

I have very high opinion of the privileges of a free press, and should be the last to complain of it, unless when it publishes false statements.

With these remarks, I beg leave to lay on the table the following resolution, which I shall move to-morrow:—

Resolved, That this House has seen with great regret a document entitled 'An Appeal to the People of Nova Scotia,' published in the Morning Chronicle newspaper of the 7th inst., purporting to have been prepared by a Committee drawn from both branches of the Legislature, the object of which is to stir up religious strife in this Province, and to set different denominations of Christians at variance, in order to serve the political views of a few disappointed individuals.

Resolved, That this House has not sanctioned the formation of such committee, and indignantly repudiate the attempt to give the document its sanction; and while this House will not recognise the right of any one religious body to interfere with the privileges of others, it abhors the idea of a combination of the many to proscribte one, and deprive it of its just rights as citizens and fellow subjects."

Hon. Dr. Grigor—I hope no mistake is made in moving that resolution (Laughter). The opposite course was taken by members of government in the lower house. There they deprecate a discussion of that appeal; here it is invited.

After an animated discussion on the above resolution, the report of which must be deferred till next week, Hon Mr. McCully moved a series of resolutions as an amendment the house divided:

For the Resolution.—Messrs. McNab, Tobin, Harris, Cutler, Brown, Comeau, Pineo, Bleck, Fairbanks, Keith, Crichton, Morton, Rudolf, President—14.

Against.—McKeen, Grigor, McHefsey, Bell, McCully, Archibald—6.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

MONDAY, March 9.

It was expected by many that the subject introduced on Saturday, by Dr. Webster, would be brought forward this day, for further discussion, but nothing was said concerning it. The house met and adjourned without doing any business of importance.

THE NEWFOUNDLAND DELEGATION.

On Wednesday the House of Assembly met and adjourned, to allow the Delegates from Newfoundland to address them on the subject of their mission—the Treaty lately entered into between the Imperial Government and the Emperor of France, giving up to the French the right to fish and land on the eastern coast of their island. These most valuable parts of the fishing grounds are proposed to be conceded in exchange for certain other rights on the coast of Newfoundland and Labrador, previously enjoyed exclusively by the French. The people of Newfoundland consider these latter rights and privileges as of no value. The treaty is however made subject to the assent of the people of that colony. There appears to be one general feeling of dissatisfaction, and almost a panic produced by the treaty being made known to the inhabitants. They have therefore deputed Messrs. Kent and Carter, to visit the other British American Provinces, and invite from them a remonstrance against this treaty. So much excitement exists in St. John's, that nearly every mercantile establishment in the city had hoisted the British flag half-mast high: some of them upside down.

We give the following outline of the Hon. Mr. Kent's speech from the Sun.

Shortly after three o'clock the galleries and lobbies of the house were filled with spectators, including a large number of our leading merchants.

The Hon. Mr. Kent, Provincial Secretary of Newfoundland, proceeded to give a detailed account of the object of his mission.

He expressed his deep thankfulness for the privilege of addressing the legislative body of this country. He paid a high compliment to our legislature, in having taken the lead in the adoption of great constitutional measures. He and his honorable colleague were placed in an anomalous position, there being nothing analogous to it in British history—Chosen by the unanimous voice of the people of Newfoundland, he proceeded on a delegation to this country, to ask our co-operation to repel an aggression that has proceeded from a quarter least expected, and from which they expected protection. He referred to the loyalty of Newfoundland, and the joy evinced by its people in the ascendancy of the British arms during the late war; but in return for this, and growing out of the alliance between the English and French governments, a contract had been entered into between the British Minister and the Emperor of the French, to the great injustice of the people of Newfoundland, by which the people of that colony were attempted to be wronged into unthankfulness, and sacrificed by a false diplomacy.

