

involve too many considerations for other powers to allow it. Let us hope it will be arranged without appeal to the sword.

Naples grows worse and worse. New instruments of torture are invented, the prisons crammed, and the King appears to have lost all vestiges of reason and humanity.

Some accounts state that the Emperor of China has left Yeh to manage as he can, forbidding the extension of the quarrel to the other ports; but contrary accounts state just the reverse, and that a war of extermination to the barbarians has been proclaimed. We shall soon know decisively. Most likely it will be, that Canton is taken, and Yeh either dead, a fugitive, or a prisoner.

THE VICTORIA CROSS, FOR VALOUR.—The new Order, open alike to officers and privates, will be first inaugurated by Her Majesty, who, in person (after the important event already alluded to shall have taken place), will distribute to the successful claimants their honourable reward. A list of such recently appeared, specifying the deeds so to be distinguished by Royal approbation. This is a first step in the right direction, and will alike be daily estimated by the recipients and encourage emulation in future aspirants.

MORRAN IN CATTLE.—Some alarm has been felt, at the appearance of disease in cattle from the Baltic and surrounding districts. Even the hides of such animals have caused disease in those preparing them for manufactures; "blotches and lesions" have been caused in their use; the disease appears to spread; and an Order in Council has been issued, forbidding the further importation of cattle or skins from infected localities. Unfortunately, this will tend to raise prices, and render all articles in connection with them much dearer.

YOUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.

Provincial Parliament.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THURSDAY, April 9.

Hon. Mr. McCully asked the members of government for certain returns from the Railway Board, which had been recently submitted at the request of the government.

Hon. Receiver General presented two petitions from Yarmouth, numerously signed, praying the house to enact a prohibitory liquor law.

Hon. Mr. Radolf, as chairman of the committee to whom was referred the bill to provide for repairing the Cornwallis Bridge, reported recommending it to favourable consideration.

Hon. Mr. O'Connell presented several petitions. Hon. Mr. Fairbanks, as chairman of the committee to join a committee of the house of Assembly to prepare an address to her Majesty, relative to the Treaty with the Emperor of the French, concerning the Newfoundland Fisheries, reported that the joint committee had prepared an address, which he read.

MONDAY, April 13.

The bill for repairing Cornwallis Bridge was read a third time, and passed.

Hon. Mr. Pines introduced a bill to incorporate the Halifax Corresponding Committee of the Colonial Church and School Society.

Hon. Mr. Bell was sorry to see a disposition to prevent us from uniting together for promoting the great object of education.

The Excellency, attended by his staff, came to the Council Chamber and gave his assent to several bills.

TUESDAY, April 14.

Several bills were read and forwarded.

WEDNESDAY, April 15.

The bill for the destruction of weeds injurious to agriculture was read a second time.

Hon. Mr. Bell asked leave to introduce a bill to give to members of the Church of England the right to choose their own chairman at their meetings. This bill entirely agrees with my own feelings. While I feel myself bound to pay all due respect to the reverend gentlemen at the head of any church, at the same time, I think that with regard to secular and financial affairs, the members of the church should have the right to choose their own chairman.

Hon. Receiver General with reference to the question asked by the hon. and learned member (Hon. Dr. Grigor) relative to the resignation of the Presidents of this house, laid on the table of the house a letter from the hon. Michael Tobin, and also a letter from the hon. Edward Kenny, to the Provincial Secretary.

Hon. Dr. Grigor—These letters contain every thing but what we want to know.

Hon. Receiver General—It is too bad, when documents are submitted to the house by the government, in the terms proposed by the learned and hon. member, containing the particulars involved in this question, that he should be dissatisfied with the result of his inquiries.

Hon. Dr. Grigor again rose to speak, but it was stated that there was no question before the house.

Hon. Mr. McCully—I shall make a motion before I sit down, and shall therefore be in order. I have not taken any part in the discussion, but the hon. member who called for these papers did nothing more than what he had a perfect right to. It was in the power of the late government to appoint a person to that chair, who could not be moved by the present government. They did not wish to do this, because it might be indicative towards the party who had just become the government party to appoint a gentleman who might subsequently be placed in opposition. It may be a lesson of moderation to some hon. gentlemen now in the government.

Hon. Mr. McHaffey introduced a bill to enable private persons to impeach the provincial government.

Hon. Mr. Comeau asked leave to introduce a bill relating to the width of certain roads in the County of Digby.

THURSDAY, April 16.

