

Provincial Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

TUESDAY, April 1.

House met, received a message with some bills from the House of Assembly. After referring them to committee, adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, April 2.

Hon. Mr. Almon presented a petition from the Rector, Church Wardens, and Vestry of St. John's Parish, (Truro,) against the appointment of Trustees, &c., of the glebe lands in Onslow. I am instructed to say that if any portion of these lands have been sold, the proceeds have been applied for the benefit of the Church; and no portion of said proceeds to any private uses.

The lands yield a very small rent which is paid to the Rector of the Parish.

Hon. Mr. McCully—Of what parish, Truro or Onslow?

Hon. Mr. Almon—Truro.

Hon. Mr. McCully—Is Onslow in that Parish?

Hon. Mr. Almon—Yes, although the church is in Truro. The Church of England holds lands in different parts of the country often at a considerable distance from the locality in which the church is situated, although such lands are always held, and their proceeds applied, for the benefit of the church.

Bill to alter the Harbor Master's fees in the harbor of Sydney, read and passed.

Bill respecting the Board of Health at Halifax taken up.

After considerable discussion, the following amendment was moved by Hon. Dr. Gregor, seconded by Hon. Mr. McCully, "That in addition to the duties of the Health officer he shall also be required to supervise and control the duties of the Health Inspectors of the city of Halifax," which was carried 11 to 9.

THURSDAY & FRIDAY, April 3 & 4.

The Council was engaged on Thursday and Friday in receiving bills which had passed the House of Assembly, the reports of which have been given in previous numbers.

The proceedings of the 5th and 7th are not yet published.

TUESDAY, April 8.

APPOINTMENT OF NEW PRESIDENT.

Hon. Mr. Kenny having presented his commission, and having taken the usual oaths, took his seat as President of the Legislative Council.

Hon. Mr. Almon—Before the House goes into committee, I should like to ask the hon. Receiver General, if it be true, as currently reported, that our late President in resigning his office as President of this Council also resigned his seat in the Executive Council.

Hon. Receiver General—That hon. member has resigned his seat in the Executive Council, and that resignation has been accepted.

Hon. Mr. Almon—I should also wish to know whether the vacancy thereby created has been filled up: I ask that question because there is a very general opinion entertained in this House that in the due exercise of our rights and privileges the president of the Legislative Council should not be a member of the Executive Council.

Hon. Receiver General—The vacancy has not as yet been filled up. What will be done hereafter with reference to it, will be a matter of future consideration.

Hon. Mr. Almon—Having frankly given my reasons for asking that question, I trust that the opinion of this House will be respected in filling up that vacancy.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,

SATURDAY, April 5.

Mr. A. G. Archibald moved the following Resolution:—

"Resolved, that the sum of five hundred pounds sterling be granted and placed at the disposal of the Lieutenant Governor, to be presented to the Honorable Joseph Howe, as a public acknowledgement of the high estimation in which the services of that gentleman, in the conduct and completion of the arrangements lately made by him in London, in respect of the sale of Debentures, are held by the Legislature of this his native country."

He thought there was no man in the Country, more entitled to a recognition of his services than the Hon. Gentleman mentioned in the Resolution who had so long and earnestly labored to place the country in a commanding situation.

Mr. M. I. Wilkins opposed the resolution; he could not understand how an Hon. Gentleman could move such a gratuity to one whom he considered had already the largest salary of any in the Province. He believed that the loan spoken of could have been as effectually negotiated without the expense of sending Mr. Howe home at all.

Dr. Brown also opposed the grant, and said that Mr. Howe had already received £300 in addition to his salary for his late services in England.

Hon. Provincial Secretary enumerated the many benefits conferred by Mr. Howe, and strenuously advocated the grant.

Mr. Tobin thought the Government should have taken the responsibility of introducing the resolution themselves and not allowed a private member of the House to propose it, but would vote for the Resolution.

Mr. McLennan was averse to these grants to public Officers—but thought that there was no

man in the Country so well entitled to a grant of that kind.

