

Provincial.
PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT
OF
NEW-BRUNSWICK.
HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,
Tuesday, 10th February.

On motion of Mr. Chandler.—The House went into Committee of the whole, in further consideration of the Joint Address of the Council and Assembly, to His Majesty, upon the subject of the disposing of Crown Lands.

Mr. Crane in the Chair of the Committee.

The Chairman reported, they had agreed to the address without any amendment thereto, and that he was further directed to report, that the Committee had passed the following Resolution.—

Resolved, that this Committee, deeming it a matter of the utmost importance to the future welfare of the Province, that the present system for the Sale of Crown Lands should be annulled, are induced to accede to the proposed draft of the address to His Majesty on the subject, though the Committee cannot but express their extreme regret that His Majesty's Council object to the addition of a clause, praying that His Majesty will be graciously pleased to permit the Legislature to suggest some alterations in the former System, before the same is permanently re-established, this Committee thinking that improvements may be made therein, equally beneficial to the interests of His Majesty in this Province.

The Resolution being handed in, was again read at the Clerk's Table.

Ordered, that the report be accepted, and the address engrossed; and further ordered, that Mr. Chandler inform His Majesty's Council, that the House have agreed to the joint address.

And on motion of Mr. Chandler.—Resolved, that an humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that His Excellency will be pleased to bring under the notice of His Majesty's Government, the wishes of this House, respecting the adopting a system for the granting of Crown Lands in this Province, as expressed in the Resolution of the Committee of the whole House this day.

Ordered, that Mr. Chandler, Mr. Parker, and Mr. Ketchum, be a Committee to wait upon His Excellency with the address.

A Message from His Majesty's Council.

Mr. Bliss, Master in Chancery, communicated to the House, that the Council had agreed to the address prepared by the joint Committee of the Council and Assembly, on the subject of the present system of disposing of Crown Lands;—and that they had appointed Mr. Shore, & Mr. Justice Botsford, a Committee with such Committee as the House shall appoint to wait upon His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, and request he will be pleased to transmit the same to be laid before His Majesty.

Ordered, that Mr. Chandler, Mr. Munro, Mr. Taylor, and Mr. Hayward, be a Committee, to join the Committee of the Council, to wait upon His Excellency with the joint address upon the subject of the system of Crown Lands, and to request that His Excellency will transmit the same.

The joint address of the Council and House of Assembly to His Majesty, upon the subject of the present system of disposing of Crown Lands, was read, as engrossed, and agreed to, and is as follows:—

TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

The joint and humble Address of His Majesty's Council, and the House of Assembly of His Majesty's Province of New-Brunswick, in General Assembly convened.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY.

THE Council and House of Assembly of His Majesty's loyal Province of New-Brunswick, beg leave, with sentiments of the most profound respect, to approach your Majesty on a subject that most seriously concerns the settlement and advancement of the Province.

They beg leave most humbly to submit for your Majesty's most Gracious consideration, that by the return of the Commissioner of Crown Lands, it appears that he has sold under the new System of disposing of the Crown Lands in this Province, between the 30th day of June, in the year 1827, and the 31st December last, 187,336 acres, for which

there has been received in payment, the sum of nine hundred and sixty-five pounds sixteen shillings and four pence only; that from this sum the incidental expenses attending the Sales, amounting to five hundred and three pounds eighteen shillings and eight pence, are to be deducted, leaving the sum of four hundred and sixty-one pounds seventeen shillings and seven pence, as the nett amount of the purchase money.

That this sum, together with the deposits which have been made by purchasers, on account of survey expenses, amounting to forty-nine pounds ten shillings, are not sufficient to defray the expenses incurred in the Surveyor-General's Department for the surveys, made under the new system, pursuant to his directions, amounting to the sum of six hundred and sixty-one pounds nine shillings, and which have been allowed out of the Casual Revenue.

That altho' the lots have been sold subject to a proportionate part of the expenses of survey, it is reasonably to be inferred from the indulgence shewn to the purchasers, many of whom are in indigent circumstances, that the payment of these expenses in many instances, will be evaded.

The Council and Assembly humbly conceive, that the above statement is sufficient to shew, how vain must be the expectation of raising a Revenue from the sale of Crown Lands in this Province; while on the other hand, the injuries eventually to arise from a system, so eminently calculated to demoralize the people, and to sap the foundation of all those political obligations, which would bind them to the Mother Country, are abundantly manifest to all who are conversant with the condition of New-Brunswick.

Altho' there may not be on the lands so sold, any considerable quantity of Pine Timber, fit for His Majesty's use, yet there is in all of them an abundant supply of very valuable Timber of other descriptions; which, by the mode now pursued, is permitted to be monopolized by the people indiscriminately, without any value paid therefor to the Crown, or any security that the actual settlement of the Country will be advanced; for it is well and publicly known, that in many instances, this monopoly is the object of the Purchasers, who when they shall have attained it, and disposed of the Timber, will abandon the land denuded of most, if not all, of its present value, and thereby rendered unfit for settlement by others. The Purchasers will be thus trained to practice deliberate fraud upon the Government, by eluding the payment agreed on, and some of the most valuable lands in the Country, by pursuing this system, which permits them to occupy the same for seven years free of expense, either of quit rent or purchase, independently of the injury to be done to them, will be locked up from settlement, and thus deprive Emigrants who may arrive here, as well as the descendants of those loyal men, whose firm attachment to their King, led them to encounter the hardships incident to the first opening of the wilderness, from obtaining locations in situations where they would be willing or able to form permanent settlements.

