







The Waterford Chronicle.

TUESDAY, APRIL 27, 1853.

The London Mail to Saturday, inclusive, have been received; the following are extracts:

HIS MAJESTY'S HEALTH.

WINNISON, THURSDAY.—His Majesty, we are happy to state, has passed another good night, and continues to improve in health. Yesterday afternoon, at a quarter past six o'clock, Sir Henry Hallford returned to the Castle, and left this morning, at eight o'clock, for London. Sir Henry, previous to his departure, announced that his Majesty was considerably better. This forenoon, at half-past eleven o'clock, the Duke of Wellington arrived at the Castle, and had a long audience of his Majesty, after which his Grace partook of some light refreshment, and left the Castle at two o'clock.

(From the Court Circular of Friday.)

His Majesty passed another good night on Wednesday night, and yesterday morning the following bulletin, which confirms the previous favourable statement of his Majesty's health, was issued. It will be seen that only one physician now attends the King.—

Windsor Castle, April 22, 1853.

The King is better.

H. HALFORD.

His Majesty signed a number of official warrants and documents on Wednesday, some of them relating to the Treasury.

(From the Globe of Friday.)

The statement this morning at the Government Offices is, that his Majesty remains better.

(From the Courier of Friday.)

We have the pleasure of stating that the accounts from Windsor continue of the same favourable description as that which was conveyed in the Bulletin of yesterday.

Windsor Castle, April 24.

The King has passed two good nights, and continues better.

(Signed) H. HALFORD.

London, Saturday, April 24.

The German Mail which arrived last night, brings intelligence that the third Assembly of the Rhenish Provinces of Prussia is to open on the 23d of May next, the King having already named his Commissioners.

DANNSTADT, APRIL 17.—The Grand Ducal family has to-day been thrown into consternation and affliction by the unexpected death of his Highness the Landgrave Christian of Hesse, the brother of the late Grand Duke.

NEW TAXES UPON IRELAND.

Every other subject, however important its own intrinsic merits may be, gives way to that of the system of taxation which the Chancellor of the Exchequer has announced it to be his purpose to inflict upon Ireland. The public mind is too much absorbed in this one matter at present even to approach the consideration of any other subject. All things else must give way to this all-engrossing topic, which exhibits the peculiar and unique characteristics, scarcely ever before possessed by any Irish question, that of combining every man in Ireland, whatever may be his political opinions, or whatever his rank, station, class, creed, occupation, or caste, in one unanimous opinion, one of unqualified dissatisfaction at the contemplated measure. The better this measure is understood, the greater becomes the public dissatisfaction, which is daily increasing, and will and must continue to increase till the scheme be abandoned altogether. The Chancellor of the Exchequer deserves at least the merit, if merit in this case it can be called, of having done that which few, if any ever did before, that of discovering a question upon which all Ireland is unanimous. The Right Honourable Gentleman proposes—

- First.—To impose an additional duty of One Shilling per gallon on spirits distilled in Ireland.
Secondly.—To subject tobacco grown in Ireland to a duty of One Shilling and Eight Pence per lb.
Thirdly.—To increase the Stamp Duties of Ireland from one to two hundred per cent.

Here are three nice little Easter gifts for Ireland. With regard to the first item—that of the INCREASED DUTY ON SPIRITS. We copied into our publication of last Tuesday an excellent article on this subject, to which we would beg to refer; but as the matter, under present circumstances, cannot be brought too frequently before the public, we shall endeavour to state how the case stands. It is not necessary for our purpose to enter at any length into the position in which the home distillers stood previous to the year 1825. It is sufficient to state that in that year, after frequent interviews between the then Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Robinson, (now Lord Viscount Godolphin), and the distillers, and after the most mature deliberation, it was agreed upon as the arrangement most in union with a due and equitable regard to the interests of all parties, that a duty of 8s 6d per gallon should be imposed on West India spirits (Rum), and 7s per gallon upon spirits made from corn, thus giving to the home produce a protecting duty of 1s 6d per gallon.— In this state have matters since remained, and from the measure now proposed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, it must naturally be inferred that the Right Hon. Gentleman conceives that it gives to the home distiller an unfair advantage. However, in order to form a correct opinion on this subject, we must see how the scale adopted in 1825 has worked. For this purpose,

it will be necessary to ascertain the consumption of rum and British spirits in England.

Table with 2 columns: Description of consumption and Amount. Includes 'Within the last year, ending the 31st of January, 1853, there were consumed of Rum duty 8s 6d per gallon' and 'Previous year ending 31st of January, 1852'.

Within the same period the consumption of British Spirits (duty 7s per gallon) was 1,730,004 in 1850 and 1,700,760 in 1853.

