

had thrown in among us, was called to the chair. The donation, amounting to thirty-five pounds, was presented by William Chambers, Esq., M. P. P., accompanied by an appropriate speech. A suitable reply was made by the Rev. Mr. B. The meeting was highly interesting. Thanks to our friends, Episcopalians, Presbyterians and Methodists, who united with us on the occasion. The storm kept some at home, whose donations were afterwards sent in, making a total of £40. Twenty-nine pounds four shillings of which was in cash. The annual increase in amount of donations thus regularly made by the community to Elder B. exclusive of salary, and the good-will manifested on such occasions is a source of encouragement to all interested. One of which I subscribe myself,

STERN'S DIMOCK.

Newport, March 3, 1856.

Provincial Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

WEDNESDAY, March 5.—Continued.

Hon. Mr. Archibald—I would ask my friend how you can prevent them from speculating even now? You must either repudiate the credit of the Province, or sanction such investments.

Hon. Mr. McCully—The hon. gentleman from Yarmouth (Hon. Mr. Brown) has told us that when he first looked at the bill, he thought it important, but that on viewing it again, it appeared to him a contemptible affair. He has also dignified it with the appellation of a tinkering bill. Now, I am not aware that it is considered a disgrace in this country to be called a tinker. A really good tinker requires no small amount of intelligence and occupies a very respectable position in the community. But the hon. gentleman, at the close of his argument, again discovers that there is something important in the Bill. I opened this debate fairly and frankly. I did not withhold or keep out of sight any of the objections which might be made to the Bill. The best proof of this is, that all the objections which have been made to the Bill were first stated by myself in the opening. The Government in May last issued advertisements, inviting parties in the Province to invest their funds in Provincial Debentures. Certain individuals invested their monies in these debentures, and these parties have within six months received five per cent. premium on the bonds which they so purchased. Already the debentures have risen in value five per cent. I mention this now, that it may be known throughout the length and breadth of the land. Suppose I have £1000 to invest. I take one half of it and put it in the bank, where I will get only 3 per cent for it, or £15 a year. The other £500 I invest in railway debentures, for which I receive 6 per cent., or £30 per ann. At the end of ten years I wish to sell the debentures. Suppose they are even a shade below par, do I lose anything? For the sum in the bank I receive £150 interest,—on that invested in debentures, £300.—Can I not well afford, then, to have my debentures at a discount, and still not lose on them? No hon. gentleman has ventured to say that these bonds are not a perfectly safe security. I don't intend to say now how far an executor would be justified, under the present law, in investing monies in provincial debentures. Suppose a trustee goes down now, and invests the money of his ward in these debentures, for which he receives 6 per cent. all along for 10 or 15 years, at the expiration of which time his ward becomes of age. The object of this bill is to enable the ward to take the debentures, instead of compelling the executor to sell them. This bill is not brought forward to favor the Government. The act of 1854 gives them almost unlimited powers for this purpose. Now as regards the freedom from taxation clause. Persons residing in the country are not now liable to be taxed for sums which they may invest in these debentures. The object of this is merely to place capitalists in Halifax in the same position.

Hon. Mr. Almon—If the Provincial Debentures be a good security, people will invest in them without the aid of this bill. What is the object of the bill. To exempt executors and others from all responsibility, in investing in the public funds. We should be very cautious how we relieve executors from such responsibility. A good deal of ingenuity was displayed by the hon. member in placing in juxtaposition the two sums of money, one yielding three and the other six per cent. To my mind, however, the argument only proves that the Debentures will really yield three per cent, the extra three per cent being counterbalanced by a subsequent diminution in the value of the debentures themselves.

Hon. Mr. Pineo—The hon. gentleman has told us that there are two ways in which money can be invested,—in the bank at three per cent, and in provincial debentures at six per cent. He has left the middle course out of sight. He has not told us that the trustee has the privilege of investing in real estate in the country where he will incur no risk as he need only advance an amount equal to two-thirds of the value of the property on which he lends the money. We must remember that this bill will affect the interests of children yet unborn—that we are not legislating for the present but for the future.

The bill was then passed without amendment clause by clause, when there appeared—For the bill, 10, against it, 9.

