

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, MONDAY, MARCH 21, 1853.

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No order except from persons with whom we have an account, will be attended to, except accompanied with the cash.

We should like on the opening of the navigation, to publish Twice a Week, on a sheet somewhat larger than half the size of our paper. To procure a suitable Press, and other necessary materials, would involve an expense of about £200. Will our subscribers, who are the parties to be benefited by the arrangement, make an effort to put us in possession of the necessary funds? A small percentage on what is due by them, would enable us to carry out our wishes.

FISHERY PETITION.

The High Sheriff kindly handed us the following reply to the Petition which was forwarded to Her Majesty on the subject of the Fisheries. The answer is highly satisfactory, and we have the fullest assurance that in any negotiations entered into, Her Majesty's Ministers will fully redeem their pledge, that the rights and privileges of the Colonies, will receive a full measure of attention.

We have had occasion to memorialize Her Majesty on two important subjects—the Railway and the Fisheries—within a year, and the answers on both occasions, have been most gracious, evincing a just and parental regard for interests.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, FREDERICTON, 7th March, 1853.

Sir,—In reference to the Memorial to the Queen, from the Inhabitants of Northumberland, on the subject of the Fisheries, I am directed by His Excellency, the Lieutenant Governor, to forward to you, as Chairman of the Meeting, the following extract from a Despatch of the Secretary of State for the Colonies:—

"I have laid this Memorial before the Queen, and I have received Her Majesty's commands to instruct you to acquaint the Memorialists, that the interests of New Brunswick will not fail to be considered in any negotiation which may be entered into with the Government of the United States."

I have the honor to be, Sir, your obedient Servant.

W. C. DRURY, Private Secretary. W. A. Black, Esq., High Sheriff.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE.

It will be seen by our Correspondent's Letter below, and our Telegraph Despatches, that the business of the Legislature is being proceeded with.

The Rate Payers in Newcastle Parish, will be gratified to learn, that their Bill confirming the appointments of Parish Officers made by the people, has passed the Assembly. We have not yet seen the debate. The Bill for the erection of a Lock-up-House in Chatham, has also passed, as well as another for assessing the parish for said building.

It is gratifying to perceive, the spirit that the Legislature has shown on the subject of the Fisheries. There has been plain talk, and the attitude assumed is perfectly correct. The Fisheries are the property of the Colonies, and the Home Government has not the right to barter them away without our consent. The spirit evinced in the Legislature of this Province and Nova Scotia, to maintain at all hazards our national rights, will tend more than any thing else, to hasten reciprocal trade with our American neighbours. We want no half-measure, but a thorough one, which will enable us to compete in all things, manufactured or otherwise, with the great Republic. They possess too many privileges already which they will not reciprocate. Now is the time to close the bargain, and in doing so, it will require our statesmen to be wide awake, as their opponents are well known to be rather sharp at bargain making.

On this subject a late number of the Halifax Sun concludes an Editorial with the following apposite remarks; in which we fully coincide:

For ourselves we entertain no misgivings that England will barter away the rights of her colonies. John Bull is not generally 'eager' or over-hasty in the matter of treaty making; indeed, other nations say he is strict in balancing 'equivalents'—and we believe it. Nor can we fancy that the free navigation of

the Rivers of British America, and unrestricted access to the Coast Fisheries, thereof, will be peddled away for the paltry consideration—(equivalent! it is not)—of what is generally termed Reciprocity; a 'boon' which we are satisfied Uncle Sam will never yield but upon terms sufficiently extravagant to insure their immediate—invariable rejection. In truth, we have no faith in the ratification of any treaty. England will still have to protect us through yet several years of this our infancy; and the best policy we can adopt, in the meantime, is to rely upon ourselves—protect our own people—encouraging and fostering native industry.

The following is our Correspondent's Letter.

FREDERICTON, March 12.

Dear Pierce,

My last letter contained all that I thought worthy of your notice in the proceedings of the Legislature, up to Saturday evening, 5th March, and I now proceed to notice the doings of the past week.

