

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, SATURDAY, APRIL 19, 1856.

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. To Clubs of five and upwards, to one address, Ten Shillings a year in advance.

CENTRAL BANK AGENCY, CHATHAM.

Discount days TUESDAYS and FRIDAYS, Hours for business from 10 to 3 o'clock. Notes for Discount to be lodged at the Bank before 3 o'clock, on the day immediately preceding the discount day.

SAVINGS' BANK.

Deposited 7th April, £379 0 0
Withdrawn 8th April, 466 13 8

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LEGISLATIVE PROCEEDINGS.

The opposition seeing the utter uselessness of their endeavours to overturn the Government, have ceased to obstruct the business of the Legislature, which is now progressing at a very satisfactory rate. Our Journals are to the 7th of the month, and the telegraph furnishes us with a summary of the proceedings up to last evening.

We perceive that the Council have agreed to all the Railway Bills without any amendments. The principal measures introduced during the week are the following:—A Resolution by Mr Harding, establishing the principle of Assessment for the support of Parish Schools. A bill introduced by Mr Steadman, to amend the Prohibitory Law. Another bill by the Attorney General, for the establishment of a comprehensive system of University Education. There is a bill before the House, relative to Municipalities, but we do not know its purport. We sincerely trust it will embrace a clause, making it imperative on the different Counties of the Province to adopt them. The House have thrown out the bill to enable the Rate-payers of Chatham to make Parish Officers compensation. The Committee on the Lumbering Interest, recommend that no alteration be made in the present Law respecting the Survey of Lumber.

The Bye Road Committee have made their Report, which we publish below. They recommend £11,344 to be expended on the Bye Roads, and £5,672 for special grants the present year.

We also give below the statement made up by the Government, showing the estimated expenditure of the Province, as well as the estimated Revenue under the existing Law, for the present year. We trust the House will confine itself to its limits.

Last week we published the first Report of the Contingent Committee, by which our readers learnt that sundry articles, of a very miscellaneous description, not at all required by members, were imported from Great Britain and charged accordingly. To-day we publish the Committee's second report. This document needs no comment or illustration from us—it speaks for itself. If the officer offending be allowed to retain his situation, the inference we shall draw, and we think the people generally arrive at, is, that the Clerk has been made the scape-goat to cloak the sins of those members who have an itching for fancy Stationery and other nick-nacks, when provided at the public expense. It is high time that some resolute action were taken to check this standing abuse.

BYE ROAD COMMITTEE REPORT.

The Committee appointed on the 15th February last, to take into consideration the state of the Bye Roads of the respective Counties, and to report what sum it may be necessary to grant for that service, having had the subject under consideration, Report—

That owing to the present state of the Provincial Finances, it is, in the opinion of the Committee, necessary to make the Bye Road and Special Grant Services by one third less than was granted last year; and in this view the Committee recommend that there be granted for the Bye Road service the sum of £11,344, and for the Special Grant Service £5,672; and that the same be divided among the respective Counties according to the same ratio that the moneys granted for the like purposes were divided the last year. According to that ratio, the sums recommended for the respective Counties for the Bye Road and Special Grant Services, are as follow, that is to say:

Table with 4 columns: Counties, Bye Roads, Special, Total. Rows include York, Queen's, Gloucester, Charlotte, King's.

Table with 5 columns: County, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th. Rows include Saint John, Sunbury, Northumberland, Restigouche, Westmorland, Kent, Albert, Carleton, Victoria.

ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE AND REVENUE OF THE PROVINCE.

Table with 2 columns: Item, Amount. Divided into Sums provided for by Law and Sums to be appropriated by the Legislature.

SECOND REPORT OF THE CONTINGENT COMMITTEE.

Mr McPhelin, from the Committee on the contingencies of this House, submitted yesterday, and which is as follows:

According to the request of the Clerk of yesterday, he appeared before the Committee on the contingencies of the House, and made the following statements: That the two Portmanteaus named in the Account of Lumsden and Company for Stationery were imported for parties in Fredericton, who had requested him so to do, which he did, intending to charge the same to the parties, which he will do; that he had a good Gown which was taken away and an old one left instead, which he has now to wear: that after some consideration he ordered the one named in the Account for himself to wear on public occasions; that the Shade Lamp was imported for himself as Clerk, but he had no idea of so expensive a one being sent out; that he has been in the habit for years past of importing the Candles, as he cannot write by Gas light, and has often to use four a night, being kept writing until two or three o'clock in the morning preparing the Journals and Index to the same, and that he does not use them in his family; which statements so made as above, your Committee recommend being placed on the Journals in explanation of the Report of yesterday.

FRANCIS M'PHELM, Chairman.

