

About a fortnight before his death Sister Kinney was attacked with the same disease, and is now helpless, waiting with patient hope until her change shall come.

I hope those successive afflictions will be blessed to the surviving families, and to the community.—Com. by Rev. A. Martell. South Yarmouth, March 3, '56.

MR. EDWARD DUNN.

DIED, at Ragged Island, Mr. Edward Dunn, for many years a member of the Baptist church there, beloved by all who had the pleasure of his acquaintance, and deeply regretted by the community in which he resided. His house was ever a home for the ministers of the gospel. Death to him was no terror. The religion which he possessed in life was then his support, and he leaned upon the arm of his Saviour, whose rod and staff was his comfort through the valley and shadow of death. Dying, to him was but going home, and though the family are left to mourn the loss of an affectionate husband and loving father, yet knowing that their loss is his eternal gain, they feel in some degree enabled to kiss the rod and bow in submission to Him who has appointed it.

[We feel a mournful satisfaction in being able to bear our sincere testimony to the truth of the foregoing remarks. The Editors of the C.M. have long had occasion to value the services of brother Dunn as a zealous Agent and fellow-helper in promoting the interests of the paper, and ever felt assured that his great motive was the glory of that Saviour, whom it was his chief happiness to honour and to serve. We sincerely condole with the bereaved widow and family, to whom he has left the richest of all blessings—the character and example of one who loved and feared the Lord.—Ed.]

Provincial Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

TUESDAY, March 25.

The N. S. Horticultural Society Bill and Margareville Pier Company Bill were finally passed.

House in committee on bills. The bill to constitute the township of Argyle in the county of Yarmouth, a separate district was then read and passed. Bill to incorporate the Halifax Mechanics Library read.

Hon. Dr. Grigor called the attention of the house to the state of this Building, and particularly to the drains and sewers, which he said were in a shameful condition.

Hon. Mr. Bell remarked that nothing could be done until the weather was sufficiently mild to allow the ground to be opened.

POSTAL COMMUNICATION WITH CANADA.

Hon. Mr. McCully—I wish to call the attention of the government to the state of the postal communication between this Province and Canada. A letter cannot be sent from here to Montreal in less than three or four weeks. Now I do not think that this state of things, should be tolerated in these days of steam. I think that if the government would interest themselves in the matter, they might do something to remedy this very same inconvenience. Communication between the different provincial governments, would probably remedy any delays beyond our own borders. House adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, March 26.

The Bill to incorporate the Union Bank, and the Bill to incorporate the Halifax Mechanics' Library Association, were read and finally passed.

Hon. Mr. Fairbanks brought to the notice of the Council the receipt of several valuable works, from the Secretary of the Regents of the University of New York, (Dr. T. R. Beck.) and moved that the same be suitably acknowledged.

Hon. Mr. McCully introduced a Bill to amend cap. 141 of the Revised Statutes "of suits against absent or absconding debtors." The hon. gentleman explained that the leading object of the Bill was to accelerate the remedy of creditors, by enabling them to enter up judgement in the second term, or in Halifax at the sittings after the second term from the commencement of the suit. House adjourned until Friday the 28th inst.

FRIDAY, March 28.

Hon. Receiver General asked leave to introduce a Bill to enable the city of Halifax to sell part of the south Common, for the purpose of paying off debts due by the city, &c.

Hon. Mr. Keith thought the bill should not be hastily proceeded with, as there was a good deal of difference of opinion about it.

Hon. Mr. Pinco stated that before a bill affecting property to so large an extent was passed, due notice should be given to the parties interested.

Hon. Dr. Grigor moved for a committee of conference with the Lower House on the state of the Province Building, which motion being seconded by the hon. Mr. McCully and duly put by the President, passed unanimously.

Hon. Dr. Grigor then read, in his place, the instructions which he considered should be given to this committee, which were then handed in to the Clerk. They contain suggestions for draining, heating, and ventilating of the Province Building, and for the removal of the Court House from the Building, and the establishment of a Legislative Library in the room now occupied by the Court.

