

UNITED STATES.

SENATE.—AN IMPORTANT REPORT.

THE COMMITTEE OF FOREIGN RELATIONS ON THE BOUNDARY QUESTION.

The Committee on Foreign Relations, to which was referred the several messages of the President of the United States, communicating to Congress, at its present session, certain official correspondence in relation to the question of the territory in dispute with Great Britain on our Northern frontier, and also certain Resolutions of the Legislature of Maine on the same subject, report,—

That they have had the same under consideration, and now deem it expedient to communicate to the Senate their views for not making, at the present moment, a general report upon the whole subject. They feel that they will best perform this duty, by placing clearly and distinctly before the Senate the existing state and condition of the pending negotiation between the two Governments.

The President of the United States, in his annual message of December last, informed the Congress that, "for the settlement of our North Eastern Boundary, the proposition promised by Great Britain for a commission of exploration and survey, has been received, and a counter project, including also a provision for the certain and final adjustment of the limits in dispute, is now before the British Government for consideration." The President has not thought it advisable to communicate this counter project to Congress; yet we have his assurance, on which the most confident reliance may be placed, that it is of such a character as will, should it be accepted, finally settle the question. This proposition was officially communicated to that Government during the last summer.

Mr. Fox, the British Minister, in his note of the 24th January last, doubtless with a perfect knowledge of the nature of the project which had been submitted by the American Government to that of Great Britain, assures Mr. Forsyth, "that he not only preserves the hope, but he entertains the firm belief, that if the duty of negotiating the boundary question be left in the hands of the two National Governments, to whom alone of right it belongs, the difficulty of conducting the negotiation to an amicable issue will not be found so great as has been by many persons apprehended." And in his subsequent note of March 13, 1840, he states, that he has been instructed to declare, "that her Majesty's Government are only waiting for the detailed report of the British Commissioners recently employed to survey the disputed territory, which report, it was believed, would be completed and delivered to Her Majesty's Government by the end of the present month (March), in order to transmit to the Government of the United States a reply to their last proposal upon the subject of the boundary negotiation." Thus we may reasonably expect that this reply will be received by the President during the present month, (April) or early in May.

While such is the condition of the principal negotiation, the committee have deemed it expedient, at this time, to report upon the subordinate though important question in relation to the temporary occupation of the disputed territory. They trust that the answer of the British Government may be of such a character as to render a report upon this latter subject unnecessary. In any event, they have every reason to believe that the state of suspense will be but of brief duration.

The committee, ever since this embarrassing and exciting question has been first presented for their consideration, have been anxious that the Government of the United States should constantly preserve itself in the right; and hitherto the desire has been fully accomplished. The territorial rights of Maine have been uniformly asserted, and a firm determination to maintain them has been invariably evinced; though this has been done in an amicable spirit. So far as the committee can exercise any influence over the subject, they are resolved, that if war should be the result, which they confidently hope may not be the case, this war shall be rendered inevitable, by the conduct of the British Government. They have believed this to be the surest mode of uniting every American heart and every American arm in defence of the just rights of the country.

It is but justice to remark, that the Executive branch of the Government has, from the beginning, been uniformly guided by the same spirit, and has thus far pursued a firm, consistent, and prudent course, throughout the whole negotiation with Great Britain.

Whilst the committee can perceive no adequate cause, at the present moment, for anticipating hostilities between the two countries, they would not be understood as expressing the opinion that the country should not be prepared to meet any emergency. The question of peace or war may, in a great degree, depend upon the answer of the British Government, now speedily expected.

UNITED STATES SENATE, April 14.—After the reading of the report, Mr. Wright rose and said, that he had called for its reading with a view of printing an extra number of copies. He lived near a border town, and his constituents, without cause, as he thought, had been alarmed by the recent correspondence.

The report which the Committee on Foreign Relations had presented, would allay excitement and restore harmony. He heartily approved of it, and thought that the extra numbers ought to be printed.

Mr. Buchanan said, he did not design, as one of the committee, to have an extra number of copies printed.—It was very short, and would find a place in all the papers of the country.

Mr. Clay, of Kentucky, as one of the committee, assented to this report.

Mr. Wright said, he lived on the frontier, and he believed that the great preparations in the provinces were made with a view of self-protection, or to prevent any violence on the part of the disaffected people of the province. He did not believe there was any design on the part of Great Britain to place these troops in Canada with a view of making war upon the United States.

