

made an amendment, to the effect that nothing in the Bill contained should, in any way, affect the provisions of the Land Settlement Bill now under the consideration of the Legislative Council. The amendment was agreed to, and the Bill ordered to be engrossed.

The Coroner's and Neat Cattle Bills were sent down from the Council, with amendments, and a day was appointed for taking the said amendments into consideration.

A Committee of ten members (Mr. Clark, Chairman,) was appointed, for the purpose of examining and reporting on all petitions presented during the last and present Sessions, on behalf of Temperance.

On motion of Mr. Clark, a call of the House was ordered for Tuesday—no cause was assigned for this rather unusual proceeding.

MONDAY, February, 22.

The Census Bill, the Bill to prevent burying in Towns, and the Bill to continue the Act for preventing the spreading of Infectious Distempers, were severally read a third time, passed, and sent to the Council.

Mr. Palmer presented a Petition from the Ministers, Churchwardens and Vestry of Charlotte Parish, setting forth—that Petitioners are ex-officio Trustees of a certain piece of ground in Charlottetown, which said piece of ground is granted for the purpose of being used as a site for a Church for the celebration of Divine worship therein, according to the rites and ceremonies of the Established Church of England and Ireland, for the said Parish of Charlotte; and that by the limitations of the Grant, petitioners are precluded from the full benefit intended to be conveyed, inasmuch as they have no power to erect, on the said ground, any buildings to be used either as a School House or a Parsonage House, in connection with the Church already erected thereon—and praying for an Act to enable them to avail themselves of these desirable advantages.

The Petition was referred to Messrs. Palmer, Hudson, J. S. Macdonald, Montgomery, and Le Lacheur, to examine the allegations therein contained, with power to report by bill or otherwise.

Mr. Le Lacheur introduced a Bill to continue and to amend the Act for regulating the measurement of Ton Timber, Boards, and all other kinds of Lumber.—Second reading on Friday.

Mr. Montgomery introduced a Bill to extend the jurisdiction of Commissioners in matters of Small Debt to sums not exceeding Ten Pounds.—Second reading on Friday.

Mr. Yeo presented a Petition from Casumpeque, and one from Lot Thirteen, praying a grant for the improvement of Roads and Bridges.

The rest of the day was spent in Committee on the new School Bill, but only a few of the clause were gone through. The Chairman reported progress, and obtained leave to sit again.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

The House having resolved itself into a Committee of the whole, on His Excellency's Message of the 8th inst., with the Despatch which accompanied it, recommending an addition to the Lieutenant Governor's Salary—the Hon. Mr. Brecken in the Chair—

The ATTORNEY GENERAL said, he had turned the matter over in his mind, and the more he thought of it, the more he was convinced that the Lieutenant Governor's present Salary was inadequate to enable him to support the dignity of his office, without trenching on his own funds—the more particularly since the facilities afforded by steam communication were the means of bringing many persons of rank and respectability, some in pursuit of pleasure, others to seek homes on this side of the water, and who, if they did not participate in the hospitalities of Government House, would look upon themselves as slighted. Even the society of Charlottetown had increased three-fold within his recollection. All this tended greatly to increase the Governor's expenses. As a matter of policy it would, he thought, be wise to embrace the offer, as he considered it as amounting to a commutation of the Civil List—care being taken that the additional Salary should cease whenever the country was made to pay its own Civil List. It is true the measure could not originate in this branch of the Legislature, but there could be no impropriety in the Council expressing their opinion upon it. After some further observations he concluded by submitting the following Resolutions:

RESOLVED, UNANIMOUSLY, That this Committee concurs in the opinion expressed by the Right Honorable the Governor General and Lord John Russell, as conveyed in the Despatch from Lord John Russell, to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, dated the 16th day of November, 1840, that the present Salary of £1000, Sterling, received by the Lieutenant Governor of this Colony, is inadequate to enable him to maintain the dignity of his office as Her Majesty's Representative.

