Provincial Parliament.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, July 13.

From the Montreal Herald.

Mr. Boulton in moving that an Address be presented to Her Majesty, praying her to provide more commodious buildings for the use of the Government and Legislature, and that the Seat of Government be removed to Upper Canada more suitable, spoke as follows:—

Pursuant to notice, I beg leave to move a series of resolutions, in reference to the removal of the Seat of Government to Upper Canada; and, in doing so, I trust it may not be imputed to me that I do so from selfish or improper motives.

Fully impressed with the importance of the subject, I trust the resolutions I am now about to submit to this House, will receive that consideration and attention which is due to them, and that honorable members who differ with me in opinion as to the propriety of the course I am adopting, will endeavor to convince me, and the members of this House, and not endeavor to intimidate by referring to the course that will be pursued by the people of Lower Canada—in case my resolutions should carry.

I am perfectly aware that when the Seat of Government was removed from Kingston, it was foretold that it would produce a rebellion in Upper Canada, and yet no such result has followed. We may be told now, that if Lower Canada should lose the Seat of Government, the people of this Province will agitate for a Repeal of the Union.

Be it, however, that a different course will be pursued, and whilst I shall cheerfully yield my views, if convinced, by sound argument, I shall look for the adoption of the same course by those who, at the present moment, are averse to the Seat of Government being in Upper Canada.

I give my reasons for the course which I shall take:

1st.—I think it an act of great injustice to the Representatives of both Provinces, that we should be called upon to assemble for the discharge of our public duties, in a building situated as this, in which we are now deliberating, surrounded on all sides by narrow, noisy, and dusty streets. On which are erected, all the low lodging houses of the dead and dying, the victims of the pestilence which is now ravaging the city. A building originally fitted up as a market, and containing none but low and inconvenient and cramped up rooms, without either air or ventilation, and wherein the thermometer for the last three weeks has usually ranged between 80 and 90.

2ndly.—Because this state of things cannot be remedied except at an enormous expense to the Province, and which it is impossible to expend for that purpose until our public departments are completed.

3rd.—Because I think the capital of a great country, such as this is destined to become, should be as nearly as possible in the midst of the population, having intercourse with and requiring access to the Seat of Government.

4th.—Because it is apparent that within ten or fifteen years, Upper Canada must contain a much larger population than Lower Canada.

5th.—Because the import and export trade of Upper Canada is increasing in equal proportion with the population of Upper Canada, and because it is evident, that in a few years Upper Canada must become the most important, both in respect to population and commerce.

6th.—Because from extreme heat in summer and severe cold in winter, together with the smaller agricultural advantages for supplying the ordinary market of the capital of the country, Montreal is not a desirable position for the permanent Seat of Government of this Province,—and

1st.—I would call upon hon. members to say whether in their opinion the House they are now occupying, is a fit and proper place in which to deliberate upon the important questions affecting the country; is it desirable, I ask, is it right or proper that 84 members should be huddled into a low room of about 30 feet by 36, in a noisy thoroughfare where one can hardly be heard for the passing of carts and carts outside, in a room that this [illegible] and cannot [illegible] thermometer ranges between 80 and 90 during summer. I would ask whether it is right, whilst a dire pestilence is raging around us, we should be compelled to meet in a house not even protected from the scorching rays of the sun, and through the rooms of which the dust flies as freely as in the street, and where besides being obliged to swallow long speeches, we are obliged to swallow large quantities of dust? I ask whether it is right that we should be compelled to meet in a house we cannot approach without passing lodging houses filled with cases of contagious fever, and within thirty feet of the very room we are sitting, with a sewer through which the whole filth of the city passes, running under the whole length of the building.

