POLITICAL NOTES.

A Glance at the Leading Measures Carried in the House of Assembly of New Brunswick, from the Year 1854.

By G. E. FENERY, Fredericton, N. B.

No. 23.

Hon. Mr. Tilley's Budget-Days of Light Taxation bordering on Free Trade-Hon. R. D. Wilmot's Plan-Repeal of the English Navigation Laws-Our Trade Prosperous but Threatened with Dire Consequences-Hon. Peter Mitchell-Report on Removal of the Seat of Government-Crotchets on the Revenue Bill-The Insolvent Law-Opinions For and Against its Working.

On the 4th March a Medical Bill was introduced and carried-but it is not considered of sufficient importance to reproduce the discussion here. It is only now referred to that medical men of the present day may know where to look for it.

On the 3rd March the House went into Committee of the Whole on the Revenue Bill. Hon. Mr. Tilley said there was little difference between this Bill and that of last year; there was an additional 21/2 per cent. put upon wines; it remained the same upon brandy and gin, as it was feared if the duty was increased upon these articles it would lead to an increased amount of smuggling. In order to settle difference of opinion that existed betweeen Deputy Treasurers and Provincial Treasurer, and the Government itself, the duty upon railway iron had been fixed at one per cent. hitherto soaps had been admitted indiscriminately; now the more valuable kinds would be charged 121/2 per cent. All under 6d. per pound would be ½d. All kinds of grain were formerly admitted free; now malted grains would be charged 121/2 per cent., and unmalted would remain as before. There had been some difference of opinion respecting tinctures, and at times 1s. 6d. per gallon had been charged upon them. He proposed to admit them at a duty of 121/2 per cent. The principal enumerated goods would be charged £12 10s. instead of £10. The estimated revenue for the year according to the present rate of duty was £103,000, and by this increase he expected to obtain £7,000 additional.

Mr. Wilmot (R. D.) said he had himself prepared a statement upon the general finances of the country. He would commence by saying that it would take more than an ordinary Lawyer to make anything out of the Auditor's Report upon the public accounts. Mr. Wilmot then went into a lengthy examination of the Accounts of the Province, submitted by Mr. Tilley, and read some tabular statements that he had prepared upon our financial affairs, drawing altogether different conclusions as to the state of the public debt, and the requirements of the coming year that had been drawn by Mr. Tilley. [The writer does not conceive it of sufficient importance to follow the hon. gentlemen any further, although his remarks are very able, -his speech was mostly taken up with figures-a stout battle with the figures of the Provincial Secretary. Between the statements of the two honorable gentlemen, no ordinary reader would be capable of striking the balance of correctness, even if the whole debate were published instead of the pith and marrow as contained in the two epitomes above.]

On the 11th of March, the English Navigation Laws underwent a vigorous overhauling, Mr. Peter Mitchell having introduced a resolution upon the subject. The gist of the discussion here given will show to the reader the views held by our Legislators and People in 1859. The resolution it was alleged referred to a matter of the greatest importance to the Colonies. It was contended that our Shipping interests were gradually extending, and now our ships had a large amount of the carrying trade of the world-that while the shipping of Britain had of late years increased 40 per cent. and that of Foreign Nations 100 per cent. if this were to continue the effect would be lamentable. It was said that six vessels, lately loaded in London for Australia, were foreign vessels, as an evidence that the British coasting trade was in the hands of foreigners. The result of the repeal of the Navigation Laws had been to throw open the trade of the British Empire,, without any corresponding remuneration. Mr. Mitchell read some statistics to show that a great portion of the carrying trade of the Province and that of the empire was in the hands of foreign vessels. He urged the necessity of tostering our own trade, as we could do nothing upon which we were so likely to build up our future welfare as the shipping interests. He went over the arguments used for and against the appeal of the Navigation Laws, and read the clause in the Act 15th and 16th Victoria, Council, to place upon foreign ships the same restrictions as were placed upon British ships by foreign nations. He wished for the enforcement of this clause -that we might be put upon an equal footing with other nations-and hoped that the action of the commercial men of England, in reference to these laws, would be sustained by the Legislature of the

Province.

ters which concerned their interests have come before the Imperial Parliament, as in the shape of a measure for the repeal of the timber duties, or the Corn Laws, or the repeal of the Navigation Laws. At a later day, public meetings were held in St. John, and protesting speeches made by gentlemen, who, if they differed politically, even socially, would make common cause. and upon the platform dwell sympathically upon Colonial grievances. · And although the language used was always loyal, it was nevertheless sharp, crisp and unmistakably condemnatory.]