RESOLVED, UNANIMOUSLY, That this Committee will readily join the House of Assembly in any measure which will secure to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor such an addition to his salary as will enable him to maintain the dignity of his office as Her Majesty's Representative—Provided such measure shall embody a clear and express declaration or condition, that such additional Salary shall only be borne and paid by this Colony so long as the present Civil List of this Colony shall be defrayed by the Imperial Government.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL perfectly concurred in all that had fallen from the Attorney General. We were now called upon and bound to carry out the measure recommended in the Despatch. It had been requested by the parent country, and in acquiescing in the request it was but a small matter in return for the fostering care she had bestowed upon us as a Colony. Look at the blood and treasure she had expended in defending her Colonies from foreign aggression; and this Island was more highly favored than any other Colony, by having her Civil List paid from home. In 1825, when the Revenue was only £5000 a year, a former Governor was allowed an addition of £400 per annum to his income—now it was £17,000 a year, and we were only called upon to do a little more than was done spontaneously then. Were we to refuse to respond to the call, there can be little doubt but we shall be saddled with the payment of the Civil List; he for one would be sorry to have that to answer for. In fact it was driving a most advantageous bargain, and a biggishly line of policy was in this instance the worst that could be adopted.

Mr. YOUNG concurred in the observations that had been made by the two previous speakers. He always thought the Lieutenant Governor's Salary too low to support the dignity of his office. He did not look upon it as a personal favor to His Excellency, but what was due to his office as Her Majesty's Representative, he considered it much better policy to grant the sum that was asked, than to have to pay the Civil List, inasmuch as it was easier to pay £1000 sterling a year, than to pay perhaps £3000. He was prepared to vote for whatever sum the House of Assembly might agree to give.

Mr. MACDONALD hoped that every Member would express his opinion upon this question. Their sympathies and sense of justice had been appealed to. He was a loyal subject of Her Majesty, although no way connected with Government, and he trusted that every loyal subject would feel an interest in supporting the dignity of Her Majesty's Representative, when called upon by Her Majesty so to do. It must be evident to every body that the salary received by the Lieut. Governor of this Colony was quite inadequate to enable him to do so—every office should support itself, and it is unfair that the Governor should be obliged to put his hand into his pocket for such a purpose, he (Mr. Macdonald) would be willing to go as far as the means of the country would allow.

After some further remarks by the Solicitor General and Mr. Young, as to there being no intention of interfering with the rights of the other branch, the Resolutions were put and carried nem con.

On the House resuming, Mr. BRECKEN, in presenting the Report, remarked that when the House was in Committee he had no opportunity of expressing himself, having been in the Chair; but he now begged to state that he concurred in every syllable that had fallen from the Hon. Members who had spoken. At was also in the receipt of military allowances, which made his income nearly equal to what was now asked. The Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick had recently voted the Lieutenant Governor of that Province, an addition to his salary, and although his salary had previously been £3000 or £3500, with a society almost equal to what was now asked. The commencement of his administration. The sum now asked for, taking the increase of the Revenue and trade of the country into consideration, was less in proportion than that granted in 1825, and he did not doubt that if the proposal

of the Imperial government was not received, we should be burdened with the payment of the Civil List. The Resolutions shall receive his support.

FRIDAY, February 25.

Mr. YOUNG introduced a Bill for the establishment of Petty Sessions in the different Counties in this Island, which received the first reading.

COLONIAL TRADE.

By the Steamer we received the report of the Select Committee of the House of Commons on Import duties, with the principal evidence heard by them. It is, in our view, a document of vast importance, whatever may be thought of some of the doctrines it recommends. Coming, however, from the source it does, as we recognize among the names of the committee those of almost every member of mercantile celebrity, or who has devoted particular attention to this branch of political economy—it cannot fail, sooner or later, we think, to exercise a potent influence on the future destinies of the country.