On Monday, it was announced to the House, that the Speaker was so unwell that he could not attend, but expected to be at his post on the following morning. The House adjourned, the Road Committee met and determined on recommending for Great Roads, £13,000; Bye Roads, £15,129; Special Grants, £5,000, the two latter sums will be divided among the Counties according to last year's scale, so that Northumberland will get fully as much as last year, and more than it had been accustomed for some years previous. There was much canvassing for the Speaker's Chair, in the expectation that he would not be able to resume it. Hannington, Botsford, Hayward, Barbarie, and Gray were talked of, but the two first would be the candidates. Hannington the best suited in point of experience, long standing, and ability to push forward the business; though objections existed—he holds a Deputy Treasurership, and is accused of supporting, while he professes to oppose Government. Botsford is considered as too young a member, and the influence used in his favor by the family connection, is a strong argument against him. If Hannington is suspected of favoring the Government, Botsford's feelings exceed suspicion, and should an election of Speaker take place, it would not be surprising to find both the Candidates in minority, and some person picked up by chance to fill the chair. In the present state of party politics, it would not be advisable for any of the liberal party to desert his post at the mast head, to seek the quarter deck; the majority of the House supporting Government, he would weaken the opposition by diminishing their number, and tying his own hand, without being able to command any influence for his party.

On Tuesday morning the Speaker took the chair, but was really unable to perform his duties. A great number of Petitions were presented, and there appeared a conspiracy to over work the chair. A Petition from the French people in Tracadie, and Leper Lazaretto, was presented by Mr Williston, asking to have Dr LeBelois appointed to attend that institution, and after some warm altercation, between him and Dr Gordon, the petition was referred to the Committee of Accounts, Kerr and Johnson supported this for the purpose of enquiry. There will be a question arising before this Committee as to Dr Gordon's salary last year. I understand he seeks 100l, for occasional visits to the Lazaretto, which the Commissioner's did not feel justified in paying. Kerr and Williston were appointed on this Committee, and on motion of Mr Montgomery to-day (Saturday) Johnson was added in his stead, it being understood that no member of the Government should be upon it. The Attorney General announced that the Honorable Mr Montgomery had taken his seat in the Executive Council, to fill the vacancy occasioned by Mr Rankin's death.

On Wednesday—the Speaker looked as if he had obtained a new lease, and when an adjournment was moved by Mr Partelow, at 4 o'clock, he said it was too early to adjourn the House. Votes for the Speakership were at a discount. The Committee on Fisheries reported as predicted in my last Bill to amend the law for protection of Fisheries, committed by Williston. It intended to give the Warden for Northumberland jurisdiction on that part of the Miramichi beyond the County bounds, and to make the regulations of Northumberland Sessions, apply beyond the County. Johnson agreed with the object of the Bill, as explained by Williston, but objected that the Bill went much further in one respect, and did not provide a sufficient remedy for the evils complained of in another; it gave the Magistrates Legislative powers, by making any rules which they might press, as effective as law. This should be confined to rules made under and by authority of the law, and it did not provide any means of protecting the fisheries on the heads of other rivers, which emptied into the Miramichi. Williston admitted that these things should be provided for, and Mr Kerr assenting, the Committee reported progress. The Attorney General next committed the Bill for Registration of Marriages, Baptisms, and Burials; stated that while the present law provided for Registration of Marriages, there was no provision made for the other objects; that the attention of the Government has been called to the subject by the Colonial Secretary; that the present law would provide that each Clergyman should keep a record of every marriage, baptism, and burial, in his congregation, and transmit a certified copy, every six months, to the Clerk of the peace in his County, which the Clerk

