

ry of State for the Colonies, to the Hon. Joseph Howe, by which funds will be advanced to the Provinces of Canada, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick, for the construction of Railways connecting Nova Scotia, through this Province, to Quebec and Montreal, on terms which secure the completion of that work at little more than one-half of what it would cost without the interposition of the Imperial Government."

John P. Ford, Esq., in seconding the Resolution, observed that this section of the Province ought to feel deeply interested in any scheme which would secure the completion of this great Trunk Railway, and such, he believed, would be the effect if we accepted the offer of the Imperial Government; for, imprisoned as we are for a period of six months, during which our communications are cut off by ice, this railroad, in opening a communication with our different markets, and with the neighbouring Provinces, would be productive of incalculable advantage.

The resolution was then passed unanimously. David Wark, Esq. rose to move the next Resolution. He said an erroneous impression had gone abroad with regard to the feeling of the people of this Province in respect to the offer of the Imperial Government, and that on this point the St. John Press did not represent the opinion of the Province generally, but only of that portion hoping to derive benefit from the construction of the European Railway. He did not believe that that Railway would be of so great benefit to St. John as they expected, and though it might be the pathway for passengers from the Old World, yet that no great profit would be derived from the transportation of freight; and as it would only pass through countries whose trade is now centered in St. John, he thought it would not extend or enlarge her commercial relations with the interior of the Province. He then shewed very forcibly and conclusively from statistics, that while that Railroad would only skirt the Bay of Fundy shore, the Quebec Railroad would open up a country rich in resources, which would rapidly increase the wealth of the Province, and that the Crown Lands in King's, St. John and Charlotte (for Westmorland he viewed as neutral on this question) were only about 750,000 acres, and of inferior quality. The Lands on the north shore as yet ungranted, amounted to 4,500,000 acres, and of excellent quality, through the best portion of which Major Robinson's Line runs. He (Mr W.) knew that the capabilities of this portion of the Province were underrated, and even little known to the other section. While treating of lands, and emigration that would flow in to settle them if this great work was constructed, he was inclined to believe that the low price set upon our public lands materially retarded emigration. That when the emigrant finds that when in Australia—a six months' voyage—land is valued at one pound per acre, and in New Brunswick—a few days' sail distant—but half a crown per acre is set upon public lands, his habits and experience would naturally lead him to the conclusion that the land in this Province must be valueless.

Mr W. shewed that the Imperial Government, in requiring a pledge of the Revenues, asked nothing more than our own Legislature did in 1842, when raising a loan to meet the exigencies of the Province, and he believed that the increased revenue which would be derived—as Mr Weldon had already pointed out—would make this burden as easy as that was in the then depressed state of the Province. It must be clear that by the offer of the Imperial Government the two Lines can be built on as cheap terms as the Portland Line, and if the latter would be lucrative as a private enterprise, it would be still more so with the increased traffic derived from the former, and thus materially reduce the burden imposed on our Revenue.

Mr Wark then alluded to the excitement which generally displayed itself in St. John on the subject of Railroads; how that Railway Leagues were formed and Companies organised, but when funds were required the purse was closed and they had no capital to invest. He (Mr W.) feared that as the Saint Andrews Railroad Company had made application for, and obtained so many grants of assistance from the Legislature, although each time the aid sought would be the last asked for, so when the £250,000 already granted was expended, they would be, like Oliver Twist, *asking for more*. Mr Wark said he viewed this work as one to be carried on by the three Provinces in unison, not only as a Provincial or National undertaking, but one affecting the interests of the whole world, as being the great highway of nations from the old world to the new. Mr Wark ably reviewed every proposition laid down in the resolution which he moved, and of which the above is but an imperfect outline.

Resolved, That a Railway from Halifax to Quebec would tend more than any other public work to advance the interests of this Province, both by facilitating commercial intercourse, and promoting the settlement of its wild lands, while it would constitute a bond of union between the British North American colonies, and bind them more closely to the parent state, and, therefore, whether viewed as a Provincial or National undertaking, it is a subject of paramount importance.

This Resolution was seconded by James Long, Esq., and passed without dissent.