2dly.—In reference to my second reason, and assuming that no one will differ with me as to the impropriety of longer occupying our present House, I will ask if hon. members are prepared to appropriate £100,000 or £200,000 towards erecting buildings for the accommodation of the Government and Legislature of this Province; I would ask the Government if they are prepared to recommend such an expenditure? No, sir, they are not. At the present moment our Canals are unfinished, and the whole of the vast sums expended on their construction rendered almost unproductive; and why? Because a further sum of £200,000 or £300,000 is required to complete them. And why is not this money obtained? Simply because it cannot be borrowed; though our credit is good and revenue increasing, yet in the present state of the money market in England we cannot procure the means; and if we cannot expend £200,000 to enable a return to be made upon the expenditure of some £2,000,000 or £3,000,000 in constructing these works, surely no Government would be so mad as to incur an additional debt of £100,000 or £200,000 for erecting public buildings. The idea is absurd, and no government can stand that would dare to propose such a measure to the country.

3dly.—I would urge the removal of the Seat of Government to Upper Canada, because I think it ought to be situated as nearly as possible in the midst of the population, having intercourse with and requiring access to the Seat of Government. And this is a proposition which I think no one will attempt to deny. Then who, sir, I would ask, have the most intercourse with and require more access to the Government of this Province? Is it the people of Lower Canada? No, sir, it is not. Do we not know that from the very nature of their institutions, and the tenure by which lands in Lower Canada are in general held, the great majority of its inhabitants never require to transact business with the Government; whilst in Upper Canada the spirit and enterprise of the population is such, that scarcely a farmer in that Province does not require, by his agent, or in person, to transact business with the officers of Government. This of itself is almost a sufficient reason; but when we refer to the population of the two sections of the Province, and find how much more rapidly the one has increased than the other, I cannot believe that feelings of a purely selfish nature can ever permit the inhabitants of a whole Province to be satisfied to have of a mere locality like Montreal. From the returns laid upon the Table of this House, it appears, by the census taken in Lower Canada according to law in 1825, that the population of Lower Canada amounted to 427,720, while that of Upper Canada, in the same year, was only 157,425. The next census for Lower Canada was in 1831, a period of six years after, when the 423,639 had increased to 511,917, being an increase during six years of 88,297 souls, or only about 20 per cent. increase in six years.

In 1842, on the contrary, the census for Upper Canada exhibits its universe from its smaller number of 157,425, in seven years, instead of six, to 232,954, exhibiting an increase of 449,529, or about 75 per cent. increase instead of 20 per cent.

By the official returns made to Parliament of the census of Lower Canada, in 1844, the 511,918 of 1831 had only increased to 675,[illegible], showing an increase in thirteen years of 163,[illegible], giving an average annual increase of [illegible] to 2½ per cent. on the census of 1831.

Should the population of Lower Canada continue to increase in the same proportion until 1851, the population of 1844 will have advanced to 848,240, being 16,866 per annum, and 128,650 in the aggregate of ten years.

By the like returns it appears that the population of Upper Canada in 1832, amounted to 279,993, being a little over one half the population of Lower Canada, while in 1843 it had advanced to 506,053 in eleven years, and at the rate of 20,829 is nearly 8 per cent per annum, which shows a population in Upper Canada in 1844 of 527,829.

And should the population of Upper Canada continue to increase with the same rapidity until 1851, the population of 1844 of 526,810 will have advanced to 948,289, being at the rate of 42,146 per annum, and 421,460 in the aggregate of ten years.

Should we look forward to but a short period in the age of a country, say to 1864, the population of Upper Canada will, in the foregoing calculations, have increased to 1,750,000, while Lower Canada will only have attained a little over 1,000,000.

But, supposing that it should be argued that, in fixing the Seat of Government, reference should not be had so much to the population of either section, as to the commerce of the respective Provinces. Assuming this to be a correct position, I think I can shew, satisfactorily, that even then Upper Canada would be entitled to it.

By reference to the returns laid before Parliament, it would appear that for the last four years the duties collected at Quebec, Montreal and St. Johns, the three principal ports in Lower Canada, have only increased at the rate of about five per cent per annum, whilst at Toronto, Kingston and Hamilton, the duties have increased at the rate of about fifty-five per cent per annum.

Thus in Lower Canada:—

	Montreal.	St. Johns.	Quebec.
1842	£119,491	£16,861	£68,067
1846	171,404	39,209	71,562
Increase in 4 years	£24,913	£22,348	£3,475
	Or about 4 per ct. per an.	34 per ct. per an.	1½ per ct. per an.

