

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

E O U. SAL SI A BEVENUE BILL.

His HON. THE SPEAKER in the Chair. Mr. FISHER'S resolution that the House should not go into Committee on this bill for days, was put and lost by a vote of-20 10 12.

HOUSE IN COMMITTEE-ON THE BEVENUE BILL

ould many or an history Dr. VAIL in the Chair.

The BILL was passed without Debate down to the Section imposing a tax on light wines,

Mr. ANGLIN rose and said that he was sur prised that the Bill was allowed to pass so far without debate. The tax on these wines was one which sound policy could not have dic-tated. If the sole object of the Bill was to get revenue, this would not certainly effect the purpose, nor was the course pursued by the Government, in attempting to impose a tax on these articles, wise. Light wines were a substitute for stienger liquor. They were gene-rally imported from France, and if we desired to throw off the restrictions which isterfere with our trade with that country, this tax was not ponitieat mood

It had been urged by the Hon. Secretary a few days before, that when advocating the in-terests of the Inter-Colonial Railway in England, the objection he had met most frequent ly way the taxes we imposed on British

France offered a good market for our shipping trade, but if we taxed these articles, it would materially affect that branch of business. Ships built in Canada were now admitted into French ports at a rate of duty much lower than ours, and instead of taxing French pro-ductions the aim of the Government should have been to obtain, if possible, the same boon our ship builders which was extended to those of Canada, These light wines were very encap in France, and the greatest expense was the packing and freight. By the Bill no distiection was made; whether the price was 9d. or \$1 per bottle did not affect the duty.-These weies should have been taxed according to their degree of strength, or an advaloreal duty imposed in the place of thus taxing these indiscrimately. The effect would be to make them very dear, and as they were the beverages of the middle classes, and calculated to diminish the co-sumption of stronger liquors he curtailed without damaging the cause of to diminish the co-sumption of stronger liquors the tax was impolitic. Champagne was pure-ly an article of luxury, and there was no obion to taxing that. He had ree ived many jection to taxing that. We had ree lived han, letters from his constituents about this tax and entertained the conviction that it was impolitic, injurious to our trade with France, and calculated to increase the use of stronger liquors, and thus intemperance, in our Pro-

The PROVINCIAL SECRETARY replied, that the reasons urged by the last Speaker, rela-tive to our trade in Ships with France, were just those wh ch should dictate a tax on those wines: It was true we should throw ande every possible restriction on our trade with mtry, but if we first relieved their articles of duty, and then asked them to grant ter General. It was very well for hon. memthe same favor, we would have nothing left by which to induce their assent to our terms. If we placed ourselves in such a position that we they sat in the House session after session, and make no further cone ms, we could not then expect them to come to our terms.

Mr. Cupilly spoke in favor of the tax. He alluded to the present munner of taxing the Chams and Anchors brought into the Province, merely to be sent out again with our ships for sate, and also of the Southern Pich Pine used in their construction, as calculated

deter enterprise. Mr. ANGLIN then moved that all the of the various wines enumerated in the Bill be struck out, which would leave a tax of 90 co per gallon on all wines outing over \$2.00, This was lost by s vote of 10 to 27. When the Section imposing 2 cents per cal-

anight doutover £100,000 If these figures were correct, the Country ought not now to be called upon to pay addi-tional taxes at all. The way things were going on we would soon either have to repudiate our debts, or come down to direct Taxation. BRetrenchment was the only course left open for

us to pursue, and there was room for a large amount of it. With regard to the Post Office ext these were entirely too great. They had in-creased nearly £1,000 within the last four or fire years. A comparison between Nova Sco-tia and New Brunswick in this particular, would shew that there was abundant room for

economy. In Nova Scotia they had 73 Post Offices and 390 Way Offices. In New Brunswick we had 42 Post Offices and 306 Way Offices-31 Post Offices and 84 Way Offices less than N. S. The expenses of our Post Office department in 1861 was \$71,500 --Theirs, with all these Offices, was only \$69 .-444. Our Post Office printing was \$4,354. Theirs only \$1,787. (The Speaker :-Com-pare the distance they travels with ours.) Well, if our distances were greater, that had nothing to do with the printing. There was abundant room for curtailment.

