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QUEBEC CORRESPONDENCE OF THE BRITISH WHIG.

LETTER NO. VI.

Quebec, Feb. 15th.

DEAR WHIG,—

The chief matter debated yesterday in the House was the item of $50,000 voted in Committee of Supply. There was a good deal for opposition to the vote, grounded chiefly by the feeling that the money is to be paid out of fear of the Yankees. Mr. Macdonald justified the vote. He said—Whether the act at St. Alban's was one of robbery or belligerency, the money did not belong to the parties it was given up to. It was clear that the banks were robbed. The object of the Government was that Canada might at once show, without any demand being made, that if there were a wrongful act committed they were ready to atone for it. If they had waited for a demand it would have been made on the Imperial Government, which would have immediately paid over the sum, looking to the Canadian Government to repay it. The Canadian Government feeling that an officer acting under an order of Judge Coursol, who was an officer of the Government, had improperly given up the money, it would be infinitely more dignified to come forward to do what was honest and fair in the premises. His opinion was that if a certain course was right it ought to be acted upon. The money would be placed just where it was before, to abide the legal decision. The money was improperly given up. Why, some of it was not even found on the persons of the prisoners, but in barns. Mr. M. Cameron having attacked the decision of the Judges at Toronto, Mr. Macdonald went on to say that he did not feel it necessary to defend the judges of Upper Canada from the attacks that had been made upon them, because he felt that the people of the country had confidence in their integrity and the independence of their decisions. It was extraordinary that Mr. M. C. Cameron said in one breath that this matter should be brought to a judicial decision before the money was appropriated, and in the next breath that the decision already given by the judiciary should be overlooked and repudiated. His argument amounted to this: that he had more confidence in the judiciary of Lower Canada than in that of his own section of the Province. Mr. M. C. Cameron had said that the authorities of this country had no jurisdiction over the property but over the person only, and that the proceeds of this robbery at St. Alban's—this mean, wretched robbery—for it was nothing less—should have been handed over to be squandered by the prisoners. Why he knew that, again and again, persons guilty of forgery had been pursued into the States and delivered up to the British Authorities with all the proceeds of their crime found in their possession. Only a short time ago in the case of Muller, the baggage of the prisoner was at once seized and given over to the English officers sent to arrest him. If property did not come within the meaning of the treaty, it would be impossible in many cases to obtain evidence of the prisoner's crime, and the treaty would be so much waste paper. As to the amount of the money handed over, the very fact that this appropriation was not equal to the nominal value of the sum in Lamothe's hands, showed that the Government had no intention of considering these securities as equal in value to their face. The Finance Minister would, of course, as regarded the Greenbacks and Frankfort bank notes purchase them at their market value and pay over only an amount of them equal to that handed over to the prisoners, so that the parties would receive just what had been taken from them and the Province would pay no more than what was just.

Among those who opposed the vote was Mr. Thomas Ferguson, who asserted that the paying over of this money was very unpopular in Western Canada, which was flatly contradicted by Mr. A. Mackenzie, and they went at it hammer and tongs. There was a good deal of strong talk, but Mr. Macdougall made the last speech, which may be condensed thus:—He said that the conduct of M. Lamothe or Judge Coursol was not properly before the House. All they had to do was to perform the sacred duty of making restitution where a wrong had been committed. We had to see that the relations with a country with which we were at peace were not disturbed by any officer over whom they had control, and as long as they did this, he thought the mother country, which was more interested in the matter than we were, would have no reason to complain. He was very glad, as a member of this Government, to say that so far as they were concerned their conduct had met the approval of the Imperial Authorities. Whether Lamothe and Coursol acted improperly or not, the House was bound to see that the original statues was re-established and that the money which belonged to private parties should be placed in the same position as if it had not been delivered to the prisoners, where it would be at the disposal of the courts of law. The government asked parliament to arm it with power to restore this money which was so improperly taken, and that was the whole matter.

There was no division, and the resolution passed. This was the only matter of consequence that came before the House yesterday.

AN OBSERVER.

A THIRD LETTER FROM "D."

Quebec, 14th Feb., 1865.

DEAR WHIG,—

Everything continues in its old jog-trot style, no one taking the slightest interest in the doings of Parliament.

I mentioned in my last letter that the Legislative Councillors are very ill at ease at the prospect of their House being made nominative, and are already beginning to move amendments. Mr. Sanborn moved an amendment to the effect that the Council should be elective. Some other Lord moved that the people should have a voice in this scheme of Confederation, and that the Assembly should be dissolved in order to allow the country at large to say whether this scheme is advisable or not. Now, of all the coolest motions, I ever heard of, this beats it. The very idea of one House moving for the dissolution of the other is worthy of an inmate of Beauport Asylum, rather than of the Legislative Council of Canada.

The debate on Confederation in the Upper House has not been adjourned, for the reasons I suppose that the gentlemen who compose that august body are desirous to create as favorable impression as possible in their last "dying speeches," will no doubt spend considerable time over it.