Opening, as the subject does, such a vast field of investigation, it is our intention to confine ourselves to that part of the report and evidence only which relates particularly to British America, with which interests we are more immediately connected.

The report recommends a reconsideration of the whole system of differential duties, and adds the persuasion, that the difficulties of modifying the duties which favor the introduction to the mother country of British Colonial articles would be very much abated, if the colonies were themselves allowed the benefits of free trade with all the world.

The evidence on which this recommendation is given and this opinion expressed, and to which we shall chiefly refer, is that of John McGregor, Esq., one of the joint Secretaries of the Board of Trade, and of Mr. Deacon Hume, of the Board of Trade and Customs, the well known author of the digest of the Custom House laws.

These high authorities assert that the differential duties on colonial and foreign timber amount to a protection on the former of 450 per cent., which is exceedingly injurious to the manufacturing interests, and indirectly, to navigation; that the modification of these would not be injurious to the colonies, if the restrictions on their trade are removed, and this removal is urged even to the extent of abolishing all Imperial Custom Houses in the colonies.

Brussels and a few mercantile houses in Quebec and Montreal. That the pursuit of it is morally pernicious and injurious to agriculture, and that the mercantile navy of England would not be affected by its curtailment, because the navigation of the colonies will be quite as applicable to the supply of the British Navy with seamen as that of the mother country.

In regard to the shipping employed in the timber trade from America, it is asserted that it is all carried on by vessels that have been found useless in more important occupations, and which are employed simply because they are of little value, and that it is the most worthless part of British shipping that is used in the American timber trade.

It is admitted, however, that compensation should be made to existing interests, which would be injured should the proposed change take place, but that it would be far better to make this sacrifice at once, than to continue those induced by the present system.

With great confidence it is maintained, and particularly by Mr. McGregor, who has resided in the British Provinces, that their inhabitants would consider a free trade the greatest boon the mother country could extend to them. As far back as 1834, he says, the people of the Canadas expressed the opinion distinctly, "remove these restrictions and prohibitions, and you may legislate as you think wise and fit in regard to the timber duties."

Here indeed is a vast field for reflection! Our aim however is not to indulge in it, but simply to call the attention of our fellow subjects in the Provinces to topics vitally affecting them.—Great, however, as are the proposed changes to which we have alluded, they sink into insignificance compared with the alterations recommended through the same channels, in the whole mercantile system of the United Kingdom. These are no less than the abrogation of all imposts for protection, and particularly the Corn laws, in regard to which it is sought to abolish the sliding scale of duties, and in their stead establish either a fixed duty or an excise duty to be levied on Flour at the Mill.

One word more upon the question, whether the restrictions and prohibitions in the Colonies have benefited or injured the mother country? Mr. Hume says, "my opinion certainly is, that those restrictions have checked the prosperity of the colonies, and thereby have been injurious to us. It is very clear from the result of experience, within a moderate space of years from the conversion of a large portion of our North American Colonies into independent states, that the portion of their trade with this country, which we are sure to have without any protection, has become greater in the state of freedom of trade on the part of the consumer of our goods, than the whole trade was when he had the power of commanding it."

We beg, in conclusion, it may be distinctly understood, that the opinions we have hitherto often taken occasion to express, in favour of the differential duties on the Timber trade of the colonies, remain unchanged, in spite of the arguments adduced against them, and which we have attempted to give in the above brief sketch. Our chief object in taking up the subject at all was to call to the attention of those who have such deep interests involved in it, though, at the same time, we can scarcely conceive Parliament, in its present divided state, will seriously entertain propositions, which go entirely to destroy the long established mercantile policy of the empire.—New-York Albion.

Mr. McGregor's fourth examination before the Committee of the House of Commons, 15th of July.

[Mr. McGregor is one of the Joint Secretaries of the Board of Trade.]