EUROPEAN NEWS.

THE Royal Mail Steamer Cambria, after a protracted and very stormy passage, arrived at Halifax at six o'clock on the morning of Monday last, just in time for her mail to be despatched to this quarter by that morning's mail. It came to hand at 8 o'clock on Thursday morning, and put us in possession of British papers to the 29th March.

The news furnished is not important. Matters were progressing, it appears, in the Conference of Plenipotentiaries assembled at Paris, and it was generally believed that the terms of Peace would be finally arranged. Fears were entertained that the result would not prove very palatable to the people of Britain. Much anxiety therefore, was felt to ascertain the precise conditions on which this great blessing is to be restored to the world. The treaty, some Journalists affirm, will be speedily made public; others state that some delay will take place. Nothing is positively known on the subject, or of the doings of the Conference.

The news from the Crimea represent the British troops and their auxiliaries as very numerous, and in the most efficient order, while

the French and Russians have suffered dreadfully from disease, principally typhus fever, and the severity of the climate.

Anxiety about the "American difficulty," is gradually dying out. No one now anticipates a collision. Lloyd's Newspaper, edited by Douglas Jerrold, thus concludes an article on the subject:

"Nevertheless, we have no fear of the combined folly and wickedness of war. Senators may splutter, but the American people even as the English nation are heart-whole towards one another. Mr. Brown indignantly rejected arbitration 'for the reason that a great republic like theirs could scarcely expect justice with a crowned head as umpire.' Do the sympathies of France, of Austria, of Prussia, yearn so tenderly towards England? We think not; and, what is more, in some respects we hope not. Meanwhile, we hope the senate will debate more and jangle less. Franklin, it is known, entered his emphatic protest against the assumption by the United States of the bald-headed eagle as their national type: he would rather have adopted in its stead the wild turkey. The gaggling of certain restive senators would be the better represented and typified by the wild goose."

The Weekly Times contains a long review of the whole "difficulty," and concludes as follows:

"It is not pretended that Lord Clarendon's instructions conveyed any offence to the Government and people of the United States, or violated any principle of international law; and it is not proved that Mr. Crampton departed from his instructions. The British Government are required to condemn their representatives without these gentlemen being allowed to know with what they are charged, or to offer any defence. This is opposed to every rule of justice, and cannot be admitted. The American Government, having gone so far, will probably deliver his passports to Mr. Crampton, and then we shall have an interruption of diplomatic intercourse. If war is not to follow, the people must interfere at both sides of the Atlantic. It is unfortunate that in the United States, the noisiest, the most active, politically speaking, are not the most respectable men, generally seize the administration. The really influential people of America are averse to war, and we hope that they will take measures to make their influence felt. In England we desire only peace with the United States, and to strengthen the bonds that draw the two countries so closely together in feelings, interests, religion and language. In a war between England and America neither could succeed, while both would incur an incalculable amount of loss, suffering, and crime. There is nothing in issue which could justify war, and we hope that, before it is too late, the sound sense of both countries will interfere to check their respective Governments."

We have carefully perused our files, and taken from them copious extracts. It is pleasing to find, that the general trade of the mother country continues in a very healthy state, and that the price of the staff of life is rapidly falling.

TIMBER MARKET.

The following is taken from Farnworth and Jardine's Liverpool Circular, dated, March 27:

"In the past fortnight we have no arrivals of wood, consequently the tonnage to the present period shows a large diminution compared with the two previous years. The consumption has been fair, but much below the early months of last year; our present stock of the leading articles are quite ample, and sufficient to check any buoyancy in the market.

"Pine Timber.—Quebec and St. John.—No sales in cargoes to report, nor is their much change in the value. The present stock is estimated at 1,323,000 feet of Quebec and 600,000 feet of St. John Timber. The consumption during February and March has been large of St. John, but small of Quebec.

"Spruce Spars, if good in quality, and 5 to 8 inches, bring 12d. to 14d. per foot.

"Spruce and Pine Deals.—With an unusually light supply of Deals, consisting of 42,000 pieces, against 397,000 pieces in the same period last year, the stock is reduced to about 21,000 standard, but as the consumption has also fallen very considerably, compared with the early months of 1855, holders have not derived any advantage in price. The present stock is large, and equal to about five months consumption.

"Lathwood.—Hemlock Lathwood is scarce and wanted. St. John and Quebec wood sells at £6 10s. to £7 per fathom.

"Railway Sleepers.—The market is almost cleared of Hackmatac and Yellow Pine Sleepers—they are worth our quotations,

"Railway Sleepers.—Hackmatac, &c., 9, 10 x 5, 3s. 6d.; 9, 9 x 4, 3s.; 9, 12 x 6, 5s."