Yesterday Mr. Mackenzie brought in a report from the Committee on Printing relative to the publishing of the debates on the Confederation scheme, and it was resolved, by the House that the speeches be reported after the plan of "Hansard's" debates of the Imperial Parliament, and allowing each speaker twenty-four hours to correct his speech. The Legislative Council is to pay one-third of the amount, and the Assembly the remaining two-thirds.—Twenty-five in English, and the same number in French to be allowed to each member.

I have a word or two to say relative to a speech made by Mr. Climbers, the Member from Brockville, on the Alien Bill. This gentleman, in the excitement of the debate, by a lapsus linguæ, instead of saying that he was desirous for the dignity of Great Britain to be sustained, said the dignity of the "American Republic," which caused a hearty laugh at the expense of the speaker, especially as it was known what he had intended. It has, however, I perceive been made the subject of attack on him in some of the Brockville papers, which to say the least of it, is absurd. For although Mr. C. can scarcely be called Northern, he like the majority of respectable men, does not like to see Canada made the asylum for those who would abuse our hospitality, and perhaps embroil us in a quarrel with the States.

Yesterday I enjoyed a sight, that almost made my eyes water. A piece of gold weighing no less than 14 ounces and 10 pennyweights, taken from the River Gilbert in the St. Francis Territory by a Mr. Macrae. What is more remarkable, this piece of gold was not discovered on the river side, but two concessions distant, which is an encouraging sign for the future.

The weather is bitterly cold, and the trains are constantly behind. If I am not mistaken, I doubt whether there has been one train, between Quebec and Montreal, on time during the whole winter.

Yours &c.,

"D."

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Quebec, Feb. 14.

The Speaker took the chair at three o'clock.

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

Mr. Currie—Bill to amend the act incorporating the Niagara District Bank.

Mr. Alexander—To amend the Joint Stock Road Company's Act.

Mr. Ferguson Blair—Parliament Special Provisions Amendment Bill.

The following bills were read a second time:—

Mr. Flint—Bill (from Legislative Assembly) for encouraging the planting of trees on the Highway.

Mr. McDonald—Assessment Amendment act of 1855.

Mr. Ferguson Blair—Bill for the amendment of the Mutual Insurance Co.'s act.

The adjourned debate on the confederation address then resumed.

Sir N. F. Belleau said we had been approaching political anarchy. One government had succeeded another without any being sufficiently strong to carry on the affairs of the country. Parties then united and agreed that a Confederation of the Provinces was the best remedy for existing evils. The proposed union would have a prominent position among the nations. He recalled the fable of the faggots which united resisted efforts to break them, but disunited were weak. Commerce, population industries—all the elements of a considerable nation were in the colonies; they were of little importance so long as the provinces were separate. After union they would be very important. We should have sufficient strength to repel aggression. The ideas of those who opposed the scheme were, he thought, those of adversaries of the monarchical system—they were annexationist and anti-Canadian—they did not favor national aspirations such as we ought to have. Under the proposed system Lower Canada would have the government of its own affairs, that is, as far as its religion and peculiar laws were concerned. He thought the course of Mr. Sanborn inconsistent inopposing the attempt to change the constitution without consulting the electors while at the same time he tried to change it himself in the terms of his resolution in amendment. He spoke of the liberality of the French Canadians to the Protestant minority of Lower Canada, and contended that the latter would have nothing to fear from the proposed union. He argued that the protection the Lower Canadians would get would not lie so much in the principle of equality applied to the Legislative Council as in the fact that they would have 65 representatives in the Lower House who, if necessary could stand together, and in that case by uniting with one minority or another could make or unmake governments, and would thus be in a position most amply to protect their own interests. As to submitting the measure to the people as urged by Messrs. Letellier and Olivier, he thought the opinion of the people sufficiently tested by the recent elections to that House, but if those gentlemen still doubted, they might resign, and at a new election test the feelings of their own constituencies. (Hear, hear.)

M. Letellier said it was easy for M. Belleau, who had no constituency, to talk in that way, but if he (M. Belleau) would agree to meet him in his (M. Letellier's) constituency, he was willing they should both resign for that purpose. He went on to contend there should not be haste impressing a measure of this importance. Although Lord Palmerston was old, and there might soon be a change in the government there, still if this was really a good measure and in the interest of England, another government would be as ready to take it up. He then argued that confederation would be prejudicial to the interests of the agricultural community of this Province.—We would have to lower our tariff to put it on an equal footing with the tariffs of the Lower Provinces, which would be for the benefit of the commercial and industrial classes in the Lower Provinces. But it would lessen our revenues, and the difference would have to be taken from the pockets of the agricultural class of our own country. He concluded by moving in amendment to Mr. Sanborn's amendment that the debate be adjourned until the government should have submitted to the House—1st. The constitutions to be proposed for the local governments and the local legislatures for Upper and Lower Canada. 2nd, The proposed Education Bill for the protection of the minorities in Upper and in Lower Canada. 3rd, Correspondence with reference to the defences of the Provinces, and a statement of the measures the government intended to propose for that object. 4th. In what manner the government proposed to divide between Upper and Lower Canada the balance of the debt over $62,500,000 carried to the Federal government. 5th. Fleming's report on the intercolonial railroad survey.

