

much gratified to learn that the brethren Goucher, Stubbert, and Martell were going on in harmony with their churches, and that an encouraging degree of success attended their labours. Some were added by Baptism to the West church while I was there. May the Lord add many more to encourage brother G's hands in His holy work. I believe brother Angel has not yet been inducted into the pastoral office of the first church, but is supplying for a time waiting further action of the church. May the Lord visit both him and them in that important step. As a church and congregation it is the largest in this province. There is not a more interesting church in Nova Scotia, nor a more promising one for christian effort. Prayers, cares, and toils have been spent in its up building. May the good shepherd watch over it and keep it.

I was delighted to find my worthy brother Rev. C. Randall, of Weymouth, moved out from the back out of the way place where he used to live, into a new, commodious and neat dwelling, near Weymouth Bridge, where he ought to have been years ago. Many attempts had been made to remove him from those churches under his charge, to take the oversight of others, but his churches would not yield, and so he remains. Well may they love him, for the many excellencies of character which he possesses, as well as for his assiduity and persevering labour at all seasons for twenty years past. I need not add that we everywhere enjoyed the kindest hospitalities and warm greetings of many friends, and having spent nearly three weeks, returned home in safety.

Yours affectionately,  
WM. BURTON.

Provincial Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

TUESDAY, March 18.

Two money resolutions were read and passed. The first for the ordinary road and bridge service, the second for expense connected with imprisonment of N. H. Martin.

Hon. Mr. McKeen presented a petition from the inhabitants of Great Village, Londonderry, in favor of the Prohibitory Liquor Law.

The House resolved itself into a committee on Bills, and passed a bill to authorize the draining of the peat bog near Liverpool. Bill to neutralize Andrew C. White, William E. Sargept and William G. Armstrong. Bill to incorporate the Newport Brooklyn Hall Company. Bill to amend the act to authorize a loan for the erection of a Court House in Pictou. Bill to alter Chapter 154 of the Revised Statutes "of Costs and Fees." Bill to provide for the building of a Town Hall in Onslow. Bill to make certain records of the Township of Onslow receivable in evidence. Bill to incorporate the Ira Woodworth Creek Company, and a Bill to incorporate the trustees of the Union Meeting House at Mahone Bay.

The Bill for improving the Harbour of Port Hood was read. After a lengthened conversational debate it was moved by Hon. Mr. Fairbanks that this Bill be deferred to this day three months, which motion was put and negatived.

Bill to incorporate the Oak Point Pier Company. Bill to amend the act to incorporate the Acadian Iron and Steel Company, capital £200,000 sterling, in shares of £5 sterling each, with power to increase their capital to any amount not exceeding £400,000 sterling, and a Bill to amend Revised Statutes of the Probate Court, were read and passed.

Hon. Mr. McCully presented a petition from inhabitants of Parrsborough, in favour of a Prohibitory Liquor Law.

WEDNESDAY, March 19.

Hon. Mr. McCully reported, recommending to the favorable consideration of the House the act to incorporate Bank of Nova Scotia.

Hon. Mr. Black introduced a Bill to increase the capital stock of the Nova Scotia Horticultural Society.

HOUSE IN COMMITTEE.

The bill to continue and further amend the Act to incorporate the Bank of Nova Scotia and the Acts in amendment thereof, was read. This bill enables the Bank to increase their capital to the extent of £400,000.

Hon. Receiver General laid on the table a petition signed by 32 shipmasters, 13 of whom belong to the United States, 1 to N. B., 3 to Port Hood, and the remainder to other ports in this Province. The other 33 petitioners are merchants, magistrates, &c., belonging to Port Hood and its vicinity, praying for the erection of a Breakwater at Port Hood, and stating their willingness to have a tax laid upon the shipping for the purpose of taking care of, repairing or extending the Breakwaters when erected.