The differential duty on timber is 5s. for hardwood, and 10s. on pine and fir, from our Colonies, as compared with £2 15s. upon timber from foreign countries, being a differential protection of 450 per cent; what observations have you to make upon that? My opinion is, that the differential duty upon foreign and colonial timber is exceedingly injurious to the manufacturing interests, and indirectly to our navigation, inasmuch as we are prevented from supplying, in return, those foreign nations with our manufactures, which they would take in about the same proportion as we took their timber, or their other productions which they have to give us.

Does the high differential duty oblige ship-builders and others who use timber in England, to pay a high

price for inferior timber?—Certainly, for all kinds of timber.

In what way would the revenue be affected if the duties on foreign and colonial timber were equalized?—By lowering the duties or equalizing them, my opinion is, that you would raise the revenue now derived from timber, which is £1,603,194, to at least £2,500,000.

How would you effect that?—I should fix the duty upon all colonial timber, with the exception of oak, teak, upon elm, cedar, and juniper, and other wood required for ship-building, at 10s. per fifty cubic feet of measurement, including deals and staves, adding five per centum on the deals and staves, for revenue, as being partly manufactures; and I should lower the duty upon foreign timber to £1 10s; not that I consider this the best, but I consider it as the best you could do, under the existing system. I would prefer 7s. 6d. per load on colonial, and 22s. 6d. on foreign timber: then all classes would be greatly benefited, timber being so extensively required in all kinds of buildings, down to the poor man's cottage, and for so many implements and countless other uses. If the duty were to be levied *ad valorem*, even at the same rate, it would in amount be higher, from its greater value, on foreign timber.

Would not that change be prejudicial to our colonies?—I think not, if you take away the useless restrictions with which we shackle their trade.

Have you not resided in the Canadas, and had an opportunity of judging what the effect would be if the duty were raised on Canada timber?—I have resided in all the British North American Colonies, and my opinion is, that if we remove our restraints upon the trade of our possessions, we shall not be long required to continue any protective duty whatever; but while we continue our colonial restrictions, we shall be obliged to continue some of those protections; we having, by our legislation, caused merchants and others to embark in undertakings their capital, which it would be unjust to destroy by other legislation, except upon equitable principles.

To what restrictions do you allude as a counterpart to our admitting timber into England at this lower rate of duty?—The restrictions are chiefly in respect to our confining the colonies to certain limits of trade and navigation.

Would you recommend that those restrictions that you have mentioned be withdrawn?—Entirely; I would remove all British Custom Houses from the colonies.

What effect would that have upon the mercantile?—I consider that removing those restrictions would be no disadvantage whatever to the mercantile navy, inasmuch as if you increase the colonial mercantile navy, you increase the British; the navigation of those countries will be quite as applicable to supply the British navy with seamen as that of the mother country. No inconvenience or disadvantage can arise from that cause.

Then are the Committee to understand that the change you propose in withdrawing the restrictions from the British North American Colonies, and in reducing the duty upon foreign timber coming from the Baltic, would be beneficial both to England and the Canadas?—I think so; the province of New Brunswick alone, from existing circumstances, from the labour and industry of the country having been directed so much more to saw mills and timber cutting, than to agriculture, would experience inconvenience and loss which ought to be guarded against, on the principle of equity, for some time; but none of the other colonies would to any serious extent experience injury. Some individual houses would; but it would be economy for this country, and it would only be justice, to remunerate them for their losses, provided it effected a change which would give us at least an additional million of revenue, with far greater advantages to our manufacturers, shipbuilders, and to our whole population.

Mr. Villiers.—Do you consider that the timber trade is of great importance to all those colonies?—Only to the colony of New Brunswick, and a few mercantile houses at Quebec and Montreal.

Have you ever considered the policy of encouraging them to employ their capital in the timber trade?—Morally I have considered it pernicious; but I would never think of restricting industry or enterprise.

Have you ever observed how far it prevents them from employing their capital in agriculture?—Yes; and I consider that entering upon the timber trade, except occasionally for employment during the first year of settlement, has been injurious to the agriculture of a country.

