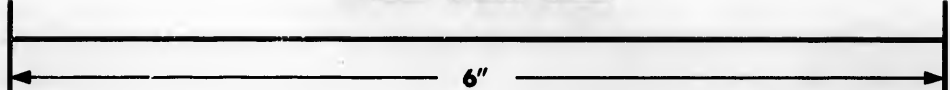
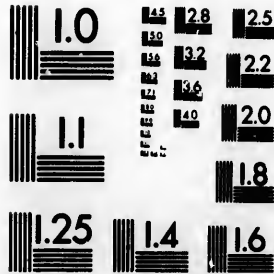


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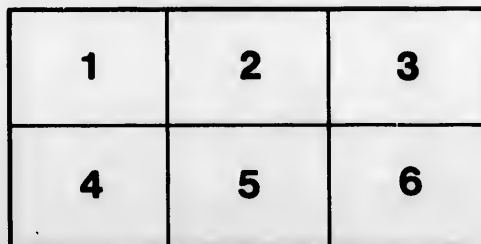
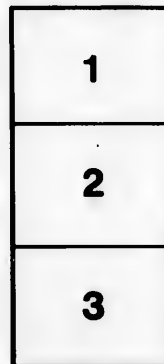
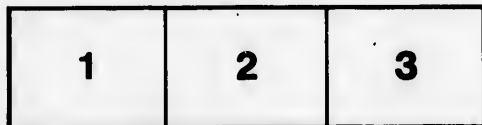
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Information for the People.

RESULTS OF THE SESSION.—1837.

From *The Newcastleian*.

AS but few of our readers have access to the Journals of the Legislature, and as the debates, though they convey pretty fair impressions of what is said, do not always show exactly what is done, in the Assembly; it may be worth while, for the use of those who have no better sources of information, to exhibit, in a bird's eye view, what we conceive to be the more important results of the recent Session. This sort of summary will be useful to men of all parties: while it shows to the friends and supporters of the present House what has been done, it will show their enemies what has been left undone; that, by just criticism and remonstrance, these may stimulate logging zeal whenever pressure from without may be considered essential.

If asked if we are entirely satisfied with the fruits of the Session, we answer No! But if it be demanded of us, has not a great deal of good been done, and a good deal more than, under all the circumstances, you expected in a single year, we say Yes! without any hesitation. From what we had seen of former Houses—from what we feared in the people's want of political knowledge, and their supineness at Elections—and from what we knew of the powerful influences with which any Colonial Assembly, and ours more than many of them, have to contend—we were not very sanguine as to the probable amount of any thing that would be done by the present House. Indeed we scarcely expected, in the autumn, that the Reformers would be able to muster a majority on any important measure; and, for one, was prepared to struggle along for a few years in a minority, until the country became more feelingly alive to its own interests, and better prepared to throw the weight into the opposite scale. In this, however, we were agreeably disappointed. Upon some questions the Reform party made a goodly show of strength—upon nearly all they had an actual, though by no means a very decided majority; and we are disposed to think that, on the whole, they have accomplished more than, from a view of their position and relative numbers, could fairly have been expected. But, let it not be supposed that they yet occupy that commanding influence in the Lower House that is desirable—that indeed is essential, to give the required weight to their principles and representations, either here or at home. They are confronted by no ordinary share of talent—have to contend against the decided opposition of at least one third of the entire House, and are not unfrequently at the mercy of that section of the members, which is made up of the men of no decided leaning—no fixed principles—the lovers of peace at all hazards—the timid or the indifferent. Their position is not very unlike that of the majority in the present House of Commons,—while certain of the determined hostility of the second, and perhaps of the unwavering dislike of another Branch of the Legislature, they have not that overwhelming majority in the Representative Branch, which would enable them to make good every position, and do the work of Reform in that commanding and authoritative style, which the real interests of the country require. This is a mortifying acknowledgement, but it is right that it should be made—that the people may clearly understand the real position of parties; and be prepared, should they deem it desirable, to make the best possible use of their power of purgation, whenever another general Election occurs.

Assuming then that the present House, from its composition, has not done, and cannot do, all that we believe to be desirable—all that one differently constituted might do, let us turn to what has been accomplished.

