

Sprung from one common stock, and united by an identity of Interests, We have largely sympathised in those distresses which have visited the Mother Country within the last year; and while we admire the exemplary patience and unswerving loyalty which has characterised the conduct of our suffering fellow subjects, and entertain from the course pursued on the occasion by the Government at Home, an increased and firm reliance upon its measures, We cannot fail to bear in lasting remembrance the munificent conduct of our Sovereign, and the kindly feelings and active benevolence of the People of the United Kingdom towards New-Brunswick under a late awful visitation. With a deep sense of the comparatively light manner in which the scourge of desolation which has passed through the Commercial World, has touched upon these shores, We confidently hope that the result of these disastrous events will be to direct the Industry and Enterprise of this Province to those solid foundations upon which public prosperity can alone find a sure basis.

The present state of the Revenue, notwithstanding the depression in Commercial affairs, affords great cause for congratulation.

We cannot but look with intense Interest to the result of the pending arrangements connected with the inter-Colonial trade of His Majesty's North American and West India Possessions, with an entire confidence, however, of being able to fulfil the best hopes of the Parent State, under a line of Policy, calculated to guarantee to these Provinces, a Branch of Trade, in which to employ their capital steadily, and find free scope for the operation of an hereditary spirit of Commercial Enterprise.

We beg leave to tender our best thanks for the readiness with which your Excellency transmitted the joint Address of this Legislature on the subject of the Boundary line, a matter so vitally important to the Interest of this Province, and at the same time We beg most respectfully and gratefully to acknowledge the sense we entertain of the gracious manner in which His Majesty has been pleased to receive this appeal to him, and to express our unbounded reliance that He will afford that countenance and firm support to the just rights and Interest of the Inhabitants of these North American Colonies, to which they have so fair a Title. We beg also to express the high satisfaction We feel at the Communications from the Government of the United States touching these important Points, and expressing the earnest wish of that Government to reciprocate the conciliatory disposition and procedure on the part of the British Government; and We trust that respectful regard will be paid by the Governments of the States adjoining the disputed Boundary to the observance thus inculcated by the General Government of the Union.

It is with sentiments of unfeigned gratitude that We have seen the passed year blessed with increase, and have watched the manner in which, under the most inauspicious circumstances, the Province has been permitted almost to hide the traces of its late Calamities; nor are we less sensible of the happy application of the means at your Excellency's disposal, to the carrying on of those Public Works, so necessary to the improvement of the Country, and which must otherwise have been stopped in the full career of operation, and have recoiled upon the community to the great distress of Individuals.

We will readily concur in any measures which it may be thought necessary to adopt for making the cash payments into the Treasury more punctual.

The spirit of Agriculture which has arisen through the Province, and the attention which has been attracted to improving the breed of its Cattle, promise the happiest results; and in the proposed measures of Emigration we see, if wisely directed, the means of developing the resources of the Country, and by thus increasing its numerical strength, of forming an additional Bond of Union with the Mother Country, and extending the sentiments of regard towards Her, which so eminently characterise the North American Colonies.

In the cultivation of the Fisheries which surround our Shores, We hail the brightest prospects to the Trade and industry of the Colony.

We, in common with the Inhabitants of this Province, are deeply impressed with feelings of gratitude for the zeal which your Excellency has shewn for the encouragement of Education and Learning, not only by your Protection and advancement of the present Institutions, but for the warm Interest you have taken in the establishment of others; and your Excellency may rely on our cordial support of these and all other objects of Public utility.

The proposed consideration of the Militia Laws demands anxious attention, as being the means of giving efficiency to that best power of defence, the loyalty of an armed Yeomanry protecting their Families and Freeholds.

The attention which has been paid to the Public Roads calls for much acknowledgment, and measures which have thus proposed an invitation to settlement and to the progress of Agriculture and Trade throughout the Province, lay the strongest claims to unremitting support.

We cannot but remember the luminous views which your Excellency on assuming the reins of this Government took of the capabilities of the Province.—

We are conscious of the anxious solicitude with which you have ever promoted the individual and collective interests of New-Brunswick, and have unceasingly laboured to cultivate those inherent Powers it possesses into expanding themselves, as they are now doing, under the influence of your administration; and We beg to renew to your Excellency the sincerest assurances of our active co-operation in the pursuit of a line of conduct, which must promote the substantial interests of the Province, and will prove the best monument to the fostering care which had so eminently contributed to its advancement.

To which His Excellency was pleased to make the following Reply:—

Mr. President, and Gentlemen of His Majesty's Council;

YOUR Address affords me the highest degree of satisfaction.

In the affectionate solicitude with which I have studied to promote the individual and collective Interests of New Brunswick, your concurrence and support have greatly aided and confirmed me; and I receive with infinite pleasure these renewed assurances of your active co-operation in the pursuit of a line of Policy which, I do not doubt, will be found to secure substantial benefit to the Province of New-Brunswick.

COUNTRY MEETINGS UPON THE CORN LAWS, AND THE CORN QUESTION STATED AND DISCUSSED.

From *Bell's Weekly Messenger*.

