

COLONIAL.

[From Nelson's Gazette.]

QUEBEC, JANUARY 22.—The General Meeting of the members of the Quebec Constitutional Association and sponsors of the petition to His Majesty and both houses of the Imperial Parliament, praying for justice, was held last evening at the Albion Hotel, to take into consideration the report of the Executive Committee on the present state of affairs regarding the complaints contained in their petitions. It was the most numerous political meeting ever held at Quebec, and the Resolutions, with some amendments suggested to the Executive Committee by the deputies from Montreal, passed with hardly a dissenting voice. A Resolution was introduced, leaving the General Assembly of the persons to be selected by the petitioners to determine on the expediency of a General Congress of the North American Provinces, to submit their views on the general interests of the Province to His Majesty and the Imperial Parliament.

Messrs. Neilson, Duval, Aylwin, Pemberton, Young, Coffin, Lloyd, and Davidson addressed the meeting. Messrs. Walker, Penn, and Holmes, the Montreal deputies, attended, and were received with universal applause. Mr. Walker, at the close, addressed a few words of thanks to the meeting. The report of the proceedings, from their great length will not appear till Monday.

We refer to the clear and public-spirited speech of Sir John Colborne, on the opening of the Upper Canada Legislature, on the 14th inst., who lately informed Lord Glenelg, that if he wished his despatches to be executed, he might send out a Governor that would do so, for his opinion was against them. Sir John alluded very partially to the circumstance of his recall, in the last paragraph of his speech; but the whole of it is conspicuously marked by a warm feeling of attachment to the Province, by a decisive approbation of the improvement and progress of the people, in education, in agriculture, in commerce, in immigration, and in internal improvement, and a hearty assurance that English institutions will always prevail. This is the spirit of an English officer, not of a person who submits to any thing or every thing, and is governed by the thousand-tongue rumours or the contemptible intrigues of perfumed men, moved by a silly ambition or by personal avarice.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.—SUPPLY.

JAN. 25.—We have seen a copy, in French, of the Resolutions to be submitted to the Assembly to-night, by Mr. Morin, in Committee of Supply. They are more diffuse and indistinct than Mr. Morin's compositions usually are; but they may be understood.

In substance, they say that the House was right in withholding the supplies, for the remedy of abuses and obtaining the constitutional changes indicated in the Ninety-two Resolutions; that it persists, and will persist, in these Resolutions; but, to testify its confidence in His Majesty's Government, and in the principles set forth in His Excellency's speech, it will vote the arrears and a supply for the current year, with such deductions as it may see fit; and also, under the same restrictions, the advances made by the British Government; and an indemnity for payments made since 1833; "contingencies," we suppose, included.

That among the declarations and acts of the Administration, which induce the House to depart from the withholding the supplies, the assurance given, that all the revenue received in the Colony, "from whatever source," is one of the most important; and the House hopes it will, speedily, be carried into effect.

It is, however, declared, that it will be necessary to secure the control of the House over all the revenue raised, in the mean time, and particularly over that part claimed as the hereditary revenue of the Crown; and that the House ought to persevere in its Resolution of 1833, claiming these revenues.

We suppose that these Resolutions will pass. But they will be attempted to be carried into effect, is uncertain. It has been said that the bills, *en l'air*, will be sent to the Legislative Council, as during the administration of Sir Francis Burt, Sir Jas. Kempt, and the two first years of Lord Aylmer's administration.

The result of the whole is very uncertain. So far, the pretensions of the House and the Home Government are nearly the same as formerly: the control of all the revenue, *without condition*, is claimed by the House, while the Home Government will only consent to give up "the hereditary revenue" of the Crown, on the condition of "an adequate Civil List," as is practised in England. If the parties agree, there must be receding or *mythification*, and perhaps both.

In the mean time, those who pay the money had better "keep a sharp lookout," or they will be most unmercifully plundered and oppressed. The place-men have sometimes secured, in this way, but the "French origin" place-hunters becoming plumed, *united* with the Assembly, of the same origin, would scourge them with scorpions.

In the Assembly, on the 27th January, on motion of Mr. O'Callaghan the House resolved to take into consideration, in Committee, on the 11th February next, certain passages touching the State of this Province, in the Speech delivered by Sir John Colborne, Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada, at the opening of the Parliament of that Province, on Thursday, the 14th January, instant.—*Id.*

FEB. 1.—Sir Francis Head arrived on Saturday, the 23d ult., at Toronto, and was sworn in on the 25th. Sir John Colborne would, with Lady Colborne and family, set out for Montreal on Tuesday, and arrive there, probably, to-day. The *Christian Guardian*, of Toronto, a paper conducted by the Wesleyan Conference, speaks in the very highest terms of Sir John and Lady Colborne, a valuable authority, of whose impartiality there can be no doubt.—*Nelson's Gaz.*

COMMUNICATION.