I'nsked to point out the distinguishing difference between the present Assembly and those that have gone before it within our recollection, we think it to be found in a greater regard to economy—a more sensitive appreciation of the importance of retrenchment, in the management of the public funds. Without going back to prove the fact, by any elaborate reference to details, we think we may assert that the public burthens of the country have gone on accumulating, under the auspices of every previous Assembly, that has been chosen within the last 20 years. Though some few savings were occasionally made—some slight modifications of the prevailing system of expenditure at times effected—still it is notorious that no effectual revision of the Civil List took place, and that instead of being diminished, the annual expenses of the country went on slowly, perhaps, but certainly increasing. The results of this system, together with the lavish expenditure upon Roads and Bridges, while the practice of manufacturing paper money continued, were the accumulation of a large debt, to pay the interest of which and support the overgrown Government establishments, it was necessary to borrow money every year or two, in order to keep up the Roads and Bridges, and provide for the current expenses of the country. To have stopped short in this career of extravagance—to have said to the waves of this rapidly ebbing tide, you shall go no further, and to have trusted to the growing consumption and slowly swelling Revenues of the country, to have replenished the fountains, would have been something, even if the present House had done no more. But this Assembly has not stopped here—they have gone much further—they have made a vigorous, and so far as their powers could be immediately brought to bear, a very successful effort to enforce economy and retrenchment. This will be best understood by an examination of the following list, of the items which they have struck off from the annual expenses of the government. The sums saved, as nearly as we can recollect, are as follow:—

The Militia expenditure, about	£1,250
The Governor's contingencies,	250
The Attorney General,	75
The Treasurer, from extra allowances,	50
Clerk of the Council,	100
Associate Judge,	400
Members' Pay,	96
Chaplain,	25
Guager and Weigher,	35
Keeper of Gunpowder,	20
Chairman of Committees,	20
Western Stage Coach,	185
Eastern do	144
Officer's Wine duty,	300
Tobacco drawback,	310
Clerks of the Peace,	59
Picton Steamboat,	150
Digby do	50

£3,519

So that the Reformers have saved in a single Session £3519, and to this extent have fulfilled their pledges in favor of economy and retrenchment. If they never clip off another penny from the current expenses of the country, and the ultimate passage of the Quadrennial Bill reduces the term of their existence to four years, they will have saved a sum equal to £14,076. If that bill does not pass, and the House lives the six years contemplated by the people whom it was chosen, then £21,114 will be saved, a sum nearly equal to one fifth of the Provincial debt.

Before passing on to other topics, we have a remark or two to make upon these items. The sum saved by the abolition of the Militia system, is chargeable for this year with the 4 month's pay, voted as a parting gift to the Inspecting Field Officers; but we have stated the amount at what will be the permanent saving to the Province. Nor is this all: in addition to the actual expenditure from the public chest, to support the splendid hunting of a militia, the loss of time which it occasioned should also be taken into the account. Estimating the number of persons liable to be turned out to drill throughout the Province, at 30,000, and valuing their labor at 2s. 6d. per day, we have a saving of £3750 per annum, of labor alone, which the old militia law compelled the people to sacrifice; to say nothing of the time wasted in going to and from mustering places, when these were at a distance, or of the broils and dissipation which, in many places, were the common adjuncts of a militia training.* The costly gew gaws of the Officers—the dress coats, hats, swords, gold epaulettes, and gold lace, the annual cost of which, to the "train band Captains," Colonels, &c. can scarcely be set down at less than £500, ought, however, to be taken into the account—and, therefore, we may very fairly estimate the saving effected by the repeal of the militia law, in labor and expense, to say nothing of the £1200 a year paid by the Province, at £4250 per annum. This, in six years, would amount to £25500, a sum more than equal to another fifth of the Provincial debt.

There are two other items in this list, upon which it is but fair to make a remark. The Associate Judge died between the prorogation of the last and the sitting of the new Assembly; and the Salary of the Clerk of the Council did not appear in the Estimate. Facilities were therefore afforded to the present House for retrenching these two items, which did not previously exist; and it is but right to acknowledge, that we believe, even by the last House, these would have been embraced—but majorities have existed in former Houses which would have considered the Clerk's Salary as an unadvised omission, and have authorised the appointment of a new Associate Judge, if a prominent Barrister in their ranks stood in need of a place. Let us hope that these times have passed away, never to return.