Mr. Letellier's amendment was negatived—yeas 20; nays 36.

The House adjourned at 6 o'clock.

Wednesday, Feb. 15.

Sir E. P. Tache brought down a message, including despatches, &c., relative to the embodiment of provincial forces for frontier service.

A bill to incorporate the Montreal Investment Association was read a third time and passed on motion of Mr. Ferrier.

The debate on the confederation question was then resumed.

Mr. Bubean said there were no annexationists in this House but those who advocated confederation without consulting the people. They were taking the course most likely to lead to annexation because they were taking a course which would cause very great discontent. They could not consent to abolishing the elective principle in the Legislative Council, because the liberal party had long fought for it, and it would be a very backward step to give it up now when attained after a long struggle. But if the nominative principle were admitted he would object to their number being limited, because that would limit the prerogative of the Crown. In the event of confederation, he did not know by whom the seignorial indemnity was to be paid—whether Lower Canada was to assume it, or whether it was to be divided between the two Canadas. If Lower Canada would not assume the whole of it what would the federal government do? Would it provide the amount by imposing new taxation, or by keeping back a proportion of the 80c per head accruing to Lower Canada. He wished more definite information on this point. He objected also to the clause which gave the federal government the taxing power. This power he thought should be limited. He contended that the law of marriage was a matter which should have been left to the local governments on account of the views of Lower Canada on the divorce question.

Mr. Seymour followed, opposing the scheme. He thought it was a scheme of concessions in which Canada, especially Upper Canada, granted advantages for which she would not be compensated. The Executive Councillors had constituted themselves delegates without authority, and they now desired to force through the scheme without alteration. The lower provinces with only 800,000 inhabitants would have 28 members in this House while we, with so much greater population and revenue, would only have 24. The Franchise there was lower, almost universal. He alluded to the public debt, &c., and pointed out the loss we would sustain by assuming a non-paying railway.

Feb. 15.

Mr. Bermotte spoke in favor of confederation, but thought no harm would come from delay to consider fully the whole scheme.

Mr. Alexander supported the address, but to meet the objections of those who were opposed to some of the details, moved an amendment to the effect that the protest of such members as differed from the project should be prepared and transmitted to the Imperial authorities at the same time as the address was transmitted.

After some discussion the Speaker ruled the amendment out of order on the ground that the 23rd rule of the House provided for a protest being made by any member to the action of the House.

M. Armand supported the resolutions in a short speech in French.

Mr. Currie, after pointing out that the cost of government would probably be largely increased under confederation, argued that the resolutions improperly restricted the prerogative of the Crown in the choice of legislative councillors; that they would exclude a number of men who now held seats in the House and had served the country faithfully, and that they would deprive the people of a franchise solemnly confirmed upon them.

Mr. Christie spoke in support of the scheme of confederation, and read the resolution of the Toronto convention of 1859 to show that the reform party of Upper Canada was in favor of federation, and also from the speech delivered by himself at that convention in which he expressed himself favorable to confederation of all the Provinces of British North America. He further read from the address issued in the same year and signed by the leaders of the Lower Canadian liberal party in which they recommended confederation of the colonies as a remedy for the evils under which the country labored. He pressed it upon the consideration of the liberal party of Upper Canada and claimed credit for having originated the proposition. Strange to say this was the only party which now opposed it. (Hear, hear.) He went on to argue from the absence of petitions against the scheme and the fact that people had long looked upon it as a most practical redress for their grievances, that it had the approbation of the country. If he did not conscientiously believe so he would not now be found supporting it. (Hear, hear.) He replied to Mr. Sanborn's arguments that the Council would be violating its trust to the people if it agreed to the removal of the elective principle from its constitution. He read from the Imperial act respecting the Legislative Council and extracts from various constitutional authorities to show that the Council in taking this course would be guilty of no violation of trust and did not transcend its powers. Referring to Mr. Currie's notice about the propriety of submitting the measure to the people, he said this could only be done by a dissolution of the Legislative Assembly or by submitting the scheme in its integrity to a popular vote. He thought the Legislative Council would place itself in a not very delicate position if it passed an address advising his Excellency to dissolve the Legislative Assembly. The other course was entirely inconsistent with British constitutional practice. It was condemned even by American writers on constitutional matters. In conclusion he urged that it was their duty as honest and patriotic men to adopt the scheme now presented for their consideration.

Mr. Sanborn briefly replied to Mr. Christie's arguments, and read from the address of the constitutional convention of 1859 to show that the Reform party of Upper Canada of that day held views very different from those held by Mr. Christie and others of the same party now, as to the future of the constitutional change which they wanted, and as to the propriety of submitting it to the people.