Being a decrease in the consumption of British Spirits in England for the year ending the 31st Jan. 1853, of 29,244.

This is a clear, simple, matter of fact statement, and the information is derived from the Parliamentary returns. It is there in black and white. No occasion for drawing upon the imagination, or arguing from hypothesis. The question is not what the effects of such or such a system might be, but what they are. Even with this protecting duty in the English market of 1s 6d per gallon in favour of home-distilled spirits, there has been, within the last year, an increase in the consumption of rum of 237,237 gallons, and a decrease on home-made spirits, within the same period, of 38,928 gallons. This fact is as clearly and substantially to be seen, as if the gallons were actually filled out before our eyes.

Under these circumstances, it would appear that if any alteration of the existing system were called for, it would be either a decrease of duty on the home-made spirits, or an increase of duty on rum; and under these circumstances it appears strange what could have induced the Chancellor of the Exchequer to pursue the course which he has now adopted. Some will say no doubt that his object is to check the consumption of spirituous liquors, which has operated to such an injurious extent upon public morals. Even this cannot be adduced as an argument in favour of the proposed measure—for, in the first instance, so far as Ireland is concerned, it is only upon Irish distilled spirits exported to England that it is sought to impose this additional duty; therefore, it leaves the price of spirits in Ireland still the same—neither can it apply to England, because, by subjecting the Irish spirits to a higher duty, they throw the English market open to rum, of which, even under the existing duty, the consumption was increasing—and there are at this moment upwards of twenty thousand puncheons of rum in bond, ready to pour upon the country the moment the duty on whisky is raised. It appears then quite evident that, as a conservator of the public morals, it is duty will have no effect. But if it do not produce this effect, it certainly will have that of destroying it; a convenient and advantageous home market afforded by the Irish distiller for barley and oats of an inferior quality, which were unfit for other uses, and for the growth of which a great portion of the soil of Ireland is a fitly calculated. This must inevitably be the effect of the proposed measure, if persevered in; and thus will the agricultural interests receive a death blow—and those who have embarked capital in distilleries, calculating upon the stability of the present system, will be ruined—and hundreds of thousands, now employed in these establishments and in agriculture, will be turned adrift upon the world. Such must be the effects of the contemplated measure, so far as rum spirits are concerned.

And now with regard to the DUTY ON TOBACCO. We refer with pleasure to the proceedings of a meeting held in this City on last Saturday, upon this subject. The facts there stated, by persons possessed of considerable experience in the cultivation of tobacco, were such as most clearly demonstrated to the Chancellor of the Exchequer the ruinous consequences of the course which he is now pursuing. Independent of the additional impulse which the cultivation of this plant would give to agriculture, it appeared from the statements there made, that it gave employment to numbers of fastidious creatures—so, much so that in those districts where it was cultivated to any extent, the population, which was before pining away in wretchedness as now well fed and clothed, their cottages, as well as themselves, had assumed a cleanly, neat, and healthy appearance, and they had become comfortable and happy. Let us look around, and do we not see misery and crime engendered and fostered by want of employment? Have we not seen almost every day, for the last month, thousands of our countrymen forced to emigrate to some foreign land, to seek a means of support, which they could not obtain at home?—Two thousand six hundred persons connected with the cotton trade in London are reduced to a state of starvation, the charitable fund which supported them during the last five months being now exhausted. The operative branch of the cotton trade is nearly extinct in Limerick, the weavers having been compelled by distress to emigrate to Manchester and other parts of England. We are furthermore threatened with poor rates, and the existing state of things must inevitably force the poor laws upon us. What a prospect then when we find by an official return that in England, where those laws exist, one single parish near Brighton, consisting of four thousand acres, nearly paid in poor rates within the year ending at Easter last no less a sum than £60,000!

Several meetings have already been held throughout Ireland upon this subject, and a general meeting of the Proprietors of public Journals is to be held in Dublin this day, to consider the matter so far as it regards their interests; and, indeed, not only themselves, but the country at large. We regret to perceive by the following document, that the Chancellor of the Exchequer seems to preserve the same view of the matter as he originally took up. The Cork Committee of Merchants remonstrated with the Right Hon. Gentleman on this subject, and in reply to their communication, Mr. Magan, President of that Body, received the following reply:—

Downing-street, April 14, 1853. Sir—I am directed by Mr. Goulburn to acknowledge the receipt of the letter which you sent him the honor of addressing to him, as President of the Committee of Merchants of Cork, on the subject of the consumption of the English and Irish Stamp Duties. It had been proposed to impose any higher stamp duties in Ireland than are paid in Great Britain. Mr. Goulburn would readily have admitted the justice of the representation which you made to him; but his object is merely to equalize the duties paid in the parts of the United Kingdom, he cannot discover on what grounds such a course can justly be matter of complaint.

