

Hon. Prov. Secretary, making it so that the balance of salary not collected should be raised by a assessment.

Hon. Mr. Shannon Chairman of Committee of Private Bills, reported up bills on the following subjects:—

To incorporate the People's Bank at Halifax.
To incorporate Shipwrights' and Caulkers' Association in Dartmouth.

To amend the act to incorporate the Nova Scotia Marine Insurance Co. of Halifax.

To incorporate the House Joiners' Association of Halifax.

WEDNESDAY, March 2nd.

Hon. Prov. Sec. laid on the table certain correspondence between the Colonial office and the Nova Scotia government, on the subject of immigration. The first document was a despatch from the Duke of Newcastle, to Earl Mulgrave, dated April 11th, 1863, requesting information respecting the adaptability of this country for affording employment to a number of Lancashire operatives then out of employment. The 2nd and 3rd are letters from Earl Mulgrave, in reply.

The Railway.—Mr. Locke asked the government when they intended to lay on the table the Railway measure foreshadowed in his Excellency's speech. He hoped the government would submit the measure for the inspection of the house without any further delay.

Hon. Solicitor General said it was usual in this house for hon. members interested in and favorable to contemplated public works, to urge the Government to fulfil the promises contained in the governor's speech. He would take this manifestation of interest and concern in the subject, evinced by the hon. member for Shelburne, as an earnest that he would support the measure when the same was submitted. If the hon. member wanted railway extension, he would find when the bill was brought down that it provided for as much as he probably desired.

Mr. Locke said that railway extension was promised in the speech, and he was desirous of knowing in what direction extension would be made—whether east, west, north or south.

Mr. Tobin said this was altogether too grave a subject to deal lightly with. He was disappointed, with the statement of the hon. Solicitor General in reply to the hon. member for Shelburne. It was but poor encouragement to the people to tell the house that the railway bill would be submitted so soon as the revised statutes were disposed of. It was due to the house and the country that the bill should be at once submitted, and he would say that although the house had been well nigh a month in session he had no knowledge what the nature of the measure was. The government had foreshadowed a railway policy of some kind, and surely they had deliberated upon the subject, and decided upon the principles and details before this time, and they ought to lay it on the table. They had now been about thirty days in session, and not one government measure had been disposed of. Such a policy, on the part of the government, was an unwise one, and one they ought not to pursue. The hon. member for Shelburne, in his opinion, deserved the thanks of the house for referring to the subject, and his question was a very proper and reasonable one.

Mr. Archibald said the answer of the hon. Solicitor General, to the question asked by the hon. member for Shelburne, was no answer at all. It was unjust to insinuate that that hon. member (Mr. Locke) was not sincere in desiring the bill to be brought down, or that he was anxious to ascertain the nature of it, in order the better to prepare to oppose it.

Hon. Solicitor General said that last session the late government delayed their railway policy to the very latest period of the session; they procrastinated from week to week, and about the last day of the session got rid of their measure by a side wind. The proposition of the government, respecting railway extension, would be so definite, simple, and devoid of intricacy, that any hon. member could make himself fully acquainted with it in fifteen minutes. Had the question, put by the hon. member for Shelburne, come from any hon. gentleman who took an interest in the project of railway extension, his answer would have been different.

Mr. Locke wanted to understand whether the government held the doctrine that no member who was opposed to railway construction in a certain direction had a right to concern himself in the policy of the administration. In making the enquiry, he expected a reply of a nature becoming the government of the country. It appeared passing strange to him that a Government boasting of a majority of 21 members in the house were not able to mature a measure which they had foreshadowed in the speech, and submit it within 30 days from the opening of the session. Was it possible that they were afraid to bring down their measure?

Hon. Atty. Gen. said the members of the opposition had an undoubted right to question the government respecting promised measures. He did not see, however, how they could well manage to do three things at a time. They had now very important subjects before them, one, the education bill, which was a government measure of an important character, and one that required much consideration, and the other, the revised statutes, which also required strict attention. He had no doubt that in course of a few days the railway bill would be submitted, and although it was an important measure, it would not be involved in intricacies, but so plain and comprehensive that it could be easily understood.

Hon. Prov. Sec. said the Leader of the late government, of which the hon. member himself, (Mr. Locke,) was a member, repeatedly refused to give satisfactory or definite answers to the hon. member for Pictou, respecting railway policy, but then the hon. member (Mr. Locke,) had

no language to vindicate the rights of the house. No time would be lost in bringing down the measure.

Mr. Miller asked the government when they intended submitting the measure respecting St. Peter's canal.

Mr. Tobin was aware that there was a diversity of interests in railway matters.—some wanted an extension to Hantsport, others desired that the line should be extended to Pictou; and then, again, there was the subject of the St. Peter's canal, and perhaps it would be as well to tie these three public wants together and deal with them in one measure. The country was now in a position to undertake these works. It had been said that Wm. Pitt possessed a faculty of obscuring his meaning in a multitude of words, and while listening to the Attorney General he could not help thinking that he (Atty. Gen.) was equally clever in this species of ingenuity. He hoped they would no longer be deterred by the solicitations of the hon. member for Yarmouth, (Mr. Killam,) who doubtless was constantly telling the government not to be in a hurry, but wait until they saw what Canada and New Brunswick would do, with the view of giving the measure the go-by.