Chairman.—Without entering into the details of all the differential duties in the list you have given in, will you state, in your opinion, how far colonial produce in general should be protected?—I must repeat what I have stated, that while we continue those restrictions upon the colonial trade we shall be obliged to continue protections something equal to those restrictions towards the colonies; and in reference to British ships trading with British possessions, it will be found absolutely necessary to let those who build them, and who fit them out and provision them, do so in regard to the materials of construction, the stores and provisions, without those restrictions as to the duties and prohibitions which prevent their being constructed and fitted out at something much nearer the expense of building and fitting out ships in foreign countries.

Then you consider that protection which we have given, and those restrictions which have been laid on the colonies, have actually been detrimental to the colonies as well as to England?—Certainly; one example I will give; the colonies are not allowed to import one single pound of tea from the United States of America, but they either get their tea direct from this country, or else by smuggling from the United States; another example is, that they send vessels from the colonies to Madeira, and other ports, with fish, but they cannot bring back wines direct without paying a differential duty of £7 10s.

ANECDOTE OF NAPOLEON BONAPARTE.—While about to enter upon the famous Polish campaign, the Emperor was one day playing chess in the Tuileries with Marshal Berthier, when the Persian Ambassador was announced, as requesting an audience. The game was at an interesting crisis, and Napoleon would no more permit it to be suspended than would Charles of Sweden permit his chess-board when the Turks commenced battering down his house in Bender. Bonaparte ordered the Ambassador to be shown in, and M. Amédée Jaubert was commanded to the presence as interpreter. The Emperor continued his game with Berthier, overwhelming the astounded Persian with questions all the while, in his usual rapid mode of asking to gain information. The Mussulman found it difficult to plant his replies suitably; the various topics being Turkey, Persia, Mohamed and the Koran, Eastern harems, wives in sacks, the vaccine, military discipline, and ten

thousand other matters. The Persian, however, steered his way like the really skilful diplomatist he was. He exalted Persian institutes to the seventh heaven, or tried to do so, and dwelt especially upon the horse-soldiers of Ispahan as being the finest cavalry in the world. Napoleon good humouredly disputed the assertion, and interrupted the son of Traun more than once; but the Ambassador constantly returned with his pet cavalry in the charge, and, getting warmer by degrees, pronounced his judgment with even more and more decision, that "There could be no doubt about it—the foot soldiers of Europe were excellent—but the Persian horsemen of Napoleon laughed outright as the interpreter rendered the sentences in French; and, carelessly addressing Count Jaubert in reply, said, "Tell him that to-morrow we will show him a little cavalry here." The Persian made salaam, and quitted the Palace. The long-contested chess-game was not even then finished. While the Emperor deliberated over the subsequent moves, the Emperor issued orders to issue certain brief orders upon slips of paper, centralizing upon Paris the instant march of various bodies of horse soldiers from their cantonments in the vicinity. Like the knights on the chessboard, he had them all in his hand. The subject was not again alluded to; the game was played out; but the next morning we saw 40,000 French cavalry defile before Napoleon, and the Persian envoy, in all the glittering pomp of military decoration. Paris beheld that cavalry almost for the first time. Moscow awaited them.—Fraser's Magazine.

FROM PAPERS BY THE BRITANNIA.

MEETING OF PARLIAMENT, JANUARY 26.

QUEEN'S SPEECH.

My Lords and Gentlemen;

I have the satisfaction to receive from Foreign Powers assurances of their friendly disposition, and of their desire to maintain peace.

The posture of affairs in the Levant had long been a cause of uneasiness, and a source of danger to the tranquillity. With a view to avert the evils which a continuance of that state of things was calculated to occasion, I concluded with the Emperor of Austria, the King of Prussia, the Emperor of Russia, and the Sultan, a Convention, intended to effect a pacification of the Levant; to maintain the integrity and independence of the Ottoman Empire, and thereby to afford additional security to the peace of Europe.