MR. CHUBB.—I perceive that *Theophilus* in your last paper, appears to be much concerned for the public, least they should be put to inconvenience in consequence of a Road being made *passable* from the bridge at Norton to the Forks, (as he calls it) at Grosse Pointe. I am sorry to be informed that the public should sleep while such things are going on.

I would ask *Theophilus*, what route was expected to have been pursued, when the Legislature was pleased to sanction the building of a Bridge over the Kennebec River, in Norton, or whether there is any bridge to be pursued, after the bridge for Saint John.

I do not feel disposed to follow that disinterested gentleman, "who has no other motives in view but to serve the public," through all his investigations against three hundred and thirty-five persons, the nations he has been pleased to disapprove of, as well as the two enterprising Gentlemen who have advanced a large sum, at great hazard, for the building of the Bridge, nor his reproach upon the Commission of Highways, to be pursued, and attempt to lay out a Road; but proceed more directly to answer some of the questions which he considers of such importance.

He is pleased to ask first—"Will it shorten the distance?"—I answer, it is supposed to shorten it one seventh part; and some say more. Second—"Will the accommodation to the public be equivalent to the expense of purchasing the privilege from individuals?"—This law makes no provision for payment where the Road passes through unimproved land; and the small of the bill is scarcely to be paid for the land, and it is well known that there are many hills to be crossed on the other road; and some of the rocky hills between Hampton Ferry and the Church, always exposed to heavy snow drifts, and then consider the difference in distance, and the bill will show the public to judge and answer the question.

Fourth—"Will it be as easily kept in repair as the others?"—I can only say that the greater part (and I do not know but the whole) is good ground for a road; and I will leave it to the public to judge, whether there is more to fear from a well made road, upon level land, than on that which is more hilly.

Fifth—"Will the public, generally, be satisfied?"—I am satisfied with what I have with a shorter and more level road, and I will leave this question for the public to answer also.

Now, Mr. Chubb, I have only to say that the public, as far as my knowledge goes, is not only well satisfied, but thankful to the Commissioners of Highways, for their great attention and more level road, and I will leave it to the public to judge, whether there is more to fear from a well made road, upon level land, than on that which is more hilly.

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possibility of a mistake. They were liable to commit error, but they had to do so, to make out a good case for themselves. It was very important indeed, (said the hon. Speaker,) that we should be able to show the Legislature, that we had a legitimate market, and that to which we should like to trade, we can nevertheless have another as good, if not better, even at our door. This, he thought, was the best hint that could be thrown out.

Mr. L. A. Wilnot, in commenting on the subject, said, that in all the addresses presented to His Majesty upon this all-absorbing subject, the argument made use of was—that the present timber trade furnished a market for British manufactures, and thereby gave an unbounded latitude of action to the manufacturing genius of Britain. This argument has been so frequently advanced, that it is now quite thread bare. Another argument used is—that the present timber trade furnishes a nursery for seamen—a cradle for the navy—and never failing markets for the woolen wares of Britain. We have also very frequently used as an argument, the losses to be incurred by those who have vested their capitals in the timber trade, should the necessary duties be imposed on the importation of lumber. These have been our arguments—our frequent and repeated arguments—and will they not be weakened by that expression in the address. Will not the government say—why, the North American colonists, and particularly the United States, have a market for their lumber, and we can give them, and what detriment can accrue to them from the imposition of duties on their wood? they tell us that the timber trade is a nursery for seamen, and as they will carry on that trade, we shall have a market for the same number of ships that they have now, and the nursery of seamen cannot be affected by the duties. He (Mr. W.) liked the idea of the hint very much, but it ought to be qualified by giving it a future significance.

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by which means a new and more extensive market will be thrown open for our lumber. Mr. End moved as an amendment to the following phrase, "though unequal to our business and principles." The amendment was agreed to.

February 6.

On motion of Mr. Rankin, the House adopted several resolutions, responding to His Excellency's message on the subject of Light Houses.

Mr. Crane would take that opportunity of telling the Hon. mover of the resolutions, that it was contemplated very shortly to present an address to His Excellency, with a view to facilitate the arrangements for the erection of a Light House on St. Paul's Island. The resolution expressed a regret that former negotiations entered into with Lower Canada, did not succeed in making that Province so deeply interested in the subject as might be expected.

Mr. End was happy to see such a resolution, as it showed the solicitude of the House to adopt the suggestions of His Majesty's Government. He enquired whether St. Paul's Island was private property. Mr. Crane stated, that it was private property and under the jurisdiction of Nova-Scotia, and as nothing could be done in the business without the consent of that Province, the principal object of the resolution was to learn the views entertained by the Government of that Province on the subject.