Mr. Mitchell offered the following Reso-

"Whereas it is desirable for Commercial Interests, and the general prosperity of this Province, that the principle of Reciprocity of Trade and Commerce recognized by the Imperial Statute 15 and 16 Victoria, Chapter 17, and acted on by the Imperial Government, should prevail to its greatest extent: And whereas such Act admits to Foreigners, inter alia, the right of participating in the carrying trade of the British Empire, on equal terms with British Vessels, and provides, with a view to securing the fullest reciprocity, that Her Most Gracious Majesty, by Order in Council, may suspend such privileges as against any Nation who may refuse to reciprocate with us: And whereas certain Foreign Nations are in the enjoyment of privileges connected with the Coasting Trade and Registry of their Vessels in British Ports, which we do not enjoy in theirs: And whereas the period has now arrived when the interests of the Empire require that the Government should take such steps as would induce the fullest recognition of the principle and practice of reciprocity on the part of all Foreign nations, who now enjoy the privileges hereinbefore referred to in British ports.

"Resolved, That an humble Address be presented to her Majesty on this subect, and further, that the Honorable the Legislative Council be requested to join the House in such Address." [Carried and the Address afterwards sent.]

NOTE. -This by the way. Mr. Mitchell is one of the few survivors of the House of 1859; and at this writing, June 1, is among his old constituents in Northumberland, with bright prospects of being returned to the next Dominion Parliament. The writer and this hon. gentleman were always identified in local politics, and I ever found him a staunch true man politically.]

It will be recollected that at a previous Session a Commission was appointed to consider the matter of the Removal of the Seat of Government to St. John, agreeably to a resolution of the House, and to make a report. On the 4th of March the Hon. the Provincial Secretary introduced the Report. And it is only necessary to say here that the minimum cost would be £49,-000, and the maximum in round numbers shows very plainly the fluctuations between prices. On the whole, however, the writer believes that the cost would go far beyond the larger amount given, as in all cases of such like calculations. This, however, was the end of the removal business, as it appears to have settled the question forever, and a desire was shown to "let well enough

On the 16th March the House went into Committee on the Revenue Bill. Every member had a crotchet of his own, in the laying on of duties. One gentleman was in tavor of a duty on leather as a protection to the Tanner, while his neighbour was opposed because it would injure the Shoemaker. "Old Tom" (Gin) had found its way into the Province in extraordinary quantities, under the head of "cordials." A strictly discriminatory duty must therefore be affixed, and the "Old Tom" watched. The friends of "Old Tom" (whiskey no doubt included) stood out for the poor man-while the advocates of the rich were opposed to high duties upon wines and

On the 22nd March the House went into Committee on a Bill for repealing the Insolvent Debtor's Act, which had been in existence only two years. The debate was very lengthy; but it may all be summed up in remarks made by a few of the speakers-enough for the reader to form some opinion as to the state of business about this period. Hon. Mr. Smith said the Act was one of hasty legislation, it was got through the House on the day of adjournment, when there was hardly a quorum present. He went on to show the evils arising from the law. In the County of Carleton about forty debtors had taken advantage of it; the highest composition offered was 3d. in the pound. In most cases it was 1d., in some cases 1dd. In Westmorland there were forty-one cases the highest amount of composition 1s., and the lowest 1/4d. In York it was about the same. In St. John one man who owed £18,-000 had only paid £5. The whole average composition offered throughout the Province was 1d. in the pound. He (Mr. Smith) contended that this was evidence of fraud, for there were very few debtors who could not pay more than that. If this law remained on the Statute book it must necessarily injure our credit abroad. The tendency of our legislation had been too much towards favouring the debtor; the more facilities afforded the debtor to get rid of his debts, the less exertion he would empowering Her Majesty, by Order in make to pay them. Mr. Allen contended that the general operation of the law was beneficial—any evils arising from it were because the creditor failed to take advantage of its provisions; the arguments of some hon. gentlemen went so far as to do away with the principle of an Insolvent Law altogether. As far as his knowledge went the great majority of those who had taken the benefit of the Act were persons who were insolvent-in many cases not worth a shilling. Mr. Steadman said it was not tair to argue this Bill upon particular instan-[The Merchants of New Brunswick have ces, for they could be put in another and totally different light. It should be looked always been very sensitive whenever mat- at upon the broad principle of its effect

