

an effort is being made to remove certain obstructions, which must involve considerable expense, would it not be well to pass some stringent law to prevent the cause of these obstructions. Year after year, sawdust, the refuse of mills, booms, shipyards, &c. are thrown indiscriminately into the river. This has sensibly interfered with our navigation, and also militated sadly against our river Fisheries, a branch of trade which prudence, common sense, and self-interest should teach us to foster and preserve.

The answer of this gentleman, to the question relative to the Branches of the Railway to Woodstock and St. John, were not very satisfactory. If the members of this or any other government, or the Legislature, fancy that the inhabitants of the Counties bordering on the Gulf shore, will submit patiently, as they have done, to pay two-and-a-half-per-cent on all articles of consumption, as provided by one section of the law, while another section which provides for its expenditure in such a way as will enable them to participate in its expenditure, is not carried out, they will find themselves sadly mistaken. The people only require even-handed justice, and will not tamely submit to be imposed upon.

It appears that matters have come to such a pass in the Assembly, that neither party finds itself in a position to advance. If we read matters aright, a dissolution is not distant, and we would advise our constituency to prepare for "the coming struggle."

**ATTEMPT TO HORSEWHIP AN EDITOR.**

The Leader, a paper recently started in the City of St. John by a company, to advocate the cause of the Liberal party, contains a long account of an attempt made by Mr Richard Simonds (son of the Speaker of the Assembly) to horsewhip the Editor of that paper in his office, for some remarks which he had made in that paper, in reference to the Speech delivered by the Speaker on giving his casting vote on the Want of Confidence motion. Mr Simonds, Jun. it appears, made a fool of himself, and obtained but little satisfaction for his folly. He was taken before the Police Magistrate, who fined him £5. This act of the legal functionary was correct, but the language he used, and the doctrine he propounded will be condemned by every right-thinking man in the Province. He is reported to have said:—"Had the assault occurred in the street he should have thought less of it—it was what any spirited young man would do—but to seek him out in his own office was an aggravation, and he should therefore inflict the full penalty of £5—but ordered the whip given to the Police by Mr Bellingham to be restored to Mr Simonds."

On this singular interpretation of the law the Editor of the Leader remarks—"We now know the Law on the subject and must endeavour to defend ourselves."

**EUROPEAN NEWS.**

LAST week we announced, through the Telegraph operator, that the British Steamer arrived at Halifax on the forenoon of Saturday last. By the attention of the Postmaster General, our Courier was detained at the Bend until the Express came up, and by this judicious arrangement we obtained our portion of the mail on Monday afternoon. Had it been transmitted in the ordinary way, it would not have reached Chatham until Thursday evening, for the mail due on Wednesday morning was not received until that time. Here was a saving of three days. The Postmaster General has adopted this plan of detaining the Courier three or four times, for which he is entitled to the thanks of the community. We trust he may continue it.

Our British files are to the 15th February, and we have gleaned from them copious extracts. The trade and commerce of the mother country are reported to be in a healthy condition, and it appears by the remarks of the Chancellor of the Exchequer in Parliament, that the revenue has considerably increased.

The following paragraphs will enable our readers to form a correct idea of the balance sheet of the nation.

"The total income of the United Kingdom for the year ended the 30th of December, 1856, amounted to 71,348,966*l.*, and the total expenditure to 83,397,477*l.*, leaving a deficit of 16,959,411*l.* The Customs yielded 23,093,300*l.*; the Excise, 17,861,777*l.*; stamps, 7,189,912*l.*; taxes, 3,100,028*l.*; the income, or, as it is here called, the 'Property-tax', 15,941,230*l.*; and the Post-office, 2,768,152*l.* As regards the expenditure, 23,625,517*l.* was appropriated to the

charge of the public debt; 1,750,321*l.* to the charges on the consolidated fund (including the civil list salaries and courts of justice); and 57,931,638*l.* to the supply services. Of these last the army and ordnance cost the country 18,094,824*l.*, a sum equal to the interest of the debt: the navy, 17,608,995*l.*; the vote of credit (war with Russia), 1,410,000*l.*; miscellaneous civil services, 6,693,172*l.*; and the salaries of revenue departments, 4,124,616*l.*

"The balances of public money in the Exchequer on the 30th of September amounted to 7,084,743*l.* In the year ended the 31st of December last, the income was 72,218,988*l.*, and the expenditure 82,323,406*l.*, leaving a deficit of 10,104,412*l.*, or less by 600,000*l.*, than at the end of the preceding quarter. The produce of the income-tax for the year was 16,028,421*l.*—The balances of public money at the end of the year amounted to the sum total of 6,942,427*l.*"

Parliament was opened by Commission on the 3rd February. The speech does not contain any matter of importance.

Our readers will find all the news of consequence under the proper head.

**LOCAL BANK.**

THE thanks of the community are due to Mr Johnson for bringing before the Legislature a Bill to incorporate a LOCAL BANK for the County of Northumberland. We trust the Honorable gentleman will use his best exertions to get this important bill passed during the present session, and that strenuous efforts will be made to obtain the funds necessary to put the institution into working order.

