

Provincial Parliament.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

FRIDAY, February 18, 1859.

HORTON ACADEMY.

Hon. Mr. Pineo presented a petition from the Executive Committee of the Baptist Education Society, praying a continuance of pecuniary aid to the Horton Academy. He also presented the Report of the Institution.

(It appears from this Report, that instruction is afforded at the Academy in the ordinary English Branches, Mathematics, Chemistry, Natural Philosophy with experiments, Physiology, Composition and Declamation, the Classics and French. The average attendance during the past year was 51. A complete set of philosophical apparatus, costing \$300 in Boston, was purchased for the exclusive use of the Academy, in 1858.)

CROWN LANDS.

Hon. Receiver General, by command of His Excellency, laid on the table of the House the Report of the Commissioner of Crown Lands for 1858.

The number of grants issued during the past year was 511, containing 78,231 acres. The quantity being limited in most instances to 100 acres.

The gross receipts for Crown Lands during the past year amount to £6,255 19s. 2d.—the amount repaid on rejected petitions. £1,317 0s. 9d., leaving a balance of £4,948 19s. 1d. to the credit of the Province. Nett proceeds for the year, £3,091 10s. 1d.

Mines and Minerals.—There have been during the past year 40 applications for Licences to search for Mines, and 10 for Licences to work Mines. Some of these Licences have been issued, and others are in progress.

Cape Breton.—The Commissioner complains very much of arrears of business connected with this Island. 151 petitions remain undisposed of, in consequence of no part of the consideration-money for the grants applied for having been paid. The Commissioner states, that there are 3000 families on the Island who have no title to the lands upon which they are settled.

The Commissioner complains of the state of several Townships, in respect to their grants, particularly of that of Clements, in the County of Annapolis.

Owing to the form of several of the early grants the rights of the Crown to a large extent are involved in considerable embarrassment.

The number of acres reserved for the use of Indians is, in all, 26,027. Some of these lands are of a very superior quality, especially those in Cape Breton.

The Commissioner considers that the policy of retaining these lands in their present derelict state is very questionable, neither benefitting the public nor the Indians.

Ungranted Lands.—It seems that the area of the Province, including the Island of Cape Breton, is calculated to contain from 12,000,000 to 15,000,000 of acres, three-fourths of which are in Nova Scotia Proper, and one-fourth in Cape Breton. There remain ungranted in Nova Scotia Proper 4,086,497 acres and Cape Breton 1,210,960. Much of the ungranted lands in Cape Breton are of a good quality and very favorable for cultivation.

Of the ungranted land in Nova Scotia Proper, a large portion, especially as it approaches the southern shores is unfit for tillage and destitute of any valuable growth of timber.

Squatters.—The Commissioner observes that there are from 500,000 to 600,000 acres in the possession of squatters in Cape Breton, representing at the usual cost upon the smaller estimate the sum of £55,000. Some of these are no doubt entitled to grants under the Act of 1854, upon the production of their receipts or other evidence.

The Commissioner recommends that in these and all other similar cases the occupants should be notified to take out grants, or surrender their possessions.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 23.

POST OFFICE.

Hon. Receiver General, by command of His Excellency, laid on the table of the House the Report of the Postmaster General of Nova Scotia, for the year ending 30th September, 1858.

The number of Post Offices has increased from 40 Post Offices and 103 Way Offices in 1857 to 71 Post Offices and 294 Way Offices in 1858.

The number of newspapers carried in 1857, was 1,193,488;—in 1858, 1,211,016.

The expenditure of 1858 exceeded that of 1857 by £477 1s. 6d. The nett available receipts of 1858 amounted to £7,979 3s. 1d., showing an increase in 1858 of £553 17s. 7d.

The total number of routes now established throughout the Province amounts to 158, at an annual cost of £8,736 17s. 14d. The mails from the capital to Windsor and Truro are now conveyed by rail daily, the Railway Commissioners charging the Department £600 a year for the two services. The mails are conveyed by Messrs. King from Windsor to Annapolis for £5 a year. Mr. Cunard, Mr. Hyde's contract having been transferred to him, conveys the mails from Truro to Pictou daily for £300 per annum.

The Postmaster General states that he considers the £5 from Windsor to Annapolis is a mere nominal amount, the contract in his opinion being taken by Messrs. King at that rate in order to entirely exclude competition. He thinks that when this service is again submitted to competition, it will, probably, cost not less than £300. He recommends the establishment of a daily mail between Amherst and Truro, the Postmaster General of New Brunswick having made arrangements for a daily mail from St. John to Amherst after the 1st June next.