Hon. Attorney General entirely differed with the hon. member for Halifax; the Government had assumed the responsibility of paying Mr. Howe his more expenses—but for the Executive to come down and put such a resolution as that on the table was only to invite a party division.

Mr. McKeagney opposed the vote; he thought all Mr. Howe did in going home to England and making sale of Provincial Debentures was a mere adjunct to his duties of Chief Commissioner and therefore he was not entitled to any further sum.

Mr. Killam was surprised at such a vote being moved; if it became necessary for the conduct of the Railways in his opinion Mr. Howe was bound to go to the farthest part of the globe to carry them out.

Mr. Marshall concluded to second the motion—believing that there is no man in this country to whom such a compliment could be more gracefully paid.

Mr. Locke said the opposition of the Hon. member for Yarmouth came with a bad grace from him when it was known that when Mr. Howe went home he found a letter from him (Mr. Killam) in the hands of Baring Brothers, offering obstruction to the sale of Debentures.

Dr. Tupper expressed his regret that his duty compelled him to vote against the motion; he did so upon principle, he had a public duty to perform; and while he deprecated the manner in which the government were endeavouring to shirk the responsibility of their own duties, he would be doing an injustice if he did not record his vote against a movement which he believed to be unsound in principle. He considered, however, that £300 was very adequate compensation for a pleasant trip to England, while he was at the same time receiving his salary.

Mr. Annand supported the motion, when Sir Allan McNab returned from his mission, the City of Montreal voted him 1000 guineas and the Legislature of Canada £5000 for his services which were not nearly so beneficial as those of Mr. Howe.

Hon. Mr. Johnston—Let a Committee be appointed to take the subject into consideration and ascertain what sum if any was due to Mr. Howe—but he would feel bound to oppose the resolution in its present form. He viewed the question purely as a commercial transaction; the services rendered fell explicitly and distinctly within the sphere of the railway business.

Mr. Charles Campbell thought it a wilful waste of the people's money to throw it away in that way; it was a mere piece of political trickery and he should oppose it.

Some further debate took place, when the House divided:—

For the Resolution.—Pro. Secretary, Fin. Secretary, Attorney General, Davidson, Martell, Smyth, Annand, Munro, Eason, Locke, Sol. General, Fuller, Archibald, Bournneuf, Webster, Whitman, Dimock, McLearn, McFarlane, Wier, Tobin, Chambers, McDonald, Wade, White, Reinard, McKensie, McKimmon, Bailey, Geldert, J. Campbell, Marshall, Hyde, McLellan—34.

Against:—Moses, Bent, Thorne, Bill, C. Campbell, Wilkins, Robertson, Tupper, Johnston, Ryder, Killam, Robicheau, Brown—13.

FEMALE SEMINARY AT AMHERST.

A long debate occurred on the motion for a grant to this object, which was finally lost by the casting vote of the Speaker. Mr. Chambers opposed the grant. Dr. Tupper gave notice of motion to rescind.

MONDAY & TUESDAY April, 7 & 8.

Monday and Tuesday were occupied by the discussion of the Municipal Corporation Bill. After a lengthened debate in which the Hon. J. W. Johnston, Mr. M. I. Wilkins, Dr. Tupper and others took place in the affirmative and the Hon. Attorney General and Mr. McLennan principally on the negative, Mr. McLennan moved that the further consideration of the Bill be deferred for three months, which in being put was negatived by 21, against 15. So the Bill passed.

THE EDUCATIONAL BILL.

The Attorney General on Tuesday reported the Educational Bill from committee; and also announced to the House that it had been deemed expedient to defer its further consideration to wait the expression of public opinion thereon.

WEDNESDAY, April 9.

Wednesday was taken up with a debate on a resolution moved by Mr. Wade to the effect that Messrs Northup & McHeffy were entitled, from the nature of their engagement with the Crown Land office, to that 7500 acres of Land claimed.

The discussion which arose was deeply interesting. Many of those who took part in it considering the matter as they would any other business transaction between private parties, and were therefore disposed to hold the Government to what in any other circumstances would have amounted to an express agreement to hand over the lands for which purpose the money of the petitioners had been held by the Government.

THURSDAY, April 10.