Many will be surprised to find no mention made, in this list, of retrenchments from the enormous Salaries enjoyed by the Collector and Comptroller of Customs; the Chief Justice, the Secretary of the Province, and the Commissioner of Crown Lands; and they will, perhaps, be equally astonished to hear that, for the present, the emoluments of these Officers are beyond the reach of the Assembly; and hence the design and the importance of the Address which the House have forwarded to the Government at home. These Officers are all paid under permanent laws—by fees, a large portion of which are illegally exacted, or out of the Casual and Territorial Revenues, arising from the Old Crown Duties, the Royalty of the Coal Mines, and the sale of the Lands claimed by the Crown. For the present, therefore, the Assembly have no power over these Officers; nor would any Bill they could pass diminish the sums they receive, because, until some arrangement is made with the Colonial Secretary in London, it would not have the slightest chance of being assented to by His Majesty's

* Almost every young man reared in this country learns to shoot, as a matter of course, and owns a gun. We saw recently only five hanging from the ceiling of one house in Peggy's Cove. If 100 young fellows were taken at random from any part of our shores, they would share, at target firing, any equal number that could be picked from the garrison. They are therefore more than half-soldiers already, and could easily be disciplined, if there was any real necessity. But one day's mustering in a year in profound peace, at a cost of thousands to the country, did no good, and no little mischief.

Council. For instance, upwards of £1900 per annum are levied without any law, by the Judges of the Supreme Court, about half of which sum goes into the pocket of the Chief Justice. A Bill was passed by the Assembly in 1830 abolishing these fees. It was destroyed in the Council, of which the Chief Justice is President. A similar Bill was passed this winter, but of course it was smothered in the Upper Branch. Any Bill touching the Salary of the Secretary of the Province, who is Clerk of the Council, or the Collector, who is a Member of the House, would, in the present state of things, meet with a similar fate. Our readers will readily perceive, therefore, that these matters can only be redressed by such a reconstruction of the Council as will give us a majority there, who think and feel with the great majority of the People. To obtain this was the object of the Resolutions; for passing which, the Council threatened to sacrifice the Revenue and Appropriations of the year, and leave the Country without Roads, Bridges, or Seed,—to secure it, the Address was brought in and passed, after the Resolutions were rescinded. What success will attend the application, remains yet to be seen; but of course no stone will be left unturned by those interested, to defend the efforts of the Reformers, and to protect, at all hazards, their own power and emoluments.

With a view in farther retrenchments, enquiries have been made into the funds arising from the Post Office—the formation and duties of the Revenue Departments, &c. some of which it is but fair to acknowledge have either been conducted or shared by gentlemen not usually classed among the Reformers, but who have frankly lent the aid of their talents to carry out the views entertained by a majority in the Assembly. Nothing has actually been retrenched under these heads yet, but these topics, with that of the Judiciary, will probably come again under review in ensuing Sessions.

As respects Education, no material change has taken place. The School Act, which passed for a series of years, does not expire until 1838; so that the whole subject will be taken up next session, when those who feel interested had better be prepared to submit their views by petition.

With regard to the Fisheries, as those engaged in them were of opinion that the best encouragement that could be given, would be to protect them from the depredations of the Americans and French, a Committee was appointed early in the Session to collect information. Circulars were addressed to practical men in different parts of the Province. The answers to these, with the Report, which we published last week, have been printed and forwarded to His Majesty's Government, in order to furnish the Ministry with such information as will enable them to act with energy and effect; and in the mean time £500 was placed at the disposal of the Lieutenant Governor, to enable him to fit out small armed Vessels to hunt the American Fishermen out of our Harbours, and keep them without the limits assigned to them by treaty.