Never, perhaps, was a more favourable opportunity opened up to men of means for a safe and favourable investment of their money than this Bank will afford, and the benefits it must confer on the community is too self-evident, and not needful for us to enumerate.

We have maintained, and still adhere to the declaration, that it is mainly—and we are inclined to say solely—to the want of a sufficient floating capital, that this section of the Province has remained almost stationary for upwards of twenty years. We have, it must be admitted, made some little advancement of late years.—Our towns have increased in size, and our import and export trades have somewhat increased—but where are the fruits of our industry and enterprise? Who has accumulated riches? or where are the establishments and manufactories that should have been in operation in the country, such as we read of as being erected in Canada, Novascotia, and even in other parts of our own Province?

Let us look into the Rural districts; where are the indications there of advancement, such as are witnessed in other countries, to the extent which our trade and commerce, and the long period the country has been settled, would naturally lead us to anticipate? Are not a very great number of our farms tenantless? are not our young men restless and dissatisfied, and constantly leaving us, seeking homes in distant countries?

This does not proceed from the feeling of aversion to their homes—not that the country does not possess great and varied natural resources, which only require industry, enterprise, and skill to develop—but the one great, all-important LEVER which would strengthen their arms, stimulate them to exertion, and reward them for their labour, is wanting. We mean CAPITAL. It is the want of this which has cramped the energies of the people, compelled them to be mere hewers and fashioners of wood, while the men of means on the other side of the Atlantic, have reaped nearly all the advantages of the most important branches of our trade—Shipbuilding, and the Manufacture of Timber and Deals.

There is another important branch of business GRADUALLY opening up—the FISHERIES. Nature has been very bountiful to us in this particular. We have an extensive seaboard; our shores and rivers teem with Fish; but from the lack of means, until very recently, little or nothing was done towards working this mine of wealth. The cause was plain; the people had not the capital, nor could they procure it, to carry on this trade successfully or satisfactorily.

Entertaining these views, we have advocated the establishment of a Local Bank among us; and we entertain sanguine hopes that the day is not distant when that measure will be successfully carried out. When that time arrives, and not until then, may the industrious, enterprising honest man, expect to prosper in his business and reap a reward for his labour.

**TIMBER CIRCULAR.**

FROM McKay's Liverpool Timber Circular of 13th February we take the following extracts. The trade is still suffering and is likely so to do for some time, from the large stock of wood on hand. When will our Colonial merchants learn wisdom, and make an effort so to regulate the exports as will allow them to profit by their labour.

"Yellow Pine Timber.—Miramichi, 1s 3d to 1s 6d. Bay Chaleur, 1s 4d to 1s 6d. Richibucto, 1s 3d to 1s 5d.

"At the date of our Annual Circular of 1st instant, the amount of stock on hand was unusually large, the excess on that of Deals being absolutely unparalleled, and as might have been expected from the publicity given to these facts, a considerable degree of anxiety has been felt by the trade as to future operations. The consumption continues good, and large quantities are being taken out of the market, notwithstanding which prices are maintained with difficulty at rates which were current prior to the declaration of stock, and it is now obvious that extensive sales for some time to come can alone operate in raising the prices to any quotable extent above those now ruling.

"Pine Timber.—From Quebec nothing has been sold in cargo that has transpired, and what transactions have taken place, have been by retail from the yards. From St. John 4, 226 logs have arrived, against 932 at the same date last year, of which one cargo has been sold from the quay direct, and others, now in course of landing, will be sold to meet the market.—The quantity continuing to arrive, together with the largest stock previously on hand, induce some tendency to a relaxation in value; anticipation of a further reduction in price may not, therefore, be greatly erroneous. In timber from other ports, there are no sales to notice.—We quote Quebec, 70 feet average, at 19d; St. John 18 inches average, 20d to 21d, other ports as in quality, 17d to 18d per foot.

**COUNTY GLOUCESTER.**

We are indebted to the St. John Freeman for the following account of a most sad affair which occurred in this County:

"MELANCHOLY CASE OF SUICIDE.—An inquest was held at Bathurst, on the 19th instant, before John M'Kenna, Esq., Coroner, on the body of a man named William Power, a respectable farmer in the Tatamagouche settlement, who was found lying in the woods on the morning of the same day, about half a mile from his own house, with his throat dreadfully lacerated, and the implement with which the unfortunate man committed the rash act—a reaping hook—was lying by his side; he had also divested himself of his jacket and vest, and laid his mits upon a log near by. No cause can be assigned for the act, but his friends observed that he was in rather a desponding state of mind for some days previous. He had always borne an irreproachable character. He has left a wife and nine children. The jury, after a lengthened investigation, returned a verdict of temporary insanity."

**CANADA.**

PAPERS from this Colony speak of considerable losses being sustained by freshets. The Hamilton Spectator states that great destruction of property has been caused by the rising of the Grand River. Numerous bridges have been swept away; and at Galt, Brantford, and Port Hope, much suffering was occasioned by the partial overflowing of those towns. The Montreal Transcript reports that the St. Lawrence had overflowed its banks, and that Grifintown had a second time been partially inundated; the lower part of the town was entirely submerged.