upon trade and commerce generally. He | seized my arms, and there I was fixed with contended that the operation of the law as a general thing was good—that the general thing was carelessness of creditors, in not doing justice to themselves. In the County of Westmoreland, as far as his knowledge went, and he was acquainted with nearly all the parties who had taken the benefit of the law, not one of them could pay 2s. in the pound. The clause that limited the operations of the Act to two years had produced much evil, for it had hurried people into taking advantage of it, who would would vote against the Bill before the

The next article will be chiefly in reterence to the University of New Brunswick (tormerly "Kings College,") the history of which will be given .- Ed. PROGRESS.]

A PICKPOCKET'S JOYS AND WOES Fagin Out-Fagined and the Dodges of th

Awful Dodger Outdone, "It's a hart, sir, I tell you, an illegal one certainly, but still a fair hart for all that: and when you've enjoyed seein' 'ow clever you was at the game, b'lieve me, even though you are 'reformed' as they calls it, you can't 'elp feelin' a bit of a 'ankerin' now and agen after the old em-

The parapet of a certain busy London bridge was the place of our meeting; and, lolling listlessly upon the low stone wall watching the dull flowing of the murky tide below, the ex-pickpocket, who had been pointed out to the writer as an authority upon the ways and methods, the profits and the dangers of his abandoned calling, after some preliminary explanation and the handing over of a silver coin of the realm, 'just to refresh his memory," as he put it, willingly allowed himself to be drawn for fresh details concerning his experiences.

"No, I wasn't ever taught," said he. 'Never come acrost any o' them schools for pickpockets as you reads of in the papers; and, so far as I'm concerned, the only reg'lar bands o' purse and wipe sneakers as I ever knowed on was just gangs o' young chaps as, bein' on the same lay, pals up in the doss-houses, makes plans, and p'r'aps agrees to work the trick in

"If you was to arst me, I should say I was born a pickpocket. No one ever learnt me; though, er course, when I chummed in with older 'ands they put me up to tips and wrinkles as I may say completed my eddication.

"Well do I remember my fust sneak. I was quite a nipper at the time, out in the streets all day, only goin' 'ome to the Rents at night time, pickin' up what I could, where I could, living I dunno 'ow.

"One day in the City Road, as I was lookin' in a shop winder I see a wipe 'angin' 'art out of a lady's pocket jist in front er me. I got a suddin' idea, and takin' a corner of it between my finger and thumb, I held, on until the lady moved away, leavin' the wipe behind her.

"When I got it' I didn't know what to £60,000. Between these two sums he do with it till I thought of ole Mother Grinnell of the merine store. I took it to CHEMIST, DRUGGIST, 35 KING ST her, and when she saw it she give a smile. "'You've started then, 'ave yer?' sez 'All right, my dear, 'ere's tuppence for yer. Bring as many of 'em as yer can.' "I afterwards discovered as she did a roaring trade in wipes, and that her daugh-

ter was continually busy pickin' the initials out of 'em; and I'll warrant many an hour she's spent over the scores as I've brought "Then I took on purses, though the fust one I come by quite accident'ly. Pulling out a lady's handkerchief one day I felt it uncommon 'eavy; and 'ang me if there wasn't a purse attached to it; the snaps

lady's pocket, and, closing on a fold of the wipe, come out with it. "It was when I took to purses as I found out the advantage of havin' a pal to 'cover' you. There was a simple sort of a gal livin' down our way at that time, who, soft as she was, made a splendid 'cover,' no one suspecting her of bein' in it if by chance

having evidently been shut while in the

a theft was at once discovered. "Still, it wasn't long arter I once branched out as I was nabbed. There was a sale on one day at a big shop near St. Paul's Churchyard, and I'd been doin' well, when, just as I'd got a well-filled purse into my hand, two men as 'ad come from I dunno where



