

of its enemies. Every effort should now be used to bring about a simultaneous meeting of the several Colonial Legislatures with a view to combined action on the subject of the Treaty. The sooner the necessary laws are passed the better. Not a moment of time should be lost. Every day's delay is a positive gain to the American Fishermen and a decided loss to our own people. Whilst the former are busy within the hitherto prescribed limits, our stores and wharves are groaning under the weight of the previous catch. Merchants, fishermen, farmers and lumbermen all anxiously waiting for the passage of the law required to give effect to the Treaty—for the removal of the twenty per cent duty which has hitherto been imposed on the products of their industry in the American Market. Combined action on the part of the several Provincial Legislatures should be taken and that right speedily.

From the Pictou Eastern Chronicle.

FISHERIES THROWN OPEN.

The Editor after copying Lord Clarendon's Despatch, makes the following remarks:—

Acting on the command implied in the above expressed "desire" from Lord Clarendon, Admiral Fanshawe has withdrawn the vessels under his orders, as also the officers in command of the Provincial armed cruisers, from the fishing grounds, so that the Americans are now free to roam at will and catch fish wherever they please. The ultimate acceptance, or rejection of the Treaty by the Provinces can now be no longer a matter of conjecture. The Americans are in the full enjoyment of the free navigation of the St. Lawrence and the use of the Fishing Grounds, the two objects to gain which they consented to negotiate, and the relinquishing of which constituted the only objection to the Treaty, on this side of the border: so that the Colonies must now, volens volens, accept what the high contracting parties have chosen to give them in exchange. In an article on this subject written in May last we ventured the opinion that the Home Government would use its influence to induce the Provinces to accept the proposed terms, but no person could anticipate that influence would be exerted in such a summary and unconstitutional manner. The exclusive right of the Colonies to jurisdiction over the fishing grounds around their coasts, was at that time fully acknowledged by the Imperial authorities, and how they have managed now to ignore the rights then conceded, is a problem which will require a wiser head than even "Clarendon" possesses, to solve or justify upon constitutional grounds. It will be perceived, that even if the Colonial Executives should attempt to defend their acknowledged rights by arming cruisers for the protection of the fishing grounds, the Representatives of the Sovereign could not dare, in the face of such a direct command as the above despatch contains, to sanction the step; so that it could only be undertaken in defiance of the wishes of Sovereignty, and at the imminent risk of hostile collision with the mother country. This despatch forms another instance of that meddling with colonial affairs by British Statesmen, which has already on one occasion, and may yet again, be tried once too often. It is indeed fortunate for the peace of the country, that the measure thus forced upon us is one respecting the adoption of which there promised to be so much unanimity among the people.

As the matter now stands, an immediate meeting of the Legislature of this Province is more than ever necessary. Although the despatch gives the Americans all they desire, it gives the Colonists nothing; and while they are allowed to catch our fish we are yet, as we will be until the treaty is formally accepted by the Legislature, hedged out of their market by a hostile tariff.

In one point of view we are rather disposed to speak favorably than otherwise of Lord Clarendon's Despatch. As far as this Province is concerned, the final result of the negotiation will not be affected by it, while it has averted from our legislative assembly a fierce storm of factional strife, which has been evidently preparing, and which would have occupied much valuable time, if it led to no more serious consequences. While, however, the labor of the Legislature is likely to be facilitated and the deliberations of that body relieved of much that is unpleasant, by the action of the Despatch, we think our representatives would be wanting in respect to themselves and due attention to the rights of their constituents, if they failed to place upon their journals a strong and spirited expression of a disapproval of the course pursued in this matter by the Home Government.

CARD AND NOTICE.

The subscriber begs to return her best thanks to the Public generally for the handsome manner in which she has been patronized since she commenced business in Richibucto; and also, to announce that she intends to close her present business in the course of the season. She therefore desires all persons to whom she is indebted, to render their accounts forthwith; and those who may be indebted to her, to make immediate payment.

ELIZABETH FALL.

Richibucto, September 9, 1854.
The business hitherto carried on by Mrs E. Fall, with for the future be carried on by the subscriber, and from strict attention to business and integrity in his dealings, hopes to merit the confidence and Patronage of the Public.

JNO. S. FALL.

Richibucto, September 9, 1854.

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, SATURDAY, SEPT. 30, 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. B. 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 Office is:—

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

THE PRICE OF LIVING.

We have at different times during the season, alluded to the scarcity and high price of all the necessities of life, and it will be seen by the annexed paragraphs copied from the St. John New Brunswick, that the same cause of complaint exists in that city. Shut out as we are during the long winter, from the possibility of securing supplies, from the want of railways and other modes of transit, if there be not a speedy fall in the price of the articles required by our operatives, the Lumberers, Mill Owners and Ship Builders must curtail their establishments, for with the present rate of wages and supplies, it will be ruinous for them to prosecute those branches of trade with the unfavourable accounts we continue to receive of the markets in Britain. Lumber has rapidly declined in price, and a further fall is anticipated: similar reports reach us with respect to the value of ships. With an abundant crop of wheat in Britain, the United States, and Canada, that Flour should still maintain its present enormous price is inexplicable, and we can only account for it by the agency of speculators. Their unrighteous trade, as far as the staff of life is concerned, must however receive a death blow, but we are apprehensive the season will be too far advanced for us to participate largely in the benefit.