L. P. W. DesBrisay, Esq. said the Resolution he held in his hand expressed the regret that our Legislature had so hastily decided on the Despatch of Earl Grey. He considered

ed that Despatch of great importance to these Colonies, as the opening of a negotiation between them and the Imperial Government by which not only the completion of the railroad would be ensured but he believed the aid offered by the Home Government; would be obtained on more favorable terms. Viewing it in this manner, he regretted our Legislature had not awaited the action of the Parliaments of Canada and Nova Scotia, as he feared if the offer was once rejected it might never again be made. Mr DesBrisay moved the following resolution:

"Resolved, That this meeting deeply regrets the hasty decision of the Legislative Council and House of Assembly, on the liberal offer of Her Majesty's Government, before the subject could be brought under the consideration of the Legislatures of Canada and Nova Scotia, and trust that the Legislature will at an early day reconsider the whole subject of Railways with a view to harmonious and combined action with the adjoining Provinces."

Mr S. H. Wathen, in seconding the resolution, remarked, that whatever motives may have actuated the Legislature in coming to so hasty a decision on the generous and liberal proposition of the Imperial Government, they certainly had not consulted the best interests of the Province when they refused to accept that offer, and act upon it as became a deliberative assembly, charged with the important trust of the people rights and interests. He hoped, however, they would soon have an opportunity of reconsidering the subject, and unite with the other Provinces in adopting measures to carry out the great and noble undertaking of a Railroad from Halifax to Quebec.

The resolution was then put and passed unanimously.

L. McLaren, Esq., M. D., moved the next resolution, which was seconded by Wm. S. Caie, Esq., and passed:

"Resolved, That a copy of the foregoing resolutions be transmitted to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, and that His Excellency be respectfully requested to transmit the same to Her Majesty's principal Secretary of State for the Colonies."

R. B. Cutler, Esq., M. P. P., said that the resolution he was about to move was one which he felt sure would meet with a warm response in every heart. It conveyed the thanks of this meeting to the Hon. Joseph Howe for the able manner in which he had urged the claims of the Colonies on the Imperial Government. He (Mr C.) had viewed the course of that gentleman, since he had entered public life, with admiration, and looked upon him as a patriot, and true lover of his country; and however persons might differ with regard to his political course, still he felt assured none could deny him his meed of praise, for the able, talented, and energetic manner in which he brought these Colonies, not only under the notice of the Home Government, but of the British people. Mr Cutler here alluded to the course which he, in common with the representatives from the northern section of the Province, were obliged to pursue, with reference to the action of the Legislature, adverted to in the third resolution, and, while admitting the action of the Legislature to have been hasty, fully and ably justified the policy they had pursued, viz., that feeling unable to obtain a postponement of the resolutions for further deliberation and discussion, they succeeded in securing a renewal of the pledge of the previous Legislatures. Mr Cutler then moved the following resolution:

"Resolved, That the thanks of this meeting are due, and are hereby tendered to the Hon. Joseph Howe, Secretary of the Province of Nova Scotia, for the able and statesmanlike manner in which he has brought the important subject of the Railroad from Halifax to Quebec under the consideration of the Imperial Government; and also for his zealous, independent, and eloquent advocacy of the claims of the British North American Colonies upon the parent state. And further resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Hon. Mr Howe."

Robert Hutchinson, Esq., said, that however persons might differ with regard to the offer contained in the letter of Mr Hawes, yet every Colonist ought to feel proud as he read the letter of Mr Howe to Earl Grey; and he considered it fortunate for the Colonies that a person had been selected as a delegate on this important question, whose talented, fearless, and independent spirit, as portrayed in those letters, would do credit to the public men of any nation. He therefore had much pleasure in seconding the resolution.

The resolution was then put and carried unanimously.

D. Wark, Esq., said a delegation had left these lower Provinces for Toronto, to confer with the Canadian ministry, and he considered that it would be proper to put them in possession of the proceedings of this meeting, as evincing the feeling entertained by this section of the Province, and he would therefore move the following resolution:

"Resolved, That a copy of the foregoing resolutions be transmitted to the Hon. Joseph Howe, and the Hon. Edward B. Chandler, delegates from the lower Provinces to confer with His Excellency the Governor General on the subject of the Halifax and Quebec Railway," which was seconded by L. P. W. DesBrisay and passed.