Mr. Brown reported that the committee appointed to present an Address to His Excellency, praying that he would cause to be laid before the House, a detailed account of the incomes of King's College, and the expenditure of the same, had attended to that duty, and that His Excellency was pleased to say that they would cause such information to be laid before the House.

On motion of Mr. L. A. Wilnot, it was resolved to present an Address to His Majesty, praying for the introduction of an established rule, authorising the Custom House officers to take American Dollars at the same value with Spanish and Mexican Dollars. Messrs. Wilnot and Partelow were appointed to prepare the address.

The House went into a committee of the whole to consider a bill to establish a Provincial Lunatic Asylum. Mr. Weldon in the chair.

After some conversation on the subject, it seemed to be a prevalent opinion that \$5000 would be sufficient to defray the expense to be incurred by the erection of such an establishment—and that some place about six miles from St. John, would best answer for the site for the same.

Mr. Chandler said, he had too much experience in buildings, to be persuaded that \$5000 would be sufficient; for instance the Government House; and in a word, every public building in the province, cost double the sum originally contemplated. He did not feel inclined to put his hand in the public chest without further consideration.

Mr. Johnston would wish to see a plan and specification of the building before he would give grant for that purpose. He had no idea that \$5000 would be sufficient for the erection of an Asylum that would be at all adequate to the exigencies of the province. Ten or fifteen thousand pounds in his opinion would be little enough to put an institution of that kind into operation.

Mr. Partelow did not think it would cost \$5000 but whatever might be the expense, humanity called aloud upon that house to provide for an institution of the kind. He knew several unfortunate lunatics to have been confined in the prison of St. John, suffering the miseries of a common gaol, because there was no other asylum to receive them. A grant of two or three thousand pounds would satisfy him, but he wanted the bill passed at all events, to remove the reproach which the non-existence of such an institution brought upon the province.

Mr. Speaker said he could not speak with any great decision as to the sum which the erection of the building would require. He did not profess to be intimate with the subject, although he had the honor of being one of the Committee appointed by the sessions to prepare the bill—but if it was only to take away the reproach from the province, something should be done, the building ought to commence. Every consideration pointed out the necessity of such an institution, and if \$5000 would not be enough it was competent for that house to make an additional grant.

Mr. Crane thought the better way to proceed would be, to move an address to His Excellency, praying him to appoint suitable persons as Commissioners to fix on a site, and furnish information relative to the establishment. He thought \$5000 would be enough to build an Asylum large enough for all the lunatics that would be in this Province, and before the discussion took place, he was of opinion that \$3000 would be quite enough. A building of the same size with the Baptist Seminary would be large enough, and he did not suppose that cost \$3000. It was his opinion that more than twenty lunatics would never be found under the roof of the Asylum, and surely \$3000 ought to build a house large enough to accommodate that number of persons. However, it was better not to name any particular sum till further information on the subject could be obtained.

Mr. Speaker thought that something should be done immediately, because they were now under the necessity of sending poor lunatics to Boston, there being no proper place for their reception in the Province.

After some observations from Col. Wyer, Messrs. Robinson, Brown, Slason, and Mr. Wilnot, to the same effect, the further consideration of the bill was postponed; and the House adjourned.

February 8.

On motion of Mr. Miles the House went into a committee of the whole to consider a bill to continue an act relating to insolvent confined debtors.

Mr. Clinch moved as an amendment that five shillings per week be allowed for the maintenance of insolvent confined debtors instead of four shillings per week.

After some remarks from Messrs. Weldon and End, as to the difficulty of complying with the nice construction of the present law, in the payment of four shillings, the amendment was agreed to. It appeared that the statement of these Hon. members, that in some cases debtors receive an Irish penny piece as part of their weekly allowance, such penny piece not being legal currency. The difficulty can now be obviated by a Spanish Dollar. Mr. End also moved an amendment the substance of which was that when an insolvent debtor is discharged by a legal order, the Sheriff or Gaoler shall have no power to detain him for fees: this amendment was also agreed to, and the bill was ordered to be engrossed.

On motion of Mr. Brown, Resolved, that an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, praying that His Excellency will be pleased to direct to be laid before the House a detailed account of the income and expenditure of King's College, for the year 1835, and the names of the students now residing in the said College.

Messrs. Brown, Slason, and Palmer, a Committee to wait upon His Excellency with the address.

Mr. L. A. Wilnot moved for leave to bring in a bill, to provide for the opening of the Speeches of the House of Assembly in this Province. Leave granted.