The committee adjourned and the house resumed. On motion that the report be received there appeared—For the motion, 11, against it, 9.

The Hon. Mr. Morton presented two petitions in favor of a Prohibitory Liquor Law,—one being from Scots Bay, the other from Cornwallis, numerously signed.

RIVER FISHERIES.

Hon. Receiver General laid on the table the Reports of the Wardens of the River Fisheries for the year 1855. The reports (except those from Cumberland and Pictou) speak favourably of the operation of the present law. The Warden of Chester annexes to his Report the model of a Fish pass or gate, which he says is admirably adapted for some dams (especially where there are mills on each side of the river), and which has been highly recommended by Moses H. Perley, Esq., of New Brunswick.

The Hon. Mr. Kenny presented the Return of St. Mary's College for 1855.

THURSDAY, March 6.

House of Assembly, by message, transmitted five bills. Referred to a committee.

PROHIBITORY LIQUOR LAW PETITIONS.

Hon. Mr. Pineo presented a petition from Amherst, in favor of a Prohibitory Liquor Law. Hon. Mr. Cutler presented a similar petition, containing 1500 signatures, from Guysborough.

Hon. Mr. Morton presented two from King's county.

Hon. Mr. Morton—The table of this House has been covered with petitions of this kind every session for the last ten years, and committees have been appointed at different times to consider them, and this House even went so far once, I think, as to originate a bill complying with the prayer of the petitions. When the Prohibitory Liquor Bill was brought up from the House of Assembly last year, this House rejected it because they thought the people were not sufficiently acquainted with the bill; and in order that they might fully understand it, ordered 500 copies to be printed and circulated throughout the Province. The country understood that this House, at its last session, pledged itself to pass this bill, if, after it was printed and distributed throughout the country, petitions continued to be sent in in its favor. They have continued to come in, and so many from King's county that I do not think that there is a person left there who has not signed one or other of them. I move that all those petitions on this subject, which have been presented to us this session, be referred to a select committee.

Hon. Mr. Archibald—I do not consider that the House is pledged by its action last session. For my own part, what I said on that occasion was, that whenever I thought that the country was prepared for the law, I would vote for it.

Hon. Mr. Rudolf—I do not consider this House pledged to pass the bill. When petitions properly signed come here, we will pay due attention to them. We have here petitions with all the signatures in one hand-writing. We do not know but that they may have been signed, to a large extent, by children. I am opposed to the motion for sending these petitions to a committee.

Hon. Mr. Morton—I will explain to the hon. gentleman how this happens. Sheets containing the petitions are left at the country stores and other places to obtain signatures. These sheets, from lying about at these places for some time, often become soiled and torn; and out of respect to this House, in order to send a clean and neat looking document, a person is employed to copy them.

Hon. Mr. Archibald—The vouchers, then, should also be sent.

Hon. Mr. McCully—I beg leave to second the hon. gentleman's (Hon. Mr. Morton) motion.

Hon. Mr. Almon—As it interests us all, that this House should stand right before the country, I wish to call the attention of honorable gentleman to a statement in the Athenaeum newspaper of the 26th of February last. That paper contains the Report of a Temperance Convention, which it appears at its last meeting framed a petition to this House with reference to the Prohibitory Liquor Bill.

In that report the following paragraphs occur:—

"That the inhabitants of this Province having had before them for their consideration during the past year, the Prohibitory Liquor Bill, passed by the Lower House at its last Session, but deferred by your Honorable Body for the purpose of testing public opinion in relation to the Bill, distinctly understanding that your Honorable House would pass the Bill if it gained public approval.

The Bill is found acceptable to the public, and adapted to the state of the Province. We therefore, respectfully request your Honorable House to pass, this year, the Prohibitory Liquor Bill according to the terms of your own action, as expressed by the printing and circulating the Bill, and according to the well understood wishes of the people."

I merely rise for the purpose of repudiating the statement that we have given any such pledge as that alluded to. For this purpose I will read from our journals what we really did do, and from which I defy any one to extract any thing like a pledge to pass the Bill. "The Committee had had under consideration, a Bill entitled, an act for restricting the use of Intoxicating Liquors, and recommended that the said Bill should be printed for the information of the public. Where-

upon it was moved that the said report be received; which being seconded, and the question being put by the President, there appeared for the motion, 11, against the motion 8." For what motion? For the motion to print the Bill of course. Nothing more surely can be made of it. It certainly does not contain a pledge to pass the Bill after it was printed.—This House is perfectly free to treat the Bill as it may see fit.