M. Burcau moved an adjournment.

The motion was resisted by the government and was negatived. Yeas, 23 to 28.

Mr. Moore said that he and other members wished to state their views before a division was taken on Mr. Sanborn's amendment, and though he regretted to be compelled to do so at so late an hour. He commenced his speech amid a good deal of interruption.

Sir E. P. Tache then agreed to an adjournment, and the House rose.

Feb. 16th.

Mr. Macdonald's amended assessment act of 1865 was reported from committee without amendments and read a third time and passed.

Mr. Currie, from select committee, reported, with some slight amendments, the bill to enable the church societies and incorporated synods of the Church of England dioceses in Canada to sell their rectorial lands.

The amendments were adopted and the bill was then read a third time and passed.

Sir E. P. Tache then moved the extension of the period for receiving petitions for private bills to the 2d of March. Carried.

Mr. Ferrier's bill to enable the trustees of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Canada to more freely manage and dispose of their trust property was read a second time and referred to the private bills committee.

The debate on confederation was then resumed.

Mr. Moore pointed out as objections to the scheme, that although union had from time to time been talked of it was not submitted to the people at the last election in 1863. The people had not decided on it, nor was the present Parliament elected to pronounce any opinion upon it. Canada had been outnumbered in the Conference, having only twelve members against twenty-one. He argued in similar terms to those employed by others against the scheme, but said in conclusion that if he could see some of those objections removed or answered, and a favorable opinion procured from the people, he should have great pleasure in supporting the scheme.

Mr. McMaster opposed the details of the scheme principally on the score of its probable expense, instancing the Intercolonial Railway and the support of the local governments out of the general revenue as objectionable features, but said that in the absence of anything better being submitted for the cure of the evils under which we confessedly labored, he did not feel himself justified in voting against the resolutions.

Mr. Simpson took strong grounds against the resolutions, denying that they were demanded by the country, and saying that at the recent election in South Ontario both candidates pledged themselves in favor of the question being submitted to the people. He feared the effect of the scheme would be to multiply our debt and increase the people's burthens, and complained that it was attempted to push the project through without furnishing details. He opposed the Intercolonial Railway, and referred to Grand Trunk experience as an evidence that it would cost double the amount anticipated. He concluded by saying that he would never vote away the chartered rights of his constituents, without knowing by what those rights were to be replaced.

Sir E. P. Tache replied on the amendment of Mr. Sanborn, dwelling strongly and fully on the point that as Lower Canada, when she had the power, always dealt liberally and fairly with the English speaking Protestant minority in that section of the province, so she would continue to do in the proposed local legislature, under a confederate form of government.

After the recess,

Sir E. P. Tache continued his remarks, vindicating the substitution of the nominative for the elective principle in the Upper House, chiefly on the ground that it was strongly urged by the lower provinces.

Mr. Skead spoke in favour of the confederation scheme. He had doubted for some time whether the provisions made with regard to the lumber trade might not result prejudicially to that trade, but he had received assurances from the government as to the meaning of those provisions which were perfectly satisfactory to him.

The House then divided on Mr. Sanborn's amendment (telegraphed some days ago) which was negatived 42 to 18.

Yeas—Messrs. Aikins, Archambault, Armstrong, Bureau, Chaffers, Cormier, Currie, Flint, Leonard, Leslie, Letellier De St. Just, Molhiot, Oliver, Perry, Proulx, Ressor, Sanborn, Simpson.—18.

Nays—Messrs. Alexander, Allan, Armand, Belleau, Bennett, Blair, Blake, Baulton, Bosse, Bull, Burnham, Campbell, Christie, Crawford, De Beaujeu, Dickson, Duchesnay, Dumonchel, Ferrier, Foster, Gingras, Guevremont, Hamilton, Hamilton, Lacoste, McCrea, Macdonald, McMaster, Macpherson, Matheson, Mills, Panet, Price, Prudhomme, Read, Ross, Ryan, Shaw, Skead, Tache and Vidale.—42.

Mr. Currie then rose to move the amendment of which he had given notice as to the propriety of ascertaining more clearly the state of public opinion on the subject, before confederation was finally decided on. He suggested that as several members wished to speak on it, it was better to postpone discussion till to-morrow.

The adjournment was resisted by the government, but was carried on a division by 36 to 25.

The House then adjourned at a quarter past nine.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Quebec, Feb. 14th.

Mr. W. Ferguson has introduced a bill to amend the Territorial Divisions Act of Upper Canada, in so far as relates to Amherst Island. Mr. Campbell has introduced a Bill, for apparently the same object, which would appear to be the exchange of two back townships of Frontenac for Amherst Island. Why two Bills?

Mr. Cartwright has also introduced a Bill to amend the Act incorporating the Town of Napanee, and for other purposes.

Parliament has finally settled the matter of Printing:—

The Committee recommend that in carrying out the arrangements for reporting the Debates, the respective speeches be reported in the order in which they have been delivered, after the plan of Hansard's Debates of the Imperial Parliament, and that each speaker be allowed twenty-four hours to make any correction he may desire after receiving the copy from the Reporters.