was to file and make an alphabetical index, and be paid a fee by the County for each name. Johnson said he had searched on the files for this bill on first hearing of its introduction, and was given to understand that it was being printed, he now found this was not the case; he supposed, however, that the Attorney General had been endeavoring to perfect its provisions, but in as much as he had not seen the Bill, he could only form an opinion from its being read from the chair, and while he should not say that his impression was decided by that way, he had great fears that he would impose a tax upon the people without being of any public benefit; it would add 50l. or 60l. a year to the salary of the Clerks of the Peace, to be raised by a County Assessment, and there was already more paid to Public Officers in the Province than its inhabitants or wealth justified. In order to be of any service, the names of all the inhabitants of a County must be first registered as a starting point; thus in his County (15,000 inhabitants at 1s. 6d. each) would cost the sum of 1,125l., and then an annual tax of 50l. or 60l. per year. The Baptisms and Burials would be no record of Births and Deaths, and the object sought could not therefore be obtained. Cutler, Smith and Harding, took the same view—progress was reported, and on motion, the Bill ordered to be printed. I have sent you a copy of it by mail.

Thursday—The Bill to incorporate North West Bridge Company, introduced by Attorney General, Mr Williston again committed the Bill to amend the Act relating to Fisheries, York Members opposed. Attorney General did not like to support a Bill which might cause collision between different Counties, though he approved of the principle of the Bill, and thought something necessary; he suggested to report progress, and he would endeavour to amend the Bill to suit all parties. Williston opposed this, and for the first time, attacked the Attorney General, accusing him of a wish to kill the Bill. There was an evident surprise in the House at Williston's hardihood, and the more so, as there was no ground for the attack, and the question was more than once asked, whether Williston was veering, and meant to be in the opposition before the next election. All the other County members consented to report progress, and it was so decided. Had the question upon the Bill been urged, it would certainly have been lost.

Friday—Speaker still holding on. Petitions for repeal or suspension of liquor law coming in. Nothing of much importance except an address, recommending the expenditure of 300l for a wharf at Dorchester Island. This should not have passed, but there was a large majority.

Saturday—Harding presented a Petition from St John Telegraph Company, against increase of Miramichi and Richibucto Company's Stock—moved to appoint a Committee—Johnson could not see what was to be gained by a committee. The Legislature had given the Company power to do certain things no the ground of public benefit; the Company did not ask to increase those powers, but simply to be permitted to raise the money to carry out the object for which they had been incorporated, and within the scope of the existing charter—if might interfere with the profits of a private Company, that the people in the North could correspond with Fredericton at 1s. for ten words, where they now pay 2s. 2d.; that the distance should be 100 miles instead of 265; or that they should save 300 miles in distance between Quebec and Miramichi; but the public interest called for this as a right, and private interests ought not to check public advancement. The Attorney General took the same view, did not see the benefit of referring to a Committee, but if it were so referred the Committee should not be composed altogether of men on this side of the Province, Committee appointed—Harding, Johnson, Ryan, Montgomery, Hatheway, Hayward, and Gordon. The Bill will not pass without a fight, but 'tis not to be supposed that men Legislating for the public, will reject it. Kerr introduced the Lock up House Bill, to amend the former Law, and also the Bill to confirm the list of elected Parish Officers in Newcastle. Johnson had previously introduced a petition, relative to the Lock-up-House, praying the introduction of a clause, that the vote of a majority of those to be assessed, should be taken by ballot before the Sessions should order an assessment, and Kerr a Petition in favor of the Bill. The extended period for receiving petitions and private bills, ended to-day, and the House will be relieved of this tedious work. The business is much retarded by these things, because after a certain number have been presented, the House must adjourn, as the journal could not be made up for the next morning were more allowed to come in.

The Scrutiny Committee—Boyd against Fitzgerald, are working hard, and expect to close in the next week—Fitzgerald is six votes ahead now, and the opinion is, that he will hold his seat; he had only seven of a majority on the Sheriff's return. Who would not envy a seat with three years scrutiny. No Law Commission Report—nor Election Bill yet. During the week, Kerr gave notice that he would move a grant in supply, to send home a Lecturer on the resources of the Province. Is it not too late to spend money this way—will not the Railroad, and number of shares taken in Britain, make it the interest of influential men at home to bring us into notice—already has a great change been wrought—The Bank of British North America Stock, formerly at a discount of 15 to 25 per cent is now at as much premium in the British

Market. The Canadian Bonds, formerly at 25 or 30 per cent discount, now at a premium, &c. &c. We have at last been discovered by the Money Brokers of England: had a person been sent home to give information 30 years ago it would have been money well spent, and there may be reasons why such an appropriation should yet be made—Mr Kerr has long and properly entertained the opinion expressed by his notice, and the only question is, whether it be not less required now than formerly.—The Attorney General committed the North West Bridge Company Bill, which passed in Committee, and was ordered to be engrossed.