Hon. Mr. Fairbanks—I have seen the paper to which the hon. gentleman alludes, and saw at once that the statement to which he refers was incorrect.

Hon. Dr. Grigor said—At our last session we distinctly referred the matter to the different constituencies at the then coming election, with the expectation that the matter would be settled by them at the hustings and with the understanding that if they returned a large majority of their Representatives pledged to support the Bill, we would pass it. So few however of the Representatives of the people are so pledged, that I think we are now quite free to deal with the Bill, as we may think proper.

Hon. Mr. McCully—It should be remembered that every sentiment that has been uttered here to-day will go forth through the length and breadth of the land, and that every sentence will be scanned with a great deal of care. It is said that the petitions are got up. By this is meant that they are not got up fairly. It is just possible that under a mistaken idea—with the desire of sending a respectable looking document to this House—the names attached to these petitions have been copied from the original signatures. It is unfortunate that this should be done. The duty of the committee moved for, will be to report on these facts,—to examine the petitions, and to ascertain whether they are genuine or not.

Hon. Mr. McKee—People are constantly asking me what has become of them. They tell me—"You have done nothing with the petitions, and we have now no hope of the bill being passed."

The petitions were then referred to a committee consisting of Hon. Messrs. Morton, Crichton and Pineo.

Hon. Mr. McCully introduced a bill to amend the New Practice Act; which was read a first time.

FRIDAY, March 7.

The Bill to amend the New Practice Act was read a second time, and referred to a committee.

Four bills were read a second time and referred to a committee of the whole house.

PROHIBITORY LIQUOR LAW PETITIONS.

Hon. Mr. Harris presented a petition from 1096 persons (males and females), inhabitants of Dartmouth, in favor of a Prohibitory Liquor Law.

Hon. Mr. Morton presented a petition from inhabitants of Kings in favor of the Prohibitory Liquor Law.

MONDAY, March 10.

Hon. Mr. McKee presented two petitions in favor of the Prohibitory Liquor Law, one from Newport, and the other from Canso, C. B.

Hon. Mr. Harris presented a number of petitions in favor of the same object, viz.—one from John G. Marshall, and 67 others, delegates to the Temperance convention. Two from the inhabitants of Hants;—four from Lunenburg, numerously signed;—one from Colchester, and seven from Shelburne, were several yards in length. Hon. Mr. Pineo presented two similar petitions from the County of Hants, one from the Rev. S. T. Rand, and 200 males, and the other from Mrs. S. T. Rand, and 164 females.

Hon. Mr. Morton presented a similar petition from Cornwallis.

HALIFAX WATER COMPANY BILL.

Hon. Mr. Almon, as Chairman of the Committee to whom the bill for further increasing the capital stock of the Halifax Water Company reported, recommending the same to the favorable consideration of the house. This bill authorizes the increase of the capital of the company from £40,000 (its present capital) to £50,000. The bill was read a second time.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,

MONDAY, March 10.

Hon. Stewart Campbell, Speaker of the House resumed his seat, and in doing so said he took the earliest opportunity of expressing to the House and each individual Member his sincere thanks for the consideration extended to him in the ready acquiescence in his absence from the circumstances under which he was compelled to ask it. I regret that my absence somewhat interfered with the business of the House; but having now recovered my health I shall endeavour to make up for past deficiencies and lost time, by devoting myself to the remaining business of the Session, and I trust I shall have your united cooperation, in pressing it to a close with vigour, efficiency, and success.

Mr. Wade presented a Petition from Clements against the incorporation of the County of Annapolis. Also, another from Argyle, praying to be relieved from the operation of the Municipal Corporation Act.

Hon. Provincial Secretary presented a Memorial from persons in Dartmouth and Halifax praying for the improvement of the road along the eastern side of Bedford Basin from Dartmouth to Sackville at the junction of the Great Eastern and Western Roads, and near the 9 Mile Railway Station. The length of the Road was only about 7 miles. Petition laid on the table.