Instead of a loyal, industrious, and sturdy Yeomanry, when lands are held in free and common socage, and who would feel and maintain that spirit of determined loyalty to the King, and firm attachment to the British Constitution, which led to the first settlement of this Province, and which, if cherished and supported, would render New-Brunswick a highly valuable appendage of the British Crown, the new system will be the means of raising up a class of men, who are of idle habits in general, and stand low in the public estimation, and who holding their lands by a temporary and precarious tenure, would take advantage of the first opportunity of placing themselves under a foreign jurisdiction, upon a promise of being secured in their possessions without payment; a promise which will be readily made by our neighbours upon any fit occasion that may offer.

The means heretofore in the power of the Governor and Council, and used by them for ascertaining the characters and condition of the persons to whom allotments of land were made, are by the present system entirely done away; as all persons, of whatever description, are indiscriminately permitted to purchase, and tracts of the most valuable land are thrown, it may be said, gratuitously into the hands of persons who will yield to the temptations above stated.

That in the opinion of the Council and Assembly, the great and increased expense of taking out a Grant of Land under the new system, and the re-

straint which it imposes on the settler, by compelling him to purchase a Lot not the object of his choice, which is in general influenced by some local cause, have retarded the settlement of the Country. In confirmation of this fact, they beg leave humbly to state, that in the years 1825 and 1826, two hundred and sixty-two Grants of Land, comprising five hundred and six Grantees, were passed, while under the new System, no Grants have as yet passed, and only nine have been applied for.

That in this Province there are many millions of acres of wilderness lands, upon the settlement of which, the future prosperity of the Country must depend: That in the opinion of the Council and Assembly, no circumstance could contribute more to the accomplishment of this important object, than facility in obtaining a Grant of Land, and at low and moderate expense. The Council and Assembly, grateful for the many blessings they enjoy under your Majesty's paternal Government, which is distinguished for its solicitude to promote the prosperity and happiness of every part of your vast Empire, however remote its situation; most humbly pray that your Majesty will take into your most gracious consideration, the present system of disposing of the Crown Lands, by sale, and to grant such relief in the premises as to your Majesty in your great wisdom shall seem meet.

W. BOTSFORD,
E. B. CHANDLER,
JOSEPH CUNARD,
W. CRANE,
J. R. PARTELOW.

THE ROYAL GAZETTE.

FREDERICTON, FEBRUARY 17, 1829.

ALMS HOUSE AND WORK HOUSE.

COMMISSIONER FOR THE WEEK, CHARLES LEE, ESQ.

SAVINGS BANK.

TRUSTEES NEXT WEEK.

HENRY G. CLOPPER, ESQ.

JAMES TAYLOR, ESQ.

HENRY SMITH, ESQ.

PROVINCIAL APPOINTMENTS.

Charles Simonds, Robert Crookshank, Allen Ottey, James Allanshaw, and John Wilson, Esquires, to be Commissioners to take the necessary measures for the erection of a Light House at Head Harbour, on Campo Bello.

Alexander Rankin, and Joseph Cunard, Esquires, to be Commissioners for Light Houses generally, on the Gulf Shore of the Province, and to correspond with any Commissioners who may be appointed by the Governments of Lower Canada, and Prince Edward's Island, for the purpose of establishing and maintaining a Light House on St. Paul's Island, or any other place that may be mutually advantageous and beneficial to the trade of the three Provinces.

PROROGATION OF THE LEGISLATURE.

We regretted that the prorogation of the late Session of the Legislature of this Province, on Tuesday last, did not take place in sufficient time to allow us to make a single note upon the subject in the Gazette published on that day.

It having been confidently intimated early in the morning of the 10th inst., that the Legislature would bring its deliberations to a close before 3 o'clock the same day; that hour was understood to have been immediately appointed by His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor for proroguing the Session.

Accordingly the detachment of the 81st Regt. garrisoned in Fredericton, accompanied by the Band belonging to the Regiment, were paraded at an early hour, in front of the Province Hall. The Rifle and Artillery Companies of the Militia were also in attendance; and so many of the new corps of Cavalry as were enabled to appear in uniform, made their debut, much, we believe, to the satisfaction of all present, making due allowance for the short time they had to equip themselves. A detachment of this latter corps having been formed into a body guard, escorted His Excellency's Carriage, in good style, on the occasion we advert to; during which, also, the entire company certainly performed their novel functions in a very creditable manner, and excited a rather sanguine expectation in their favor when they shall be more perfectly organized and uniformed.

His Excellency having arrived in front of the House of Assembly, was received as usual, with the honors due to his exalted station, the Band playing the national anthem; and having alighted from his Carriage, proceeded, attended by his suite, to the Council Chamber, where a large body had assembled to meet His Excellency; among whom we