[The POSTMASTER GENERAL explained :-Their deficiency in Nova Scotia in that department is £7000 and greater than ours The revenue they derive from it is greater than ours, therefore their expenses must be greater than ours any way it can be put] Mr. KEKR resumed :

Our public printing and advertizing expenses have increased to an encrmous extent and amount to nearly £6,000 per y-ar. There was certainly room for retrenchment in this particular, without affecting the efficiency of the Office. The printing and stationery alone unsunted to \$23.392 for the last fiscal year. Again, the school system was a great charge. The expense of that establishment was constantly increasing. In 1854 all the expenses of this department, including (the then) King's College, was only £22,587. Last year it was £30.548, showing an increase of over £8,000 between these years. There was a constant change goi g on in the character of the teachers. Greater numbers of them now had first class licenses than they had then. All the progress was towards expenditure. In towns education at all. In Nova Scotia they only appropriated £17,000 to this purpose, while we were paying over £30,000. For these reasons he contended that a large amount of money could be saved by judicious manage-ment, and that retrenchment should precede taxation. There was still a large amount of public money laying in the hauds of different leputy Treasu ers throughout the country.-Way was not this collected before additional

taxes were sought to be imposed? The SPEAKER said he was not going to de-fend the increased expenses of printing, nor did he believe in advertising in every public newspaper in the country ; what he wished to defend was the system of a political Postmasbers to point out where improvements should be made, and to find fault, but how was it that. never devised or brought in any scheme to make these improvements. The difference be tween the postal department in Nova Scotia

and New Brunswick, had been alluded to by the hoa member for Northumberland, but the fair way was not to select certain facts and leave out others quite as important. Wuy did he not tell the House that in this province, one third more miles had to be travelled than in N.S. He ought to have shewn both side We had to pay £600 or £700 a year for expen-ses alone to them. While they had no simi-tar expense to incur. Then we had to earry their mail to and from Causda for noth-ing. Our geographical position was such that we could not avoid it. The Canadian Govern-

ed through the House without debate or question, just because it was popular in the

country. If we must have money, and the best way was to raise it by tariff, there was no article in the country better able to bear it than this. (Mr. W. J. Gilbert -- Why not retrench ?) Well, how and when ? We wanted the money now, and must have it. Either the statesmen of all the surrou ding Provines or countries were careless of the interests of the poor, or else the proposed tax was not an imposition on the poor, for they had all taxed this commodity. The Province did not want one fourth of the amount annually appropriated to edu-

cation struck off. In 1854 he (the Speaker) had brought in a Bill to increase teacher's salaries 20 per cent, and although the Bill had not been drafted two hours before the Session closed, it was within that time prepared and carried, and also passthe Upper House in time to receive the Governor's assent. It was still on the Statute dook, and he had never regretted the part he took in it. The Speaker said he would not go to tax lines, twines, salt, iron or chains, which had been suggested as substitutes for molasses. These ranked in the same class with packing-cases, to enable us to send abroad our wares for sale. He also alluded to the excellent state of our roads everywhere,

s compared with Canada and other places, to shew that the people were not called upon to pay taxes for nothing. Mr. RYAN said, because there was a duty elsewhere on molasses, was no reason why we

should have one. Nobody had recommended a duty on salt either. He also suggested that the oils now being so largely imported from the States were better able to pay the tax than molasses. The PROVINCIAL SECRETARY said the allusion the Hon. Speaker had made to the masure of that Bill, increasing the salaries of

School Teachers 20 per cent., had been urawn, debated, and enacted in two hours, showed the way things were formerly conducted. There was no initiation system ther, and on, as it were, the sput of the moment, £4,000 or £5,000 was taken directly out of the Rover us. It hon. members were dissatisfi d with the

amount granted for educational purposes, les them bring in a Bill to repeal it. The hon, member for Northumberland (Mr. Kerr) bad complained that there were now more First Class Teachers than formerly. Inia was true, but was it a just cause of regret ?-More industrious and intelligent men had taken the place of those of a former day. That same non, gentleman had alluded to the economical manner this object was supported in Nova-

scotia, as a pattern for us. He had seen it in a print but a short time before that in Nova Si otia, one-third of the propie could not read. This was not so with us. The hon. member for Northumberland had stated, that the surplus revenue of the previous year was in hand at the close of last year, but he (Mr. K.) would find that it was charged in the estimates for the past year; the imports alone last year had fallen off £25,000. The Government di i not propose or expect during the present year to make up the deficiency of last year, and meet the expenditure of the present; but their pro-

position was, that the surplus of revenue proposed to be raised by the Bill, over the requirements of the three or four next years, would be officient to make up the de ency of last The hon, member for Northumberland (Mr. Kerri had advanced the propositi n. that

must shortly either repudiate our d bis or be reduced to Direct Taxatom. All he wished to say was, that he repudiated that principle. It hey had formerly goi-\$240 per head than hey had formerly goi-\$240 per head had been the average. Last year they got less than his, and they now asked \$2.75 for three or four years to make up the deficiency.