House met at 12 o'clock, and shortly after went into Committee on Bills.

Act in amendment of the Jury Law was taken up.

MINES AND MINERALS.

Mr. Archibald laid upon the table Report from Committee on Mines and Minerals, and proceeded to explain in detail, the state of the

question as between the Crown, the Mining Association, and the Province, for the purpose of considering the propriety of an Address to Her Majesty of which he had given notice on a previous day.

Mr. Wilkins took ground in favour of the Mining Association's claims, which the honorable gentleman proceeded to sustain in a speech of considerable length concluding with an amendment to the motion that the Report be received and adopted.

The hon. gentleman was followed by the hon. the Attorney General, in a speech which occupied nearly two hours in delivery; and on sitting down was followed by Mr. Johnston, whose speech filled up the remainder of the sitting.

FRIDAY, April 11.

The House in committee of supply passed a number of miscellaneous votes, including votes for breakwaters.

The House took up the Jury Law. Discussion arose out of the question, whence the funds were to come from by which to pay Jurors the proposed 2s. 6d. per day?

Dr. Tupper would prefer withdrawing an amendment, proposed by him, going to charge payment of Jurors upon the Provincial funds, than have the bill lost.

Bill passed, and sent to Legislative Council for concurrence.

Several gentlemen thought that the debate on the Mines and Minerals, question would be brought to a close, by division, at once.

Dr. Tupper arose and proceeded to address the House and continued for nearly an hour. He was followed by Mr. McDonald.

At a few minutes after six the House divided on a resolution introduced by Mr. Wilkins adverse to the Address.

For, 35; against, 12.

On the amendment introduced by the Hon. Mr. Johnston, the House divided.

For, 35; against, 12.

On the Resolution that the "Address do pass," there appeared for, 34; against, 13. Mr. Churchill going over to the Opposition side.

Mr. Archibald reported from committee on Building of Court House in Halifax, and laid upon the table a Bill in accordance with the Report. Railway Damages Assessment Bill was taken up and finally passed.

European Intelligence.

[From the Freeman, March 26th.

PEACE NEWS.

Although there is as yet no official announcement of the result of the Conferences at Paris there is now no doubt that Peace will be restored to Europe and the world. The treaty of pacification, if not actually signed, is at least in process of preparation; all the main points of dispute have been finally settled; and the minor points which remain have been entrusted to a committee of Plenipotentiaries, who anticipate no difficulty in arranging them without much delay. It has indeed, been rumoured during the week that the terms of the treaty would be found far from satisfactory to the English people,—that it would be *un pacis, non le pacis*—that in fact the English Plenipotentiaries had been obliged to yield in several important matters to the pacific resolves of Austria and France. The latest rumours, however, give such a statement of the terms agreed on, as by no means justifies the fear,—including, as it does, the neutralization of the Euxine, the reduction to commercial ports of Sebastopol and Nicolaieff, the rectification of the Danubian territories and the renunciation of all claims to a protectorate of the Principalities by the Czar. If these terms have indeed been agreed to, it may at least be said that the great objects for which the war was commenced have been gained; and we can scarcely conceive that a treaty so far satisfactory, would not include also the restoration of Kars to the Turks, and an engagement on the part of Russia not to threaten the Western Powers and endanger peace by building a Baltic Sebastopol.

On the whole, therefore, we have abundant cause to rejoice at the prospect before us. After a struggle of two years, unparalleled for severity, and in which treasure and life have been expended by both parties to an extent unequalled in any former war, the nations of Europe will return once more to their old peaceful avocations, and the bond of amity be once more extended over the whole family of the West. Let us hope that that bond will not be again broken, and that the energy which has been given to war will now be directed to social amelioration and moral and political progress. The rumour that this is the path on which Russia intends to enter, will turn out, we trust to be more than rumour; nor can England and France decline to take a similar course, which the facts opened up during the war have more than ever proved to be necessary.

FRANCE.

