

In the autumn of 1852 we find General Pelissier besieging Laghouat in the Sahara of the province of Algiers, which he stormed (December 2) with some loss. The flags taken at Laghouat by General Pelissier were deposited on the 30th December, 1852, at the Invalides.

Legislative News.

OUR CORRESPONDENT'S LETTER.

FREDERICTON, 1st April, 1854.

Dear Pierce,

Since I last wrote the House has been in supply from day to day, and the quantity of money for all sorts of purposes, as lavish as could be expected. The sum of £2000 has been granted to the Governor to enable the Government to purchase Mining Leases, which are not subject to forfeiture. The object is, to purchase leases given to two or three persons working in Queen's County, but the principle being once established, will lead to numberless applications from other parts of the Country and the cost to the Province will, I fear, be very great. It was argued in favor of the grant, that Coal for Blacksmith and other work, could not be had in St. John, in consequence of the dispute existing between the owners of the soil and the Crown Licences, and that the public would be benefited to a greater amount than would thus be taken from the provincial funds; that the operatives were willing to pay an increased Royalty, from which the amount would ultimately be refunded. It was replied, that the high price of Coal did not arise from the cause alleged, but from the increase of freights and increased demand, and high price of labor, which again arose from the prosperity of Trade—that the increased Royalty would not fall upon the consumer, but the Miner, in as much as Coal, would bring the market price only—and when it would be imported at a lower rate than now, the provincial Coal would fall to the same level with imported. That the difficulties between the owners of the soil and the Mining Licences, had been prolonged by the action of the Legislature, who for the last three years, had been holding out hopes to the Grantees or owners of the soil, that the Mining rights would be given up to them; that had no such hopes been encouraged after the decision of the Courts on the question, the land owner finding he had no right to the minerals, and the licensee, that he could not enter to take what was his, would not long suffer the great wealth of the earth to remain useless alike to both, but be driven to compromise for their mutual benefit. The grant passed however, by a majority of two (I think) two of your members Williston and Johnson voted against the grant—Attorney General and Kerr did not vote on the ground that it might affect Mr. Borton, who is related to the former and connected to the latter gentleman by marriage.

Several grants have passed to return duties to St. John Manufacturers, upon Machinery imported, and these grants were supported by the very men who are most strenuous in imposing heavy duties. The whole country is thus taxed to protect the St. John Manufacturer, by heavy duties on their productions, and again taxed to refund duties to the same men; and what makes it the more unjust, is, that these men are all getting rich by the business which must be protected at the expense of the poor, and by those poor too, who can reap no benefit from their operations—of all the absurd, if not absolutely iniquitous grants of the week, is one made to pay the cost of a law-suit in Kent against a Commissioner of Highways, who had illegally trespassed upon a man's land and pulled down his fences, under pretence that a road had been recorded through the land. The amount is £77 odd. This grant was barely carried—your members, (except Attorney General who was absent) voting against it. This grant is dangerous as a precedent, not only to the public funds but to private rights, because it will encourage public officers to act in violation of Law, expecting either to force individuals into submission, or if unsuccessful, to be refunded the amount of verdict and cost against them. It would no doubt be hard that a public officer acting in good faith, and with no desire to overstep his duty, should be put to expense and suffer private loss, but in such cases, there should be strong evidence that he was so actuated before the public funds should be taken to reimburse him; such as a certificate of the Judge who tried the cause, and a special verdict of the Jury, and even then, it may be doubtful if the amount should not be taken from the parochial or County fund, when such officer was acting solely for the benefit of the Parish or County.

A grant of £200 has passed for the Chatham Steam Ferry Slips, which I hope will be sufficient to secure a good landing at all times of tide. The Road Committee will report on Monday, and recommend for Great Roads toward the north—Frederictown to Miramichi, £1,300; Chatham to Richibucto £750; Richibucto to Shediac £750; Shediac to Metis £600; Newcastle to Bathurst £500; Newcastle to Bathurst via Pokemouche £600.—This of course, independent of Northwest, Nepisiguit, Oyster River and Campbellton Bridge Grants.