Whilst in Upper Canada, during the corresponding period, the following is the result:—

	Toronto.	Kingston.	Hamilton.
1842	£8,053	£6,510	£7,263
1846	32,234	18,118	19,815
Increase in 4 years	£24,181	£11,617	£12,553
	Or about 75 per ct.	about 75 per ct.	about 60 per ct.

And in the aggregate, whilst the duties collected at three principal ports in Lower Canada showed during the 4 years the following increase, viz.:—

In Lower Canada in 1842	£294,440
Do. do. 1846	285,175

being during 4 years an increase of £59,735 only, or about 21½ per cent in the 4 years. In Upper Canada in 1842 they amounted to £21,827

and in 1846 to 70,177

being, during 4 years, an increase of £48,350 or about 220 per cent in the 4 years.

And from information that I have been able to gain, I find that this year it is likely that the decrease on duties at Quebec and Montreal will be upwards of £30,000, whilst the increase at the interior ports will be upwards of £20,000, at the lowest calculation.

Again, if we look at the comparative export trade of the two Provinces, what do we find from Upper Canada; there passed the Lachine Canal up to 5th July, 1847, the following articles:—

	Barrels.		Barrels.
Ashes	3148	Lard	243
Flour	127,172	Bacon	529
Wheat	338,143	Tallow	471
Pork	10,775	Beef	595
Barley	891	Timothy seed	33 of 3 cwt
Peas	41,911	Oatmeal	5369
Fruit	975	Cheese	105
Tobacco	34	Potatoes	1110
High Wines	1639	Whiskey	81
Butter	2596		

Now, this it will be seen, is entirely the produce of Upper Canada.

It is well known that Lower Canada is not an Agricultural country, and exports scarcely any of the articles above enumerated, then what trade has Lower Canada?—what export has it?—why, chiefly timber.

Then let us look at the timber trade, and what do we find to be the case as regards it. Quebec in 1846, it appears that of 35,694,383 ft., only 8,850,042 feet were from Lower Canada, and 26,844,341 feet from Upper Canada, shewing a difference in favor of Upper Canada, in the article of lumber alone, measured at Quebec, of about 18,000,000 feet.

If, therefore, trade is to regulate position of the Seat of Government, where ought it to be? Why, undoubtedly in Upper Canada. But there is another and perhaps a stronger reason than any other which I have adduced, why the Seat of Government should be in Upper Canada.

It is well known that Lower Canada, with the exception of the Eastern Townships, is divided into Seigniories over which the Government neither exercises, or is supposed to exercise any control; the whole business connected with the settlement and improvement of those seigniories, is carried on between the Seigniors and Censitaires, the profit made by the sale or disposition of those lands, goes to the Seigneur; the tenants require to have no access to the Government whatever, so that no inconvenience is felt by the inhabitants of Lower Canada generally. Should the Seat of Government be removed beyond the limits of the Province; but how is it in Upper Canada? there the whole of the public domain belongs to the Crown, and in it is included the largest tract of some millions of acres of the finest land that can be found in this continent—this land is capable of yielding largely to the revenues of the Province. The surplus population of Great Britain is daily going to Upper Canada, to settle upon it, and no person can purchase an acre of it, without the interference of the Government or an agent—when he is entitled to his patent, he cannot obtain it without going in person or sending to the Government for it, and this in proportion as the Seat of Government is removed to a distance from the agricultural section of the Province which is so rapidly filling up, is the tax upon each inhabitant of Upper Canada, requiring to transact business with the Government, increased. Nor is it the newly-arrived emigrants alone who require to repair to the capital. From the facility there is in Upper Canada of every industrious farmer acquiring real estate, no sooner does he get comfortably settled himself, with his family growing up around him, than he goes to the Land Office, or employs an agent to do so, to purchase land for his sons. Thus, from the very character of the people, they require always to communicate with the Government; and a removal to Lower Canada of the capital, entails a tax, varying in amount only, on almost every yeoman of Upper Canada.