House of Assembly, by message, transmitted thirteen Bills, which were read a first time, and ordered to be read a second time on a future day. House in committee on bills.

The bill to continue and amend the laws imposing Customs' Duties was then read.

Hon. Mr. McHefly objected to the clause allowing hay and straw to be imported duty free from the United States, which he stated was unjust to the farmers of Nova Scotia, as there was a duty of 20 per cent on hay exported from this Province into the United States.

Hon. Rec. General stated that some years ago when there was a duty upon hay from the United States, numerous petitions were presented praying for its repeal.

Hon. Mr. Archibald—The imposition of a duty upon hay is most ridiculous. It will never be imported unless our horses and cattle are in a state of starvation, and then we should surely have it duty free.

Hon. Mr. Keith—I do not think that the farmers need be alarmed about hay being brought here from the United States. House adjourned.

SATURDAY, March 29.

Bill to incorporate the Milton Railroad Company read and passed. This bill fixes the stock of the Company at £5000 (which may afterwards be increased to £10,000) in shares of £5 each.

Bill to divide the Eastern School district of the county of Halifax, read and passed. This bill directs that the Governor in Council shall appoint a separate board of School Commissioners for each of the new districts.

House adjourned until Monday, 31st inst.

MONDAY, March 31.

Hon. Mr. Archibald as chairman of the committee to whom the bill to assess the township of Granville was referred, reported, recommending the same to the House, the bill was read a second time.

Hon. Mr. Brown—A petition relative to that bill was put into my hands the day that the bill itself came up to this House. The petitioners have misunderstood the bill, as they seem to have supposed that it at once assessed the township of Granville for the sum which Mr. Delap claims. Instead of this, the bill merely appoints arbitrators to ascertain what sum (if any) the township owed that gentleman. The petition was signed by Lieut. Col. Poyntz and 72 others. States that they have learned with regret that the House of Assembly have passed an act to authorize the assessment of the sum of £140 10s 3d on the inhabitants of the township of Granville, the amount of a claim totally unfounded, made by James Delap for the alleged sum of £81 2. 3d for keeping the poor for the years 1850, '51, '52 and '53, and the sum of £56 8s 5d costs, and that the claim is wholly unfounded.

Hon. Mr. Fairbanks—The Judge having already settled the matter I can see no reason why we should interfere with it.

Hon. Mr. McCully—I am at present ignorant of everything connected with this bill. I think, however, with the Hon. Mr. Almon that we should allow the principle of the bill to pass, and let the details be discussed in committee. I do not think a majority of this House would shut out entirely the principle of the bill.

Hon. Mr. Fairbanks—I am so fully convinced that it is wrong in principle that I cannot consent even to its being sent to committee.

Hon. Mr. McCully—The bill, as I understand it, provides for the decision of a case, in which, on account of some technical difficulties, for some reason or other, substantial justice has not been done, and the Legislature is consequently obliged to step (I say frankly to my hon. friend from Dartmouth) out of the ordinary course. I will take it for granted that this bill would never have passed through the ordeal to which it has been already exposed, if the principle in it were that which my hon. friend from Dartmouth supposes, and which I agree with him in considering as monstrous. The bill was ordered to be referred to a committee of the whole House on a future day.

His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor arrived in the Council Chamber at four p. m. and the Gentleman usher of the Black Rod, was directed by the hon. President to inform the House of Assembly that his Excellency desired their immediate attendance.

The House of Assembly having arrived, his Excellency was graciously pleased to give his assent to the Revenue and other bills (thirty-eight in all) which have been passed by the other two branches of the Legislature during the present session. His Excellency then retired, and the house of Assembly withdrew.

Bill to enlarge the amount of deposits in the Savings' Bank, not to exceed £125,000, read and passed.

Bill entitled an act for the further issue of treasury notes to an extent not exceeding £50,000 was read.

Hon. Mr. Brown—I presume no opposition will be offered to the passing of this bill. But I may observe that no penalty is imposed, if the

Receiver General fail to cash these notes when they are presented to him for that purpose. In addition to the old notes of £60,000 we are to have further issues of £100,000, to add to the paper of the banks, and it is by no means improbable that occasionally large amounts of these notes, may be returned to the treasury. At present the extraordinary expenditure of borrowed funds on the railway, may support the proposed issue, and while that is going on, no serious inconvenience may be felt.