EDWARD W. ALLEN.

So the Chancellor of the Exchequer can see no reason why, because England pays such and such taxes, Ireland should not do the same. Now this document must be either suggested by downright ignorance, or absolute bartered slavery. Can it be possible that Mr. Goulburn, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and late Secretary of State for Ireland, (who, by the bye, from this fact alone, should I have some knowledge of Ireland) has yet to learn that one of the first and leading principles of political economy is, that the taxes imposed upon any country must be proportioned to its resources. Here are two individual occupying adjoining farms. The one is a large capitalist, and possesses a very extensive tract of rich and productive land—the other is extremely limited in his means, and farms but a few acres of poor ground. For some years they have both been in the habit of paying rent and taxes proportioned to their means, or at least the wealthy individual has paid more than the other. There are several in the same district similarly circumstanced relatively to each other. Suddenly, however, it strikes the chief magister that it would be a mighty pretty thing to assimilate the demands on these men—it would be to ask much more of the one than he could pay, and to ask less of the other than he could afford to pay. In the same way as a pair of carriage horses, and accordingly the demand is made upon the poor man—they stare with astonishment—put forth strong remonstrances—and urge their poverty, the disproportion of their means; but all will not do—they are told that their rich neighbor pays that sum—that they have, therefore, no just cause of complaint—and that, in fact, they must do the same. But really the subject will scarcely admit of serious discussion.

We feel convinced that the meeting in politics against these proposed burdens generally, to be held in this City to-day, will be well attended, as we know of the feeling on the subject very strong and very general. We refer to the meeting in the High Sheriff's Court in course of signature by a similar meeting in the County, and we trust that even every parish in Ireland will forward Petitions to Parliament against this ruinous proposition. Every County, City and Borough should also make a strong call upon their respective representatives to oppose strenuously the contemplated measure.

The Proprietors of the police prints in this City have forwarded a joint letter to the Members of the County and City, and to those of the adjoining Counties respectively, but finally urging them to oppose the proposed increase of stamp duty on newspapers, and advertisements. We could not resist the idea that it would be no desirable if a similar course were adopted by the Proprietors of public Journals throughout Ireland generally.

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Alderman Henry Alcock was called to the Chair.

Edward HENRY, Esq. acted as Secretary.

The Chairman, after having read the notice which convened the meeting, said, Gentlemen, the subject on which we have met is one, in my opinion, of the first consequence to Ireland, inasmuch as it will, if allowed, give employment to every individual man, woman, and child, of our fastidious population. I speak from some little experience in the matter, having grown about one acre and a half last year, to which I paid every attention, the expense of cultivating which (not including my 497 3s. 0d.—£47 18s. 2 1/2d. which I paid in labour done, but, gentlemen, I am sorry to tell you that the duty at present contemplated to be put on it by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, will, if carried into effect, amount to a total prohibition, as I sold my tobacco, when manufactured, for the very same per pound as the duty at present contemplated to be laid on it; and I have every reason to think that it was of a good quality as any produced in this market. However, Gentlemen, I trust that petitions will be presented to the House of Commons in such numbers from this County, and that our Irish Members, in their places in Parliament, will make such representations on the subject as will induce the Minister to abandon the idea of placing any duty on it at present, or at least such a one as will enable us to grow it, and thereby give to the Country what we most stand in need of, namely, employment to our poor. Having said so much, I have only to add that I shall be happy to hear the opinions of any gentleman who may wish to offer them to the meeting.

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Downing-street, April 14, 1853. Sir—I am directed by Mr. Goulburn to acknowledge the receipt of the letter which you sent him the honor of addressing to him, as President of the Committee of Merchants of Cork, on the subject of the consumption of the English and Irish Stamp Duties. It had been proposed to impose any higher stamp duties in Ireland than are paid in Great Britain. Mr. Goulburn would readily have admitted the justice of the representation which you made to him; but his object is merely to equalize the duties paid in the parts of the United Kingdom, he cannot discover on what grounds such a course can justly be matter of complaint.

EDWARD W. ALLEN.