So strong was the feeling in Newfoundland that almost every merchant allowed the Union Jack to float up side down at half mast when the news of this treaty was received, and were mourning as over the loss of some venerated friend. The treaty was entered into by the English with the French, the latter being thoroughly acquainted with the practical operation of the treaty, while the former, in the face of the knowledge they possessed, have displayed gross ignorance and want of knowledge by consenting to any such treaty. The English minister was not ignorant of the rights of the colony, and the value to them of an exclusive right of fisheries, in the face of the constant protests of the Legislature and of the commercial community of the Island. The treaty of Utrecht gave the French certain fishing privileges. The treaty of Paris enlarged those privileges. That of Versailles were still more enlarged. He then proceeded to point out the objectionable points of the convention. He showed that for years the French have enjoyed the exclusive right of fishery from Cape John to Cape Race a tract of four hundred miles, possessing the most favorable climate, and where fish is to be found in the greatest abundance. They had driven the British fishermen out of these waters; wherever the French and English have possessed concurrent right of fishery it has been found that it always resulted in the exclusion of the latter. The British fishermen never interfered with the French, they were compelled to seek fishing grounds further on the coast of Newfoundland and large sums of money were expended in fitting up extensive establishments. The French look upon this matter with an exceeding jealous eye, and the treaty now entered into looked as if the rights of the British fishermen were to be sacrificed altogether. He described the mock equivalent the people of Newfoundland were to receive—that while they conceded a right to fish in another direction, they took care to reserve to themselves the exclusive right of the only curing ground in the neighborhood.

He referred to the value of the bait fisheries, now exclusively enjoyed by British fishermen. The treaty not only contained a clause which gives the French the right of purchasing, but it also contains a condition which will in time actually allow them to fish for bait also. He referred to the value of the seal fishery, and the number of vessels employed in the service; and concluded with an earnest and forcible appeal to the members of the House, asking them to pronounce in favor of the objects of the delegation.

Leave of absence on urgent business has been given to some of the most prominent men on the side of the late government. It was well understood that the business alluded to was for the purpose of visiting those parts where the elections are to be contested. Hon. Mr. Howe started on Friday for Annapolis. Hon. Mr. Young left on Saturday for Cumberland; Messrs. McKenzie and McDonald for Pictou; Mr. Archibald on Thursday for Guysborough.

The business of the legislature will of course have to wait the return of these gentlemen, and the result of the elections, before anything of interest and importance will be attempted.

THURSDAY, March 12.

Hon. Mr. Howe rose for the purpose of setting himself right in reference to an article which appeared in the Colonist of that morning, relating to the expenditure on the occasion of the celebration on the 9th of June, in connexion with the laying of the corner stone of the Lunatic Asylum, amounting to £313, 7s. 10d. Explanations were due to the house and to the venerable head of the Board of Works. He referred to the example of the sister province on the erection of public works, and the monies expended in celebrations. The importance of the insane establishment was dwelt upon. It was due to the Chairman of the Board of Works to say that, even if the sum of three hundred pounds had been expended, even wasted on the occasion of laying the corner stone of the Lunatic Asylum at Dartmouth, that gentleman had himself given towards the erection of this institution, out of his own private funds, equal to the entire sum expended on this occasion. The publication was unjust and unfair to that public officer. A charge has been most indelicately hurled against himself, that of "Refreshments, &c., for Mr. Howe and his party,"—he would simply explain the thing and leave the public to judge. He was present at the celebration as a spectator, he was not in the government, and so far from taking a party to be refreshed at the public expense, he did not even take a member of his own family there. While on the grounds either a member or officer of the government, or both, requested him to take the military gentlemen, on the ground, to the refreshment tent, many of whom had but recently arrived from the Crimea—he obeyed the summons, and while there, over two hundred persons came in and out, and were entertained at the tables. If, however, the government would obtain from Hynes a bill of the refreshments used by him on that day, he would pay it with the utmost pleasure.—There was another matter to which he would refer.—Two letters one from Mr. Thomas P. Brown, and the other from Mr. Wm. Barron also appeared in the same paper shewing that the weight before alluded to was dropped from the gallery of the Court house accidentally by a boy without any design. He (Mr. Howe) stated that he had received the statement on the authority of His Honor Judge Bliss, and he did not doubt the late Attorney General would be able to give a similar version of the affair.

Mr. Churchill thought the celebration expenditure referred to, an extravagant and unnecessary one—a gross swindling of the public funds.

Hon. Mr. Young said the publication of the accounts was unauthorized and unwarranted, particularly when the public accounts were in the hands of members of both branches of the house. He defied the government to bring any charge of unjust tampering with the public funds against the late administration.

Mr. McKeagney thought as others had adopted the unparliamentary course of introducing newspaper paragraphs on the floors of the house, he would be justified in contradicting a statement made in the Chronicle. He denied that he ever demanded to be made Speaker of the house. When the present Speaker was taken ill last session, looking to his own interests, he did ask some four or five of his personal friends to assist him in obtaining a temporary seat in the Speaker's chair. Finding it embarrassed the government, he requested his friends to withdraw him.

Messrs. Howe, McLellan and Henry offered some further observations, when the house went into committee.

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