The question befo solved itself into a matter merely of taxation or economy. It was for the House to say

which of these sound policy dictated. As a representative of Westmo land County he felt authorised to state that the feelings of his constituency was that a strict line of economy should be primptly adopted and strenuously pursued. Economy might be distasteful to .hose who had long been accustomed to the most reckless extravigance. To advocate it might be but to elicit the success of those who knew not how to practise iv. By requiring a system of strict economy, by applying the pruning knife, by sawing off the rotten

branches, which were hanging to the Provin-cial tree of state, and by lightening the burdens of an already overtax-d people, he would make himself, no doubt, distasteful to the Government, and also to many within and outside the walls of this House; but he must nevertheless, do his duty, fearlessly and faithfully, to his constituents. The felt that this was one of the most improvident, reckless, and extravagant Governments that had ruled the destimes of this Province since the first settlement of the country ; and if the watchword was continued to be extravagance and reck less expenditure, it was time the people of this county k ew it. It was absurd to talk about direct taxation. He did not agree with the hon. Speaker upon this subject. An attempt to enforce such a course would create alm si revolution in society. In our case there was no such thing as repudiation. We must meet our liabilities. It was the imperative duty of the House to begin by economizing. There was room for retreachment in almost, it not

quite, every public d partment in the Prowith its hon. members. The members pay should be reduced \$1 per day. This with a reasonable and summar reduction in the salaies, of the clerks and contingent expenses of 25 per c n1 would effect a saving to the counry of £1,000.

The salary at present paid to His Excellency was larger than the population and importance t this Province warranted. Of course, no hange could be made in the present incumbeat's salary, nor did he propose any such course. But the Government were guilty of dereliction of duty in not having made arangements before, to effect a reduction in this arge sum. So, in the salaries of the succes sors of his present Excellency, the Lieutenant Governor, he proposed to make a deduction f £1602 5s.

The salary and contingencies now were £4102 s, and £2,500, he thought, would be a reasonable sum, and which would remain after the pro-posed deduction. Then, there was the Law Clerk. He had voted against his appointment, and th ught the office was not at all required and should be abolished, which would save £100 more. The duties of the Emigration Agent were not sufficiently oberous to require the undivided attention of one man, and might well be am igamated with those of the Secretary of the Board of Agriculture, which would save the public £190.

Then came the Post Office Department, Its duties principally consisted in the transmission of Mails, and they might with great advantage he united with those of the Board of Works. These two offices were of such a character as to admit of their being readily united, and a saving would thus be effected of £1875. The luties of Chief Commissioner of the Board of. Works were very small. He had only to spend some \$2000 upon the Provincial Buildgs, and to get up a report ;- the Supervis-

ors of Great, and Commissioners of Bye. Roads did the balance of the work. He (Mr. was not necessary to frighten and slarm the country with imaginary difficulties. The Gov-erument did not ask any more per head than they had formerly got-\$240 per Lead had Works and Post Office Department. The Railway had long since been nished. The Chief Commissioner of

The growth of manufactures had decreased way's duty should and could be transferred to

His constituents made it one of the essential points in the canvass at the last election that economy, strict economy, should be one of the principles by which their representafives should be governed. He felt that he had done his duty and fulfilled his pledge. This measure introduced by the Government would. of course, increase the poor man's expenses without adding to the value of his labor. If the Government would but carry out a small portion of the retrenchment he had just now advocated. and which could be done without impairing the efficiency of the Public service. Further, taxation was not required. and this bill would be wholly unnecessary. He should, therefore, vote against the bill.

Mr. SKINNER said this was not the first Ses ion when Retrenchment had been the hobby of parties in this House. It had been ridden, poor hing, nearly to leath long before. Hon, members were constantly crying out reform and rerenchment, but they never attempted to do any hing themselves. If there was so much room for reform, why did they not bring in some meaure to effect it? They did not seem to wish to lo any thing 'ut find fault

There was Coach hire over again. It was an old string to play on, and had been harped al nost constantly, since the earliest period of his recollection Such a course was disgraceful to he respectability of the House. Why was not this outcry raised at the first of the Session, when be coaches were engaged, and then they, could be done away with. He for one was prepared to walk if necessary, and would not raise his voice for the employment of a single coach, but he hated to hear this ouvery at the last of the Session when no good could come of it.