The Committee also recommend that the Accountant of each House be directed to open a special account, under the head of 'Reporting,' and that all charges connected therewith be paid by them on the certificate of the Clerk of the Joint Committee on Printing in the following proportions: the Honorable the Legislative Council paying one third, the Legislative Assembly paying two thirds; and that the said Debates be printed in the same form and on the same system as Hansard's Parliamentary Debates. That each Member be furnished with twenty-five copies in English and twenty-five copies in French.

Wednesday, Feb. 15.

Mr. J. A. Macdonald—Bill to amend the law of Upper Canada respecting the Court of Chancery.

M. Taschereau asked whether it was the intention of the government to introduce during the present session any amendments to the act respecting gold mines.

Mr. J. A. Macdonald said it was not the intention of the government to make any change in the absence of any information to shew the necessity of such a change.

Mr. Sandfield Macdonald moved for a committee of the whole House on Monday next to consider a resolution on which to found an address to His Excellency the Governor General praying that he will be pleased to recommend an appropriation out of the public monies for the purpose of erecting a suitable monument to the memory of the late Hon. Wm. Hamilton Merritt, for eminent services rendered by him in promoting internal improvements in this province. The mover passed a high eulogium on that eminent man as one who, was non-political in a common sense term, but one who devoted all his energies to the improvement of the country, the establishment of the canal system and the improvement of navigation. He first conceived the idea in 1823 of connecting Lakes Erie and Ontario by means of the Welland Canal. The speaker traced the progress of the work from the turning of the first sod on St. Andrew's day, 1824, to its completion, dwelling upon its importance, and following up other great public enterprises promoted by Mr. Merritt, the improvement of the navigation of the St. Lawrence, deepening the canals, the establishment of the reciprocity treaty and a daily line of steamers with Europe. Before the latter magnificent scheme was put into execution he was cut down. He thought he might call upon the member for Montmorency to second the motion.

M. Cauchon had much pleasure in doing so. We owed a great deal to that public spirited man. To him was due the canal system and the establishment of a trans-Atlantic line of steamers. We had too few such men.

The motion was carried.

Mr. A. A. Dorion moved for a return of arrears due on sales of crown lands in Upper and Lower Canada respectively.—Carried.

Mr. Morris moved for a committee on the subject of registering births, marriages and deaths in Upper Canada. He pointed out the importance of correct registration.

The motion was granted.

Mr. Cowan moved the second reading of the bill to repeal chapter 32 of the Consolidated Statutes of Canada, and otherwise to provide for encouragement to agriculture, arts and manufactures.

Mr. McGee hoped that his friend would allow the bill to stand over for this session. There were many changes required in the laws respecting agriculture, involving even the administration of the Bureau of Agriculture, and to this subject he had devoted considerable attention, but the House would see that it would be useless to make amendments now which would have force no longer probably than twelve months, for under the scheme of Confederation now before the House, the subject of emigration would be dealt with concurrently by the local and general governments. The local legislature of Upper Canada would, of course, have to take it into consideration, and make such arrangements as would prove satisfactory to the people of that section. It would be seen, therefore, that it would be useless for this House to make any change, until the question of Confederation was disposed of.

Mr. Cowan hoped this scheme of Confederation was not going to put back all legislation. This was a matter in which great interest is taken throughout Upper Canada, and the only difference of opinion respecting it, was in the regard to the mode of election a board of agriculture. Some changes, however, were required by almost every farmer in Upper Canada. He hoped the Government would allow the measure to pass the House.

Mr. William Ferguson differed from the member for South Waterloo, respecting the changes being required in the mode of electing the board of agriculture. At a large convention of agriculturists in Toronto two years ago, no objection had been made to that board, and when the question again came up at the Kingston exhibition the present system was sustained, and he believed a large majority of the people were in favor of it.

Mr. Cowan said the member for Frontenac could not have been at the Toronto convention, for there was not a single person at it who was not in favor of some change, and the mode proposed in this bill was lost only by a majority of one. He did not know a single farmer in Upper Canada who had confidence in the board—not so much in the men as in the manner in which they were elected. It was considered an insult to the agricultural community, that they should be elected in such a way as to make it almost impossible to change them.

Mr. Macdougall said he had gone over all the bill proposed on the subject of agriculture and found that that the present law would have to be so changed that the powers of different bodies, even that of the bureau of agriculture, would have to be so differently distributed, that he had to come to the conclusion that it would be very inconvenient, if not improper, to deal with the question when we would probably soon have a legislative body sitting for Upper Canada which would consider and decide what was best for that section, and to deal with it at any rate intelligently. He thought the board of agriculture might be permitted to hold office for another year without prejudice to any interest, especially as it had discharged its duties hitherto without complaint on the part of the public, and then the new system would come into operation and deal with the subject.