Then, sir, if the Seat of Government ought to be at as near the centre of the Territory of Canada, surely Montreal is not the spot. I believe, sir, that at the time the seat of Government was brought from Kingston, it was argued that Montreal was the most central position between Gaspé and Sarnia. Now, sir, I ask—what right has Sarnia to be taken as the Western extremity of Canada? Are not honorable members aware that, to the westward of Sarnia, along the northern shores of Lakes Huron and Superior, a far more valuable territory, originally forming a part of Upper Canada, exists than in any part of the Province of Canada lying east of Quebec?—Are they not aware that, besides immense tracts of fertile land lying to the westward of Sarnia, there is that boundless region of mineral wealth, which, in a few short years will be teeming with an active and wealthy population, contributing more perhaps, to the export of this Province, than all the rest of Canada besides. Why, sir, compared with that region, the whole of Canada lying east of Quebec is comparatively trifling; and—although I do not wish to disparage or underrate that section of the Province—I would beg leave to state that it appears that Whitby, one Township only in the Home District, of Upper Canada, contributes more to the revenue of the Post Office department, than the whole of Canada lying east of Quebec.

One more observation and I have done; the amount paid annually consequent on the Seat of Government being in Montreal, for rent of Government House, Parliament Buildings, Public Offices, &c. is, as I am informed, not less than £5,000 or £6,000 a-year. At Quebec and Toronto it is well known that public buildings formerly occupied by the Legislatures of Upper and Lower Canada respectively are at present totally unproductive to the Province. I ask, then, of the Government, I ask of this House, is it right that the interest on £100,000 should be annually thrown away when, by holding the Legislature at Toronto, or Quebec, even temporarily, the Government would save that money for roads and bridges, or other public improvements?

Before concluding, I would state that, although I consider the Seat of Government should be permanently fixed within the Province of Upper Canada, yet I think that the health and lives of the Members of this House are jeopardized unless we cease to occupy the present Parliament Buildings, and for that reason I urge that the Seat of Government should be fixed in Upper Canada; and if not fixed at once, that it should be temporarily removed until permanent buildings are erected; and although I think, in that event, that Toronto would be more central and afford greater convenience to the majority of the people of this Province repairing to the Seat of Government, yet I am perfectly prepared, rather than that we should longer occupy the present unhealthy and unwholesome building, to advocate a temporary removal of the Seat of Government to Quebec. As I do not wish to hurry so important a matter through the House, but wish to allow Members time to consider the matter fully, I will lay the Resolutions upon the table at present, and allow a few days to pass, say until the beginning of next week, before I enter further into the matter.

Mr. Lafontaine wished to know the opinion of the Government on the matter; he thought the course proposed by the honorable member irregular.

Mr. Boulton said that the same course was pursued by Mr. Ermatinger a few days ago.

Mr. Baldwin made some remarks against the course proposed, as it allowed the honorable member's speech to be heard by the country in the meantime without any member having an opportunity of making any remarks upon it.

After a few further remarks—

Mr. Colville said that, as he did not see any practical benefit that could be derived from a discussion on the matter, he would move the previous question.

Mr. Duggan seconded the motion, which was then put and lost. Ayes, 6; nays, 48.

The Resolutions were therefore thrown out.

Mr. Gowan moved that an address be presented to His Excellency, praying that he would be pleased to lay before the House a statement of support allowed to all persons from the Clergy Reserves fund, the names of the persons receiving such support or allowance, and the time at which such support or allowance commenced—in doing so, the hon. gentleman stated that by the Act settling the Clergy Reserves, they were divided into two equal parts, one part of which was divided between the Church of England and Scotland proportion of ⅔ to the former and ⅓ to the latter, the other half of the Reserve were appropriated to religious education generally, subject to claims of the then incumbents. It was now said in Upper Canada, that other persons were receiving allowances from it, and much dissatisfaction was manifested about the matter, it was with a view of ascertaining the truth of these rumours, and of setting the public mind at rest about it, that he made the present motion. The motion was passed without opposition.

Mr. Badgley introduced a Bill to erect a Court House in the city of Montreal.

Upon the question of concurrence being put to the Report made by the Committee of the whole, on Bill to afford payment of Rebellion claims in Upper Canada.

Mr. Lafontaine opposed the Bill upon the ground that it was unfair to grant payment of these claims in one part of the Province, without the same measure of justice being extended to the other part.