The Postmaster General has chosen as the Money Order offices the *Shire Towns* in each County. The system, it is stated, will come into operation on an early day.

The sale of Postage stamps has increased from £2,855 5s. 2d. in 1857 to £3,175 13s. 5d. in 1858.

The Postmaster General strongly recommends the compulsory prepayment of letters by stamps, as facilitating the business of the Post Office, both as regards *mailing* and *delivery* of letters; and concludes his report by stating that the premises in Dalhousie College are not sufficiently large for the convenient despatch of the increased amount of business.

SIR JOHN INGLIS' SWORD.

Hon. Receiver General also laid on the table, by like command, a copy of correspondence relating to the address presented to Sir John Inglis by the Legislature.

Sir John Inglis acknowledges the receipt of it in a letter, from which we make the following extract:—

"*Tunbridge Wells, July 26th, 1858.*

"Throughout the whole siege of Lucknow, and our long and arduous defence, my sole and earnest desire was to uphold the honor of my country and to preserve the lives intrusted to my care. This, through God's blessing, on my efforts, and the assistance afforded me by the determined bravery and unwearied patience of my small and harrassed force, I was enabled to effect; and it is now a source of the very greatest satisfaction and pride to me, to feel that my services have added the slightest glory to the country which gave me birth, and have gained for me the esteem and approbation of my countrymen.

"For the sword you have so generously voted me, I can only offer my most sincere and grateful thanks, and the assurance that it will always be preserved by me in remembrance of a Province and a people to whom I have been endeared from childhood, and with whom I am so closely connected.

I have the honor to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN INGLIS,

Major General."

Hon. Receiver General, by like command, laid on the table a copy of an order of the Queen in Council, assenting to an Act to establish the boundary line between the Provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick; also an Act for the punishment of certain offences relating to the Army and Navy.

MINES AND MINERALS.

Hon. Receiver General laid on the table, by command of His Excellency, the first Report of the Inspector of Mines, together with various accounts, statements, &c., referred to therein.

The following table shows the number of mines opened during the past year (outside the areas held by the General Mining Association) on Provincial mineral lands, the names of parties by whom opened, with the quantity of coal sold from the different mines, and the respective prices obtained therefor:—

No.	Locality.	By whom opened.	Tons sold.	Price per ton.
1	Bridgeport	E. L. Archibald,	469	9s. 2d.
2	do.	Patk. Caddigan,	696	9 2
3	N Glasgow	John McKay,	376	8 4
4	do.	George McKay,	143	8 4
5	East Rivr Pictou,	John Wilson,	66	8 8
6	N'ralb'n Mines,	Carmel McKay,	100	10 0
7	Sinn Rivr	R. Smith & others	100	10 0
8	Rvr Her- b't, Cum.	Wm. Patrick,	375	10 0
Total—			2325	

The tract of coal leased to the Mining Association at Spring Hill in Cumberland, amounting to four square miles, is yet unopened.

Hon. Rec General, by like command, laid on the table the regulations for leasing mines, established by His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor in Council, 16th June, 1858.

The applicant for a license of occupation to work Mines and Minerals belonging to the Crown, must pay the Government for such license £10 sterling.

Hon. Mr. Black presented a petition from the Governors of the Halifax Visiting Dispensary.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

MONDAY, February 21, 1859.

Mr. Wilkins requested the Government to lay on the table of the House the following information: a statement of the monthly earnings of the Windsor Railway, with the working expenses for the first six months after the cars commenced running; also, an Engineer's estimate of the probable working expenses of the Railroads to Windsor and Truro per mile; also, a copy of the Royal Instructions to Sir Edmund Head, the Governor General of Canada.

Mr. Wade presented three petitions. Mr. Moses presented a petition from inhabitants of Yarmouth, praying the passage of a Prohibitory Liquor Law. He stated that the petition was signed by two-thirds of the legal voters of the County, comprising Magistrates, Clergymen, and other influential persons.

Mr. McFarlane presented a petition from Rev. James Christie, with respect to the loss of a sum of money through the Post Office.

Petitions were also presented by Messrs. Parker, Davidson, McDonald, Dr. Brown, Bill, and Martell.