We would recommend the following remarks of our contemporary to the attention of our readers—they are correct, and it would be well for our merchants, labourers, and others, if the advice given was promptly acted upon:

"At the present time all articles in our market consumed by the people, are extravagantly high being greater in proportion than the advanced rate of wages received for some time past.—Thus we find that seasons of extraordinary prosperity are sure to be followed by a corresponding advance in the prices of living; and latterly it would appear that enough could not be demanded by laborers and others. This state of things may do very well for the moment, but cannot last long. Neither the trade of the country nor the means of its inhabitants can support such extravagant demands. People appear to run riot on every appearance of prosperity, and thus hasten a crisis which is sure to follow extravagance and waste. The rate of living was never higher in St. John than at the present time. Flour is selling at £3 per barrel; Wood at from £1 15s. to £2 5s. per cord; Potatoes at 7s. to 8s. per bushel, and every other necessary of life in proportion. The high prices of Ships, Timber and Deals in the home market, and the consequent demand for laborers in these staple articles of our productive industry, have stimulated other branches of commerce, and created a speculative demand for labour which cannot permanently exist. The prices of all articles must recede, and the sooner the people make up their minds on this point the better for themselves.

"Already we find that Deals are receding in Great Britain, and the prospect there is not so favorable for other articles of our produce and manufacture. How long this state of things will continue it is impossible to conjecture.—But if we wish to maintain our trade, and compete with our neighbours for the commerce of the world, we must learn to be less extravagant in our demands, and encourage thrift and industry among the people. It is a mistaken notion to imagine that such extravagant prices can be paid in this Province for the principal articles of consumption, while even in Great Britain prices are much lower.

"The crops throughout the British North American Colonies and the United States have in general been abundant this season, and it is impossible that prices can long remain so enormously high. A reduction is sure to take place and to this point public opinion is fast converging."

The following is copied from the Quebec Gazette of the 11th instant:

"A reactionary season most frequently supervenes after a term of exorbitance, just as straitened conditions follow extravagant speculations. Through the spring and mid-summer, wages, rents, staple commodities, merchandise, and money, have been running up at a frightful rate. Employees have been better off than their employers. Labour and stocks, that had scarce any value, have become saucy. Labourers have insisted on making their own terms, even as to periods of employment. Monied capital has waited, cap in hand, upon labour capital. The order of commercial society has been nearly reversed. The usual consequences already ensue. Business has come to a dead lock. Money can no longer be profitably invested. It cost so much more to operate, and so much more to turn the loan, that all such business has now become unprofitable. Who will be the greatest sufferers. Work people, undoubtedly. Not being contented with fair remuneration they begin to pay the penalty of their unreasonableness.—Avaricious proprietors will also enjoy their share of the effects of a reaction. The shopkeepers will suffer less than either. The capitalist can gain nothing, but neither will he risk or loose anything. Strikes and combinations are all very fine and quite flashy, *couleur de rose*, for a time; but the day of reckoning arrives, and then extortioners would gladly work at any price. Stagnation must be, to some, synonymous with starvation. Let men be advised in time; let them dissolve their trade unions and rid themselves of extortionate notions, or be prepared to drag through a winter of idleness and distress. Reasonableness in their demands, economy in their ideas, and industry in their respective callings, will save many of the inhabitants of this city from an interval of extreme privation."

BREADSTUFFS.

It is with much satisfaction we publish the annexed paragraphs, copied from the New York Commercial Advertiser, as it conveys the important intelligence that the price of Flour is rapidly declining in the United States. The price of this important article has for some time been gradually increasing, until it has arrived at such a cost that no business can afford to pay it, and consequently the usual operations of the country must be considerably curtailed if a considerable reduction does not immediately take place.—We are pleased that there is such a prospect before us and hope the decline will take place in Canada before the navigation closes, that our importers may avail themselves of it, and prevent the evil we have mentioned.

"Nearly all grades of flour are declining, notwithstanding the severe drought, and the prediction that prices would reach \$15 to \$20 per barrel during the fall and winter. The receipts from the South and West are rapidly increasing; producers having become pretty well satisfied that present high prices cannot be sustained for any length of time, are pushing forward their stocks with considerable vigor.—There is no demand for export, and each succeeding steamer from Europe confirms the impression, which has now become pretty general, that not a single barrel of flour will be wanted from this country either in England or on the continent.