From France the chief domestic news of the week is of the rejoicing at the birth of the Imperial infant. Every town in the Empire appears to be sending its addresses of congratulation to Louis Napoleon on the auspicious event; and each appears to vie with the other as to which shall go highest, or lowest in adulation and flattery. We would not, indeed, begrudge our ally—who has, at least, been faithful to us—any of the congratulations which he desires on an event which will add both to his happiness and his security; and we would not too carefully criticise compositions, produced at such a time and for such a purpose. But there is a mode of bestowing congratulations which degrades the giver, and does little honour to the receiver: and as such we cannot but characterize that which some congratulators, at least, have chosen to adopt. We must add that the sentiments expressed by the Emperor himself have been, for the most part, singularly just and appropriate. It must have been affecting to hear the newly-made father allude to "the fate of those born in the same place, and under the same circumstances," as his son. May his fate be, indeed, a happier one; and may it be so by his being taught, in due time, by example as well as by precept, that "a dynasty has the only chance of stability, when it remains faithful to its origin, and when it occupies itself solely with the popular interests for which it was created."

THE ANNEXATION OF OUDE.

In the good old times, there can be no doubt that the annexation to the British Empire of a province like Oude would have been hailed with a flourish of trumpets. Now, however, a soberer tone prevails. The narratives of the transaction have very much the air of apologies. It seems to be regarded by the triumphant confiscators themselves, as an act for which they must offer a good and sufficient defence, not only to the deposed sovereign, but to the whole people of England. Hence, the proclamation of Lord Dalhousie to the Oudians, and the leading article of the Times, adopt the self-same tone. Then there is the question—a somewhat ugly one it must be owned—as to how the proceeding will be regarded just now by the Powers that are critically, if not maliciously, watching the policy of England.

The kingdom of Oude, lying, as our readers know, in the magnificent valley of the Ganges, comprising some twenty thousand square miles, with a population of about four millions, was a fragment of the wreck of the vast Mogul Empire. When that Empire fell before the British power, Oude, instead of being wholly incorporated, was permitted to retain a semi-independence, and excepting only the dominion of the Nizam, better known as Hyderabad, formed the most considerable of the tributary kingdoms of Hindostan. In 1801, a treaty was concluded between the Sovereign of Oude and the East India Company, in which the latter guaranteed the province against foreign invasion or domestic rebellion, while the King, in turn engaged to maintain "such a system of administration, to be carried into effect by his own officers, as should be conducive to the prosperity of his subjects, and calculated to secure the lives and properties of the inhabitants."

The kingdom of Oude required and asked for British protection; had England no right to ask in return that the Government of the province should be a righteous Government, and affectionally to provide that the stipulation should be carried out?

Well, the part of England was performed for more than half a century, faithfully, constantly, and completely. In all that time, the Governor-General's proclamation continues, "though the British Government itself has been engaged in frequent wars, no foreign foe has ever set his foot on the soil of Oude; no rebellion has ever threatened the stability of its throne."

But all the while the rulers of Oude have systematically and notoriously disregarded every stipulation of the treaty. A more than Oriental oppressiveness and misrule have characterized every department of the administration. The rights of property have been disregarded; human life has been insecure; the community has become disorganized and miserable. The present King has delegated all his functions to worthless favourites, his army has become a horde of plunderers, his Court is a sink of nameless vice. In a word, the conditions under which the Crown is held have all been broken; and, according to every dictate of justice, no less than of policy, the British Government might long since have declared the treaty void, and might have withdrawn its protection from the rulers of Oude."

It is satisfactory to have to add that the revolution has been effected without bloodshed. General Outram, as representative of the British Government, marched with twelve thousand men upon Lucknow, from the frontier city of Cawnpore. The King had fortified his capital against them, but on their approach withdrew his guns and disarmed his garrison. It was then proposed by the British authorities that he should quietly abdicate. This he refused; and in three days his d position was announced. A pension of £150,000 per annum is to be allowed him; and the province is to be placed under Commissioners, of whom General Outram is to be the chief. Other arrangements have been made by which the transfer of power will be effected, it is hoped, without exciting any outbreak. Indeed, the population generally will only be too thankful for the change.

To take possession of it was, as we have proved, a sheer necessity, laid upon the British Government by the treaty of 1801. On the

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