So the Chancellor of the Exchequer can see no reason why, because England pays such and such taxes, Ireland should not do the same. Now this document must be either suggested by downright ignorance, or absolute bartered slavery. Can it be possible that Mr. Goulburn, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and late Secretary of State for Ireland, (who, by the bye, from this fact alone, should I have some knowledge of Ireland) has yet to learn that one of the first and leading principles of political economy is, that the taxes imposed upon any country must be proportioned to its resources. Here are two individual occupying adjoining farms. The one is a large capitalist, and possesses a very extensive tract of rich and productive land—the other is extremely limited in his means, and farms but a few acres of poor ground. For some years they have both been in the habit of paying rent and taxes proportioned to their means, or at least the wealthy individual has paid more than the other. There are several in the same district similarly circumstanced relatively to each other. Suddenly, however, it strikes the chief magister that it would be a mighty pretty thing to assimilate the demands on these men—it would be to ask much more of the one than he could pay, and to ask less of the other than he could afford to pay. In the same way as a pair of carriage horses, and accordingly the demand is made upon the poor man—they stare with astonishment—put forth strong remonstrances—and urge their poverty, the disproportion of their means; but all will not do—they are told that their rich neighbor pays that sum—that they have, therefore, no just cause of complaint—and that, in fact, they must do the same. But really the subject will scarcely admit of serious discussion.

We feel convinced that the meeting in politics against these proposed burdens generally, to be held in this City to-day, will be well attended, as we know of the feeling on the subject very strong and very general. We refer to the meeting in the High Sheriff's Court in course of signature by a similar meeting in the County, and we trust that even every parish in Ireland will forward Petitions to Parliament against this ruinous proposition. Every County, City and Borough should also make a strong call upon their respective representatives to oppose strenuously the contemplated measure.

The Proprietors of the police prints in this City have forwarded a joint letter to the Members of the County and City, and to those of the adjoining Counties respectively, but finally urging them to oppose the proposed increase of stamp duty on newspapers, and advertisements. We could not resist the idea that it would be no desirable if a similar course were adopted by the Proprietors of public Journals throughout Ireland generally.

PRIVATE CORRESPONDENCE.

Dublin, April 25.

I am glad to find that the citizens of Waterford are determined to petition against the horrible plan of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to crush the Irish Press. Upon looking over the requisition for the meeting in your City, I am particularly delighted to perceive, that the names of gentlemen, the advocates and supporters of different parties, are to be found annexed to it. This is right, and this is as it ought to be—for unless the entire population, the rich and the poor, all rise en masse against the new taxes, the Press will be destroyed, and the agricultural interests completely ruined. So deep is the indignation, and so intense the feelings of society here, against the measure, that the flame of agitation has even caught the reporters, who now for the first time come forward as a political body—they are now actors, who heretofore were but spectators or critics, and you will find from their proceedings, which I send you, that their language is bold, and their tone to the ministry is that of defiance and contempt. Defiance, because they know that an entire nation will be roused against the ministry, and contempt, because the ministry have presumed to think that they will be able to suppress public opinion in Ireland. The following are the proceedings to which I allude.

The Meeting of the reporters was held yesterday evening, at the Masonic Coffee Room, D'Olier Street.

Mr W. B. Macaulay was in the Chair—Mr Hughes acted as Secretary—when the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:—

Moved by Mr Quinlan—seconded by Mr Secretary.—Resolved—That the contemplated plan of imposition of stamp duties in Ireland, by means of which the amount now imposed in Ireland to the English standard, is essentially calculated to fit us with deep sleep for the rest of the Press, inasmuch as it carried into effect would amount to a total prohibition of the Newpapers in Ireland will be the inevitable consequence.

Moved by Mr King—seconded by Mr J. O'Connell.—Resolved—That the present scale of duties on Newspapers is excessively high and nearly prohibitory, and that any increase in the duties on Newspapers, which would increase the price of Newspapers, and thereby deprive the people of a valuable and necessary commodity, and Agriculture in a languid and rapidly declining condition.

Moved by Mr Gorman—seconded by Mr J. Hoare.—Resolved—That official returns demonstrate that notwithstanding a great increase of population in this portion of the British Empire, a decrease in the amount of Revenue derived from Newpapers has kept pace with an increase of duties on the Press—it is hence manifest no augmentation in the Revenue can reasonably be anticipated from the proposed scheme of assimilation.

Moved by Mr Lynch—seconded by Mr M. Lavelle.—Resolved—That, even were the measures of the framers of the contemplated measure above suspicion, still the suppression of popular sentiment in Ireland would follow as a necessary result from any additional pressure upon an already overburdened and feeble public opinion; for, although a few Journals might survive the blow, yet the difficulty of maintaining themselves under an accumulated impost, in a country sunk in poverty, and already exhausted by absenteeism, would in all probability force them to abandon the advocacy of the people's rights—to become the tools of corruption, and the servile instruments of power.

Moved by Mr Prendergast—seconded by Mr John Kenny.—Resolved—That as citizens of a State said to be free, we protest against the project of increased taxation—unwarranted as it is by circumstances which would design—pernicious in its tendency—detrimental in its nature—and totally at variance with every idea of justice, sound policy,