**NOVA SCOTIA.**

THE present Government of this Province, taking alarm at Mr Young's resolution published in our last week's paper, has filled up the office of Solicitor General, bestowing it on Mr M. I. Wilkins, one of the members for Pictou. There appears to be doubts respecting the return of this gentleman, as well as of the Provincial Secretary.

**LOCAL.**

MELANCHOLY CIRCUMSTANCE.—A most melancholy accident occurred at Douglastown on the evening of Sunday night, in the house occupied by Mr James Fallen as a place of public entertainment. It appears that while the deceased, GEORGE HAYDEN, and two or three other persons, were inspecting the house, which had been but recently opened, when coming down an intricate flight of steps, his foot slipped and in the fall his head received a severe injury. He never recovered consciousness, but expired a short time after the accident. He was a native of Prince Edward's Island, and had resided in Miramichi upwards of twenty years, the greater part of the time in Chatham. He was a well known character, possessed many good qualities, and his untimely end will be much regretted. He was a shipwright by trade, and we understand was a member of the St. Patrick's society and the Shipwright's Union. He has left a

widow and a family of six small children. We trust the members of those societies, as well as the public, will not allow the widow and her children to suffer any privation in consequence of their sudden and heart-rending bereavement.

AGRICULTURAL REPORT.—The Report of the Northumberland Agricultural Society has been very flatteringly noticed by the Editors of the Westmorland Times and Carleton Sentinel.

We have liabilities to meet which we cannot do in consequence of the tardiness of subscribers to pay up. This is neither pleasing or encouraging. We have at all times been loath to resort to harsh measures to procure our own, but necessity will compel us to depart from our usual practice. Any Agent having funds in hand will oblige us by remitting the same.

**BOWSER'S HOTEL.**

**ARRIVALS DURING THE PAST WEEK.**

William Stephens, Esq., Bathurst; Thomas G. Allen, Fredericton; Joseph Kearney, Woodstock; Laurence Lapoint, Restigouche; Rev. James Murray, Bathurst; John B. Smith, do.

**MARRIAGES.**

On the 25th February, by the Rev. William Stewart, at the residence of the bride's father, Glenelg, Mr PETER LOGGIE, Jun. to Miss ANN McDONALD.

**FREDERICTON MAIL.**

We obtained by this mail this morning from the members, copies of the Election Bill introduced by the Attorney General, which we copy below.

A Bill for the Election of Members to serve in the General Assembly.

Whereas it is necessary to make immediate provision for Election of Members to serve in the General Assembly, in case of vacancy by death or otherwise, and to suspend for a limited period so much of the Act passed in the 18th Year of the Reign of Her present Majesty intitled 'An Act to regulate the Election of Members to serve in the General Assembly,' as relates to the holding of Elections thereunder;

Be it therefore enacted by the Lieutenant Governor, Legislative Council, and Assembly, as follows:—

1. So much of the said recited Act as provides that all Elections of Members to serve in the General Assembly shall, after the first day of January, 1857, be held under that Act, is hereby suspended during the continuance of this Act.

2. An Act made and passed in the eleventh year of Her Majesty's Reign, intitled 'An Act relating to the Election of Representatives to serve in the General Assembly,' is hereby revived and declared to be in force, and all Elections for Members to serve in the General Assembly shall be held under and according to the said Act so revived.

3. This Act, and the Act so revived, shall continue and be in force until the first day of May which will be in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty eight, and no longer.

CANADA.—The papers contain the Speech of the Governor General on opening the Legislature on the 26th February. Time does not admit of our making any extracts. Efforts have been made to upset the Government. Three motions to make amendments to answer to the address, were negatived. First by a majority of 22; second, 33; third, 27.

**LATEST BY TELEGRAPH.**

New York, March 6th.

Persia arrived at noon, Mr Disraeli in Parliament, moved an amendment to the Financial Budget, contemplating the repeal of the income tax, which would possibly overthrow the ministry. The Persian difficulty had taken a new turn, the Persian Ambassador having suddenly broken off negotiations. The London Advertiser asserts that Government is in possession of despatches announcing the total destruction of Canton by the British. There is no change in commercial matters. Breadstuffs extremely dull, except corn which is 6d dearer. Common Congou Teas one shilling and a half penny per pound, consols 93*l.* to 93*l.*

Fredericton, March 6.

House was occupied this morning in Committee of whole in consideration of bill relating to sick and disabled seamen's funds; the object of bill is to equalize the duties by making it one penny per ton in all ports. After dinner the papers relating to Sullivan Creek Bridge were gone into, and a short but interesting and amicable series of explanations occurred. Mr Gilmour declared it impossible to get up a fight, Speaker declared the matter settled for ever. On motion of Mr Mitchell that an address be presented to his Excellency praying for copy of all despatches relating to resignation of Executive, and dissolution of House. House adjourned at half past 3 o'clock.