

Mr. Dimock, if he thought the Province was really to be benefitted by the Canal, would give his vote for the Report. As it was, he could not. The Canal would be closed with ice for many months in the year.

Mr. Tobin thought the objection that the Canal would be closed by ice for a long period of the year, of no great weight. There was the Erie Canal, along which, notwithstanding that it was closed by ice part of the year, more produce was conveyed to markets, annually, by means of it, than is carried over all the Railways in the United States. He was for giving all due encouragement to the Canal Company.

Mr. McLellan thought the House would be decidedly wrong in remitting the claim of £2000. Mr. Johnston thought the request made by the Canal Company a very proper one and recommended by a Committee of the House, should be met in a spirit of liberality.

On the question being put that the House do receive and adopt the Report, there appeared for receiving, &c., 23; against, 17.

ELECTIVE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Hon. Mr. Johnston asked leave to introduce the following resolutions touching the present constitution of the upper branch of the Legislature; premising that this subject had for some time past engaged attention in the Legislatures of Canada and of New Brunswick.

Resolved, That the power possessed by the Executive, exclusively to select and appoint the individuals elevated to the Legislative Council is inconsistent with correct principles of representative government; and, on occasion of emergency, may prove dangerous to the liberties and progress of the country; it places the second branch of the legislature unduly under the control of the government, from whose patronage it draws its continued existence, and removes it in too great a degree from the influence of the popular sentiment, while it leads to an unequal representation in that body of the different portions of the Province, and the several interests of the people.

Therefore, in the opinion of this House, it is the duty of the representatives of the people of Nova Scotia to seek by all constitutional means a change in the construction and constitution of the Legislative Council, by which the seats in that body shall be held dependent on election by the people.

Dr. Webster introduced a bill to amend the Revised Statutes relating to Medical Practitioners, bill read a first time.

EDUCATION BILL

Hon. Attorney General rose to move a resolution embodying the leading feature of an Educational Bill, viz: assessment of inhabitants of school districts, or sections, to an amount equal to the sum appropriated out of the public funds for the support of Common Schools.

If the House affirmed this resolution he would proceed with the Bill founded upon it, otherwise he would at once abandon the Bill. He had not the remotest wish to enlarge the powers of the Executive Government the means which Government proposed to lay before Parliament presented no striking novelty, and hardly one perfectly new feature. The time had arrived when assessment for the support of Common Schools, might and should be made compulsory, this was the leading feature of the Bill which he had prepared with much care and deliberation. The Bill would contain a clause providing for separate Schools, but this was necessary, due regard being had to satisfy conscientious scruples entertained by a certain section of that House, and a very large proportion of the whole population of the Province. He was of opinion, however, that such Schools could not be many—perhaps not over thirty in all the Counties.

Mr. Munro would go for the proposed measure if he could see that we were to better our condition, in an educational point of view. He should like to be assured that the Schools which it was contemplated to support by direct taxation were to be in reality free-schools. If it were not so, the measure was but a sham.

Mr. McLellan was glad to hear the principle of assessment for Common Schools again introduced. It had long been a favourite principle with him, equally so was the ballot, which he hoped yet to live to see introduced into Parliament and carried. For years education had been going backwards in Nova Scotia.

Dr. Tupper had, after hearing the speech from the Throne, expected that Government would come down to the House with an educational measure matured for the action of the House. Government had failed so to do, this could not have been the case were Ministers entitled, in respect of intelligence, and a knowledge of the wants and requirements of this people, to the confidence of the country. Taxation and Representation should go hand in hand, but in the face of this sound constitutional maxim, the Hon. Attorney General had opposed the Counties Incorporation Bill introduced by the hon. member for Annapolis. In his view it would not be for the interest of this people to adopt the principle of taxation for support of Schools until they had local self-government in their counties. This bill would in effect vastly increase and extend the influence of the Executive Government—one of its provisions went to create several hundred offices, every one of which would be in the gift of the Executive Government. The Executive was already sufficiently strong, and powerful enough to be felt and feared, in the dispensation of patronage, and now that the country was aware of the exclusive principle upon which it would be meted out in the future, it was

at least prudent to pause before that power was increased by an act of the people's representatives.