There is one Act of the last session, or rather two acts, which are part of one general measure, on the character of which a great diversity of opinion exists—we allude to the Embargo and Relief Bills. By the former, the exportation of seed Potatoes and Oats, was prohibited until the 10th of June, by the latter £3,800 was voted to provide seed for the destitute in the different Counties, to be repaid by work on the Roads. We are not going into any labored defence of the Embargo Bill; every body acknowledged, at the time it was passed, that it was a violation of the great principles that ought, under ordinary circumstances, to sanction the freedom of trade. The only question was, did such a state of things exist as rendered their violation imperative. A majority of both branches thought it did, and of course they were abused by those with whose interest that decision came in conflict. How this Bill may have worked in other parts of the Province, others

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are the best able to judge—we speak of its operation here. When it passed, its opponents declared that the Halifax Market would be glutted with Potatoes and Oats; that the former would be down to 1s. 6d. and 2s. per bushel, and the shippers severely injured by a ruinous glut. The fact has been, that the Commission appointed here to superintend the distribution, have purchased three cargoes at 2s. 6d. and 2s. 7d. two of which were intended for the St. Andrews and American Markets. They are still in want of 7 or 800 bushels, which cannot be had, as there has scarcely been that quantity in the market at any one time during the past week, and what there was, sold readily; at 3s. 6d. and 3s. 9d. by the lot, while they were retailing at 4s. A quantity of Scotch Oats brought 7s. 6d. at auction, while the price has ranged from 3s. 6d. to 6s. We have no hesitation in saying, therefore, that, but for the Embargo Act, an immense number of people upon the southern coast would have been left without seed. The Relief Bill, we believe, will be felt as a blessing in every part of the Province. Under its provisions, estimating the average price per bushel to be paid at 2s. 6d. 30,000 bushels of Seed will probably be distributed, and if each receives five bushels, the maximum given here, upwards of 6000 families, of the poorer description of our population, will have been relieved by the judicious employment of a sum, only a little larger than the Reformed House have saved by retrenching 18 items from the Civil List.

The necessity that existed for this expenditure, and the protection of the Fisheries, will, of course, by absorbing the whole amount saved, preclude the possibility of any immediate reduction of the debt; but if the annual and regular outlay be systematically reduced, these extras—that a succession of bad seasons, or other peculiar circumstances, render essential, may easily be borne. If the leaks are once stopped, and the case kept in good repair, a painful may be taken when wanted for useful purposes, and the bounty of Providence will keep up the supply. It is the waste that makes the water low.

A charge of extravagance has been brought against the House for continuing a portion of the grants to the Eastern and Western Slaves, but it will be seen that, from former allowances to these Establishments, the sum of £329 has been cut off—leaving them each only such remuneration as the Government would be compelled to pay to others, if those lines were not in existence, for the carriage of the Mails.

The other act of the present House will have found, or we are much mistaken, favor in the eyes of the people. Though a vast majority of its members were elected for seven years, without a thought of the term being reduced; though but one or two out of the 19 had received any instructions from the constituency on the subject, very early in the Session, and by a large majority, the Quadrennial Bill was passed, by which more than one third was struck off from the term of service, and a graceful return made to the people, of powers committed to the hands of the Representatives, but which they

considered were more extensive than were compatible with the public good. This readiness to account once in 4, instead of once in 7 years, showed a good spirit; but His Majesty's Council, who steadily oppose every thing calculated to give the people power, throw out the Bill.

Among the things which may fairly be said to have been accomplished by the present House, is the opening of the Council's doors. True they are not yet opened, but the point is gained. A Committee has been appointed to make arrangements; and although their Report contemplates the admission of as small a number of people as possible, still there is to be an end to the pertinacious adherence to the old rule of exclusion. The Councillors declare that the people would have long since been admitted, only for the interference of the House—but let them tell this to the Marines. Year after year, the grievance was pointed out through the Press, before any motion was made in the House, but still the doors were closed. When a motion was made, that was seized on as an excuse to continue the system, and it was only when they found that the constitution and conduct of their body were so roughly handled—when they saw that an appeal was to be made to their masters in Downing-Street—that a bungling effort was made to shift the blame off their own shoulders, and make a show of concealing what had been wrung from them, as the coin is wrung from the dying Miser's hand.