Every manufacturing county and town in England is now calling Meetings upon this subject.—Leeds and Liverpool have taken the lead in the country, and we see that the example will spread through the kingdom. It becomes, therefore, necessary to enter upon the subject. We have hitherto abstained from any detail or discussion, because we know that the kingdom is divided in sentiment upon this head, and because we earnestly desire to live in peace and quietness with both parties. We truly think that the question is much misunderstood, and that the examination of it will show that there is less opposition of interest than is imagined between the contending parties.

The intention of Ministers we believe to be to propose the entire discontinuance of the present system of averages and corn restriction laws of all kinds and to introduce a new statute, by which wheat shall always be importable into the kingdom upon payment of a fixed duty of twelve shillings a quarter. There will be some effort, we believe, to make the fixed duty ten shillings; but it seems generally understood, that the Ministers will not be able to carry this lower duty. We shall assume, therefore, that the fixed duty hereafter will be twelve shillings.

The calculation upon which this duty is assessed is understood to be as follows. It is assumed, that the average poor rate through the kingdom may amount to about four shillings the quarter upon wheat, and to about one half that rate upon the other species of grain. The annual quantity of wheat grown in Great Britain and Ireland is about twelve million quarters, which, at the rate of four shillings the quarter, would thus nearly equal one half the annual amount of the poor rate. The other half is to be supplied by the rate of duty on the other species of grain. Now as this legal and compulsory provision of the poor is a burden peculiar to the English farmer as compared with the foreigner, it is manifestly fair to allow this protecting duty, in order to bring both to an equality in the market. Four more shillings are allowed for tithes, another burden, in its kind and amount nearly peculiar to the English farmer. The other four shillings is to be allowed for that portion of the annual taxes and interest of the National Debt, payable by the landlord and farmer. It does not belong to the columns of a paper to go through the calculations upon which these rates have been fixed. It is sufficient to say, that they are all founded upon the official returns made to Parliament, by which report it appears that the average amount of the poor rates and tithes of the kingdom are nearly the same, namely, six millions each, and that the utmost possible contribution (we mean peculiar contribution of the landlords and farmers to the Revenue,) is about six millions more.

Upon the above principles, therefore, is the duty proposed to be founded. The Ministerial deduction is, that the British and foreign farmer being thus brought to a perfect equality, as to all external circumstances, they will have to contend with each other upon equal terms, as to the cost of production and bringing to market. And what, they demand, can the British landlord and farmer fear from this competition, when they will still have all the advantages of capital of industry, improved agriculture, and a home market in their favour whilst foreigners have neither money nor skill, and are divided from their own ports by

roads almost impassable, and from Great Britain by seas and oceans?

Such is the conclusion of Ministers. So far as it alleges and anticipates a decided superiority of English farmers in their competition with foreigners, whether in agriculture or manufactures, we perfectly agree in it. But in so far as it is intended to insinuate that the proposed measure will not affect the income of landlords, and for a time at least, the income of the farmers holding lands upon leases, we must entirely dispute it.

Without involving ourselves in the dark and senseless jargon of political economy, which from long experience we utterly distrust and almost despise, we think so much to be undeniable. All price is made up of three or more parts or circumstances which constitute it, and as it almost always happens that one of these parts is less yielding than another, any forcible change in the former rate of price will necessarily fall upon that part which by its nature must give way. For example, the price of corn is made up, generally, of the rent, wages, and profit of the farmer. Now, when this price becomes reduced, the reduction cannot fall upon wages, because they cannot (if labour is to be had at all) be reduced lower—nor can the reduction fall upon profit, because the farmer will not continue his occupation, if he cannot procure a return suitable to the income of the same amount of capital employed in any other branch of industry. The reduction, therefore, must fall upon the rent. We conceive this principle to be too self-evident for further argument. The deduction, therefore, is inevitable, namely, that all reduction in the average price of work of all kinds must fall upon the rent—that is to say, must be at the expense of the landlord. If the price of corn is to be lessened, the whole reduction must be at the cost of the landlords; and their rents be diminished in the same proportion.

And if such be the certain effect of any reduction in the price of corn upon landlords, that is to say, if the whole diminution must fall upon them, where their tenants have the power to throw up their lands, it is equally evident, that where the lands are out upon leases, the farmer himself must suffer. The farmer must pay his fixed rent, whatever may be the price of corn. He cannot charge his rent as a part of the cost of production, because the market price depends upon the relative quantity of corn in the market, and in no degree whatever upon the cost of production or rate of rent. It may be said, that he will not grow corn, if he cannot procure a suitable price for it, and that the evil will thus correct itself, as the price will then rise to the cost of production. In the first place, what is he to grow if he will not grow corn? Secondly, will not this diminution of British corn have any other effect than to let in so much more foreign corn? And thirdly, will not such a diminution in the price of corn generally, as will ensue upon a free market, throw out of cultivation all the second rate lands in the kingdom, as such lands can only be cultivated when corn bears such a price as will compensate for the greater cost of labour, manure, and their very small comparative produce? Half of these poor lands produce an average of about a quarter and a half of wheat per acre, certainly not exceeding this amount. At six shillings a quarter, this produce is worth ninety shillings, which is barely sufficient to pay about ten shillings an acre rent, three shillings tithe, and three shillings poor rates, and the cost of cultivating, with the due profit on the money and labour expended. Let the price of wheat sink to forty-six or forty-seven shilling, and these lands must all go out of cultivation—and the vacuum, that