The Special Grants will, I think, be nearly as follows:—Eel River Bridge in Hardwicke 357; Road from Cain's River toward the Gaspeaux 501; Bridge at Big Hole Brook in Ludlow 501; Slip in Tabusintac, in addition to an application on supply 1001; Road South side South West from Barnaby River up 1001, and 39; Road from Wellfield Settlement towards the high landing on Barnaby River 1001; toward building Ferry Slip at Nelson opposite Beaubear's Island 201; Road south side Kenos River, from Bridge up 1001; and balance due on bridge at Poor's, upper Bay du Vin 301; in all 9461; and, end of the Bye Road Money 1,5961, not yet divided.

I hope the people in your County will be satisfied with this; and that their claims have been urged before the Road Committee and in the House, though not with success in all cases. You will observe the conspiracy alleged to exist in St. John to create votes, by fraudulent transfers of wilderness lands. I fear there is too much truth in the report, indeed I have no doubt that a great number of votes have been thus manufactured for no good purpose; but do not feel justified in assenting to the report that any persons in the Government or Assembly, are connected in the plot. 'Tis probable an investigation will take place, and measures be taken to frustrate the designs of the parties, whoever they may be. 'Tis a bad state of things, and men must be hard driven who would have recourse to such means; the end cannot be worthy when the means are base. You have no doubt seen the notice in the Royal Gazette, that grants of land to be issued to several hundred persons who had paid under the labor act, were to be clogged with a condition which might not only render the title precarious but absolutely deprive the parties of land and improvements at some

future day, should any railroad company be desirous of taking them for stations, &c. This was never authorized or contemplated in the law, and steps have been taken by address to the Governor, to prevent such injustice. The grants in all these cases will doubtless issue in the same way as those paid for in money, and it is fortunate that the discovery was made in time.

FIDES.

From the New-Brunswick.

March 29.

NEWSPAPER STATEMENTS.

Mr. Johnson said that from certain information he had received, he had reason to believe that public lands had been obtained in considerable quantities in the County of St. John, for improper purposes, and as the matter stood, in his opinion, he felt it to the bottom, he had prepared a resolution for an address to His Excellency, praying for information.—This resolution he would lay on the table for the information of hon. members, with the intention of moving it to-morrow. The hon. member then read the following resolution:

Resolved, That an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, praying that His Excellency will be pleased to lay before the House a return list of all grants of Crown Lands in the County of St. John issued by the Government since the first day of January, 1852, specifying the names of the grantees, the quantity of land in each grant, and the Parishes in which such lands are respectively situated.

Hon. Surveyor General was glad the hon. and learned member for Northumberland was about to move this resolution. A paper called the Freeman, published in the city of St. John, had for several months past been teeming with the most infamous libels on this very subject, and giving currency to the grossest lies. It had repeatedly attacked him, charging him with being a party to the selling of rocks and swamps in order that votes might be manufactured thereby, to suit his purposes; and that paper of yesterday's date came out with the announcement that the whole plot was discovered, and published a list said to contain the names of the parties. Last summer there appeared in that paper a letter of correspondence from Kent, making a similar charge. He was glad to have an opportunity of replying to them all at once. So far as he was concerned he knew nothing about the matter; he adopted but one mode of selling the public lands, and that was regulated by the Governor in Council. He knew no person but the applicant, and whenever a lot of land was applied for it was advertised in the Royal Gazette, and then on a certain day, according to the advertisement, it was sold to the highest bidder. At these auctions, everything was done fair and above-board, and one person had as good a chance to purchase as another. It was nothing to him what the lands were purchased for, nor to whom they were deeded afterwards. He knew nothing at all about the affair no further than the business of his office was concerned, and there everything was conducted according to the usual practice. He courted an investigation, but he hoped the hon. member had something better to depend upon than the assertions of the Freeman—a paper that would pull down and trample on all forms of Government, let them be good or bad, and whose sympathies from the day it first made its appearance seemed to be with those who rebelled against their Queen and Country.

Mr. Johnson said an investigation would do no harm; if everything had been done fairly and above-board, as the Hon. Surveyor General stated, it was well; but if the course of the investigation, it should transpire that any parties had acted improperly—no matter who they were—why, then they would perceive the benefit of having the matter investigated. He did not rely altogether upon the statements of the Freeman in this matter; he had received other information. As to the Freeman being a lying paper, and its sympathies being with rebels, he would not take up time of the House arguing the subject, but surely were that the case, there was good sense enough in the City of St. John to put it down. The character of a paper was generally a matter of opinion, and if a paper was conducted improperly, public opinion would check it; that was the proper check, and the only one that should ever be exercised.