Mr. McGee said that understanding that Mr. Cowan's intention was to refer his bill to a special committee, he had no objection to its being read a second time.

The bill was then read a second time and referred to a committee consisting of Messrs. McGee, Macdougall, Dickson, McKellar, Dunsford, Stirton, Pope, Dunkin, Somerville, Perrault, White, Dorion (Arthabaska), Lajoie and Cawan.

Feb. 16.

To-day a Bill was introduced to amend and extend the 5th section of chapter 87, Consolidated Statutes of Upper Canada.

Mr. Pope's Bill to amend an Act intituled "An Act respecting the Bureau of Agriculture and Agricultural Societies," was read a second time.

Mr. T. C. Wallbridge's Bill for the relief of persons residing in the county of Hastings, by affording them means to purchase seed grain; passed through Committee of the Whole.

Mr. T. C. Wallbridge's Bill to authorize imprisonment upon a conviction in certain cases for vending spirituous and manufactured liquors without license in Upper Canada, and amendments, passed through the Committee of the Whole.

Dr. Paquet moved the second reading of a Bill to amend the law relative to the practice of physic and surgery, and the study of anatomy.

Messrs. Dunkin, Robitaille, Bown, McGee, and others opposed the Bill, on the ground that it allowed any practitioner to open a private dissecting room to give lectures on anatomy, and to give certificates to students of having studied. This was not the way to study anatomy. It would give rise to nuisances, dissecting rooms, which would be a great evil, especially in procuring subjects. Besides this, it would give a private individual the same power as a duly constituted University. It enabled any country practitioner, after giving a man a course of six months' lectures, to authorize him to cut and carve the whole country.—The Universities, which received grants from Government, and expended large sums themselves to perfect their system, were the proper places to receive a good education in medicine. This Bill would promote charlatanism.

Messrs. Parker, Laframboise and others spoke in favour of the Bill, which they said was only to enable young men to procure certificates which would enable them afterwards to go up for lectures and examinations at a University, without spending four years there. Many young men could not spend as much time in the city.

Mr. Robitaille, seconded by Mr. Duskin, moved the six months' hoist, which was carried. Yeas, 55; nays, 37.

Dr. Paquet moved the second reading of the Bill to amend the Lower Canada game laws in so far as they relate to muskrats.—Carried.

Mr. Holton took occasion to ask the Government when the bill on education was to be brought down. He knew of no question on which so much interest was felt, and he thought we were entitled to have the Government submit it to us before we put it out of our power by the Confederation scheme to alter the law.

Mr. Langevin repeated a former statement that the Government would submit the measure, but he could not say when. It was very short, and as to a permanent settlement of the question, why of course it would be discussed in the House.

The following bills were read a second time:—

Mr. Macfarlane—To declare the meaning of sections 23, 24, and 25, of chapter 93 of the Consolidated Statutes of Upper Canada.

Mr. Fortier—To amend chapter 28 of the Consolidated Statutes of Lower Canada respecting abuses prejudicial to agriculture.

Mr. Scatcherd—To amend the Act respecting County Courts.

Mr. Walsh—To amend the Municipal Act of Upper Canada by restricting the class of voters on by-laws for the creation of debt.

Mr. Dunkin—To amend the Act respecting railways.

Mr. Huot—To amend chapter 32 of the Consolidated Statutes of Canada, in so far as relates to agricultural societies &c., of Lower Canada.

Mr. Rose—Bill respecting weighing, measuring and gauging certain articles of general consumption.

Mr. Rose—To regulate the business of stevedores and liners in the harbour of Montreal.

Mr. Dorion—To amend the Act intitled an Act containing special provisions concerning both Houses of the Provincial Parliament.

After the dinner recess, the order of the day was called for resuming the debate on Mr. John A. Macdonald's motion for an address to Her Majesty the Queen, on the subject of Confederation.

The House adjourned shortly after midnight.

THE TROTTING MATCHES.

The Trotting Matches came off on Wednesday, as previously announced, and were the most successful for some years of any in Kingston. The day was cold and windy, but still a great crowd assembled, the interest in the matches being great. The Course was on the ice, extending for a mile from a point in front of the Ship-yard in the direction of Portsmouth. The track was evenly beaten, and the racers had no reason of complaint. We give the races as near as possible in details:—

First Purse, $50.00. Open to all Horses that never trotted in 3 minutes in public. Mile heats—2 in 3, in harness.

Three entries—Mr. A. M. Harris' sorrel mare "Cheat," Mr. T. Makins' sorrel horse "Stonewall Jackson," Mr. Barton's black colt "Sultan." Won by "Sultan" in two strait heats. Time about 3 minutes.

Second Purse, $30.00. Open to all Horses owned in the County of Frontenac for the last three months, that have not won a race in less than three minutes. The winner of the first race to be excluded from the second. Mile heats—2 in 3, in harness.