Mr. L. A. Wilnot, from the Committee appointed to wait upon His Excellency with the Address of the House of the 4th inst., praying that His Excellency would be pleased to cause to be laid before this House copies of any instructions which His Excellency may have received from His Majesty's Government, relative to the selling, granting and disposing of the Crown Lands in this Province, in addition to those furnished in the year 1835, reported, that they had attended to that duty, and that His Excellency was pleased to say, in answer thereto, that he had not received any instructions in addition to those already before the House.

Messrs. Rankin, Wyer, and Crane, were appointed a Committee to present the Address to His Excellency.

FROM THE JOURNALS.

Monday, February 1.

Mr. Brown, from the Committee to whom was referred that part of His Excellency's Speech, submitted a Report, which he read, and landed in the same at the Clerk's Table, where it was again read, and is as follows:—

"The Committee appointed to take into consideration that part of the Speech of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, which relates to the present state of this Province, and which is in opinion—that the present Road system is in some degree defective, owing to the small amount of labour in the Districts where the population is scattering, and the inhabitants are poor.

That to this evil no effectual remedy can be applied, but that a more judicious application of the money, in such places, and in such manner as the state of the roads may require; but as the Committee are also of opinion, however beneficial the system of assessment might be, it would be impracticable to introduce it in the present state of this Province, and a judicious application of grants of money, will, in a great degree remedy the evils of the present road law, by supplying the deficiency of labour where the population is scattering, they cannot recommend such a total alteration in the present Law, as would be a total ruin to the Province.

"The Committee however, after a careful examination of the law now in force, and diligent enquiry into the practical operation of the same, have discovered that several amendments and alterations therein are necessary, in order to make it more efficient; which alterations and amendments they have embodied in a Bill, which the Committee have prepared for that purpose, and which is herewith respectfully submitted.

"JAMES BROWN, JUN. J. A. STREET, PHILIP PALMER. "Committee-Room, 20th Jan. 1836." Ordered, that the Bill be accepted.

Tuesday, February 2.

Mr. Burns, by leave, presented a Petition from the Rev. James Dunphy, James Boyle, and others, on behalf of the Roman Catholic Population of Saint John, praying a grant in aid of individual subscription towards the establishment and support of a Free School at that place; which he read. Ordered, that the said Petition be received, and referred to the Committee of Supply.

Mr. Johnston, by leave, presented a petition from Lauchlan Donaldson, Samuel Scott, Esquires, and 66 others, of the City of Saint John and Queen's County, praying a Committee may be appointed to examine during the recess, the petition of the inhabitants of Indian Town in the County of Saint John, praying that the Bill for the incorporation of the Portland Mills and Tunnel Company may not pass into a Law; which he read. Ordered, that the said Petition be received, and lie on the table.

Mr. Partelow, by leave, presented a Petition from William Angles, Barnes Travis, Samuel Dalton, and fifty-six others, inhabitants of Indian Town in the County of Saint John, praying that the Bill for the incorporation of the Portland Mills and Tunnel Company may not pass into a Law; which he read. Ordered, that the said Petition be received, and lie on the table.

Mr. Partelow, by leave, presented a Petition from James Whitney, of Saint John, praying that the usual Legislative Grant allowed him for carrying the Mails by steam to and from Annapolis, Digby, Saint John, and other places, may be continued; which he read. Ordered, that the said Petition be received, and referred to the Committee of Supply.

Mr. Stewart, by leave, presented a Petition from Perry Dunmore, and John Montgomery, Gentlemen, of Saint John, praying that the said Petition be received, and referred to the Committee of Supply.

Mr. Burns, by leave, presented a Petition from the Mayor, Aldermen, and Commonalty of the City of Saint John, praying that an Act may pass to incorporate the Portland Mills and Tunnel Company, which may interfere with the rights of the said Company, as granted them by Charter; which he read. Ordered, that the said Petition be received, and lie on the table.

Mr. Johnston, by leave, presented a Petition from the President, Directors, and Company of the Saint John Water Company, praying an Act may pass authorizing them to lay down Gas Pipes in the City of Saint John, and also that they may be possessed in fee of certain Lands in the vicinity of their works; which he read. Ordered, that the said Petition be received, and lie on the table.

Mr. Burns, by leave, presented a Petition from the Mayor, Aldermen, and Commonalty of the City of Saint John, praying a grant may pass in aid of the Corporation Funds towards the extension of the Breakwater, for the better preservation of the Harbour; which he read. Ordered, that the said Petition be received, and referred to the Committee of Supply.

On motion of Mr. L. A. Wilnot—Resolved, That an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, praying that His Excellency will be pleased to cause to be laid before this House copies of any instructions which His Excellency may have received from His Majesty's Government, relative to the selling, granting, and disposing of the