I have given directions that this Convention shall be before you. I have been able to inform you, that the measures which have been adopted in consequence of these engagements have been attended with success, and I trust that the objects which the contracting parties had in view, are now being completely accomplished.

In the course of these transactions my naval forces co-operated with those of the Emperor of Austria, and the land and sea forces of the Sultan, and have displayed upon all occasions, their accustomed gallantry and skill.

Having deemed it necessary to send to the coast of China a naval and military force, to demand reparation and redress for injuries inflicted upon some of my subjects by the agents of my Crown, I, at the same time, appointed plenipotentiaries to treat upon these matters with the Government.

The Plenipotentiaries were, by the last accounts, in negotiation with the Government of China; and it will be a source of much gratification to me, if that Government be induced, by its own sense of justice, to bring these matters to a speedy settlement by an amicable arrangement.

Serious differences have arisen between Spain and Portugal, about the execution of a Treaty concluded by the Powers, in 1835, for regulating the navigation of the Bights. But both parties have accepted my mediation, and I have been able to effect a reconciliation between them upon honourable and equitable terms.

I have concluded with the Argentine Republic, and the Republic of Hayti, Treaties for the suppression of the Slave Trade, which I have directed to be laid before you.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons;

I have directed the estimates for the year to be laid before you. However sensible of the importance of adhering to the principles of economy, I feel it to be my duty to recommend that adequate provision be made for the exigencies of the public service.

My Lords and Gentlemen;

Measures will be submitted to you without delay which will have for their object the more speedy and efficient administration of justice. The vital importance of the subject is sufficient to ensure for it your early and serious consideration.

The powers of the Commissioners appointed under an Act for the amendment of the laws relating to the termination of the present year.—I feel assured that you will earnestly direct your attention to enacting laws which so deeply concern the interests of the community, and to which I have the satisfaction to be enabled to give my advice and assistance of my Parliament. I place my reliance upon your wisdom, loyalty and patriotism, and I humbly implore of Divine Providence that all your councils may be so directed, as to advance the great interests of morality and religion, to preserve peace, and to promote by enlightened legislation the welfare and happiness of all classes of my subjects.

THE TEA TRADE.—The following is from an intelligent and well informed correspondent:—"Serious apprehensions are entertained in the city with regard to the probable embarrassments among the tea speculators, who yesterday were estimated at £1,250,000. As London is the grand focus of speculation in this article, near the whole of this amount will fall upon parties in the city.—Shipping to tea to Is. 6d. per lb. cheaper than during the last autumn, and speculation in this article was at its height.

The stoppage of the United States' Bank had caused a suspension of several other Banks, and the difficulties in monetary affairs of that country appear to be daily increasing.

SIR COLIN CAMPBELL.—His Excellency Sir Colin Campbell, aide de camp to his Excellency, and accompanied by Miss Campbell and Miss Campbell, left on Saturday last, with extensive suite, for Southampton, to embark on board the Oriental steamer for Alexandria, en route to his seat of Government.

Major Sirr, for many years the head of the Dublin police, died on the 7th inst., aged 82. He was Town Major during the rebellion of 1798, and took a prominent part in the capture of Lord Edward Fitzgerald, having fired the shot which killed him. Mr. F. Thorpe Porter, the father of the late Lord Bar, has been promoted to the vacancy caused by the death of Sirr.

Mr. Alexander Grant, of Carnousie, the minister of Dundee, died last, the 18th inst. Deep speculations in tea are said to have turned out unfavourably, and to have prompted the untimely death of the gentleman to this rash act.

REPEAL VALUATION.—The total amount from the repeal agitation in Ireland, from the commencement of the agitation, has been £2,688, and the expenditure £2,570, leaving a balance of £118, so that the cash walks out as fast as it walks in.

LONDON, Jan. 23.—Company's Congo Teas have fallen from 2d. to 1s. 5d. 1-2 money.

The Lords of the Admiralty have given orders that the best Dibdin's songs shall immediately be distributed throughout the navy.