Moved by John G. G. Layton, Esq., and seconded by Mr James R. Creelman, and

"Resolved, That the proceedings of this meeting be forwarded to the Miramichi

Gleaner, and a Halifax and St. John paper, for publication.

Hon. J. W. Weldon then stated he saw present several gentlemen from Miramichi, who, he understood, were a deputation from Northumberland, to invite Mr Howe to address the people of that County, and who, in common with themselves, regretted his absence. It had been suggested that a joint requisition should be forwarded to both Counties to Mr Howe, requesting him to address them on his return from Canada.

John M. Johnson, Jun., Esq., M. P. P., said that he felt assured the people of Northumberland would unite in any action that might be adopted by this meeting to carry out the suggestion alluded to. Mr Johnson then addressed the meeting upon the subject of the Railroad, and the offer of the Imperial Government.

On motion of Hon. John W. Weldon, the Chairman left the chair, and James Long, Esq., called thereto.

Moved by Mr Weldon, seconded by David Wark, Esq.—That the thanks of this meeting be given to George Pagan, Esq., for the able manner in which he has discharged the duties of Chairman of the meeting.

The thanks of the meeting were also given to the Secretary.

And after three cheers for the Queen the meeting adjourned.

MEETING IN NORTHUMBERLAND.

A Public meeting was held at the Court House, Newcastle, on Thursday last, in compliance with a numerous signed Requisition to the High Sheriff, for the purpose of adopting such measures as might be deemed most advisable for promoting the construction of the Great Trunk Railway from Halifax to Quebec through this Province.

The High Sheriff, W. A. BLACK, Esq., was called to the Chair.

JAMES A. PIERCE was appointed to act as Secretary.

Moved by John Wright, Esq., seconded by James Caie, Esq., and

Resolved, unanimously, That the inhabitants of Northumberland have learned with extreme gratification, that the Great Trunk Railroad from Halifax to Quebec, through this Province, has at length engaged the serious attention of the Imperial Government and the British people, and through the able advocacy of the Hon. Mr Howe, that an offer of the Imperial guarantee has been made to these Provinces of the funds necessary to complete this great national undertaking, at a low rate of interest.

Moved by George Kerr, Esq., seconded by Jared Tozer, Esq., and

Resolved, That while this meeting gratefully acknowledge the paternal interest manifested by the British Government in the offer already made, they are of opinion that as the benefits to result from the construction of the Great Trunk Railway will be National, in relieving the Mother Country of her surplus and burdensome population, and in creating an increased market for her manufactures, a reasonable proportion of the capital should be provided from the national treasury.

Moved by John M. Johnson, Jun., Esq., seconded by Mr Richard Sutton, and

Resolved, unanimously, That great as would be the advantages of the Trunk Railway to these Provinces, in connecting them by the strongest ties of social and commercial intercourse—by extending trade—advancing commerce, and promoting the settlement and general improvement of their fertile but unpeopled territories, the national importance of the undertaking is yet greater, not only from the fact that every nation must partake in the general prosperity of her Colonies as integral parts of the Kingdom, but because the unemployed millions of her energetic sons in the Mother Country, would thus be removed beyond the reach of want, and in a country boundless alike in its extent, fertility and natural resources, might reap the reward of enterprise and industry, and amid the blessings of plenty, on British soil, cherish and revere the constitution of their father land. This important work would relieve the British Isles of an overgrown population, who, instead of increasing the wealth and strengthening the arms of a foreign power, would materially add to the employment of her remaining people, as consumers of British manufactures, and extend the power of the nation, till Great Britain, on this side of the Atlantic alone, would rival the neighboring States, and until the Colonies could alone protect themselves in war, and render the mother country independent of those foreign markets which she must one day lose.

Moved by Mr Thomas Little, seconded by Mr Thomas Vanstone, and

Resolved, unanimously, That the thanks of this meeting be conveyed to the Hon. Joseph Howe, who has earned for himself the gratitude of every inhabitant of these Colonies, for the able, manly, and independent manner in which he has brought before the British Government and People, the value and importance of the North American Colonies, as a part of the Empire, from which great and permanent advantages must follow to them.