Hon. Receiver General—I am sorry that my hon. friend thinks it necessary to impose a penalty on the government, in order to make them cash these notes. I do not think myself that such penalty is required. As regards the notes of this new issue, they are redeemable in gold or silver on demand. It saves the province the trouble of borrowing money, and also saves the interest on them as long as they circulate.

Hon. Mr. McCully—There is one view of the case which I should like to put before this house and the country. When this bill passes, we shall probably soon have £150,000 of paper money in circulation. If the country is capable of sustaining this for twenty years, the interest which will be saved thereby, will build the entire railway from Halifax to Windsor. I take it, that from that fact alone, the government have the highest inducement never to allow these notes to be at discount. If we can build our railroad from here to Windsor, by means of these province notes, and not pay a single shilling interest upon them, I think we have a good guarantee that the government will not fail promptly to redeem them.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,

THURSDAY, March 27.

House in Committee on Bills. A lengthened discussion arose on a bill for abolishing pilot's fees; referring more particularly to United States vessels entering Pictou harbour for coals.

After several attempts to overthrow the bill it was finally decided to reduce the fees when a vessel did not require a pilot, to one third the amount.

Mr. Hyde introduced a bill to allow foreigners to take out patents in this Province under certain restrictions.

FRIDAY, March 28.

A Bill authorizing a Provincial Loan, and a Bill for changing the time of sittings of the Spring Term of the Supreme Court, in Halifax and on the Western Circuits, passed a third reading. The Attorney General reported from the Special Committee to which the Education Bill had been referred, recommending a few unimportant amendments; and the House spent the principal part of the day in Committee of the whole upon that Bill.

SATURDAY, March 29th.

The chairmen of the Scrutiny committees reported, both in favor of the sitting members.

MUNICIPAL INCORPORATIONS BILL.

Hon. J. W. Johnston then rose to test the sense of the House on the principal of a bill for establishing Municipal Incorporations throughout the Province,—for which purpose he moved the following resolution:—

Resolved,—That Municipal Incorporations are necessary for the just and efficient operation of the system of self-government adopted in this Province, and for securing and promoting the most essential interests of the people; and therefore

Resolved,—That it is incumbent on this House without delay to pass an act applicable to and immediately operative throughout the whole Province, by which there shall be conferred on the people in each county by means of Municipal Incorporations, the power, the privilege, and the duty of governing the affairs of their own Counties and Townships, and electing the requisite Municipal Officers.

He said, that in the remarks which he intended to make he would be very brief. The subject had already been so fully discussed that it was only necessary to state with reference to the present bill, that it was intended to make the system obligatory upon all the counties. It was simply to place in the hands of the people the management of their own affairs—to enable them to exercise the privileges of freemen. The local business of a county would then be managed by the only persons who could possibly understand and know its peculiar wants and resources, the people of that county. Of course every man who holds office has a direct interest against the measure, and from such men it would always meet with opposition,—one reason that it has not been voluntarily adopted by counties for which the bills were passed; but if the principle be sound, the legislature is the place where that soundness is to be ascertained.

Mr. McLennan was in favor of the principle, but he wanted the Canada or the New Brunswick act, which was simple, easily understood, and inexpensive.

Hon. J. W. Johnston produced the Canadian act, which filled a large octavo volume of some 400 pages.

Mr. McFarlane was fully sensible of the advantages which would accrue from having a powerful, efficient body of men appointed in a county to transact its business; and as to the expense, he felt perfect confidence that the people themselves would exercise all due economy. He was in favor of the resolution.

Mr. Archibald regretted that the measure did not contemplate certain divisions of counties which he mentioned.

Mr. Johnston said that the bill on the table was framed exactly to meet his suggestion, and read its different clauses.

Mr. Wilkins said, the Municipal Corporation Bill is intended to give the people the liberty of which they have hitherto been robbed—to allow them to tax themselves. Where was the sense of passing laws, if the people were to be asked whether they chose to be bound by them or not.