Hon. Provincial Secretary was glad this matter was likely to be investigated, as it would be found that Government had nothing to do with it. He had been attacked, at one time or another, by nearly every newspaper in the Province, until he had got a skin like a rhinoceros, but he cared nothing about it, as he felt perfectly able to defend himself. He believed there were other papers in the Province as bad as the Freeman.

Mr. Hatheway said he felt particularly interested in the affair, as he had been informed that certain parties had conspired together in York to manufacture votes in the same manner, it was said to have been done in St. John. No blame, he presumed, could attach to the hon. Surveyor General, who had merely complied with the prayer of the applicants, and sold the lands at auction according to the established usage. The matter should be investigated as well with respect to York, as to St. John; and he hoped the House would not rise until it had taken steps to prevent those parties from voting at the ensuing election.

Mr. McPhelim said he was the correspondent from Kent alluded to, and he considered himself justified under the circumstances. He had not, however, thrown any blame on the Hon. Surveyor General, or on any one in the Crown Land Office. If a newspaper was to be condemned for making an attack upon a public man, he believed it would be found that there were other papers worse than the Freeman. He had been slandered, not only in this Province, but out of it recently; by a correspondent of a pamphlet published in Canada; and not only himself, but every Roman Catholic member in the House had been grossly slandered by that individual, whoever he might be. He did not envy the man who possessed the heart capable of conceiving and perpetrating anything so mean, and he would then and there declare that the correspondent to whom he referred was a liar.

Mr. Botsford was glad this matter was brought up as something very similar to that complained of, had happened in Westmorland, which he would now endeavor to have investigated. Crown Lands had been applied for in that County, and advertised, and sold, and no person could tell who the applicants were,—the names were fictitious. After the advertisement appeared, several persons went to the Deputy Surveyor to make enquiries; but he could give them no information about it; he did not even know where the lands were situated. He did not accuse any one in particular, but the circumstances being as he had stated, he could draw his inferences.

Hon. Surveyor General neither knew nor cared what inferences the hon. member might draw,—for it was advertised about thirty days, and then set up at auction and sold to the highest bidder. It was

not his business to enquire who the applicants were, or for what purpose the land was wanted. The hon. member was mistaken if he thought the Deputy Surveyor must necessarily have a full knowledge of every application, as applications were continually being sent direct to the Crown Land Office. In Canada the usual mode was to set up ten square miles, in lots, at a time, and what remained unsold were placed under the control of a Deputy Surveyor, and parties wishing to procure lands had only to apply to him, and get them without their names appearing before the public at all.

Hon. Mr. Gray said the paper that contained the statement about the manufactory of votes had for years past been constantly attacking the hon. Surveyor General and himself in the most virulent manner. No act of their public lives, either in the Government, or in the house, no matter whether it was connected with any measure of importance or not, but it twisted and tortured into something so mean and vile that none but the most degraded class of mankind could have been guilty of it; even the most frivolous word or action, arising from the impulse of the moment, and without the most remote idea of anything wrong, or of a serious nature occurring, had been magnified by the Freeman into some deep laid scheme, or horrid plot, to defraud the people or deprive them of their liberties. That had been the tone the Freeman adopted towards him and his hon. colleague ever since they joined the Government; and if they were guilty of a hundredth part of what paper laid to their charge, they were unfit for the society of gentlemen, and unworthy of seats in this House. The course of that paper ever since it had been in existence had been to misrepresent the conduct, and blacken the character of every person who differed with it either in politics or creed,—its advent was a curse to the Province. If party feelings were not rampant in the Province, the fault did not lie with the Editor of the Freeman, and if party feelings should be roused hereafter, and a period of bloodshed and strife should succeed to the present period of peace which he deprecated, let not the Protestant community be blamed for it, because they were not the originators. He hoped the hon. mover of the address had some better authority to base his resolution upon than the statements of that infamous paper. (The conversation then dropped.)

From Correspondence of the New-Brunswick.

March 30.