Hon. Provincial Secretary, by command, laid on the table the report of the Inspector of Mines, accompanied with voluminous plans of the working of the mines, and which he said would be placed in the Crown Land Office for reference.

Dr. Brown asked leave to introduce an act to incorporate the Mason Hall Company at Lower Horton.

Mr. Esson presented the petition of the Directors of the Institution of the Deaf and Dumb. Also, several other petitions.

Hon. C. J. Campbell presented several petitions—one from the Indians of Whyocoomah.

Mr. Campbell also introduced a bill to facilitate the perfecting of titles in Cape Breton.

Hon. Attorney General presented two petitions.

Mr. Morrison presented the petition of the Grand Division, S. of T., praying the passage of a Prohibitory Liquor Law, and for the introduction of the vote by ballot on that question at the next election. Also, a petition from the same body, praying the passage of a law to prevent the sale or gift of intoxicating liquors to any person on the day of the next general election, and for two days previous.

Mr. Archibald asked leave to introduce a bill to provide for the registration of electors.

NEW ELECTORAL BILL.

Hon. Attorney General asked leave to introduce a bill for the better Equalization of the Elective Franchise in certain counties. The hon. gentleman explained the details of the bill, and stated that its object was to remove the inequalities that at present existed in the representation of certain counties.

This bill proposes to put the counties of Colchester, King's, Hants and Pictou on an equality, to accomplish which one member will be taken from Hants and given to Pictou. These counties are to be divided into two electoral districts, returning two members each.

The county of Halifax is proposed to be divided into two electoral districts, returning five members—the eastern district returning two members, and the western (including the city) three members.

Inverness will receive an additional member. With the exception of Yarmouth, Shelburne and Queen's, which are not touched by the bill in consequence of there being no inequalities in these counties, there will in future be no distinction of county and township representation—members will be returned for the county alone.

In Colchester, in the northern district, there are at present eight polling districts, and in the southern five. It is proposed by the bill to give the northern district seven, and the southern six polling districts. In Hants the northern district will have five, and the southern six polling districts. After some remarks the bill was read a first time.

Hon. Provincial Secretary, by command, laid on the table copies of correspondence between the Colonial and Imperial Governments, on the subject of precedence, which were read.

TUESDAY, February 22.

Hon. Financial Secretary presented several petitions.

Mr. Wade asked leave to introduce three local bills. Also, several petitions.

Mr. Ryder presented several petitions.

Mr. Ruggles asked leave to introduce a bill to add a polling place in the county of Annapolis. Also, several petitions.

Mr. Shaw presented two petitions.

Mr. White presented a petition from the custos and magistrates of Shelburne. Also, introduced two bills.

Dr. Brown presented the memorial of the Commissioners of Cornwallis Bridge, praying for relief from a debt assumed by them in the construction of the bridge. After some discussion, the following committee was appointed—Messrs. Young, Kilam, Archibald, Wier, Munro.

Dr. Brown presented the petition of J. R. Hea, praying for a grant to his Academy.

Mr. Archibald presented several petitions.

Mr. Caldwell presented a number of petitions.

Hon. Mr. Howe inquired what would be the nature of the duty required of the railway committee, and whether the extra claims passed upon by the committee last year would be submitted to them.

Hon. Provincial Secretary said it would be in the discretion of the committee to take up any subject in connection with the railroad they might think fit.

Hon. Attorney General said no instructions could be given by the House to the committee.

Dr. Brown introduced an act to divide the county of King's into two school districts.

Mr. Wade introduced an act to incorporate St. Mary's Lodge of Freemasons at Digby.

Mr. Parker presented several petitions. Also, a petition from Hant's county, against the change of representation.

Mr. Wier introduced a bill concerning the Common of Halifax.

Mr. Bill presented twenty-one road petitions from Cornwallis and Aylesford.

Hon. Provincial Secretary, by command, laid on the table copies of papers relating to the dismissal of Sheriff McLean—which were read.

Hon. Attorney General introduced a bill to amend chapter 40 of Revised Statutes, of Sheriffs. The object of the bill is to remedy the defects of the present bill, which makes no provision for filling up the list of Sheriffs, where the committee, consisting of the Judges and two members of the Executive Council, disagree. The bill gives the majority of the committee power to fill up the list, and where this cannot be obtained it may be done by the majority of the judges.

Mr. McFarlane introduced an act to amend the act to establish a more equal and just system of assessment.

Hon. Mr. Howe introduced a bill to amend the act to establish a more equal and just system of assessment.

