

Mr. McLennan offered a resolution against the Report of the Committee on the Inland Navigation Company, negative 20 to 19.

TUESDAY, April 1.

Hon. J. W. Johnston introduced a bill for the Municipal Government of Townships and Counties, its adoption being left optional with all the Province.

EMIGRATION.

Hon. Prov. Secretary submitted a resolution to authorize the Lieut. Governor to appoint a Commissioner to correspond with the British Government, and with emigration societies in England, with the view to encouraging immigration into this Province.

House in Committee of Supply, passed a number of special grants to roads. A grant of £500 to a new road through Lunenburg county from Bridgewater to LaHave caused some discussion. Mr. Geldert said his county had already expended about £1000 of their ordinary road money in constructing about nine miles of the new road, which is going to confer immense benefit on all the shore counties.

Hon. J. W. Johnston warmly advocated the grant, which finally passed by a large majority.

Another grant, moved by Hon. J. W. Johnston, to open a new road in Annapolis County, also passed.

The House voted the sum of 26s. a day to each of the members of the Assembly and Legislative Council for every day they should be in attendance.

The Serjeant-at-arms was voted £25 extra. Mr. McLennan renewed his motion against the Report of the Committee on the Shubenacadie Canal Company Bill, which was negatived 26 to 17. The Report was affirmed—26 to 22.

The Company have the £2,000 remitted, and the fee-simple of the lands secured to them.

WEDNESDAY, April 2.

A resolution passed by a large majority, complying with the request of the company, on the government having full security, that the £2000 be expended on the work, and that the proceeds of the lands shall not go to the private use of the shareholders.

Mr. Annand moved the second reading of the Sheriff's Bill.

SHERIFF'S BILL.

Dr. Tupper rose to request that as the bill entirely deprived the Judges of all power in the matter, they might likewise be relieved from all responsibility. It would place the Judges in a most unenviable position to retain their names in the law, which went at the same time to divest them of all power. He would therefore move that the Judges should take no part in the appointment of Sheriffs. Dr. Tupper also spoke of the important duties which the Sheriffs have to perform, and the mischievous results to be expected from vesting the power of making such appointments in the hands of the government.

The Sheriff of Cumberland had permitted the appointment of the most violent partisans, nearly all of one party, as officers to conduct the election; and at the last election, when these same men had been again appointed, and Mr. Fulton had objected to them on the ground that they had changed their views since the previous election, the Sheriff retorted that on the former occasion they had been appointed by Mr. Fulton's special direction. In England the people have jealously guarded against the interference of the Crown in the appointment of Sheriffs,—so much so, that a single case of such interference had nearly produced a rebellion; and he would ask was it not of the very first importance to the cause of freedom, that in the matter of our elections the public voice should be left uncontrolled, and free from interference by the government.

Hon. Attorney General put in and had read a letter on the subject of the bill from his Honor the Chief Justice; full of sound instruction, and giving some explanations with reference to the manner in which the government had caused the removal of Mr. Chandler. The Attorney General's own remarks went to state that he would not consent that the judges should be altogether relieved from the responsibility of appointing sheriffs.

Mr. Wilkins considered the bill the most infamous attempt on the liberties of the people, and thought it might be described as the last dying speech and confession of responsible government.

Hon. J. W. Johnston—By the old Act, in case of difficulty arising to interfere with the appointment of a Sheriff, the former incumbent was continued, and no inconvenience was felt; but by the present bill, in case of disagreement between the parties who are vested with the power of making the appointment, instead of referring the matter to a third party, you give the power to one of the two parties who have disagreed—the Executive; and he would ask the Attorney General if that was not taking from the Judges, practically, all power.

Mr. McLennan would like to have the Sheriffs elected, as the character of such officer was of the first importance to the people.

Hon. J. W. Johnston said, that circumstanced as we are in this country, with all our institutions democratical, he was not opposed to the election of Sheriffs; but no more fatal idea could be conceived than that of supposing that the administration is the people.

Mr. Wilkins said there was just as much difference between the people and the government as there was between a horse and a cart. It is the nature of a people ever to struggle for liberty, it is the disposition of the government to restrain that liberty.