Mr. Ruggles, of Me. said that this document, upon the face of it, appeared a peace document. Heretofore we had been favoured with war documents. There were some who desired the settlement of the question in controversy at the expense of a war. His own constituents felt a deep interest in the subject, and he did not believe that the report would be as satisfactory to them as the recent correspondence between the Secretary of State and the British Minister. That correspondence led many of them to hope that the Government would take strong measures, and do something that would lead to a settlement of the vexed question. There was one question which Maine regarded more than peace or war, and that question was national honour and the maintenance of the rights of the State.

Mr. Ruggles said, he could have wished for a fuller report—for a more bold opinion—for something more decisive. In conclusion, Mr. R. said he was indifferent as to the number of copies printed. The documents ordered in the early part of the session were not supplied until the third set were ordered to be printed. The last came first and the first last. If a similar delay was to take place, there would be no value in the report.

Mr. Buchanan said, that the remarks of the Senator from Maine rendered it necessary that he should say a word or two in reply. The report had been denounced by the Senator, and he did not believe that the citizens of Maine would sustain him in that denunciation. The report re-asserted the right of Maine to the territory in dispute. It contemplated no abandonment of those rights, but in view of the news from England, and the peculiar state of things, it contemplated a postponement of action until an answer was received to the recent correspondence, and the proposition of the Government in July last. Mr. B. said, that the Committee on Foreign Affairs would stand by Maine to the last, and report nothing to the disparagement of her claims.

Mr. Ruggles said that he was at a loss to know for what reason the Senator from Pennsylvania had said

that he had denounced the report.—For aught he knew, the report was the best which could have been made under all the circumstances.

In continuing his remarks, Mr. R. said, I have never, at any time, believed that a war would come, or was necessary. I have never apprehended any collision, and I have founded this opinion upon the justice of the cause of Maine—upon her right to the territory in dispute. I believe, moreover, that Great Britain, in such a cause as this, and with the opinion of the world against her, will not willingly engage in a war.

Mr. Clay said, he was happy to hear the Senator from Maine say that he was not for war. If there was a war party it was a criminal one. He was pleased to believe that the dominant party was opposed to war. The opinion of the country was against war, and no party but a criminal party could be found to defend a war. There were but two ways of settling this question, continued Mr. Clay. By war, or by negotiation. The Senate and the country were much interested in this question, and, though not as much interested as Maine, it was a question for the Government alone to settle. While, said Mr. Clay, I believe the people of Maine as patriotic, and as wise, and as brave as the citizens of any other section of the country, I cannot consent that Maine should take this question from the General Government.—If by negotiation the question is to be settled, the Executive and the Senate must settle it. If by war, this Government alone is to declare war. I can feel, I do feel, the position of Maine; but cannot consent that she should take any power from the General Government into her own hands. There are two securities, said Mr. C. against the opinion of war. Great Britain cannot, when the right is with us, be willing to make the question a war question; and he believed, he added, that she would come to this conclusion upon an examination of the question. But supposing, added Mr. C., that upon an investigation, she should think that the right was with her—Were we then to make the question one of war? No two nations speaking the same language would go to war upon this question. No, said Mr. Clay, not until all other methods fail. By the treaty of Ghent, there is said to be a subsisting provision, which makes it necessary to refer this matter to arbitration. The reference to the King of the Netherlands was an abortion—a failure—so considered and so regarded by all parties. The treaty of '83 then remains as it was, and the provision for arbitration is still in force. With regard to the fortifications, about which so much has been said, he did not regard them, they had given him no inquietude. England was the weaker power—and we are now ten thousand times better prepared for war to-morrow, than when we had declared it before, whether on ocean or on land. Look to the means of transportation, the New York Canals, the countless railroads, the augmentation of population pressing up in dense masses on the British borders. What had we to fear, with sixteen millions of freemen, with brave hearts and stout arms?—The very idea was preposterous! Look at England, her threatened war with China, her Ministers holding by doubtful tenure, the revenue deficient for the ordinary expenses, and what had we to fear? He did not mention these things for the purpose of assailing, but for showing the position in which England stood. The committee had told you, in a question like this, so solemn, so awful, so tremendous in its consequences, "we have made this report for quieting the public mind, and to induce Maine to wait until we hear from England in answer to our project."

The motion was then put to the Senate upon printing, and ten thousand extra copies were ordered.

In the House of Assembly, Saturday, April 25th, 1840.

ORDERED, That the following Petition to the British House of Commons be twice inserted in each of the Newspapers published in Charlottetown. By order of the House, W. CULLEN, Clerk.

