

Provincial Legislature.

ADDRESS

OF THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY, IN ANSWER TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

To His Excellency Sir WILLIAM MACBEAN GEORGE COLEBROOKE,
K. H., Lieutenant Governor and Commander in Chief of the
Province of New Brunswick, &c. &c. &c.

THE HUMBLE ADDRESS OF THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.
MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

WE, the Representatives of Her Majesty's Loyal People of New Brunswick, beg leave to offer our thanks to Your Excellency for the Speech delivered at the opening of the present Session.

It is gratifying to learn that no public emergency has required Your Excellency to convene the Legislature before the usual time of the year; and that although the failure of the Potato Crop must be severely felt in some parts of the Province, yet, the Harvest having been generally favourable in other respects, and there being a prospect of continued and profitable employment for all classes of the people, actual distress, during the ensuing Summer may, under Divine Providence, be in a great measure averted.

The Fisheries, under due protection and encouragement, will constitute at all times a fruitful source of Provincial as well as National prosperity; and it is highly satisfactory to Her Majesty's faithful subjects to be assured that the representations made to Her Majesty's Government have been successful in preventing any further extension of the privileges sought for by the United States.

Any defects which may have become apparent in the Criminal Laws, the Election Laws, or the Act for the settlement of Indian Reserves, shall be duly considered, with a view to their removal and amendment.

The communication to convey to us the views of the Home Government in respect to the Act of the last Session, for the regulation of King's College, shall receive our earnest attention; and we assure Your Excellency, that our concurrence and support shall be most cordially given to any measure which may render the usefulness of that Institution in some degree commensurate with its magnificent endowment.

We shall be happy to receive any information by means of which the acknowledged defects of the Parish School System may be amended.

The Reports connected with the erection of a Provincial Lunatic Asylum, and improvements in the Provincial Penitentiary, shall receive due attention.

Prepared to extend every encouragement to any undertaking which may reasonably be expected to communicate an impulse to the settlement of the Province and the development of its resources, the construction of a Railway, in lieu of a Military Road, through the country, shall meet that attention which is justly due to an object of such great National importance.

The eminent success which has attended those Legislative measures adopted for the restoration of Public Credit, and the removal of Financial embarrassment, is highly gratifying; and we beg leave to assure Your Excellency, that any enactment for the liberation of our Intercolonial Trade, now embarrassed by the operation of the Differential Duty Instruction, shall continue to receive our earnest and cordial support.

In making that provision for the Public Service which is the peculiar province of the House of Assembly, we shall be happy to be assisted by the Provincial Accounts of the past year, duly audited; and as every information which may be a guide to the judicious application of the Public Funds should be diligently sought for, we shall thankfully receive any Reports from Supervisors or Commissioners of Roads which may aid our deliberations.

We shall be happy to receive a copy of the Report of the Commissioners appointed to carry into effect the Fourth Article of the Treaty of Washington.

We had indulged strong hopes that a satisfactory arrangement with the Government of Canada for defining the Boundary between New Brunswick and that Province would have been long since effected; and we unite with Your Excellency in regret that this question should still remain unsettled. While we entertain no doubt that the just claims of this Colony will be properly regarded by Her Majesty's Government, we beg to assure Your Excellency that nothing shall be omitted on our part to sustain our right to the Territory in dispute, trusting that no occurrence may interrupt the jurisdiction at present exercised over it.

Our regard as well for the interests of our Constituents, as for our position as a Colony of the Empire, will insure our application to Public Business; and we cordially respond to Your Excellency's expression of a hope that the People of this Loyal Province may ever continue steadfast in the peaceful and unimpaired possession of those Constitutional blessings, to which, as British subjects, they are justly entitled, and which they have always cherished and appreciated.

REPLY.

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen, I return you my sincere acknowledgments for your dutiful and loyal Address.

I confidently hope, through your united exertions, that the business of the Session may be conducted to an honourable and satisfactory termination.

EXTRACTS FROM HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY JOURNALS.

Saturday, 31st January, 1846.