Notwithstanding the time occupied by an unusually large number of contested Elections, about 90 Bills passed both branches; and several more, which were sent up by the Lower House, remained in the Council Chamber; some, because that body were opposed to them in principle—others, perhaps, because they were sent forward so late in the session, as to leave but little time for a fair review. Among the more important of those which received His Excellency's assent, were the Pickled Fish inspection Bill—the Bill to confirm titles to lands after a possession of 60 years—the Merchants' Seaman Bill, &c. &c. Among those not assented to, were the Quadrennial Bill, and the Bill making the School Lands available for the education of all classes of the people, without any religious distinction.

As this article has already extended to a greater length than may suit the taste of our readers, we shall conclude by observing, that we think the popular cause has gained much in the character and acts of the present House; that the tone of feeling within it is better than in former times; that a great deal of good has already been done, and more may be reasonably expected; but still a better house may be made. While it lives, the People will do well to watch its conduct narrowly—peruse the debates and proceedings closely—mark the divisions—and prepare themselves for correcting their own mistakes; encouraging the deserving, confirming the timid, and turning off the incorrigible, after all have had a fair opportunity of showing their disposition and ability to advance the cause of rational reform.

TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

The humble Address of the House of Representatives in General Assembly, for the Province of Nova Scotia.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY:—

We, your Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Representatives of Nova Scotia, when approaching the Throne to ask for a redress of Grievances, tender the assurance of the unshaken attachment of those we represent, to your Majesty's person and government. The people of Nova Scotia, when any thing trenches upon their rights, or retards their prosperity, turn to their Sovereign, as the Father of all his People, wherever their lots may be cast; and whose affection is not diminished by distance, nor bounded

by the four seas of Britain, but extends to the most remote limits of his Empire; rearing, wherever practicable, Institutions favorable to freedom, and fostering that love of justice—that nice sense of the relative duties of the Government and the governed, which distinguishes the Parent State. Nor is their confidence in your Majesty diminished by the reflection, that in early life you visited Nova Scotia; and, in maturer years, have sanctioned those vast reformatory changes at home, which embolden them to seek for a revision of their Institutions, and the introduction of those checks and guards, without which they feel that private happiness and public liberty can never be secure.

In the infancy of this Colony its whole Government was necessarily vested in a Governor and Council;

and, even after a Representative Assembly was granted, the practice of choosing Members of Council almost exclusively from the Heads of Departments; and persons resident in the capital, was still pursued; and, with a single exception, has been continued for the last thirty years. The practical effects of this system have been in the highest degree injurious to the best interests of the country; inasmuch as one entire branch of the Legislature has generally been composed of men, who, from a deficiency of local knowledge, or from the natural bias incident to their official stations, were not qualified to decide upon the wants or just claims of the people; by which the efforts of the Representative Branch were, in many instances, neutralized, or rendered of no avail.

Among the many proofs that might be adduced of the evils arising from the imperfect structure of the Upper Branch, it is only necessary to refer to the unsuccessful efforts of the Assembly to extend to the outputs the advantages of Foreign Trade—to the enormous sum which it was compelled, after a long struggle, to resign, for the support of the Customs Establishment—to the difficulties thrown in the way of a just and liberal system of education—and to the recent abortive attempts to abolish the unconstitutional and obnoxious fees, taken by the Judges of the Supreme Court.

While the population of this Province is composed, as appears by the last Census, taken in 1827, of 28,639 Members of the Episcopal Church, and 115,195 Dissenters, which proportions may be assumed as fair at the present time, the appointments to the Council have secured to the Members of the Church, embracing but one fifth of the population, a clear and decided majority at the Board. They have now in that Body nine Members. The Presbyterians, who outnumber them by about nine thousand, have but two—the Catholics, who are nearly equal, but one—while the Baptists, amounting by the Census of the same year, to 19,700, and the Methodists to 8,498, and all other Sects and Denominations, are without any of their Members in a Body whose duty it is to legislate for all. The Catholic Bishop has no seat of the Council Board, and Clergymen of that and other Denominations are, as they ought to be, excluded; yet the Bishop of the Episcopal Church has been, since the year 1809, and still is a Member.