He alluded to the hon. member for Westmor-land. (Mr. W. J. Gilberi) having intimated that he was the sole representative of that County, while his hon, colleagues were but the organs of the Government. Westmorland was very fortunate in having that hon. gentleman. and that County was exceedingly well, represented by him. The hon, member for King's, (Mr. Ryan) had loudly complained on behalt of his County. against this tax on molasses, but he did not believe there was a County in the Province more ble to pay it.

The whole matter had received so much atten tion, more to answer political purposes than any thing else. The tax itself was not much atter The hon, member for Carleton, (Mr. Mun-11. ro) had shown that not more than \$1 would be aised by it from any family during a year.

The economical plan proposed by the hon. member for Westmorland, was very admirable. The proposed reduction on the Governor's salary was an excellent motion. There could be no doubt, now, if the Government should resign. about who would be called upon to form a new administration. That hon, member had set that matter entirely at rest. Mr. JORDAN said, there had been a good dea

of talk upon this matter, and after all it seemed like contending for straws. The cry had been raised, that if molasses were taxed two cents per gallon the poor would be oppressed, but this was in idle cry. It would not affect the poor be cause the proposed impost on the consumption of this Province would not amount annually to nore than one shilling per family, on an average Now, what was the fact ? The revenue of th past year had not come up to the estimate, and very sensible man must surely know that the leficiency must be supplied, and in order to supply this, a tax must be levied upon some article that entered into the consumption of the country. Some had said, "put the duty on Well, there was a duty on rum as highum. is it would bear, and if taxed more, it would afford inducement to smuggle it, and the object would be wholly defeated, and not so much revenue derived from it as was under the existiug tariff. It had also been proposed to put an additional tax upon dry gools, but in his opinion, this article was high enough already and would not well bear any more, and to put a high dury upon this commodity would be contending only against the interests of England, the head of the British Empire, of which empire we formed a part. We should not lovy such a tax upon British fabrics as would shut them out of our market, but it would be wiser policy on our part to encourage trade with England, that country which is ready to throw the mantle of protection

the required amount, the im post he though was judicious, and he hoped it would be sustained. Molasses was a bulky article and could not be smuggled or the duty evaded. He had given considerable attention to the matter, and there were many poor people, who, before the construction of Railroads, could scarcely obtain question.

French poople of Westmorland quite as well and competent as his colleague Mr. Gilbert. He thought Mr. Gilbert took more in hand, and arrogated more to himself, than he was justified in doing. He (Mr. L.) thought he had the interests of the French as much at heart, and understood what they required as well as his colleague, and he (Mr. L.) was sure that a tax of two cents per gallon on molasses would not be objected to by them. The French had been very well provided for out of the Treasury, and had got what they thought they were entitled to in fairness and justice, and they were not an unreasonable people, and when necessity arose for them to contribute towards the public funds they were ready to do so without grumbling .---He saw the necessity for raising the revenue and would vote for a tax of two cents per gallon on molasses. He was not bound to any Government or party, and did not expect anything from this or any other Executive, and upon this occasion the vote he would give would be independent and untrammelled. He voted for the measure because he believed sincerely that it

was necessary to tax the articles in order to provide means to meet the exigencies of the times. Dr. Dow said that he did not talk much, as he considered that hon. members had a good deal to learn, and it was wiser policy to think well before acting. When the question of mo lasses first came under the consideration of the House he thought that the matter of two cents per gallon was not worth wasting the time of the country talking about, and he had not yet changed his opinion in this respect, but for some purpose which he could easily understand, what was at first a mole hill had been magnified into a mountain. The fact was the country was in debt, and that debt must be paid, and it he thought that debt was not an honest one ho would be among the first to cry out against taxing the people to pay it; but it was an honest debt, and it must be provided for in order to sustain the credit of the country. A portion of our liability had been incurred in the construct tion of the Railway, but the amount it cost had been for the most part distributed among the people, but the real and primary cause of our