Proposed by John T. Williston, Esq., seconded by Richard Hutchison, Esq., and

Resolved, unanimously, That a Copy of the foregoing Resolutions be transmitted by the Chairman to the Honorables Edward B. Chandler, and Joseph Howe, at Toronto, and that they be published in the Gleaner.

W. A. BLACK, Chairman.

The Chairman having left the Chair, and John Wright, Esq., being called thereto,

It was resolved that the thanks of the meeting be given to the High Sheriff, for the promptitude with which he complied with the requisition, and for the able manner in which he presided over the business of the meeting.

Three cheers were then given for the Queen, and the parties separated.

JAMES A. PIERCE, Secretary.

CANADA.—Professor Cramp who has occupied the Editorial Chair of the Montreal Pilot, in his valedictory address on vacating that situation to preside over Acadia College, in Nova Scotia, draws the following gratifying picture of the affairs of Canada:—

"The progress of Canada during the above mentioned period is truly gratifying. By the restoration of the reform party to power, Responsible Government has been brought into full operation, and its principles are recognised and acted upon with happy effects, in every section of the Province. To the Municipal Corporations of Upper Canada the administration of all local affairs is now entrusted—a universally admitted improvement. Elementary education has rapidly advanced, and diffuses its blessings far and wide;—the University of Toronto has ceased to be a sectarian monopoly; scientific agriculture is found to be a profitable pursuit;—domestic manufactures are springing up in all directions; the productions of the periodical press have greatly increased in number as journals have been established, expressly devoted to literature, science, agriculture, medicine, education and temperance."

From the address of the House in answer to the Speech of the Governor General in opening the Session, we clip the following paragraphs:

"That they are glad to learn that under the operation of the measures which have been recently adopted by the Legislatures of the several North American Provinces, the inter-colonial trade is assuming proportions of increasing magnitude, and promises to become a considerable branch of our industry, and that they will not fail to consider with the greatest attention, as having an important bearing on this subject, the Despatch which His Excellency has been pleased to promise would be laid before them, in which Her Majesty's principal Secretary of State for the Colonies submits for consideration a proposal for the construction of a Line of Railway between Halifax and Quebec or Montreal.

"That they rejoice to learn that with a view to arranging the details of a scheme of arbitration for the settlement of the dispute respecting boundary, which has been so long pending between Canada and New Brunswick, and which has been productive of much inconvenience to both provinces, and of no small hardship to those who are interested in the territory which is the subject of conflicting claims, His Excellency, in accordance with a suggestion made by the Secretary of State, requested the Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick to meet him here for that purpose, and that there is reason to believe the report of the arbitrators, who were appointed in pursuance of the agreement entered into at the time by the Government of the two Provinces, will be presented at an early day."

The Quebec Gazette thus notices the Speech of Mr Ross in introducing the Address of the Assembly:—

"Mr Ross in moving the Address in the Assembly, very happily alluded to some leading points in the Speech. He congratulated the country upon its prosperity, and was of opinion that if the speeches delivered by all the Governors General who have administered the Government of the Canadas for the last half century were examined, no one could be found equal to that by which the present Session had been opened, in regard to the many and important matters connected with the advancement of the country which it embraced. He adverted to the boon conferred upon the Province by the reduction in the rate of Postage, and dwelt at some length upon the projected Halifax Railway. The circumstances that have transpired in connection with this scheme were an indication in his mind that 'the spirit of the dream' of England's statesmen towards British North America, has undergone an essential change. Passing to other parts of the speech, he found an intimation with regard to the clergy reserves, but of a character which does not afford any intimation of the policy to be pursued in regard to it; he hoped, however, that when brought forward, the question will be treated in a manner that will reflect honor on the decision and character of the House. He finally noticed the proposed reduction of the Civil List, and stated that he was in favor of retrenchment, so far as it can be justly and properly effected; but he could not sanction any attempt to reduce to an undue extent the remuneration of efficient public officers."

NOVA SCOTIA.—Sir John Harvey was a passenger on board the Cambria, which vessel left Halifax for England on Friday week.—The Government in his absence will be administered by Lieutenant Colonel Bazelgette, who has been sworn in.

[For remainder of Miramichi Head see page 258.]