"The demand is now confined to supplying the most pressing wants of the trade, and to fill a few Eastern orders. Our city dealers are only buying at retail, in anticipation of a material decline in prices. Speculators have also become somewhat alarmed, and are very cautious about making new contracts. The dealers themselves are pressing the market, and have large orders to sell, for the account of their Western friends, good common state flour at \$7.25 for delivery within the next two or three weeks, which is \$1.75 per barrel below present prices.

"The best grades have declined \$1.50 per barrel within a week, and holders can only make sales by continually submitting to lower prices.

"Although the receipts of wheat are small, yet, in the absence of any foreign demand, prices are gradually sinking."

CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT.

LAST week we copied an article from the New Brunswick, which stated that intelligence had been obtained by the last mail from Britain, that the Imperial Government had decided on abolishing the Customs in this Province. This intelligence is confirmed. The last number of the Royal Gazette furnishes us with a copy of the Despatch from the Colonial Secretary, notifying the Lieutenant Governor of the decision of the Home Government to abolish the Customs, not only in this Province but in all the West Indian and North American Colonies.

DOWNING STREET, 16th August, 1854.

Sir,—Her Majesty's Government have recently directed their attention to the Imperial Customs Establishments maintained in the North American and West Indian Colonies, and I

now inform you, that the Government consider that it is no longer necessary to keep up a separate Establishment for the performance of the limited duties devolving on the Comptrollers of Customs and Navigation Laws in the British Colonies, and that the time has arrived when the execution of those duties might with advantage be transferred to the Colonial Officers.

The most important duties now remaining to be performed by the Imperial Officers since the repeal of the Navigation Laws, are the registration of vessels in the Colonies, and the granting of Certificates of origin (when required) for Colonial produce;—Their services are obviously rendered for the benefit of the Colonies, and should be performed by the Officers of the Colonial Customs Establishment, and for the same reason those officers will be required to furnish the usual periodical returns for the purpose of affording statistical information to Parliament upon subjects of far greater value to the Colonies than to this country.

In the Australian Colonies, the Cape of Good Hope, New Zealand, and even in numerous Out Ports in British North America, as well as in some Out Stations in the West Indies, the Colonial Officers of Customs prepare the Accounts of Trade and Navigation required for Parliament, and perform, free of charge, all other duties now executed by the Imperial Officers in North America and the West Indies, and Her Majesty's Government conceive that the Colonial Officers of Customs in the Province of New Brunswick are fully competent, and will be equally ready to perform, all the duties at present executed by Imperial Officers, and they should therefore be directed to perform the same, in like manner, and upon the same principle, as in the Australian and other Colonies herein before referred to.

You will therefore announce that the Imperial Officers of Customs will be withdrawn at the earliest possible period, and that it will be requisite for the future, that the Accounts of Trade and Navigation should be furnished, and the other duties of Comptrollers of Customs and Navigation Laws executed, by the Colonial Officers of Customs, in conformity with the practice observed in other Colonies, and as Her Majesty's Government hope, without imposing any additional expense upon the Revenue of the Colony under your Government.

I have the honor to be, Sir, Your most obedient humble servant.

G. GREY.

Lieut. Governor Sir E. Head, Bart., New Brunswick.

THE RECIPROCITY TREATY.

THE New Brunswick states that a telegraphic despatch was received in St. John stating that the House of Assembly of Canada had confirmed this Treaty. The same paper adds:

"In consequence of the President having published the Treaty officially, as ratified by the British and American Governments, an opinion has obtained in the United States that it was in full force, and that Colonial produce could be imported duty free. It will be seen by the following extract from the Boston Traveller, that such is not the case:

"THE RECIPROCITY TREATY.—The question is being raised, by the arrival of coal and other products from the British Provinces, whether these articles were admissible to our ports, duty free, the Secretary of the Treasury has been written to on the subject. He replies, in substance, that, as the operation of the treaty requires the action of three parties—the Imperial Parliament of Great Britain, the United States Government, and the Provincial Parliaments—and only the first two of these parties have accepted the treaty—the United States tariff laws remain in force. When the Provincial Legislatures have acted, (the action of our Congress having being made dependent on their action) then the cessation of duties will be duly proclaimed by our Government, and Provincial products will be admitted free of duty to our ports, but not till then."

COUNTY BOYSAVENTURE.

A Correspondent under date of September 19, writes us as follows:

"We have had a long continuation of dry cold weather and strong Westerly winds. Last night and to-day has been showery. Large fires have been raging on both sides of the Bay, and I fear damage has been done. A severe and stringent law should be enacted to prevent these burnings until the crops are housed. The further growth of the potatoes must be arrested by the frost, which has generally destroyed the leaf. The late grains have also suffered, also field turnips and all tender vegetables.

"So far, the fall Fishery has been very good. Herring abundant, and large quantities secured all along this shore."

CANADA.

THE Quebec Chronicle of the 21st says, that "the debate on the Address was concluded yesterday at about noon, the House having sat all night. The Clergy Reserves paragraph was