Several other members also opposed it upon the same ground, the question being put was carried—Ayes, 38; Nays, 16.

The Report of the Committee of the whole upon the proposed Tariff was received and concurred in; the duty on printed books, not copyrights, being, at the suggestion of Mr. Aylwin, reduced from 7½ to 5 per cent.

A Bill was introduced and read a second time. We have already given a synopsis of the Bill.

The Bill was ordered to be taken into consideration in Committee of the whole on Wednesday.

The House then went into Committee of the whole on the Bill to amend the Charter of the Bank of Montreal.

Mr. DeWitt moved a clause requiring Banks to redeem at the Montreal office, all notes issued at any of the branch offices in any part of the country at par.

Mr. Moffatt opposed the clause; if it was intended to improve the currency, it ought to be made a general measure, as it would be unfair to compel one Bank to do so, without, at the same time, compelling other Banks to do the same.

A number of other members spoke on the amendment, which was ultimately lost by a majority of five.

The Committee having got through the Bill rose and reported it.

After which the House adjourned.

THURSDAY, July 15.

Mr. Lamieux took his seat for Dorchester. He was introduced by Messrs. Morin and Cauchon.

The House on the motion of the hon. Mr. Viger, unanimously concurred in the Report of the Committee on Privileges and Elections, in the matter of Louis Guillett, Esq., member for Champlain.

In answer to a question from Mr. Armstrong, Mr. Badgley said that Ministers were not prepared, during the present Session, to advise the construction of a road from St. Cuthbert and Bertrand.

Mr. Baldwin, in moving for an Address for return of certain papers relating to the census, read a portion of the Act 4 and 5 Vic., directing the Secretary of the Province to issue certain printed forms to the Wardens of all the Districts, &c., for the purpose of their being filled up with the returns of population, &c. He alluded to the extension of the time during which applications were by law permitted to be made by claimants for public lands in Lower Canada, and he declared that if the rumors he had heard were correct, a similar high-handed neglect of the absolute provisions of an Act of Parliament had been committed. He was informed, that instead of the printed forms being distributed, according to law, letters had been sent round stating that no returns were to be made. Such neglect would, in other times, have cost hon. members their heads, and if anything had forced it on them, they should have come down to the House and prayed for an indemnity. In England that had been done repeatedly.

Mr. Att. Gen. Badgley said that the Act provided for the census being taken in 1847, so that, as 1847 was still in existence, there was plenty of time to fulfil the provisions of the law. The fact was, that the law directed the form to be sent to the Wardens of the several Districts, not of Upper Canada, but of Canada; now it was well known there were no Wardens of Districts in Lower Canada, so that the provisions of the Bill could not be complied with: the census must have been imperfect. Under these circumstances it was thought better to come down to the House with a Bill to obviate that evil rather than go on with the census of only half the Province. That Bill was now in the hands of the printer, and would, when passed enable Ministers to comply with the requirements of the Act of Vic. 4 and 5. There was no objection to bring down papers. Besides, the Legislature was obliged in 1847, to appoint a Commission to make these returns, and that Commission no longer existed.

Mr. Hall suggested the propriety of making the returns much more full. In the States returns were made of everything—the capital invested in manufactures, agricultural products, &c.

Mr. Badgley said that was provided for by the Bill.

Messrs. Merritt and Cameron said that it was of great consequence, if the whole census could not have been taken, to have that for Upper Canada. A Bill was now before the House to divide a large property belonging to the people of the Province, in proportions according to the numbers belonging to different sects. Now, for that it was important that the numbers of the different sects should be known.

Mr. Aylwin said if there were no Wardens in Lower Canada there were Mayors, who could have made the returns as well as Wardens; and though it was true that the census, as the Attorney General said, was only required to be made in 1847, there was another clause which directed that the forms should be sent before a certain day, which was passed.

Mr. Badgley said he had already explained that in 1842 the Legislature was obliged to come to the assistance of the Government, and appoint a Commission to obtain this statistical information. Now that Commission was at an end, and if it were found necessary in 1842 to appoint such a body, the same thing was necessary now. Could a Mayor be compelled to give this information?