The bill declaratory of and in amendment of chap. 59, R. S., of the Church of England, was read a second time.

Hon. Mr. Redolf presented a petition from his Lordship the Bishop of Nova Scotia, and another from the Venerable Archdeacon praying the house not to assent to the said bill.

Hon. Mr. Bell—I still think that the people of the Church of England should have something to say in the management of their secular affairs, and should not, in this respect, be under the control of the clergy, however respectable and worthy of respect, the latter may be.

Hon. Dr. Grigor—If the congregation of that church really desire the right which is declared in the bill I think it should not be denied them.

Hon. President—I have no desire to interfere with the internal arrangements of any denomination, I take it for granted that it is proper for the rector to preside over the church meetings. The bill contains but a single clause and asks us to deprive the rector of the parish of St. Paul's of the privileges which he and his predecessors have enjoyed for a hundred years.

Hon. Mr. Archibald—I stated here the other day that the practice of the Free Church was to have a minister presiding over their meetings. The bill containing this provision was altered so as to give the right to the meeting to appoint any one to be chairman. I think it strange that the arguments should be all on one side one day, and all on the other side the next day.

Hon. Mr. McKen thought the people who paid the clergymen should have some voice in the management of the affairs of the church.

Hon. President—They are not deprived of their voice.

Hon. Mr. McCully—I move that the house go into committee on bills. I ask before the people of this country if it is to be permitted that a bill placed on the table of this house on Wednesday is to be thrown out on Thursday, while the table is groaning with older bills. One feels that there must be some influence brought to bear here in order to produce this action. There is not a member sitting at this board to day who will deny that this is the case. I say it, and I care not what prelate, priest, or minister I offend, that a man belonging to the most despised sect in Nova Scotia has as much right to be heard as a prelate or the greatest lord.

Hon. Mr. Redolf—You can understand the whole bill in five minutes. The hon. and learned member talks about influences brought to bear. There may be some secret influence used on the hon. gentleman who opposes the motion to defer.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

FRIDAY, April 17.

Several bills were read a second time. The adjourned debate on the question of the mines and minerals was resumed.

Hon. Attorney General stated that he would consent to modify his resolution by adding a clause to the effect that any agreement or settlement arrived at by the proposed delegation should be subject to the ratification of the House of Assembly.

Mr. McLellan recommended that the matter be settled in the province by Mr. Cunard and a committee of the house.

Mr. Chambers seconded the amendment and expressed his opinion that the expense of the delegation would be too great.

Hon. Mr. Howe differed from the members for Inverness and Londonderry. He had always been of opinion that the operations of the mining association were beneficial to the province of Nova Scotia; at the same time he entertained a strong opinion that the grant to the Duke of York was an act of great injustice to the province.

Hon. Attorney General made explanations in reference to his position, and conceived it proper to inform the agent of the mining association that he had ceased to be their professional adviser, which he had done immediately after his return from Annapolis.

On division, there appeared for Mr. McLellan's amendment 5. Against it 45.

The original resolution of the Hon. Attorney General then passed.

SATURDAY, April 18.

Hon. Mr. Johnston moved the following being a modification of the resolution moved by him on a former day, to include the Receiver General's Office as well as the Excise Department and Board of Works:

"Whereas the Board of Works and the offices of the Receiver General and Excise may be found to require improvement:

"Therefore Resolved, that His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor in council be authorised to make such alterations in those departments as, in the estimation of the Provincial Government, the public service may demand."

The hon. gentleman explained the necessity for appointing a head to the Excise; also, for the revision of the Board of Works and Receiver General's office. He stated that it was not contemplated to increase materially, if at all, the expenses of these departments.

The Atty. General also moved the following resolution:

"Resolved, that His Excellency in Council be authorised to employ competent persons to examine the books and accounts in the several public departments, including the accounts and contracts touching all the public works and their conditions; and to report thereon; and also upon the system in which the books and accounts are kept, and on any changes in the system of re-

ceiving monies and keeping the accounts that may be beneficial for the public service."

Mr. Morrison could not see the necessity of the last resolution, as it was the duty of the departmental officers to examine the public accounts.

Mr. Howe hoped no member of the house would be found to oppose either resolutions. For his part, as regards the railroad accounts, he was quite ready that they should be submitted to any commission the government might appoint.

Hon. Provincial Secretary mentioned some instances of abuses which existed in the Crown Land department, and spoke of the necessity of examination into the system pursued in that office.

Mr. Tobin called attention to the facility with which bank notes could now be counterfeited, and the necessity of having some mode of testing the genuineness of notes in circulation.

