between British North America and the West Indies is re-opened. The former arrangement will therefore be resorted to, and Letters for the West Indies will hereafter be forwarded via Halifax and Bermuda.

J. HOWE, D. P. M. G. Gen. Post Office, St. John, March 4, 1851

Central Bank Agency.

Notice is hereby given, that GEORGE KERR, Esquire, of Chatham, in the County of Northumberland, is duly authorized by the President, Directors and Company of the Central Bank of New Brunswick, to manage and conduct an AGENCY for that Institution, in Chatham, from this date.

GEO. BOTSFORD, President. Fredericton, 15th January, 1851.