Mr. Aylwin read from the Municipal Act a clause, stating that the object of the appointment of officers under it was, among other things, to obtain the necessary materials for the census.

Mr. Hall enquired of the Ministry how it was, that after recognizing the claims of Mr. Ryland upon the Government, they did not adjust and pay the same.

Mr. Badgley said that the only reason was, that the claims were not adjusted, Mr. Ryland had only furnished some required information the day before. He believed the amount claimed would be adjusted the next day.

Mr. Sherwood said that the Imperial Government had offered to give up the Post Office as soon as the whole of the Provinces should unite in some plan for carrying it on. In order to that, he now proposed to appoint a Commission to confer with the Governments of the other colonies in order to ascertain their views, and if possible, hit upon some plan which would secure joint action. The great object, of course, would be to reduce the postage, and he thought it might be more materially done. That was, however, for the consideration.

Mr. Baldwin thought some steps should first be taken to ascertain the views of the other Provinces. The Commissioners might otherwise go down and find no Commissioners to meet them, or if they did, might find persons not sufficiently prepared to treat on the subject. If he did not do that, he should, at least, have opened his plan, and not to get rid of the responsibility, by inducing the Parliament to remove it from them to others.

Mr. Merritt could see no difficulty in each Province managing its own affairs. But it was not the agreement of the Provinces which he objected to so much as the manner in which it was to be brought about. Here Ministers were about, as usual, to take the expensive possible method of accomplishing the object. A Commission was to be appointed, who would go to work and talk. The thing over, then it would be submitted to Legislature, they would not agree, and it would be sent back to the Commissioners, and so on. He died about at an enormous cost to the Province.

Mr. Hall asked why it was necessary to make this agreement? Surely the Imperial Government might have left this to the people themselves. Why had it not said, "You pay these officers for doing this, and it is for you to determine how they shall do it." Let the Canadian postage be regulated by the Canadian Government, the postage charged to the lines, and from the New Nova Scotian rates, or the rates in New Brunswick paid, as the American rates were now paid on letters passing from Canada. The people of Canada were able to manage the Post Office as well as the people of England; indeed, in England the authorities had mismanaged the Office until they were set right by Mr. Rowland Hill, whose plans they had thwarted, and still continued to thwart. With all respect, he thought the despatch was absurd; and the Province would have to wait for 3 or 4 years, in order that, in the meantime, the Post Master General might be meantime, liked. In the United States the rates were much cheaper than here, although the post was carried over the roads, instead of by the main line of cheap communication, from one end of Canada to the other.

Mr. Moffatt thought Montreal was the place. Was it not monstrous that the gentleman at the head of that department should have £3,000 a-year? He did not mean to depreciate the importance of that officer's duties, but they were certainly nothing like those of the Chief Justice. He could not understand why the Government had not commented on, or carry-ing out the recommendation of the Committee, to reduce the salary to £1,000 per year. Some representation ought to be made on that subject, especially as the inferior officers were very badly paid. Only the winter before, a subscription was raised for one of them, who was a most useful public servant, whose salary was acknowledged to be insufficient. The hon. gentleman made some observations which were inaudible in the body of the House.

Mr. Aylwin would not oppose the Government in the course they were about to take, because the Post Office was a subject on which every one was heartily tired, and anxious to get rid of. The only question was, whether the course pursued was likely to obtain the necessity of the case. He would put it to the hon. gentlemen opposite whether they might not follow, with advantage, the precedent they had themselves set the year before, when a deputation of the Executive Council, consisting of the Commissioner of Crown Lands and the late Attorney General (West) met the authorities of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia to arrange a matter in which the two Provinces were mutually interested. He (Mr. Aylwin) was happy to hear witness to the manner in which those two gentlemen discharged their duty. Now, why should not the Ministers do the same kind thing? He did not like the idea of deputation be charged with the duty of in question? He did not like Commissions. Not only did he doubt their constitutionality, but he believed they were not within the intention of the Government. The Whigs had time for doing so. The hon. member for Peterboro' introduced them, and were censured at the time for doing so. The hon. member for [illegible] but he had exclaimed against the despatch. The hon. (Mr. Aylwin) did not agree with him, but as a member in thinking that there might be no difficulty in arrangement among the three Legislatures through this simple reason, that the road lay through their territories. It was fortunate that there as Responsible Government prevails, yet if such a arrangement were as well as here, it was probable the arrangement would come to by their Governments would be ratified by the majorities in the several Legislatures. There would, perhaps, be a few dissentients, of two in Canada; of two-and-a-half-dozen in Nova Scotia; and in the loyal little province of New Brunswick, probably eight or ten. The Government was not so well understood. He had a feeling of