Yesterday, after a brief but warm debate in the morning arising from an address moved by Mr. Johnson, and certain newspaper charges, the House went into Committee on Supply, and again discussed the hon. Secretary's resolution for a grant of £2000 to enable the Government to buy Mining Leases; and this discussion lasted until a late hour. The Speakers in favour of the grant were Messrs Wilmot, Gilbert, Ryan, MacPherson, Jordan, Street, Earle, and Lewis; while the speakers in opposition were Messrs Cutler, Johnson, Williston, McPhelim, Montgomery, Gordon, Barberie, and English. The question was then put, and carried by the following division:—

Ayes—Hon. Messrs Partelow, Wilmot, Gray, and Hayward, and Messrs Earle, Gilbert Robison, Godard, Jordan, Thomson, Porter, Ryan, Purdy, McLeod, MacPherson, Taylor, and Lewis,—17.

Nays—Hon. Messrs Speaker and Montgomery, and Messrs Connell, Cutler, McPhelim, Botsford, Johnson, Smith, Barberie, Williston, Read, Landry, Gordon, Lise, English, and Stiles,—16.

The hon. Speaker then suggested that the blank should be filled with £500—that would be enough for one year.

Hon. Mr. Partelow replied that this was an attempt to destroy the grant by a side-wind, as less than £2000 would be useless. The grant was sustained by a majority, and several absent members were in favour of it, and he would tell the hon. Speaker that his opposition would not avail, "for," said he, "the grant shall pass this session; if not in supply, it will by bill."

The principles of the resolution were then again discussed for nearly an hour, speeches being made by Messrs Speaker, Montgomery, Connell, Smith, Partelow, Stiles, Gray, and Johnson. When the motion was put to fill up the blank with £2000, it was negatived by a division of 16 to 15, the division being the same on the resolution with the exception of Messrs Thomson and Porter, who had been literally talked out of the House. After considerable squabbling the Committee rose and reported progress, and the House adjourned when it was nearly 6 o'clock.

This morning Mr. Hatheway moved a Resolution that while in Supply no member, except the mover of a resolution, should occupy the floor more than five minutes at a time.—Carried.

Mr. Johnson moved the Address to His Excellency he laid on the table yesterday, which was carried without opposition.

The House went in Supply, and took up the grant discussed on Monday and yesterday. It was again moved that the blank be filled with £2000, which was sustained by a vote of 16 to 14.

Considerable debate took place on a grant of £125 to Northumberland county, that amount having been withheld by the Government out of the grant appropriated last year, by resolution, for imported horses. Northumberland imported a horse, and sold him under bonds to be kept in, and for the use of, the County, and the Government withheld the amount for which he was sold. The grant was sustained by a vote of 17 to 8.

The House was occupied to-day in Committee on Mr. Rice's Municipal Corporation Bill. The only amendment this proposed to effect, was that instead of the Sheriff, on receiving a requisition signed by fifty persons, freeholders and rate-payers, calling a meeting at the Shire towns; he should, on receiving a requisition signed by one hundred persons, as aforesaid, convene a meeting in every parish, simultaneously. The Bill still contained the provision for a two-thirds vote, before a Charter is to be granted. When the section fixing the two-thirds vote came up, Mr. Needham moved an amendment that the decision of a majority should be taken; this led to considerable debate, at the close of which the Committee divided as follows:—

Ayes—Needham, Connell, Cutler, Hathway, McPhelim, Pickard, English, Botsford, Johnson, Partelow, Kerr, Williston. Nays—Street, Wilmot, Gray, Montgomery, Hayward, Barberie, Bead, Styles, Lewis, Landry, Gordon, Rice, Goddard, Jordan, McLeod, Speaker, Robinson, Earle, Porter, Thomson.

The hon. Attorney General attempted to add an additional section to the Bill, to fix the amount of the Sheriff's fees. He withdrew it to make way for a section prepared by Mr. Johnson, to effect the same object, and that was negatived. The Bill passed without amendment. Mr. Connell then gave notice that he would move a ryder on the third reading, to the effect that every incorporated county shall receive its quota of the public appropriations in gross, to be divided by the corporation.

March 31.

The Codified Laws were re-committed to-day. Mr. Street moved that they be printed, and not come into operation until a proclamation published by order of the Governor in Council is published in the Royal Gazette. Mr. Needham moved an amendment fixing the time for the 1st August. Amendment carried, 26 to 7. The House afterwards went in Committee of Supply. Mr. Kerr moved a grant of £500 to send an emigrant Agent to Great Britain, which was lost after a long discussion, by a division of 24 to 11.—Mr. Cutler moved a grant of £78 to M. Atkinson, Road Surveyor, at Kent, for damages and costs of suit, which was carried after a warm contest, 19 to 18. A grant of £90 was made to John Sears for loss sustained by obstruction in supplying Copper Coin.