FIDES.

COUNTY OF BONAVENTURE.

A Correspondent under date of New Carlisle, 11th March, writes as follows:—

We have had a considerable fall of snow since my last, but the weather is unusually mild for March. This year at least the old proverb has not been verified. The month has not come in like a Lion, but like a Lamb. The order of nature will perhaps be reversed.

Last night Mr H. A. Manderson's Oat Kiln, at Bonaventure, was totally destroyed by fire. A large quantity of Oats were also consumed. The precise origin of the fire is not known, but it is supposed that the heat of the furnace caused some of the wood work beneath to ignite. Irrespective of the actual loss of property, this may be considered a great public calamity, as we have no other Oat Mill in operation between Percé and New Richmond.

LAMENTABLE OCCURRENCE.—On the evening of the 2nd instant, a Boy and Girl of the respective ages of 9 and 13 years, having gone to a neighbours, at some distance, for milk, unfortunately lost their way on their return. It was then blowing and drifting from the eastward, and ultimately they got separated. The Parents, finding they did not return became alarmed and proceeded with several of their neighbours to search for them; the whole night was thus spent in vain, and in the morning the Girl was found on the ice with her feet severely frost-bitten, and the Boy in a different direction, a lifeless corps.

CANADA.

We are indebted to the Quebec Gazette for the brief notice of the sentiments of the Duke of Newcastle and Lord John Russell on the subject of the Clergy Reserves.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle enunciated in a very satisfactory manner, the broad principles of a sound Imperial policy in dealing with Colonial interests. Viewed in that light, the question he said, was by no means one of degree, but was indeed one of principle. His Grace explained that the important question involved in the Government measure, and which it was now for the Parliament to pronounce upon was—whether the pledged faith of England with her Colonies should be honestly maintained or meanly violated. Canada had for some years enjoyed representative, or as it was termed, responsible government, implying the right of self government, and the administration of her own local affairs, and the question whether this was a Colonial or an Imperial interest, was the real question for decision. The noble Duke maintained that the question was strictly Colonial.

Lord John Russell, in the House of Commons, said, there was no instance of any dependency of the British Crown, having made as rapid advance in prosperity as Canada had done since the legislative union had taken place. The result was attributable to our having invested the Colony with the power of self government, and inspired them with the consciousness that they were treated fairly and honestly by the government at home.

The decision of her Majesty's Ministers on this "vexed question," appears to have given very general satisfaction in Canada. The Editor of the paper from which the extracts are taken, comments as follows:

The sentiments and principles evinced by the discussion upon this important question in the two Houses of the British Parliament and through the columns of the British press, thus broadly proclaimed to the world, are as a Magna Charta of the rights and liberties of this land, which cannot be recalled, and which has the advantage over other such instruments, of being wrong, not from the fears of a capricious tyrant, but graciously, willingly, and affectionately surrendered upon the respectful intimation of a wish from the lesser to the greater power.

We cannot but rejoice that Her Majesty's present Colonial adviser is a man of such high ability as this essay proves him to be, and imbued with constitutional principles so comprehensive and statesmanlike. We are justified in expecting much from the position he occupies in the Imperial Government. We refer to the speech of the noble Duke, for an appreciation of the ability, with which he baffled the attack of the most keen and learned casuist in the British Parliament.

THE LATE SESSIONS.

We have been favored by the Deputy Clerk of the County, with a copy of the records of the Sessions in reference to the Presentment of the Grand Jury. We have not room for it to-day.