Mr. Tobin was pleased to learn that the bill did not propose, to separate religious from secular instruction. Catholics could not conscientiously or consistently be parties to carrying any measure in which such separation was contemplated.

Mr. Johnston had no insuperable objection to let the bill go to a select committee; nevertheless, under any circumstances, he should oppose the passage of the bill, unless it were preceded by an act establishing municipal corporations, generally, throughout the Province—the only way (considering the avowed policy of the party and government in power, touching the distribution of patronage,) in which the country could be emancipated. The bill went to create some four hundred offices, the incumbents of which every one of them, would be obliged to support the Government.

Mr. Wilkins insisted that the duty of the Government was to have come down to Parliament, not with a crude, but with a perfectly matured measure. A paragraph in the speech at the opening of the session had led the House and the country to expect so much at the hands of Ministers.

At the close of a conversation, carried on in a low tone of voice, in which several gentlemen took part, the resolution subjoined, as amended was put.

Whereas, the principle of assessment is the only permanent foundation for the Common School Education of the Country—and as the principle is the leading feature of the measure now under consideration, and the details may be modified and improved,

Resolved, therefore that the Bill, entitled an Act for the better encouragement of education be referred to a select committee with instructions to consider the same and report thereon, by a short day.

Which being seconded the House divided when there appeared, for the Resolution 37; against the resolution 9; so it passed in the affirmative.

TUESDAY, March 25.

Mr. Marshall asked leave to introduce a Bill making provision for the retirement of Judge T. C. Haliburton. Leave given, and Bill read a first time.

The House went into Committee on Ways and Means.

Hon. J. W. Johnston moved his resolutions in favor of a Railroad from Windsor to Digby, which were negatived.

WEDNESDAY, March 26.

House in Committee.

PROHIBITORY LIQUOR LAW.

The Bill to restrain the selling of intoxicating Liquors was taken up.

On motion made by Mr. Tobin that the Bill be postponed until the next session of the Assembly, Committee divided:—For, 29; Against, 20.

House resumed,—

When, on motion made that the Report of Committee be not received, there appeared:—

For the motion,—Messrs. Hyde, John Campbell, Bent, Archibald, Churchill, Ryder, C. Campbell, Tupper, McKeagney, Bill, Brown, McDonald, Marshall, Johnston, McLellan, Thorne, McLearn, White, Morrison, Killam, and Whitman—21.

Against the motion—Messrs. Wilkins, Geldert, Locke, Esson, Martell, Waile, McKenzie, Wade, Tobin, Parker, Munro, Fuller, Smith, Davidson, Robertson, McKinnon, Bailey, L. M. Wilkins, (P. S.) Rhinard, Webster, Young, (A. G.) Wier, Bonneau, Henry, (S. G.) Robicheau, Chambers, Annand, Chipman, (F. S.) and Dimock,—28.

On the motion that the Resolution do pass the House, there appeared:—For, 27; Against, 21.

Names the same as above, with the exception of Mr. M. Wilkins, absent.

The House then adjourned.

European Intelligence.

The Conference.

There is now no doubt of peace. At the close of last week orders were transmitted from the Executive Government to counteract the further embarkation of troops for the Crimea, and it is said, on reliable authority, that the French Government, like our own, are so convinced of the war being over, that they are pursuing a similar course.

The recent accounts from the Crimea show that the British army there is in a state of perfection as regards discipline, health, and thorough military efficiency, which contrasts most favourably with that of our French and Sardinian allies. As we have advanced so rapidly towards military perfection, they have retrograded, and the storm of indignation which prevailed in this country twelve months ago, at the hardships to which our Crimean heroes were exposed, has given way to felicitations of the most pleasant and satisfactory kind.

Nothing can show more clearly the pacific course of the Conference than the request transmitted to Berlin that Prussia should take part in it. Count Orloff is said to be delighted with the Emperor of the French, and has expressed deep regret that his master, the late Czar, did not know him, as he is just the sort of man with whom Nicholas would have been

pleased. If the Count really gave expression to this sentiment, he is entitled to the credit of sincerity, for the primary origin of the war—or rather the cause of the reckless policy of Nicholas, was his sincere conviction that England and France would never combine to resist his aggression. Deceived in this essential point, the crafty policy of thirty years became, after the first campaign, as feeble as a rope of sand—cut short the life of the autocrat, and has compelled his successor, at the end of the second campaign, to acknowledge the error of his predecessor by suing for peace.