The Honorable Mr. Speaker communicated to the House, a Letter received from Henry Bliss, Esquire, Province Agent in London; and the same being read at the Clerk's Table, is as follows:—

LETTER FROM HENRY BLISS, ESQUIRE, PROVINCE AGENT.
Declining Salary, &c.

DEAR SIR,—In my last letter to you, I took occasion to allude to the state of the Intercolonial Trade of the B. N. A. Colonies, and suggested the form of an enactment, by which I thought existing inconveniences in that trade might be obviated, and desired advice upon the subject; I have since addressed letters upon it to the Colonial Department, and to the Board of Trade, and I respectfully beg leave to insert here and refer you to a copy.

“MY LORD,—Her Majesty's Government having announced their intention to introduce during the present Session of Parliament, a Bill to consolidate the laws of the Customs, I most respectfully solicit Your Lordship's attention to a great inconvenience in the present condition of the Trade and intercourse of the several British North American Colonies with each other. The Revenues of every one of these Colonies are almost entirely raised by Duties of Customs imposed by Acts of the Provincial Legislatures on articles imported into the respective Provinces, and as those Duties must by the existing Laws of the Imperial Parliament apply equally to the productions of an adjacent Colony, as well as to those of a Foreign Country, it is manifest that the Revenues of all those Colonies can only be augmented or maintained by mutual burthens and restrictions upon the intercourse with their nearest fellow subjects, between whom and them no policy can require any such distinction. The consequent embarrassments and dissatisfaction are very serious and general, and particularly in New Brunswick, between which and Nova Scotia a great and important Trade has been almost destroyed. This evil is of recent origin, and the result apparently of unforeseen effects in Laws enacted by Parliament for a totally different purpose, and may easily be remedied without in any way impairing the principle or object of those Laws. Nothing more seems necessary than in the proposed consolidation Bill, to introduce a clause of the following tenor:—

“That in any of the Provinces—Canada, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward's Island, and Newfoundland, upon the importation of any article of the growth, produce or manufacture of any other of those Provinces, there shall be charged no other or higher Duty than is levied upon any such article, when grown, produced or manufactured in the Province so importing the same.

“I most humbly entreat Your Lordship's favourable consideration of this subject, and earnestly hope that the present opportunity may not be lost of removing a grievance introduced by no policy, sustained by no interest, and impugned by both, no less than by the public feeling and opinion of the B. N. A. Colonists.

“I have the honor to be, my Lord,
Your most humble and obedient servant,
(Signed) HENRY BLISS.

“King's Bench Walk, Temple, 8th July, 1845.”
The Rt. Hon. Lord Stanley,
Her M. Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, &c. &c. &c.

To this communication I received an answer, dated 28th of July, informing me that Lord Stanley had referred my letter to the Board of Trade; subsequently a further answer, dated the 30th September, has been sent to me, a copy of which I respectfully subjoin, and beg permission to refer you to it.

“Downing Street, 30th September, 1845.

“SIR,—Lord Stanley having received from the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade, an answer to the reference mentioned in Mr. Hope's letter to yourself, of the 28th July last, I am directed by his Lordship to state, that it is the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, that the effect of the arrangement suggested in your letter of the 8th July last would be that (except as respects articles subject to a Duty in the nature of Excise in New Brunswick) the produce of the several other British North American Colonies would be importable into New Brunswick, Duty free; whilst the similar produce of the United Kingdom, and of the other British Colonies, would be liable to Duty.

“For this reason Her Majesty's Government could not become parties to such an arrangement.

“I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
(Signed) JAS. STEPHEN.”

H. BLISS, Esquire.

By this you will see the nature of the objection that exists to the measure suggested. This objection, it appears to me, can only be obviated without incurring others as great, by enumerating particularly the articles it is desirable to place on the footing of Duty free, and make the enactment extend to all other British Colonies and to the United Kingdom; for example—

That in any of the British N. A. Colonies, upon the importation of any of the articles hereinafter next mentioned, being of the growth produce or manufacture of the United Kingdom, or any of its Colonies and Dependencies, there shall be charged no other or higher Duty than is or shall be levied upon any such article, when grown,