A Bright Lad, Ten ye ars of age, but who declines to give his name to the public, makes this authorized,

confa ential statement to us: 'Vhen I was one year old, my mamma died of consumption. The doctor said that I, too, would soon die, and all our neighbors thought that even if I did not die, I would never be able to walk, because I was so weak and puny. A gathering formed and broke under my arm. I hurt my finger and it gathered and threw out pieces of bone. If I hurt myself so as to break the skin, it was sure to become a running sore. I had to take lots of medicine, but nothing has done me so much good as Ayer's Sarsaparilla. It has made me well and strong."—T. D. M., Norcatur, Kans.

AYER'S Sarsaparilla Prepared by Dr. J. C. Ayer & Co., Lowell, Mass. Cures others, will cure you the swag in my 'ands.

"Arter you've once been caught and convicted the game is allers more difficult. Each time you're 'ad up the police and the tecs gets to know yer better, and directly they spots yer in a crowd they don't take their eyes off till yer clears out. It's fair wonderful, too, 'ow some on 'em shadders yer without yer knowin' it; comin' up just in time ter catch yer red-'anded. I remember once at a tashionable weddin' in the West-end, 'ow for about twenty minutes otherwise have struggled on, and en- I tollered a lady about who had a pocket deavoured to redeem themselves. He in her dress gapin' wide open. At last I would vote against the Bill before the got a chance, worked in my 'and, and was drawin' out a purse when I sees a face I knows on a watchin' of me.

"I had just time to draw out my hand when the officer seized me. "'Ave you lost anything, madam? ses 'e to the lady, who, feelin' in 'er pock-

"Course, 'e let me go; but 'e give me a look as I could see was a warner, and not purse, a wipe, and a scent-bottle, acshually in my persession at the time.

for a pal, and a nice thing the game once got me in for. I'd been coverin' a mate when, as he was getting away with the swag, a shout o' 'Step thief!' was raised; well in front so as to 'inder the others as much as possible. Jim's legs soon put 'im right, and so, seeing as I was distancing the crowd, I thought I'd do a turn down an ally and join 'im release to the crowd, I thought I'd do a turn down an ally and join 'im release to the crowd, I thought I'd do a turn down an ally and join 'im release to the crowd, I thought I'd do a turn down and join 'im release to the crowd, I thought I'd do a turn down and join 'im release to the crowd, I thought I'd do a turn down and join 'im release to the crowd, I thought I'd do a turn down and join 'im release to the crowd, I thought I'd do a turn down and join 'im release to the crowd, I thought I'd do a turn down and join 'im release to the crowd, I thought I'd do a turn down and join 'im release to the crowd, I thought I'd do a turn down and join 'im release to the crowd, I thought I'd do a turn down and join 'im release to the crowd, I thought I'd do a turn down and join 'im release to the crowd, I thought I'd do a turn down and join 'im release to the crowd, I thought I'd do a turn down and join 'im release to the crowd, I thought I'd do a turn down and join 'im release to the crowd, I thought I'd do a turn down and join 'im release to the crowd, I thought I'd do a turn down and join 'im release to the crowd, I thought I'd do a turn down and join 'im release to the crowd, I thought I'd do a turn down and join 'im release to the crowd, I thought I'd do a turn down and it is the crowd, I thought I'd do a turn down and it is the crowd and I'd the crowd an ally and join 'im, when a copper all of a sudden springs out of a side turnin' and collers me; and the empty purse thrown away by my pal bein' discovered close to where I was 'nabbed,' in consideration of my notorious character they didn't give me the benefit of a doubt, but marched me off to the cells.

"But, for all its risks, the pocket-picking business gives a bit of excitement to a chap as is tond of sport; and, though I've chucked it for years past and luckily bin able to settle down and earn a 'onest livin', my right 'and tingles sometimes even now

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