Latest Telegraphic Despatches.

THE PEACE CONFERENCES.

PARIS, Wednesday 12th inst.—The Congress held its eighth sitting to-day, and it was observed that when it broke up Count Orloff was particularly gay. This has increased the confidence of the partisans of peace.

The Times Paris correspondent writes:—At the next sitting it will be proposed to come to an understanding on the more important conditions:—to adopt them formally and irrevocably with a view to a definite treaty of peace, and to leave secondary points to be settled by a committee.

Despatch published in Paris, Thursday:—Count Orloff has made known at St. Petersburg that a definitive understanding has been come to on the fifth point, and that, thanks to the instructions brought by M. de Schoewaloff, peace is assured. Some special deliberations which are to take place between Russia and Turkey are reserved.

Prussia has been invited, in the name of the congress, and for reasons of European interest, to send representatives to the Paris conference, and she will accept the invitation.

March 13th.—M. Manteuffel, the Prussian prime minister, and M. Hatzfeldt are appointed plenipotentiaries for Prussia. The former leaves Berlin this day for Paris. The Independence, in its comments on the admission of Prussia to the Conference, insists that this step is equivalent to peace being concluded, and says:—It is evident that the points, the rejection of which would lead to a renewal of the war, have already been definitively arranged.

The Daily News of yesterday says:—The admission of Prussia to the Conference confirms the statement we were enabled to make in our Wednesday's issue, that the conclusion of a peace will be announced almost immediately. Prussia can only have been admitted to sign, not to discuss, the terms of peace.

The Morning Post says:—We believe that the labours of the Conference at Paris are drawing rapidly to a close, and that we shall shortly have to record the signature of a definitive Treaty of Peace.

The five points have been proceeded with, as we believe in inverse order. Difficulties have naturally arisen, but none that have not been susceptible of a satisfactory adjustment.

SEBASTOPOL.

The fine aqueduct which supplied Sebastopol with water has been blown up by the French engineers.

On the 1st of March the armistice was proclaimed in the Crimea.

Prince Jerome has had a renewed attack of inflammation of the lungs.

THE AMERICAN DIFFICULTIES.

Mr. Buchanan, the American Minister at the British court, made a temperate and judicious speech the other evening at the table of the Lord-Mayor of London, in the course of which he referred to the existing points of dispute between this country and his own. "I am sorry," said he, "to say that from the first separation of England and America there has been unfortunately a group of unsettled questions. There is now a cloud impending over their relations; but I trust in God, and I believe that that cloud will be speedily dissipated, and that the sunshine of peace and friendship will become more and more bright between the two countries, until all the dissensions which ever existed between them shall have passed away, and shall only live in history as a record of the folly of two peoples who could, for a moment, suppose it possible to engage in a fratricidal war."

"I shall carry home with me," he declared in the same speech, "every sort of grateful feelings towards the people of this country, amongst whom I have never felt myself a stranger. With regard to the two countries, what a dreadful misfortune it would be to the whole human race if they should ever again be involved in war. How it would injure and throw back the cause of civilisation and of human liberty. How it would delight the despots of the earth to find these two nations destroying themselves, and in that way destroying every hoped for progress to mankind."

Unfortunately, the "group of unsettled questions," to which the American Minister referred, is increasing, for the Brazilian mail this week brings an account of occurrences connected with the slave trade which are sure to complicate our relations with the United States. It appears that an organised conspiracy has been arranged at Boston and New York for fitting out slavers to supply the Brazil market with negroes from the coast of Africa, and recently a slayer, manned by an American crew and sailing under the American flag, has been captured and condemned by the Brazilian Gov-

ernment under circumstances which leave no doubt of the fact that this horrid traffic has received a fresh stimulant in the ports of the American Union. A British cruiser and an American ship-of-war were nearly coming into collision off Brazil respecting this fugitive slaver. All these circumstances are calculated seriously to embarrass the present misunderstanding between this country and the United States.

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