Mr. Sherwood, said, that if the hon. member would withdraw it. The plan he proposed, however, thought the first best thing; but determined to that might be Ministers were determined to pursue the matter to a conclusion. The hon.

Mr. Aylwin would recommend the motion; gentleman to withdraw the preamble. He believed it would better accomplish the object to do so.

The motion was then withdrawn.

On motion of Mr. Aylwin, the Quebec and Halifax Telegraph Company, was [illegible] day for the Bill to incorporate the [illegible] of the place, and placed first for Monday.

The House concurred in the new grant of the committee of the whole, on the [illegible] de St. £200 per annum to Madame Valin [illegible] and read a first time.

A Bill was brought in accordingly and read a first time.

On the motion of Mr. Baldwin, a very important amendment was carried to it; it permits bail. As the Bill originally stood, one of the conviction on the sole evidence of the seizing officer. The Bill was now [illegible] ted, and the clause struck out.

The arguments of the amendment were, that as the seizing officer was interested in the conviction, on account of his share of the penalties, it was against all the principles of law, to allow him to go into the box to be the witness. The only evidence should be that of the seizing officer was almost always, and that if a person who could give evidence, seized goods was very rarely that a merchant. Such a course, were unjustly seized in the contemplating his failed to have the means of establishing his innocence. Division, 28 to 24.

Mr. Secretary Daly brought down a Message from His Excellency, containing the supplementary estimates for the ensuing year.

The House then went into committee of the whole, to consider the resolutions proposed by Mr. Merritt, on the expediency of removing duties on agricultural product.

Mr. Merritt said, that as he had already given his views at great length upon the subject, he felt it unnecessary for him to say much on the present occasion. He was convinced that by the establishment of a system of reciprocity in natural productions, between the United States and this Country, much benefit would be derived. He was certain if Canada took off these duties, the people of the States would do so. They had already done so on some articles: if the duties were abolished, he was convinced that it would give them a much better market than that now enjoyed; for he was certain that the same state of things which occurred in 1836 would occur again.

Mr. Seymour would only make a few remarks upon what had fallen from the hon. member on former occasions, about the farmers in Canada being able to compete with those in the United States; he (Mr. S.) was of opinion that they could not compete with them in many articles, such as Beef, Pork, and Indian Corn; and with respect to what he has said about having two markets, there was nothing so convincing that our market was higher than the other, as the fact that since the system of protection had prevailed, the revenue had largely increased on the produce imported. The revenue now amounted to nearly £35,000; the hon. member had also referred them as far back as 1836, to show that prices were lower here than in the United States; but it was because there was no agricultural protection then. Since they had that, the country had been prosperous and the markets good. He (Mr. S.) for one, would oppose the sweeping off of the duties, which had given universal satisfaction; the country desired no change, or why were not petitions presented praying for it.

Mr. Christopher said it was ridiculous to talk about establishing a system of reciprocity between nations both raising the same products and both agricultural nations; it might do between a manufacturing country and an agricultural one, where the one could exchange its manufactures for the grain of the other; he could understand that; but he could not understand how a system of reciprocity could be established between two countries, both agricultural ones, like the United States and Canada.

Mr. Merritt said he was surprised to hear the remarks which had been made by the member for Leeds and Addington. It was a matter of no consequence whether they could grow things cheaper in the one country or in the other. The question was whether they could sell them better in the one than in the other, and if they looked back to 1836, they would see the advantage of having two markets. The protection they said they enjoyed was no protection at all, it was only because the English market was opened to them, and the prices higher there than here, that they derived any advantage from it. He (Mr. M.) was looking to the future more than to the present; there had been a scarcity in America already, and there would be one again, and when that time came people would find out the truth of what he had been telling them. As to reducing the revenue, he was willing to strike out the articles from which any revenue was derived, and there could be no use in imposing duties on articles from which they received no revenue.