To the Right Honorable and Honorable the Knights, Citizens and Burgesses of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled.

The Petition of the House of Assembly of Prince Edward Island; Most respectfully sheweth— That since this Colony became a place of abode for British subjects, it has laboured under a grievance which has every year been increasing in magnitude, and results from the land having been granted to individuals in Townships of 20,000 acres. Along with many disadvantages, one principal evil flowed from the terms of these grants, and from the indulgence extended to the grantees, through their influence with men in power, and this was, that the majority of the agriculturists were kept under thralldom by the grantees and their assigns; and the chief means of their so doing was by the exaction of a rent, which bore so hard on the individual entering on the forest to clear it away, and then raise a living for his family, that he was plunged into debt, from which, in many instances, he was never able to get free, and which, at all times, was a most serious burden and discouragement.

Your Petitioners further submit, that at different times, since 1795, the Colony has applied for redress, by forwarding statements to the Colonial Department; and in 1802, a remedy was pointed out by the late Lord Hobart, viz. the establishment of a Court of Escheat; but this measure, which would have been efficient for removing the evils complained of, was defeated, through the ignorance of the mass of the people, in regard to the way in which such offer should have been made effectual, and through the misrepresentations of the grantees and their agents: That at different times since 1802, the matter has been moved in the House of Assembly; but as, since 1832, the exaction of rents has been more rigorous, the whole Colony has been in perpetual agitation, for which no remedy can be found, but the removal of the principal grievance.

When your Petitioners make this statement, it behoves them to prove it, and without building on the various representations of the House of Assembly to the Colonial Department, supported by examinations, and all contained in the copies of the Journals of this House, transmitted to the Colonial Office—we crave leave to refer to an authority which, it is presumed, will not be disputed, viz.—the Report of the Right Honorable the Earl of Durham, and the evidence taken before the Commissioners who accompanied that nobleman.

Had a Court of Escheat been established then, the Grantees must have lost their claim to the land, and received a compensation for any outlay they had made; and the people of the Colony did not doubt that the Crown, when aware of the real state of the Island, would not, as landlord, have imposed on them inequitable conditions. During the past eight years, repeated applications for a Court of Escheat have been rejected by the Colonial Minister; and as a last measure for doing away with agitation, by alleviating this weighty grievance, your Petitioners have passed a Bill for purchasing, within ten years, the forfeited claims of the grantees of Townships and their representatives, at a price which is fully as high as the agriculturists, by their utmost exertions, can, within that time, make good, and higher than the average price of wilderness land in the neighbouring Colonies, and higher than the average price of such land in this Island, when valued by juries, or when exposed to public sale for non-payment of taxes, as appears from the returns in the Report by the Earl of Durham.

Your Petitioners submit, that the Surveyor General of this Island has valued the Crown Lands at 20s. per acre; but while your Petitioners cannot herein enter into all the circumstances which would prove his valuation as incorrect, they may briefly state, that it is refuted by the sales above referred to, and by the fact of his having been obliged to give to one Officer of the Army land bordering on the Town of Georgetown, at Ten Shillings per acre, as being, from its locality, double the value of the generality of Crown Lands in this Island.

As the Crown has the right to escheat all the Townships, your petitioners most earnestly request, that you will be pleased so far to exercise your constitutional influence with Her Majesty's Ministers, that they may be led to give instructions to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, that it is the determination of the Crown to recommend to His Excellency the Bill, a copy of which has been forwarded to the Colonial Office, and to which your Petitioners beg to refer you; or else to compel the Grantees or their Assigns to demand such price as the Report by the Earl of Durham shall warrant, or such rents as shall correspond thereto, at fifteen years' purchase.

Your Petitioners submit, that the above are the only real remedies for the grievance herein complained of, for the penal tax proposed by the Earl of Durham will not relieve those who are at present under rent, and who comprise three-fourths of the population.

Your Petitioners further submit, that this, like other Colonies, has suffered great disadvantages from the opposition of the Council to reforms proposed by the Assembly; but that, in this respect, we have suffered what no other Colony has suffered for the last hundred years; for the Council, composed chiefly of the heirs and representatives and agents of the Grantees, has not only opposed these reforms, but has done the country the far greater evil of endeavouring to frustrate that amelioration, in regard to the tenure of land, which the circumstances of the country imperiously require.

May it therefore please your Honourable House to take measures for the removal of the heavy grievances affecting the agricultural interest in this Colony in regard to the tenure of land. And your Petitioners, &c.