Five entries—Mr. Gowdey's sorrel mare "Jenny Lind," Mr. Makins' sorrel horse "Stonewall Jackson," Mr. Makins' —— horse "Hayseed," Mr. Ald. Allen's grey colt "Whoa Billy," Mr. R. Martin's bay mare "Red Jenny." "Jenny Lind," "Stonewall Jackson," "Whoa Billy" and "Red Jenny" ran. The first heat was won by "Whoa Billy" by half a length over "Stonewall Jackson. Second heat "Whoa Billy" broke badly at starting, but closed up the distance pretty well on "Stonewall Jackson," which, however, came in ahead. The third heat was handsomely won by "Whoa Billy" by several lengths. Prize awarded to "Whoa Billy."

Mr. Makins entered a protest against the first race, but which in our opinion will not amount to much. It was after five o'clock when the races ended.

SECOND DAY—THURSDAY.

The races commenced at two o'clock. The day was much milder and the crowd was greater, the intended race being the "one" of the series. The match was for a Purse of $150.00: Open to all Horses, far and near. Mile heats—3 in 5, in harness.

Three entries—Mr. Hope's chesnut mare "Clip the Heather," Mr. Smith's black horse "Wild Irishman," Mr. Harris' black horse "Sultan." The "Wild Irishman" did not start, although entered. In the first heat "Clip the Heather" came in by about three lengths, but the heat was ruled against her, as she broke in the Course. In the second heat she come in about six lengths ahead in fine style. The "Sultan" broke in this heat. In the third heat "Clip the Heather" came in two lengths ahead. The two horses broke during the race. In this heat the "Sultan" lost one of his shoes and left the ice, and after a long wait, more than sufficient to shoe a dozen horses, the "Sultan" did not make an appearance, and after the judges had made enquiries, they decided the race in favor of "Clip the Heather," which certainly is above comparison with the "Sultan." The driver of the "Sultan" himself acknowledged that he could not come up to "Clip the Heather." The decision of the judges gave general satisfaction, and three cheers were given for the winner. An offer to run "Clip the Heather" to-morrow with any horse in the United States and Canada for $2,000 against $1,000 was made on the ice.

UNITED STATES ITEMS.

The U. S. Government received last month by Internal Revenue, $33,178,527.

THE OPPOSING ARMIES.—The latest estimate of the force of the Federal and Confederate armies gives the North 530,000 men, and the South 248,000. This estimate is put forth by 'Druid,' the well known correspondent of the New York World, and allows Grant 180,000 men, Lee being credited with only 75,000.

STOPPAGE OF THE 'PERSONALS' IN THE NEW YORK NEWS.'—Alluding to the order issued by the Federal authorities to the New York News to suspend for the present the publication of 'Personals' in that paper, the Richmond Enquirer of the 8th thus dilates:—There has never been a cipher personal, with our knowledge, published in the Enquirer, but we have strictly confined the privilege of such advertisements to its legitimate end—that of humanity. It has been the vehicle of communication for the sorrowing and afflicted, and never permitted with our knowledge to be used for or against either government. It is just as easy to write a cipher letter by flag of truce as to publish one in this newspaper. And so far as detection goes, the flag of truce letter presents the surest way to escape detection; that is read but by two clerks—one at Fortress Monroe and the other in Richmond, while the published letter is open to the inspection of millions. The remarks in the News as to using the Herald or Tribune for the purposes of information is strictly true. We will inform the News of instances, now past, where the help column of the Herald was of eminent service. The expedition for the relief of the prisoners on Johnson's Island was planned, organized and arranged through the help column of the Herald, and that for the capture of the Chesapeake was also planned through the same medium of communication. The privilege of advertising in behalf of humanity which the columns of the News, protected that paper from any advertisements which communicated information. This last and little act of despotism may inflict some pecuniary loss upon the News at the expense of unnecessary sorrow and affliction to innocent persons but it will not close the great channel of communication offered by the Herald to all who choose to pay for them. The Herald has reaped more of the reward of treason, and given more "aid and comfort" to the enemy of its country, than any ten papers in the United States. We suggest to the Herald to employ General Scott to take and administer the oath to every person offering an advertisement as the only way to choke off the Confederate allies in New York, Cincinnati, Chicago and other places in the United States. For the present it is useless for persons to send personals to the Enquirer. Should any paper in the United States obtain permission to renew this mode of correspondence, we shall be glad to renew it.

THE SHIP-OWNERS' CONVENTION.

Bath, C.W., 14th Feb., 1865.

(To the Editor of the British Whig.)

Dear Sir,—

I send you by bearer a copy of the Detroit Tribune, containing a full report of the Convention of Ship-owners of the Northern Lakes, held at that city, and which Mr. P. R. Henderson and myself attended as Delegates from Kingston. The Convention lasted for three days, and was the largest and most important one ever held on the same subject, the members present representing property valued at over ($300,000,000) three hundred millions of dollars! You will perceive that the Ship-owners have resolved themselves into an Association called the "Ship Owners' Association of the Northern Lakes," with a Head Office, to be established at Buffalo, and composed of delegates from each port, to form an executive Committee to carry on the business of the association. You will perceive that we have secured a position for Kingston above that of any other City in Canada, and equal to all the large Cities in the States, with the exception of Chicago and Buffalo, who appoint one more delegate each on the executive Committee than Kingston does. Our appointed delegates are Capt. Robert Gaskin and P. R. Henderson, Esq.