CONSTITUTIONAL DEBATE.

A call of the House having been moved with a view to a division on the debate of the last 9 days.

The original resolution was moved. Mr. McDonald's amendment was also read. After a few words from the latter Gentleman the question on the amendment was taken and decided in the affirmative as follows:—

For the motion, 27; against the motion, 21.

Hon. Mr. Wier introduced a Bill for the incorporation of the Union Bank of Halifax.

Hon. Mr. Johnston introduced a Bill to amend the Law of Bankruptcy.

The House in Committee passed a number of Bills of a local character.

UNION BANK.

The Bill for incorporating the Union Bank was taken up.

Mr. Wier explained the necessity for the Bill. Business had not only much increased in the country, but so had prices of all articles of consumption. For instance, for a cargo of mackerel, for which he would have to pass his note in 1849 for £750, he would now have to give a note for £2,350—the discount on the former would be £10 10s., on the latter £33. So with a cargo of oil—a cargo that would have cost £491 in 1849, would now cost £965; and so on with other articles—so that it was obvious an increase of Banking accommodation was required. Mr. Wier described the favorable opinion in which this enterprise was viewed throughout the country.

Hon. Attorney General rose to say to the House that he had been requested by the Committee on Agriculture to suggest to the House the advantage of having a public meeting of the Committee and Members of both branches, and others interested in the Agricultural advancement of the Province. He had mentioned the subject to the Lieutenant Governor, and His Excellency heartily approved of it.

Mr. Tobin thought the motion rather premature—the Fisheries had not yet been attended to.

Mr. Marshall—I have just got the report of the Warden of the River Fisheries.

TUESDAY, March 11.

After the presentation of several petitions, the Attorney General said he thought the adjourned debate should be closed to-night.

Resolution moved by Dr. Tupper, and amendments read.

Debate resumed. Mr. McDonald rose and addressed the House briefly, and concluded by moving his amendment to Dr. Tupper's resolution.

Which being put was carried in the affirmative. For, 27; against, 21.

House resumed. Several Bills read a second time.

WEDNESDAY, March 12.

Petitions were presented for a Prohibitory Liquor Law from Kings County, Dartmouth, Hants and Chester.

The House went into Committee and passed seventeen Bills.

Mr. John Campbell introduced a bill to incorporate the Liverpool Railway Company.

Mr. Esson, from the Committee of Public Accounts, brought in the Report, which had been found correct. The Report placed the accounts in such a position that £35,000 or £40,000 could be safely granted for Roads and Bridges.

Mr. McLellan enquired whether any part of the interest on the Railway had been paid by the City of Halifax?

Hon. J. W. Johnston—When did the honorable gentleman suppose that Halifax was going to pay anything?

Hon. Attorney General—Halifax has given her pledge to give one-tenth of the interest, whenever necessary. There has been no interest paid yet, and therefore there was no necessity to call for anything. When the proper time comes, it will be our duty to make that pledge obligatory.

Mr. Marshall was very glad to see the new system of keeping accounts introduced by the present Committee; for last year when he asked whether the Provincial Debt was not more than £55,000, he was answered in the negative, while he knew that the debt was a great deal more; he had been in hopes that this report would have extinguished the debt altogether, instead of placing it at the right figure, which was a great deal larger than the amount insisted on last year.

SAVING'S BANK.

Hon. Attorney General asked leave to introduce a Bill to enlarge the deposits in the Saving's Bank to £125,000. Read a first time.

PROVINCE NOTES.

Hon. Attorney General introduced a Bill to enlarge the issue of Province Notes. The amount issued last year was £22,500—making £105,000 out in all. The additional issue now contemplated was £50,000—making a total of £155,000.

THURSDAY, March 13.

Petitions were presented for a Prohibitory Liquor Law from Bridgetown, Granville, King's County and Cape Breton.

"ERASMUS HALL."

Mr. Bill asked special leave to introduce a petition from parties in King's County, for an act of incorporation for a Company to erect a Public Hall at Waterville, near Sheffield's Mills, to be called the "Erasmus Hall."

The Speaker—The rule excludes it.