Hon. Provincial Secretary could not concur in a measure which went to give the Judges the semblance of power without the reality. He would be obliged to vote against it.

Mr. McKeagney said, there was no officer, the appointment of which was of more importance to the country, exercising as he did at times high judicial functions; and above any other he should be removed beyond the control of any administration.

Dr. Tupper introduced an amendment to postpone the bill, after which the debate was adjourned.

THURSDAY, April 3.

The Att. General laid on the Table papers on Mines and Minerals.

Hon. J. W. Johnston's Municipal Corporation Bill was read a second time.

Dr. Brown's Bill in favour of weight instead of measure for Vegetables was read.

House in Committee of Supply voted £25 for improving the Harbour of Port Hood; £50 to Commissioners on the Bankruptcy Bill.

Mr. Locke moved £1000 for the road from Shelburne to Annapolis—60 miles long—it would cost £4,000 or 5,000.

Hon. Mr. Johnston supported the motion. Passed.

Mr. Annand moved for £1000 to open a road eastward in Halifax County. Passed.

On motion of the hon. Solicitor General, £50 was granted to Mr. Wade for his services as temporary Speaker.

The sum of £50 was granted to the Church of England Model and Training School of this city.

A number of claims for grants to local objects, which had been rejected by the committees to whom they had been referred during the session, had been entered in a book by the different members interested. This volume was opened on Tuesday, and that day and Thursday were occupied principally in grants to roads and other objects.

On Thursday members united, and continued to pass everything in the shape of a money vote that came up, until an immense sum of money had been legislated away. However, on adding up at the end of the day, some doubts existed as to where the money was to come from, a resolution was passed to rescind all the special grants to roads and bridges, which had passed the house on Tuesday and Thursday, the £500 to Lunenburg county, was also rescinded.

FRIDAY, April 4.

House in committee on Bills, and took up the Assessment Bill.

Mr. McDonald thought that an exception should be made in the case of property in ships.

Mr. Churehill took the same view of the matter.

Mr. Wilkins differed.—Ships should be subject to assessment.

It was moved that one half of the value be inserted, which being put was agreed to without division.

European Intelligence.

[From the Freeman, March 12.]

Religious and General.

It is expected that the result of the Congress will be known in ten or twelve days at the farthest. Till then, we must wait, -hoping and praying, as we doubt not many in England are doing, that War may be stopped, and Peace "in our time" be given.

Meanwhile, as far as the Crimea is concerned, the war is at least suspended. Still the heights around Sebastopol are alive with soldiers, and the sentinels still march in their respective hents; but no longer is the cannon heard to roar as of old, nor is there any enemy to be watched or guarded against. It must be a somewhat strange thing for an army that has been so busily engaged, to have at last nothing to do! Still that will be the position of the army in the Crimea, at least until the end of the month. In the Baltic there is sufficient activity. As the armistice does not extend to naval operations, the arrangements for the Blockade are being vigorously carried out; and it is even said in an engagement between Russian yessels, and the portion of the allied fleet that has arrived, is by no means improbable.

With the exception of the Church-rates Abolition Bill, and the Police Bill, no question of any great importance has been discussed. Lord John Russell's Education Resolutions have indeed been introduced and talked about. It would be interesting to know how many speeches have been made and measures proposed within the last year or two by Lord John Russell, the sole history of which has been that they have suggested a leading article or two in The Times, and then been forgotten! Very different is the Lord John Russell of the present day from him whom some of us remember!

In France, beside the Congress, one matter appears to engage all attention. Doubtless it is one which deeply interests the Emperor, though,—in view of one possible contingency,—a little less parade might have been prudent. It is amusing to read the long programme of ceremonial which has been ordained in anticipation of the approaching event. Assuredly a crown is not wholly a blessing. Amidst the grandeur of Imperial state, even an Emperor and Empress may well wish, sometimes, for the quiet of domestic life!