Yours very truly,

JOHN D. NOBLE.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED.

That this association be known as the Shipowners' Association of the Northern Lakes, and that an Executive Committee be appointed by this Convention, and that each delegation represented in the convention designate persons to be appointed on such committee who shall hold their office for one year, or until their successors are appointed, to consist of ship-owners residing at the ports of Oswego, 2; Buffalo, 3; Cleveland, 2; Detroit, 2; Chicago, 3; Milwaukie, 2; Kingston, C. W., 2; and one at each of the other Lake ports represented or may be hereafter represented in this Association, and whose duties it shall be to procure and keep a record of all steam and sail vessels belonging to members of this Association; also to appoint a President and Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, further to carry out the resolutions of this Convention, and they are hereby authorized to assess and collect a tax upon the tonnage of each vessel or steam craft, not exceeding two cents per ton for the for the current year; also the power to convene this Convention, if it should become necessary during the season of 1865. A majority of the Executive Committee shall be necessary for the transaction of business. The office of the Executive Committee shall be located in Buffalo.

That all cargoes shall be delivered to the vessel or on the rail of the vessel as hereinafter mentioned, viz: All cargoes of lumber, lath, shingles, salt, ties, wood, posts, telegraph poles, knees and ship plank, bark, bricks, shingles, hoop and pail boits, water-lime and all rolling freights to be delivered on the rail of the vessel, wholly at the expense of the shipper.

All cargoes of salt, lumber, shingles, timber or cargoes of like nature, including coal cargoes where there is not sufficient water to carry full cargoes over the bars and it becomes necessary to complete cargoes outside of the bar, the balance required to complete such cargoes shall be delivered by the shipper on the rail of the vessel free of expense to said vessel.

All cargoes of grain, coal, iron ore, pig iron, staves, stone, marble, railroad iron and car wheels to be delivered in the hold of vessels and the stowing and winming only at the expense of the vessel.

All timber and spiles in rafts and otherwise shall be delivered along side of vessels.

All orders for cargo should read "Cargo to be delivered (except timber and spiles) on board or on the rail free of expense to the vessel."

Resolved—That in discharging cargo all grain cargo to be unloaded in the customary manner of 1864.

Coal, iron ores, sand, stone and other cargoes of the same nature to be delivered on a platform or runway at the hatches of the vessel.

Timber and spiles when transported by regular timber carrying vessels, the consignees or owners of said timber and spiles will furnish all facilities and labor for unloading said cargoes, the vessel furnishing only her usual crew in assisting on board the vessel. Cargoes of lumber, staves, posts, shingles, shingle bolts, telegraph poles, railroad ties, ship plank and ship knees, lath, salt, waterlime, bricks, bark, etc., to be discharged over the rail or on platforms or skids. Railroad iron, shafting, car wheels and light timber at the rail of vessels.

That the rule for contracting the rate of demurrage per day shall be not less than twice the ordinary average expenses of the vessel per day for the same trip. That the rule for claiming demurrage, when no contract for same is made beforehand be as follows:

The gross earnings for the round trip less than extraordinary expenses for towage, handling cargoes, commissions, etc., divided by the number of days consumed on said trip, less the number of days for which said demurrage is claimed and the quotient to be the amount of demurrage to claim per day. In computing said gross earnings the amount of freight that should be paid on cargo contracted to the vessel but for any reason not the fault of the vessel, not delivered to or received by the vessel, shall be counted as earnings. In deducting the said extraordinary expenses from the gross earnings the cost of any accident subject to be protested against shall not be deducted, nor shall the time the vessel is detained by such accident be counted in the foregoing rule for claiming demurrage."

That we protest against paying the shortage on grain in cases where the cargo is all delivered in as good condition as received, and that we will in all cases deliver all we receive on board, claiming freight only on the same, and that in case of refusal of the consignee or consignees to pay freight as above, we will test the question by due course of law, the expenses of such litigation to be paid by this association.

That all tow bills exceeding one, after the arrival of the vessel in any lake port, shall be at the expense of the cargo or consignee, and that the same rule be applied to shippers; but at Chicago, all towing on inward bound cargoes from Franklin street to a place of discharge shall be at the expense of the cargo or consignee. But if said cargo shall be discharged at any point above Twelfth street on the south branch, or Chicago avenue on the north branch of the Chicago River, the consignee or consignees shall pay for towing the vessel from the place of discharge back to Twelfth street on the south branch, and back to Chicago avenue on the north branch.

That we regard the system heretofore practised by the consignees of giving checks for the settlement of bills of lading, on which currency could not be obtained without a shave of three-eighths and one-half per cent