Hon. Mr. Fairbanks—Let me turn attention to the report of Mr. Forman on this harbour. "Port Hood Harbour, through want of ordinary

precautions, has become so impaired as to be unfit, except to a limited extent, for vessels of large size. I have been informed that at a recent period it provided accommodation for almost any number or description of vessels. Its impairment has been occasioned by the destruction of a large embankment connecting the main land with Smith's Island. The proper plan for restoration is to erect a breakwater on or near the site of the original embankment. The necessary works would extend over 1283 yards, or thereabouts, in length, and from their exposed position would require to be well secured. I am inclined from the information at hand, to estimate them at £45,000 sterling. Have we any proof that this expenditure will effect the proposed object? If the work be not properly done, the money expended will all be thrown away. As to the taxation clause, I cannot see that it is fair enough to tax the shipping who are to be benefited.

Hon. Mr. Pineo—If £40,000 be required to make a safe breakwater in that harbour, then this bill asking for £1000 is simply ridiculous. Three pence a ton is, I think, too high a duty.—half of that sum would be quite sufficient.

Hon. Mr. McKeen—The intention is merely to secure what is now standing, which must be done in order to prevent the utter destruction of the harbor.

On second clause, granting the £1000, being read, Hon. Mr. Keith said, this thousand pounds will be entirely thrown away, as after it is expended the work will be left in quite an unfinished state.

The clauses granting £1000 for this work after full discussion were passed after which the remaining clauses of the bill were read and passed without discussion.

Bill for enabling the inhabitants of Pictou and New Glasgow to assess themselves for repairing their streets and sewers, read and passed.

Committee adjourned and the House resumed, when the chairman reported.

Hon. Mr. Fairbanks moved that so much of the said report as referred to the Bill for improving the Harbor of Port Hood, be not received, which being seconded, and the question being put by the President, there appeared, *For the Motion 6, Against it 15.*

Hon. Mr. Morton presented six lengthy petitions from Annapolis, in favor of a prohibitory liquor law.

Hon. Mr. McCully presented a similar petition from the Grand Division of the Sons of Temperance.

Hon. Mr. Comeau presented four petitions of the same character from Digby.

Hon. Mr. McCully introduced a bill to incorporate the Halifax Mechanics' Library Association, read a first time.

THURSDAY, March 20.

BILLS FORWARDED.

The bill to incorporate the Trustees of St. Matthew's Church, (Wallace), and the bill to enable the inhabitants of Pictou and New Glasgow to assess themselves for streets and sewers, were passed.

Bill to improve the harbour of Port Hood read a third time.

Hon. Mr. Pineo suggested that a clause reducing the tonnage duty to two pence should be added to the bill on which some discussion arose.

The bill was passed.

Bill to continue and further amend the Act to incorporate the Bank of Nova Scotia, was then read a third time and passed.

Bill to increase the Capital Stock of the Nova Scotia Horticultural Company, read a second time and referred to committee.

Hon. Mr. Comeau reported, recommending the Bill to amend the Act to incorporate the Margaretville Pier Company.

UNION BANK.

The House in committee on bills. Union Bank Bill was taken up. The capital of the Bank is fixed at £250,000, in 10,000 shares of £25 each, conducted by a President and six Directors, no shareholder to have more than eight votes, whatever the amount of his stock, bill shall continue on operation for fifteen years.

Hon. Mr. Brown—In the old bank there are nine Directors, three being annually removable, but all may be re-elected. Whether the one or the other principle be most for the advantage of an institution of this kind is a question. It however meets an objection urged by some persons against the old Bank, and provides for an annual change in the direction.—But it differs chiefly in that provision which enables the Bank to increase its capital beyond the first two instalments of 40 per cent on £100,000. Additional calls can only be made by a vote of the share-holders, who must pay the advances required or sell out their shares, receiving themselves whatever premium the shares may be worth. When a similar addition is required by the Bank of Nova Scotia, their act provides that the new stock be secured by a public sale of shares, and the profit or premium derived from the sale be divided between the old and the new shareholders. This would seem to be a more liberal arrangement than the one contained in this bill. Yet I do not say there is not fair ground to claim this advantage by those whose capital and able management may establish a successful institution, and I make these observations merely in consequence of the claims which have been set up in favor of this new banking association. The largest shareholder has only eight votes in the choice of Directors, while in the old institution he is entitled to fifteen.

It is a subject of gratulation to know there is

disengaged capital enough in the country to establish a new Bank, under proper management, and if the public require its accommodation its establishment cannot be otherwise than useful.