present difficulty was the falling off of imports

and exports, and the consequent deficiency in the revenue : and when the revenue of a country temporarily fails to meet liabilities and emer gencies, it becomes necessary to provide the required amount by some other means. Now the only means was to increase the tariff on articles that were imported into the country, and such articles as would bear a duty without encouraging violations of the revenue laws. The men of York County would not thank him for standing up in this House and proclaiming, their poverty if they were really poor; they did not desire him to tell the House and the country that they were unable to pay two cents upon molasses. It had been asked why not tax tobacco? That was taxed already about as much as it would bear, and if any higher duty was imposed, it would lead men to smuggle the article, and thus the very object for which the tax was imposed would be deteated. It was proposed to tax silks and satins, but they now paid 17] per cent, and this was a high duty to place upon articles that could not be manufactured in the country, and he was confident from what knew of the tricks of trade, that any further addition to the impost would encourage smuggling. Not long since he had read in an English paper an account of a lady who smuggied about £400 worth of French lace into New York. She had it concealed about her person, and the

object was to evade paying duty upon it. He must confess that the most sensible speech he had heard to-day was the brief one made by the hon. member from Westmorland, Mr. Landry. That gentleman had taken a sound and practical view of the case. Some hon. members had cried " why don't you cut down salaries, and retrench in various ways by docking the pay of all persons about the Assembly from the Attor ney General down to the man that saws the wood for the House?" He thought the salaries

railway running within 11 miles He could not afford time to produce statistics to prove the advantages of Railways; he knew that in the States of Vermont and New Hampshire a subsistence ; but now this class of persons made Mr. LANDRY could speak on behalf of the s good and decent living, by gathering berries, and transporting them by Railway to the Boston Market. He had heard no arguments yet to con-vince him that it would be impolite to levy a tax of two cents per gallon on Molasses, and he would vote for it. He believed that if he should now go among his colleagues, and tell them that the House proposed putting on this duty, the re-ply would be "we wish they would put on 4 cents by that means, we could get a Railway thro York County." There were not many poor peo-ple in the County, and he was happy to be able to say it; and this would apply more particuly to the country districts, where the inhabitants were comfortable indeed. There might be in the City of Fredericton some rich, in aristocratio pretensions, but poor in purse, but that was their own fault ; take the inhabitants of York as a body, and they were a contented, thrifty, and well to do people. He was astonished to witness such a desire to talk upon this matter on the part of some hon. members, but all the talk had not convinced him that the tax would operate against the interests of the country.

Mr. STEVENS was astonished that there had been such a cry got up about this proposed tax upon molasses. Silks, satins, and all other artiles gave way to molasses. Molasses now moved all and everything from the Government House to the poorest Hamlet, without any exception. The tocsin of alarm had been sounded, the cry had been raised, and the echo was, "tax not the poor, have pity on the people, drain not the wi-dows cup to the last drop." It would seem that there was "death" in the molasses cup; his hon. friend Mr. Ryan, had raised his voice on behalf of the poor, and implored the House not to touch the widows cup, not to take away the last drop of this luxury from the poor. What a song could be raised on molasses. The champions of molas ses had cried. " down with education. down with salaries, down with all appropriations, but touch not molasses." They would fain lead the House to believe that the people had been, brought up on molasses, and that they could not exist without that article, and that it must not upon any consideration be fouched, but must be allowed to stand in its purity upon its virgin beauty. Bat, who proposed stopping the supply of molas-ses? What was this cry all about? Why, because the Government intended to impose a duty of two cents per gallon upon it. Now he would say to the House, that he was not prepared to vote for two cents, but would go for one, not be cause Charlotte County could not afford to bear two cents, but he wanted to give the people of St. Stephen an advantage over the people of Ca-lais. He was as willing to advance the general interests of the Province as any member of the House, but when the interests of the Province went against the interests of Charlette County, then he would go for Charlotte before the Province. There was a great deal of reason in what had been said regarding retrenchment, and notwithstanding it had been said that hobby had been ridden to death, he believed there was yet room for the pruning knife. He had made up his mind to vote for one cent.

Mr. S. H. GILBERT said : He felt that he would not be doing justice to himself, as well as to the independent electors of the County of Queens, were he to allow the present question of an additional tax on molasses to pass by with merely a silent vote. The hon. mem ber from Charlotte (Mr. Stevens) had entertained the Committee with a long dissertation on molasses, but he (Mr. G.) felt it his duty in order to represent the opinions of a portion of his constituents at least, to state their opinions as to the propriety of imposing a tax of two cents per gallon on molasses. He would inform the Committee that he had just received three petitions,-one from Abr Wiggins and fifty-five other inhabitants of Waterborough, praying that the Representa-tives of Qucen's County will vote against the proposed additional duty upon sugar and moand 91 electors of the Parish of Johnston ; and