TEMPERANCE ESSAY. At a General Meeting of the Charlottetown Temperance Society, held on the 6th April inst. it was unanimously—

RESOLVED, That a Committee be appointed, to provide a fund, and make the necessary arrangements for offering a Prize for the best Essay upon the subject of the Traffic in Ardent Spirits, as bearing upon the civil, political, domestic, moral and physical interests of this Colony—such Essay to be the production of a member of a Temperance Society.

In conformity with the above Resolution, the Committee beg leave to acquaint the Friends of Temperance, that Subscription Lists for the purpose of raising a Fund for the object mentioned in the said Resolution, are now lying for signature at the Stores of Mr. Peake, Mr. C. Welsh, and Mr. T. Desbrisay, Queen Street; at Mr. John Boyer's, Richmond Street; Mr. George Beer's, King's Square, and at the Colonial Herald Printing Office.

LIFE AND FIRE INSURANCE. POLICIES will be issued by the Subscriber, in either of the above departments, on the most reasonable terms.

CHARLES YOUNG, Agent of the "ETNA" and "ALLIANCE" Insurance Companies. Charlottetown, Dec. 11, 1838.

NEW STORE AT GEORGETOWN. ALEXANDER TAYLOR informs the public that he has commenced business in the store lately occupied by A. Macdonald, Esq., at Georgetown, with a very extensive and well assorted stock of General Merchandise.

The above stock of Goods was purchased under circumstances, and will be disposed of at prices, which must entitle the proprietor to a share of public patronage, and to its inspection the community are respectfully invited. Mr. Taylor will give the highest market prices for Country Produce. Georgetown, 17th December, 1839.

COMMISSION BUSINESS. THE Subscriber begs leave to announce to his friends, and the public at large, that he has commenced business as an Auctioneer and Commission Merchant, at the Village at the extremity of Bathurst Bridge, very near the premises occupied by Gilmour, Rankin, & Co.—where orders will be thankfully received and business of trust carefully attended to. From his long residence in Bathurst, and general acquaintance with the business of the country, he flatters himself, that implicit confidence will be reposed in his punctuality and desire to promote the interests of his customers.

WILLIAM DEACON. Bathurst, Bay de Chaleur, N. B. Feb. 4, 1840.

SEED WHEAT FOR SALE. THE Subscriber offers for Sale a small quantity of good Seed Wheat. An early application is requisite.

STORAGE. Merchants and others can be accommodated with Storage in that commodious Building opposite the residence of the Hon. Mr. Peake. This Building comprises a Loft suitable for fitting out rigging, &c.—A good Cellar can also be had under the above premises.

K. MACKENZIE. Charlottetown, 1st May, 1840.

BLANK Bills of Exchange, Charter Parties, Seamen's Articles, Bills of Lading, Manifests, Powers of Attorney, Court Subpoenas, Apprentices Indentures, a variety of Magistrates' Blanks, &c. for sale at the Office of the Colonial Herald.

AT A GREAT REDUCTION IN PRICE,

HEAVY Winter Cloths—Pilots, Petershams, Flushings, Buckskins, Tweeds, &c. Flannels, Baizes, Serges, Blankets, Counterpanes, Quilts. A great variety of very superior MERINOS, and other WINTER GOODS, (see Advertisement) will be disposed of on very low terms, if applied for immediately. A few Fur Capes, Tippets, Mantillas, Gloves, &c., at nearly half price.

Also, Kegs Virginia best No. 1, TOBACCO, Do. Halifax manufacture, do. Chests fine CONGOU TEA. ALEXANDER DAVIDSON, Brecken's Corner, No. 1, Queen Street.

All Debts due the Subscriber, and contracted previous to the first of May last, will, if not paid before the 10th day of March, 1840, be placed in the hands of an Attorney for collection. A. DAVIDSON.

JUST RECEIVED, and for Sale by the Subscriber, a general assortment, consisting of: 440 Packages British and West India GOODS, TEAS, FURS, &c. &c. DAVID WILSON.

Dec. 6, 1839.

DISSOLUTION OF CO-PARTNERSHIP.

NOTICE is hereby given, that the Partnership hitherto existing between the undersigned, was on the first day of March, instant, dissolved by mutual consent—their term having on that day expired. All persons having demands against the said firm, are requested to render their accounts for adjustment, and all those indebted are requested to make immediate payment to John Hobs.