I quite agree with the remarks made the other day by the Hon. and learned member Mr. McC. that nowhere in this continent are the Banks more sound, or is their business conducted with more discretion, and so far as their paper issue is concerned in perfect safety to the public. Their notes are always known to be identical with certain determinate coins readily convertible at their several places of business. This is owing in part to the soundness of our present currency law, which and the practice of the Banks under it will compare favourably with what is said to be the condition and the practice in other colonies.

Hon. Mr. Bell—I admit the truth of what has been said relative to the liberality of our Banking institution, I still think there is great room for more liberality to the community, than is exhibited by any of our Banks. The Banks in Scotland allow persons indebted to them, to pay in just as their means will permit, and that on every pound paid in, the interest is deducted, whereas here, if an individual have a note of £100 at the bank, and has any sum less than the whole £100 in his hands, he must let all that lie by unproductive, until he has raised the whole amount. I think that a larger per centage on deposits might be afforded, than is generally allowed by the banks. They might allow five per cent.

Hon. Mr. Brown—I should like to ask my hon. friend whether he proposes to determine by legislation the rate of interest which the banks shall allow, or whether he would leave it to be regulated in the same way as are other branches of trade. Does it not depend upon the demand for loans—the wants of the business community? No one knows better than my hon. friend that the value in this case must be regulated by the demand for it.—The new bank will increase competition, and if there be employment for them, may increase likewise the interest on loans.

Hon. Mr. Bell—I think the period is not far distant when the great principles of Free Trade will be fully established, and when the interest of money will not be fixed by law. But as long as the rate of 6 per cent is so fixed the banks will be governed by it in their transactions.

Hon. Mr. McCully—As to the rate of interest which the bank should allow, does my hon. friend (Hon. Mr. Bell) think that the banks will pay 5 p. c. for money, when they are now overstocked with it at three per cent. I am credibly informed that the banks have abundance of money at 3 per cent. This being the case I do not know how we can make them give 5 per cent. Money, like any other article, varies in value according to its abundance or scarcity. A change has taken place in public opinion on that point in Canada. A change has even come over the minds of hon. gentlemen here, so that I should not be surprised if I were to introduce the bill which I had the honor of introducing here last year, to find now a majority in favor of it.

Hon. Mr. Brown—I do not wish the hon. gentleman to intimate that I am in any way opposed to the bill, I merely referred to the boasted liberality of this association as compared with similar institutions. The Bank of Nova Scotia, when its capital requires extension, sells its stock at public auction and the new purchasers, as well as the original stockholders participate in the profits. This bill does not give that advantage to the future purchasers of stock.

Hon. Mr. Pineo—As to the idea that the banks should allow 5 per cent on deposits, that is quite out of the question. If they have money to lend, they ought to have the same rate of interest as other money lenders. The Directors are obliged to spend a portion of their own time in managing the affairs of their banks, and they have also to pay their clerks. A large portion of their profits is expended in this way. The remaining clauses of the bill were then passed. Committee then adjourned, and the House resumed. The chairman of the committee reported on the bill, recommending it to favorable consideration. Received and adopted by the House.

Hon. Mr. Almon—While we are on the subject of banking institutions, I would draw the attention of my hon. friend the Receiver General to the difficulty which has arisen relative to the paper currency of this Province. By the Revised Statutes, chap 83, sec 6, any person is prevented from issuing notes less than £5 in value. There are however many \$1 and \$2 notes in circulation here, and I am credibly informed that agents of the banks issuing these notes have been appointed in this city to redeem them at a premium. The effect of this will be that our gold and silver will be driven out of circulation. I do not mean to say that I am disinterested in this matter, because the institution with which I am connected is obliged, like other institutions in the province, to issue no note of a lower denomination than £5. I need not state that the chief profit of a bank lies in the circulation of small notes. The only notes issued in this province are the £1 province notes, and the £5 notes of the banks of this city. If we are going to have a small currency of notes, is the whole advantage of it to go to the banks of other provinces. The banks here should be placed on the same footing.

Hon. Receiver General—I perfectly agree with my hon. friend. I think, however, that these notes do not circulate, except to a very limited extent. If it is found that they circulate to a large extent, I should apply to the Att. Gen. to introduce a law to prevent their circulation.