COUNTY GLOUCESTER.

A Correspondent at Shippigan, writing to us on the 11th instant, communicates the following:

"On Friday, the 4th instant, on the Isle Amie, in the Parish of Shippegan, a Mrs. Dugay, wife of John Louis Dugay, committed suicide by cutting her throat with a razor.—Previous to doing the fatal act, nothing particular was seen in her usual manner to excite any suspicion, only in the morning she was observed to be restless. Her husband saw her go over to the barn, and thinking she was there longer than usual, went over, and shocking to relate, found her lying on her face on the

threshing floor, quite dead. She had put the razor back in the case after she had committed the act, as the other razor which was in the case was lying along side of her. The Coroner, T. S. Baldwin, Esq., held an inquest on the body, and the Jury found a verdict of Temporary Insanity. It is a very rare case for suicide to be committed amongst the Acadian French. It is the first instance ever known here.

THE UTILITY OF A POOR HOUSE.

THE Chatham Debating Club have had under discussion for the past three weeks, the Question "Whether the present system with respect to the Paupers of the Parish or a Poor House, would be the most preferable." A lively interest in the subject was evinced by the members during the whole course of the debate, and a large amount of useful information was elicited. Statistics were produced of the penses incurred by the Parish for the relief of the Poor for a number of years past, and it was clearly shown that during the last three years the amount had rapidly increased; but in 1855 it had risen to an alarming extent, almost doubling the preceding year, and if it went on increasing in the same ratio, in a year or two more £1,000 will hardly cover the expenses. The following are the amounts that have been expended by the Commissioners for the last five years:

Table with 2 columns: Year, Amount. Rows include 1851, 1852, 1853, 1854, 1855.

Of the last amount £55 15 0 was expended for the single item of Rent.

As the system is at present, the Overseers of the Parish have no controul over the Paupers, scattered as they are through the town; but if they were all gathered together under one roof, with an efficient Overseer and Matron to look after them, not only would the large amount that is expended for the renting and fuelling of so many houses be saved to the Parish, but the Paupers would be provided with work suitable to their varied infirmities and capabilities, which they could easily perform, thereby raising a revenue to meet, or help pay the expenses incurred by the Parish for their support. As long as things continue as they are at present, such an event will never be arrived at, for no sooner does a man or woman, fortunately or unfortunately, get upon the Parish, than they think they have no right to work, and the Parish is in duty bound to support them in idleness, and what is worse, in too many cases, dissipation.

The deficiency of the present system having been proved so glaring, and the expenses entailed thereby upon the community so exorbitant, the Society, by a unanimous vote, gave it as their opinion, that a Poor House would not only be a saving of expense to the Parish, but an incalculable benefit to the Paupers.

These hints we are in hopes, will lead the inhabitants of Chatham to ponder over the question, which is one of serious moment. Something should be done, and ultimately, will have to be done, to change a system which is rapidly heaping on us a burden which will be too heavy to be borne. If the people will take our advice, they will see about the business at once. The sooner a grievance is remedied the better, more particularly when humanity and economy both loudly call for prompt action.

LOCAL.

FIRES.—We are extremely sorry to have to record that the fine Dwelling House and Out Buildings, in the lower part of the Parish of Newcastle, owned and occupied by Alexander Goodfellow, Esq., were totally destroyed by fire on the night of Saturday last. So rapid was the progress of the flames, that we understand very little was saved from the dwelling. There are various reports in circulation respecting the origin of the fire, which first made its appearance in one of the out-houses.

The work-shop belonging to Mr Peter Gray, in the lower part of the Parish of Chatham, was totally consumed by fire on the afternoon of Tuesday last.

The building in Chatham, owned by Mr McCulley, and occupied by him and Messrs. Jackson and Vanstone, took fire on the morning of Wednesday. It was extinguished before it had succeeded in acquiring much headway. The damage done was very slight, but being in the heart of the town, and immediately adjoining other stores and dwellings, a good deal of anxiety was felt, until it was subdued. The chimney had been on fire, and it was supposed that some of the burning soot had fallen on the roof and set it on fire.

We understand this morning, that the Barn belonging to Mr Isaac McLeod, of Bartibogus, was destroyed by fire on the night of Thursday last, and so rapid were the flames in their progress, that before assistance could be rendered, the whole of his stock of Cattle, Horses, Hay, Flour, and Agricultural Implements were destroyed. His loss we are sorry to say is heavy.

THE SEASON.—The ice in our river is showing unmistakable signs that its sojourn with us will not be much longer protracted. It is now unsafe even for foot passengers. We hope in our next to have the satisfaction of announcing an open river. The weather has been fine.