Your Majesty will readily perceive, that, whether designed or not, the mere circumstance of one body of christians having such an overwhelming influence in the Legislative and Executive Council, has a tendency to excite a suspicion that, in the distribution of patronage, the fair claims of the Dissenting population, founded upon their numbers, respectability, and intelligence, are frequently overlooked. This is not the only objection urged by the people of Nova Scotia, against the composition of the Council, and to which it is our duty to call Your Majesty's attention. Two family connexions comprehend five of its members; and until very recently, when two of them retired from the firm, five were Copartners in one Banking Establishment: to this latter circumstance has been attributed the failure of the efforts of this Assembly to fix a standard of value, and establish a legal currency.

The people of this Province have for years asserted, and still most respectfully assert, their right to control and distribute the Casual and Territorial Revenues of the Country, whether arising from the Fees of Office, the Sale of Lands, or the Royalty paid upon the produce of the Mines; as also the amount of the old Crown Duties. The Lands of the Province are in effect mortgaged to pay to the Commissioner a Salary out of all proportion to the duties he is called on to perform. Since his appointment in 1831, £5624 8s. 11d. have been received on account of 107,923 acres of Lands sold, and the whole amount, except £216 8s. 0d. 1-2 has been taken to pay the Commissioner, and defray the ex-

penses of the Department; while all the Mines and Minerals of the Province are held under a lease for sixty years by a wealthy English Company, without the consent of, and independent of all control by, the Representatives of the People.

Apart from the mere question of Judges' Fees, this Assembly is convinced that the presence of the Chief Justice at the Council Board has a tendency to lessen the respect which the People ought to feel for the Courts over which he presides; while the position occupied there by the Collectors of Customs and Excise is also unwise.

Though this Assembly might illustrate the evils arising from the structure of the Council by other examples, sad experience has taught them that it is not always safe to attempt to convey to the foot of the Throne representations that are disagreeable to its Members. A years' Revenue, and all the appropriations, were sacrificed in a protracted struggle with the Upper Branch in 1830; and, during the present Session, the Assembly found itself compelled, by a regard to the public interest, to rescind a series of Resolutions, passed after grave deliberation, and comprehending many of the topics touched on in this Address. The evils arising from the structure of the Council are heightened, and rendered more injurious, by the practice adhered to by that Body, of shutting out the People from their deliberations. This practice they still maintain, although it is opposed to that of the House of Lords in England—that of the Legislative Councils of Lower Canada, New Brunswick and Newfoundland; and notwithstanding the murmurs and complaints of the People, for a long series of years, and the representations and remonstrances of this Assembly.

While this House has a due reverence for British Institutions, and a desire to preserve to themselves and their Children the advantages of the Constitution, under which their brethren on the other side of the Atlantic have enjoyed so much prosperity and happiness; they cannot but feel that those they represent participate but slightly in these blessings. They know that the spirit of that Constitution—the genius of those Institutions, is complete responsibility to the People, by whose resources, and for whose benefit, they are maintained. But, in this Colony, the People and their Representatives are powerless, exercising upon the local Government very little influence, and possessing no effectual control. In England, the People, by one vote of their Representatives, can change the Ministry, and alter any course of policy injurious to their interests; here the Ministry are your Majesty's Council, combining Legislative, Judicial and Executive powers—holding their seats for life, though nominally at the pleasure of the Crown; and often treating with indifference the wishes of the People, and the Representations of the Commons. In England, the Representative Branch can compel a redress of grievances, by withholding the Supplies: here, they have no such remedy, because the Salaries of nearly all the Public Officers, being provided for by permanent Laws, or paid out of the Casual and Territorial Revenues, or from the produce of duties collected under Imperial Acts, a stoppage of Supplies, while it would inflict great injury upon the Community, by leaving Roads, Bridges, and other essential services unprovided for, would not touch the emoluments of the heads of Departments in the Council, or of any but a few subordinate Officers of the Government.

As a remedy for these grievances, we implore your Majesty to grant us an Elective Legislative Council; or, to separate the Executive from the Legislative Council, providing for a just Representation of all the great interest of the Province in both; and, by the introduction into the former of some Members of the popular Branch, and otherwise securing responsibility to the Commons, confer upon the People of this Province, what they value above all their possessions, the blessings of the British Constitution.

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