The hon. Attorney General said, the Government had never opposed it, either openly or covertly. The only question with them was, whether it should be compulsory. Had the hon. member for Annapolis not introduced the measure, it was more than likely that the government would have done so themselves.

Mr. Chambers was not against the principle, but was against making it compulsory.

Mr. Wade was decidedly opposed to the measure. The people were not sufficiently enlightened to receive it. Besides he had not heard the members for Yarmouth, where the system had been tried, say anything in its favor.

Mr. Killam remarked, they had not yet a proper opportunity for judging of the system, but so far as they had, the people were perfectly satisfied. He denied that Nova Scotia was not fit for it. There were other men in all the counties just as efficient as those sent to the legislature, and he believed it would be wise to make the measure compulsory.

Mr. Hyde thought it was a wise one, and should therefore vote for it.

Mr. Tobin said, if we are not prepared for it now, we never would be. A boy who is kept under the control of his father till he is 21 years of age, will be found to have scarcely a mind of his own, while the one who is forced to look out for himself at 16, will learn the value of his own energies.

Dr. Tupper said that it was quite evident from the tone of the remarks of certain gentlemen, that the intention was to defeat the measure. There seemed to be some difficulty in the way, and he was sorry to perceive that the obstruction did not proceed from those whose conduct was to be attributed to a misconception of the question. He would ask those who speak of coercive legislation, if the Educational bill is not going as far as this does. Some counties have had for years the power of assessing themselves for the support of their schools, but have never yet done so. He was glad to see the hon. member for Halifax, (Mr. Tobin,) defend the measure. He was sorry that in the counties for which it had been passed, it had not been tried, but if the law were made absolute there would no difficulty be found in carrying it into operation.

Dr. Brown thought that instead of the opposition which the hon. Attorney General was giving to the bill, it was his duty to put his shoulder to the wheel and assist in perfecting it.

Mr. Esson was in favor of the original resolutions introduced by the hon. member for Annapolis. The people of the county of Halifax had once had an opportunity of adopting a municipal system, for the whole county, they had rejected it, and he (Mr. Esson) believed, now regretted their resolve. The time had come when a Bill, based upon the resolution introduced by the hon. member for Annapolis, might safely be applied to the Province.

Dr. Tupper.—The greatest portion of the time of the House has been occupied the present session in doing the business which this measure leaves to the counties to perform.

Mr. Wier and Mr. Annand expressed themselves in favor of the measure.

The Prov. Sec. thought the country should be prepared for such a measure, and would therefore vote for it.

After two or three amendments being put and lost, the House divided on the original resolution.

For the Resolution:—Hide, Bent, Wilkins, J. Campbell, McKinnon, Wier, Churchill, Thorne, Johnston, C. Campbell, Marshall, Tupper, White, Pro. Secretary, Tobin, McLennan, McFarlane, Moses, Brown, Bill, Esson, Annand, Killam, Whitman.—24.

Against:—Munro, Fuller, Reinard, Parker, Martell, Bailey, McKenzie, Geldert, Chambers, Webster, McLennan, Lock, Robichau, Atty. General, Ryder, McDonald, Robertson, Sol. General, Bourneuf, McKeagney, Fin. Secretary, Wade, Morrison, Dimock, Smyth, Archibald, Davidson.—27.

MONDAY, March 31.

His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor came to the Council Chamber and gave his assent to several Bills. The afternoon was taken up discussing a resolution moved by Mr. McLennan, in reference to the Inland Navigation Company.

AGRICULTURE.

Hon. Attorney General reported from the Committee on Agriculture. 47 Societies in operation. The usual grant to be continued. More sheep to be imported. Bone manure to be encouraged. 5,000 copies of Dawson's Agriculture to be circulated.

CROWN LANDS.

Mr. Archibald from the Committee on Crown Lands, reported. To Mr. Carman in the Crown Land Office £80 per annum, and Mr. Doyle £70. Against the application of Messrs. McHefly and Northup for 7500 acres of land, but in favor of their re-payment of the moneys advanced, with interest and expenses.