Messrs. Laterriere, Lafontaine, and Viger, made some remarks (in French) against the Resolution.

Mr. Merritt said, that seeing the opinion of the Committee appeared to be against the resolutions, he would move that the Committee rise.

The Committee rose and reported progress; but did not ask leave to sit again.

Mr. Cameron (Lanark) moved the second reading of a Bill to regulate the granting of new trials in Lower Canada.

Mr. Badgley moved in amendment that the bill be read that day three months.—Carried unanimously.

The House then went into Committee of the Whole on the Bill to facilitate the partition of lands in certain cases in Lower Canada, upon which a long discussion took place. Some amendments were proposed by Mr. Aylwin, which were ultimately carried. The bill was then reported, and passed. [illegible] of other measures of a local nature were also advanced a stage.

The House adjourned at 11½, P. M.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Wednesday, July 14.

Bills to confer certain privileges on Students of Queen's College, and to incorporate the Managers of the Ministers' Widow and Orphan Fund, were read for a third time and passed.

The following Bills were read a second time, and referred to Select Committee:—

A Bill to empower the Trustees of Dundas and Waterloo Road to Borrow money to complete said road.

A Bill to Incorporate the Trustees of Toronto Hospital.

The Bills to authorize Government to remove Registry Office for the County of Bellechasse, and to amend charter of "La Banque du Peuple," was also read a second time, and ordered to be read a third time to-morrow.

About a dozen Bills were received from the Legislative Assembly, and read for a first time.

After which the House adjourned.

Thursday, July 15.

The following Bills were read a third time and passed:—

Bill to provide for the levying of assessment in Brockville.

Bill to provide for the removal of the Registry Office for the County of Bellechasse to the Parish of St. Michael.

Bill to amend the Act incorporating La Banque du Peuple.

The following Bills were read a second time and referred to Select Committees:—

Bill to amend Common School Act of Upper Canada.

Bill for the better protection of merchants and others receiving assignments, and entering into contracts and agreements relative to goods and merchandize entrusted to agents.

Bill to amend the Act amending the Board of Works Act.

Bill to make better provision for the limitation of actions in Lower Canada.

Bill to incorporate the Montreal New City Gas Company.

The order of the day for the second reading of the Bill to amend the Act for regulating the disposal of Public Lands being read,

Hon. Wm. Morris briefly explained the contents of the Bill, which was to amend the Act 4 and 5 Victoria, cap. 100, in so far as relates to the limiting of the time allowed for the filing of claims for lands, for services as Militia Men in the war of 1812, or as United Empire Loyalists, to the 1st January, 1813; and to extend the time for filing claims for a period of ten months from the passing of the Bill before the House.

Hon. Mr. Sullivan opposed the Bill upon the ground that it would go to benefit none but land jobbers and speculators. He did not consider that any of the parties originally entitled to the land would, if they wished for the land for the purpose of settling themselves upon it, have allowed so long a time as had elapsed since 1813 to pass without claiming it. The hon. gentleman went into a long description of the system that had been pursued of granting public lands in Canada, and of the classes in whose favor grants had been made, namely, United Empire Loyalists, Discharged Soldiers, Emigrants, Militiamen, and Retired Military and Naval Officers. He heartily approved of the giving of the lands to these different classes, all of which he considered well deserved grants; but he thought the manner in which it had been done a very bad one, and one of the evil effects of which were yet felt in this country, from land being either granted to persons who already had as much land as they wanted as the militiamen, or to persons who generally were incapable or unwilling to settle upon them, as the discharged soldiers. The consequent effect of which was, that these parties with very few exceptions sold their claims in the land for a mere trifle to speculators, who managed to get position in places beginning to be settled and improved, while the original intended settlers had to go back into the wilderness. He would be in favor of the Bill if it would do any good to the parties for whose benefit it was intended, but he was of opinion that it would not