Russian preparations for war are proceeding on a large scale; but that may be, as in England and France, in order to gain the best terms, and to be prepared for "any fate." We are glad to know, however, that the general expectation, as the general hope, tends strongly in the direction of peace. In the hope we most heartily sympathise, and in the expectation we eagerly join. To use the words of the Emperor of France the other day,—“The spirit of moderation and equity which animates all the Powers, must make us hope for a favourable result; nevertheless, let us wait the end of the Conferences with dignity; and let us be equally prepared, if it should be necessary, either again to draw the sword, or to extend the hand to those whom we have honourably fought.”

One of the most hopeful symptoms we observe in the present crisis is the spirit in which the end is awaited. Everywhere we see earnest—devout—longings for peace; but everywhere a spirit that would not be despondent—far less despairing—if duty should again point to war. That the latter should be the alternative, every consideration induces us to say, God forbid. War may be—has been—a duty, but it is a duty performed at fearful cost, and one from which we should willingly, thankfully, be liberated. To use again the words of the Emperor of France, in a speech worthy equally of the Emperor and the man:—“Whatever may happen, let us occupy ourselves with all the means proper to increase our real power; let us draw still closer, if possible, the alliance formed by a participation, of glory and of sacrifices, the reciprocal advantages of which will be brought into still stronger relief by peace; let us, finally, at this solemn moment for the destinies of the world, place our trust in God, that he may guide our efforts towards the end most conformable to the interests of humanity, and most consistent with the progress of civilization.”

TURKEY.

The equality of christians with the Mohammedan subjects of the empire is now fully recognised. The edict of the Sultan effects one of the greatest moral revolutions of modern times. Religious liberty is now fully recognised throughout the empire. News, moreover, has just reached us of a subsequent act still more astounding and important. The following confirmation of the report that the Government of Turkey has agreed to abolish the punishment of death for abjuring Mohammedanism, sets the question at rest, whether the abolition of the death-penalty for change of religion in Turkey be a fait accompli or only a rumour. Two days ago the Dutch ambassador told me that the Turkish government has now actually passed a law which will allow Mohammedans to profess Christianity without being liable to capital punishment. This law is to be published to-day. It is one of the great fruits of the war.

ROME.

For some years now, an annual publication has been issued in this city. It is a sort of almanack of the Papal government and, contains a variety of information. The following information is condensed from it. The College of Cardinals is composed of sixty-four members. Of the cardinals living, five are octogenarians, and twenty-three between the ages of fifty and sixty; the youngest, De Andrea, is forty-four. Of those created by Gregory XVI. there are still thirty; and the same number are living who have been created by Pius IX. The Governments now represented by diplomatic agents at Rome are,—Austria, Bavaria, Belgium, Brazil, Chili, Costa Rica, France, Guatemala, Modena, Naples, Holland, Portugal, Prussia, Russia, Sardinia, the United States, Tuscany, Paragua, and Wurtemberg. The population of Rome is given in this almanack as 177,461, showing a diminution in 1855 since 1854, when it was 178,032, but an increase compared with 1853.

TUSCANY.

This little preast-ridden dukedom, is again the scene of persecution. For some time Lord Normandy succeeded in checking the violence of the priesthood, but the beginning of Lent signalled a fresh outbreak upon these poor Bible-loving and reading individuals. The government reports that at last 10,000 have left the Romish communion. The tide is rising; sand-hills may impede the flow for a moment, but it will rise higher, and higher till every barrier will be overleapt by its onward flow. Italy before long must rejoice in the light of the gospel.

EARTHQUAKES AT SMYRNA.—At the latter end of February, shocks of earthquake were felt at Smyrna and in other parts of Asia Minor. In several districts the inhabitants were encamped in the open country. Violent hurricanes occurred about the same time at Varna and Constantinople. Most of the vessels at anchor in the Bosphorus have received damage, and several have foundered. Seventeen minarets were blown down.

Several Frenchmen have been massacred in Madagascar by the Troops of the Queen of that barbarous state. Others have been made prisoners, and some pieces of cannon have been captured. The French assert that all that part of Madagascar in which the massacre took place belongs to France. Measures will no doubt be taken to vindicate the French flag.

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