The Hon. Provincial Secretary said he had under his hand certain papers relating to the railway, which, by command of His Excellency he would lay on the table, and, in order to save trouble, he would be glad if hon. gentlemen would inform themselves as to whether the information required was or was not contained in them.

From these we gather the following interesting items:—56,422 passengers have been conveyed over the lines during the year. First-class passengers at about 2d. per mile. Horses and waggons are carried nearly thirty per cent. lower than in Canada. It takes three years for the road to become fully settled and consolidated. It is as easy to run passenger trains to Truro in three hours as freight trains in six.

The following is a statement of receipts and working expenses in the railroad for the year ending 31st December, 1858.—

RECEIPTS.

June 30.—Cash for passengers & freight,	£3,498 12 7½	
Dec. 31.—Do. do,	11,732 1 10½	£15,230 14 5½

June 30.—Charged contractors for hire of locomotives & cars,	£599 17 6	
Dec. 31.—Do. do. do,	2,063 5 0	2,663 2 6

June 30.—Cash for storage,		0 14 10
Dec. 31.—Charged contractors freight of materials for contract,	£314 8 9	

Do. for repair of cars,	17 6 6½	
Amount received from Fenery for repair of cars,	8 6 0	840 1 3½

Total receipts, £18,34 13 1

EXPENSES.

Salaries—Superintendents and Station Agents,	£1,547 16 3
Printing and Advertising	203 13 0

Running expenses—Enginemen, Firemen, Guards and Brakemen,	3,695 8 2
Traffic charges, wages of Porters, &c.,	2,025 16 7

Repairs to locomotives and cars,	1,699 18 11
Fuel,	3,034 19 5
Oil and Cotton Waste, Repairs of Permanent Way, Tools, Bridg's, Station Buildings and Fences,	696 4 6½
Repairs to Shop and Tools,	3,987 10 2

Gratuities Damages and Casualties,	72 19 8½
Road Stock,	52 2 6
Accident at Eight Mile House to Engine, Feb. 1858,	32 12 9

Accident to Main Line, 8th June 1858,	160 11 10½
Miscellaneous,	79 18 4
	137 5 6½

Total receipts in excess of expenditure, £1,307 15 4

Mr. Wilkins moved that the discussion of his resolution for the extension of the railroad to Pictou be taken up on Friday next.

Hon. Provincial Secretary said the discussion would be premature until the estimates of the cost of the road were before the House.

Mr. Wilkins deferred his motion until Monday.

Hon. Mr. Howe asked for any petitions or correspondence respecting the removal of Rodk. McLean, of a date prior to the 17th November last.

Hon. Provincial Secretary said that the original letter to him requesting the dismissal of Sheriff McLean had been returned to the writers by their request. He had no objection to bring down copies of them if it was deemed requisite.

Hon. C. J. Campbell, by special-leave of the house, presented several petitions.

Mr. Munro also presented several petitions.

Hon. Provincial Secretary, by command, laid on the table copies of correspondence relating to the address to Sir John Inglis. Also, a copy of the list of persons returned as eligible for sheriffs for the present year.

On motion of the hon. Financial Secretary, the house resolved itself into committee of supply.

On the usual motion for the grant to the Speaker—

Mr. Killam remarked that he had no wish to oppose this particular grant, but he would move the adjournment of the committee, and that the house do appoint a committee for the purpose of reducing the legislative expenses.

Mr. Ryder seconded the motion.

Hon. Mr. Howe—It is evident that the tariff cannot be raised any more—we must therefore reduce the expenses. He would rather that the member for Yarmouth would move that the whole civil list be reduced ten per cent.

Hon. Mr. Young said that a large portion of the public expenses, such as judges' salaries, &c., were beyond the power of the house, having been settled by the civil list bill. He thought it would be the wisest plan to allow the committee to investigate the subject, and report what reductions could be made.

After further remarks from Messrs. Chambers, Tobin, Locke, Wier, Howe, Morrison, Esson and Annand, the committee adjourned and the house resumed.

Mr. Killam then moved that a committee be appointed to report on the propriety of curtailing the legislative and other public expenses. Seconded by Mr. Ryder.

WEDNESDAY, Feb 23.

THURSDAY, February 24.

Mr. Wilkins asked the Government to lay on the table of the House certain information respecting the working expenses of the railway.

Hon. Provincial Secretary, by command, laid on the table a copy of the royal instructions to