Hon. Mr. Almon—There is a doubt whether there is any law in the province to restrain them, if the bills are not made within the Province. The law has reference to persons issuing such notes.

Hon. Mr. Kenny—The public will suffer nothing from this circulation of small notes, as long as New Brunswick notes command, as they now do, a premium of from 1 to 2 per cent, and Canada notes 4 per cent.

Hon. Rec. General—The circulation of the Province notes might be injured by it, however.

Hon. Mr. Brown—I agree with the hon. and learned member, that while the notes of New Brunswick and Canada are worth a premium, they will not circulate generally, but will continue to be bought up as they are now for re-issuing to the Colonies. At present there is no occasion for interference.

FUNERAL OF JAMES MCLEOD, ESQUIRE.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Kenny, it was

Resolved unanimously, "That this House will attend the funeral of the late JAMES MCLEOD, late representative of the county of Cape Breton in General Assembly, and that the President of this house be requested to communicate the foregoing resolution to the Speaker of the House of Assembly."

The house then adjourned until Monday next.

MONDAY, March 21.

Hon. President laid on the table a letter from the speaker of the House of Assembly, acknowledging the resolution of this house, relative to the funeral of the Hon. James McLeod. The letter was ordered to lie on the table.

BILLS FORWARDED.

The bill to incorporate the Union Bank of Halifax was finally passed.

Hon. Mr. Comeau introduced a bill to constitute the township of Argyle, in the County of Yarmouth, a separate district, read a first time.

House resolved itself into a committee on bills. Bill to increase the capital of the Nova Scotia Horticultural Society read and passed.

Bill for incorporating the Margaretville Pier Company. This bill gives power to appoint a harbor master, enables the company to define the limits of the harbor, and to make regulations for preserving the harbor from damage. These regulations, however, are to have no effect until approved of by the Court of Sessions of the County of Annapolis.

House adjourned until to-morrow.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,

WEDNESDAY, March 19.

PROHIBITORY LIQUOR LAW.

Mr. McFarlane moved that the Bill be deferred to the next session of the Legislature, the House divided,—when there appeared for the Resolution 21; against 27.

On the main question the House divided,—when there appeared for the motion 27; against 20.

For, Ryder, Hyde, White, Tupper, Thorne, Marshall, Killam, Webster, Archibald, Parker, Bill, Moses, McKeagney, Bent, J. Campbell, McLellan, McLearn, Johnston, C. Campbell, Brown, Churchill, Chambers, Fin. Secretary, Dimock, McDonald, Whitman, and McKenzie—Against, McKinnon, Wier, Martell, Wilkins, Fuller, Geldert, Prov. Secretary, Robinson, McFarlane, Robicheau, Att. General, Sol. General, Locke, Tobin, Anand, Esson, Smith, Reynard, Bayley, and Bourneauf. Notice to rescind given.

THURSDAY, March 19.

A motion was made to rescind the vote on the second reading of the Prohibitory Liquor Bill. As, however, the doors were closed we have no means of making known the arguments used in support of this motion. We can only give the result which was 23 for, and 24 against.

It was then moved that the second reading of the Bill be rescinded, which was negatived by a majority of one.

The House then adjourned until Monday, in consequence of the death of the Hon. Jas. McLeod.

MONDAY, March 24.

Mr. Robinson reported from committee on Penitentiary.

A short discussion on the subject of reporting intervened—several speakers thought the present system was decidedly defective.

Mr. Munro reported from committee on Foot Asylum.

Mr. Morrison eulogised the existing management and state of the institution.

Hon. Mr. Wier reported from committee on Trade and Manufactures.

Report sent to committee of Supply.

Hon. Provincial Secretary introduced bill to repeal 18th Vic., regarding assessment for railway damages. Bill makes the attendance of jurors compulsory.

SHUBENACADIE CANAL.

Mr. McDonald reported on petition of "Inland Navigation Company" recommending that the sum of £2,000, due to the Province by the Company, be remitted.

Mr. Johnston and the hon. member for Colchester, would like to have some explanation as to the grounds upon which this remission was proposed to be made.

Hon. Att. General explained.