From the Morning Times.

March 29.

At half past 12 o'clock the House went into Committee of Supply.

To the Trustees of the Wesleyan Academy, £500. To the Trustees of Schools at Campbellton, Res-tigouche, to enable them to support a superior School at that place, £50.

To the Agricultural Society of Northumberland to aid in paying for an entire Horse, year 17, says 8. Blank filled up £125.

To the Kent Agricultural Society £60.

To the Lieutenant Governor for deepening, widening and improving the principal harbors in the Province, a survey of the harbor at the Port of Richibucto to be made first, £5000.

To the Lieutenant Governor to pay the Teacher of the Grammar School at Newcastle, Miramichi, £50.

For a public wharf at Caraquet, County of Gloucester, £30.

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, SATURDAY, APRIL 8, 1854.

TERMS.—New subscribers Twelve Shillings and Six Pence, per annum, in all cases in advance. Old subscribers 12s. 6d. in advance, or 17s. 6d. at the end of the year. We prefer the advance price, and as it effects a large saving, we hope soon to see all our subscribers avail themselves of it.

V. E. PALMER, the American Newspaper Agent, is the only authorized Agent for this paper, in the Cities of Boston, New York and Philadelphia, and is duly empowered to take advertisements and subscriptions at the same rates as required by us. His receipts will be regarded as payments. His Offices are:—

BOSTON.—Sedgley's Building.
NEW YORK.—Tribune Building.
PHILADELPHIA.—N. W. Cor. Third & Chestnut Streets.

NOVA SCOTIA.

The Legislature of this Province, it is reported, will terminate its labors in a few days. Both branches have Addressed her Majesty expressive of their loyalty and attachment to her person and government, and assuring her she may rely with confidence on the Militia to defend the Province, should it be found necessary to withdraw the troops.

The following is the Address of the Council:

"May it please Your Majesty,—

"We, the Legislative Council of Nova Scotia, beg leave to approach your Majesty with sentiments of loyalty and devotion to your Majesty's person and Government. We deeply regret that the peace, which has so long prevailed in Europe, is likely to be disturbed by the unwarrantable aggression of the Emperor of Russia, rendering it indispensable on the part of your Majesty to take measures to restrain effectually his hostile intentions.

"In the unanimous expression of ready adherence and support which has been enthusiastically afforded to your Majesty by our fellow subjects in Great Britain, we cordially unite; and we beg to assure your Majesty that if, in the disposition of your Army, you should deem it necessary to withdraw that portion which has been quartered in this part of your Empire, your Majesty may confidently trust that the utmost exertions of the Militia of this Province will be made for its defence.

"Believing as we do that the cause in which your Majesty is engaged is just and equitable, we rely on the gracious favor of Him who is the only Giver of all victory, that the blessings of peace may not be long denied to our country."

We copy below the Address of the House of Assembly:

"We, Your Majesty's dutiful and loyal Subjects, the Commons of Nova Scotia, have learned with extreme regret, that your Majesty's Government has been compelled to fit out Armaments, and prepare for active hostilities, in order to maintain the faith of Treaties, and guard the interests of the Empire from the aggressive spirit manifested by the Emperor of Russia.

"Though far removed from what may be the theatre of War, Your Majesty's loyal Subjects in Nova Scotia will regard with grave solicitude, the operations of Your Majesty's Forces by Sea and Land, and your Majesty may be assured that, wherever the National Flag is borne, their sympathies will follow it; and that, in triumph and disaster, the efforts of its gallant defenders will ever be marked with deep interest in this portion of the Empire.

"Should the land forces now in this Province, be required elsewhere, Your Majesty may rely upon the loyalty and devotion of the Militia of Nova Scotia, who, until the return of peace in Europe, will defend their own Country, and protect Your Majesty's Forts and Armaments from Foreign aggression."

The Halifax papers furnish intelligence that important changes have taken place in the Government of the Province.

The Hon. Joseph Howe has been appointed Railway Commissioner; M. I. Wilkins, Provincial Secretary; Hon. J. B. Uniacke has