JOHN HOBBS, DONALD NICOLSON. Charlottetown, 6th March, 1840.

JOHN HOBBS, Cabinet Maker and Upholsterer, begs leave to acquaint the Inhabitants of Charlottetown, and the public generally, that he is now carrying on the above business, in his Shop in Kent Street, opposite the residence of T. B. Tremain, Esq.; where all orders in his line will be thankfully received; and executed with neatness, punctuality, and on moderate terms.— March 6, 1840.

THE Partnership heretofore subsisting between the Subscribers, under the Firm of Parkin & Pleadwell, carrying on business in Charlottetown and at Crapaud, is this day dissolved, by mutual consent. All persons who stand indebted to the said late firm are requested to make immediate payment of the debts due, at Charlottetown, to Josiah Parkin, and at Crapaud, to Thomas Pleadwell. All accounts remaining unpaid, after the Fifteenth instant, will be sued for without distinction.

JOSIAH PARKIN, THOMAS PLEADWELL. Charlottetown, April 3d, 1840.

CAUTION TO LUMBERERS.

ALL Persons found trespassing upon any of the Estates of the Right Honorable the Earl of SELKIRK, in this Island, by cutting timber, or otherwise, will be prosecuted with the utmost rigour of the Law. Tenants requiring Timber for Farm Buildings, &c. must apply to the subscriber. W. DOUSE, Land Agent.

CAUTION.

ALL Persons are hereby cautioned against cutting or carrying away Timber, or Wood of any description, from that part of Township No. 43, belonging to the Estate of the late Honorable William Townshend, deceased, if they wish to avoid law and law costs.

CHARLES WORRELL, Mortgagee in possession.

APPRENTICES WANTED

BY the Subscriber, two Apprentices, for the Painting, Glazing, and Paper-Hanging Businesses. None need apply without producing testimonials of good character.

J. DAVIS, Painter. Charlottetown, March 4th, 1840.

AURELIAN.

THE THOROUGH-BRED HORSE AURELIAN will stand for the season, commencing 1st May, at the Government House Stables. Terms, Two Pounds, and Five Shillings to the Groom—to be paid at the time.

AURELIAN was imported from England last year by His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, is a chesnut Horse, six years old, by Oppidan, dam by Pioneer, grand dam by Stavelly, &c. &c. Oppidan was got by Reubens, out of Dorina, by Gohanna, &c.

N. B.—Mares not proving in foal last year, will be served on payment of the Groom's fee only. The Aurelian Produce Cup, to be given by His Excellency, will be run for in September, 1843. See advertisement of last year.

CANADIAN HORSE.

THE Celebrated CANADIAN HORSE will stand for the ensuing season at the following places, viz:—At Charlottetown, on Saturday, the 2d May; on Monday, the 4th, at the Subscriber's, Elliot River; on Tuesday and Wednesday, the 5th and 6th, at Mr. Tod's, Sable; on Thursday the 7th and Friday, and 8th, at John Bell's, Cape Traverse; on Saturday and Monday, the 9th and 11th, at Thomas Robins', Bedeque; on Tuesday and Wednesday, the 12th and 13th, at Mr. Townsend's, Travellers' Rest; and on Thursday and Friday, the 14th and 15th, at William W. Lord's, Tryon. To return to the above places every fortnight. JOHN HYDE. Elliot River, April 7, 1840.

CLYDESDALE HORSE COLUMBUS.

THAT beautiful and powerful DRAUGHT HORSE Columbus, imported last summer by the Central Agricultural Society, will stand for the season at the Subscriber's, Princetown Road, in the Royalty of Charlottetown. Season to commence 1st April. Hours of attendance—6, a. m.; 12 noon, and 6 p. m. Terms, Two Pounds. Groom, Five Shillings. Wm. CRANSTON.

CANNON BALL.

THAT beautiful well known-horse CANNON BALL will stand for the season—commencing the First day of May next—at the following places, viz: at Mr. Anthony Dougan's, Mill-cove; at Mr. John Bell's, Covehead; at Mr. Bott's, Rustico, and at Mr. John Macneill's, Cavendish. Will attend at the above places every ninth day successively during the season. Terms made known by the subscriber on applying to him at the said places. JAMES WALSH.

St. Peter's, April 24th, 1840.

CHARLOTTETOWN: Printed and published by JAS. B. COOPER & Co., Printers to the Honorable the House of Assembly, at their Office, East corner of Pownal and Water Streets. —TERMS 15s. per annum, payable half yearly in advance.