Hon. Mr. Howe, in a humorous speech, said he believed the true reason for proposing these resolutions was to provide offices for the newly found allies of the present government.

Mr. Young moved an amendment, to the effect that any changes made during the recess in the public departments referred to in the resolutions of the hon. Attorney General, should be subject to the supervision of the house at its next session.

A debate ensued after which on division there appeared: for the amendment, 19; against it, 27.

MONDAY, April 20.

The bill for the reduction of the Railway Board was read a second time.

Hon. Attorney General moved an additional clause—to prevent any member of the Legislature from becoming security for any railroad contractor.

Hon. Atty. General moved an amendment empowering the jury to consider the benefit as well as injury done to property; also to make compensation for delay of payment, which passed in the affirmative.

TUESDAY, April 21.

Several Bills were read a second time.

Mr. Young—From the Committee on Agriculture read a lengthy report. Also the Report from the Committee on Education. And recommended amongst other things that the School grant be increased from £11,170 to 15,000 a year.

Mr. Henry said when the subject came up he would also call the attention of the House to the propriety of granting £50 to the superior female Schools of the different Counties—so that they might be put on the same footing as the male high Schools.

The house went into Committee and passed several bills.

Mr. Young explained the reasons which had influenced the Committee in reporting in favor of the Petition of the New York and Newfoundland Telegraph Company.

Hon. Financial Secretary was opposed to granting monopolies at all, and he did not think there was much danger of us being passed by even if we rejected the bill.

Hon. Mr. Howe—Every one's feelings were against monopolies, and yet it was important to encourage such extensive undertakings. He hoped the Province would not deal liberally with this Company. His inclination was to favor the Company.

Mr. Killam was opposed to the measure. Mr. Henry was afraid if we rejected the application of this Company, it would be many years before we had another chance.

The interests of the Province were sufficiently guarded, because the act would be at an end if the Company failed to commence operations in 3 years—or suspended the working of the lines for one year.

On the question being taken on the first clause there appeared for it 19—against 16.

WEDNESDAY, April 22.

Mr. Tobin asked leave to present a petition from the owners of real estate in the city of Halifax, against the passage of the act for the assessment of the city of Halifax for the sum of £100,000 for Railway purposes.

Hon. Mr. Howe was extremely sorry to find such a petition before the House. He could only say that if it was signed by every human being in Halifax he would still entertain the opinion that the House should pass the bill and reject the petition.

Hon. Financial Secretary—Long before he had entered the government he had stated that he would not oppose the railway any further. He did not think it fair to make such statements as that the government were not acting in good faith. He could only say that it was the intention of the Executive to prosecute these public works with all economy, and yet with vigor and speed.

[A Message from the Legislative Council.—The clerk informed the house that the Council had agreed to the resolutions on the subject of the mines and minerals, with an amendment—which was, that the word "legislature" should be used instead of "house."]

The discussion on assessing the City of Halifax was resumed, and several members spoke on the subject.

Hon. Mr. Howe thought there was nothing to frighten anybody in laying a tax of £2,500 for the City of Halifax. It would only amount to ten or twelve shillings on each house. In this particular case he thought the fairest mode would be to levy on the real estate alone.

Hon. Attorney General moved that the amendment of the Council to the resolution on the mines and minerals be agreed to.

Mr. Young was afraid it would be a dangerous precedent to agree to his amendment.

Mr. Howe thought the Council had done right in reminding the House that their concurrence was necessary. As to the remark made by some person that he (Mr. Howe) wished to go upon the delegation, he would relieve his mind by saying that he would not go even if the government offered it to him.

The railway assessment bill was read a third time.

Also, a bill to encourage telegraphic communication between Great Britain and America.

After some discussion—on division there appeared for the bill 22, against it 21.

THURSDAY, April 23.

Hon. Mr. Howe said he had mentioned the statements made by Mr. Killam the other day, in reference to the unfinished state of Creelman & Tupper's contract, to Mr. Foreman, Chief Engineer, and he was prepared to answer any such charges to the government.

Mr. Killam adhered to his former statements, and said he hoped that a Commission would be appointed to examine the state of the road he had referred to; and he was confident his statements would be found to be correct.

Mr. Young moved that the Patent Law Act be reconsidered for the purpose of extending the privileges to British subjects wherever resident. For the motion 19—against it 20.

The bill for incorporating the Union Iron Mining Company of Digby was taken up, and passed.

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April 14.