Hon. Prov. Sec., in reply to Mr. Miller, said that the government were now engaged in preparing the estimates, and in a few days would be prepared to submit the proposition referred to in the Governor's speech, to which the hon. member for Richmond had alluded.

The Education Bill.—The house in committee on bills, resumed the consideration of the Education bill. Several clauses passed without discussion.

Mr. Blanchard said that before going into the consideration of the schedule attached to the bill, he would call attention to the fact that no provision was made for the location of the county academies and superior schools. If it was the wish of the house to leave the discretion in the hands of the Council of public instruction, he had no objection.

Hon. Prov. Sec. said that it was the intention to locate these academies in the most central and populous portion of the counties. He then moved schedule A. providing for county academies, each to receive \$600.

Mr. McLellan said that he observed that while certain counties—such as Hants, Kings, Colchester—did not participate, under the bill, in the grant for county academies on the ground, as was stated by the Prov. Sec., that they already received a large grant for higher educational institutions, the county of Antigonish, which stood in precisely a similar position, was included in the grant. If the principle was introduced at all it should be fairly carried out amongst all. He would therefore move to strike out the county of Antigonish from the schedule of those who were to receive the grant. As regards the grant of \$600, he thought that instead of giving that sum to an academy which would be placed in the shire town of the county, where its benefits would be restricted to a comparatively small sphere, it would be wise to take \$200 of it and add to the grant for superior schools, and give the remaining \$400 to the common schools. By this measure it would be distributed more generally over the whole county, and the people would derive greater benefit.

Mr. Bourinot said that the Cape Breton common school grant had always been far short of what they were entitled to; in fact the lowest in proportion to the population of any county in the province. He was sorry to find the member for north Colchester (Mr. McLellan) exhibiting such a spirit of antagonism to Cape Breton, and if he persisted in his motion to withdraw the grant from Antigonish or any one of those for the Island of Cape Breton, he (Mr. B.) would be obliged to move that the grant to the Normal school at Truro be also withdrawn; and he could do so with good reason for it was evident that however able the gentleman might be who was at the head of that institution, it had not realized the anticipations of its founders, or even of the superintendent.

Mr. Archibald would take the liberty of correcting the statement the hon. member had just made, that the Normal school had not succeeded beyond the most sanguine anticipations of its founders. It was imagined that the county of Colchester derived such great benefit from the Normal school he would answer that it was no more benefited than Hants was by King's College at Windsor, or King's county by Acadia at Wolfville.

Mr. Archibald presumed that the intention of the government was to establish in each county a better style of school than those now in existence, but he was rather doubtful of the success of this experiment. The old system of granting £100 to each county for grammar schools had been found to be unsuccessful. Was it not more likely that the class of pupils who it was expected would resort to these academies, would go to the college where they could receive a better style of education at the same expense? He would suggest then whether it would not be better to take the grant and add to the fund for the establishment of the superior schools.

Mr. Bourinot said the hon. leader of the Opposition had endeavored to create a wrong impression as to the real facts of the matter under consideration. He held in his hand a petition from the Inhabitants of Cape Breton accompanied by statistical tables,—which had been prepared by Rev. Dr. McLeod, pointing out the great injustice that had been done to Cape Breton in the mode of distributing the road grant and the grant for Educational purposes. While Colchester with a population of 20,045 received from the public Treasury for Education \$6,699, being a percentage of \$33.40, Cape Breton, with a population of 20,865, only received \$2,920, or an amount per cent. of population of \$13.90. Now, however, he was happy to say that the injustice that had been so long inflicted

upon Cape Breton, had been removed by the present Bill.

Mr. Blanchard would make a proposition which he thought would accommodate all parties. There were some counties, such as Victoria, Inverness, &c., in which there were really no large towns or villages worthy of the name, where these Academies could be located. It was manifest, that some counties would not be entitled to participate in the grant, and he proposed an amendment to the 17th clause, providing that where such was the case one half of the grant should be appropriated to the superior schools, and the other half be added to the common school grant.

Mr. Chas. J. Campbell said that perhaps the Hon. member for Inverness was under the impression that when he left the county, all the respectability went with him.

Mr. Tobin thought the member for Cape Breton had good reason to complain. He perceived some inequalities in the schedule A annexed to the Bill, and he would call upon the Hon. Prov. Sec. to explain upon what principle a grant for an Academy was given to Antigonish which already enjoyed the benefit of a collegiate institution in common with the other counties which were excluded.

Mr. James McDonald thought that if any county failed to become entitled to this grant, then it should be left in the discretion of the Council of Public Instruction to distribute it amongst such counties as should most require it.

Hon. Prov. Secy. said the danger alluded to of the people opposing the establishment of the academies could not arise,—for it would not prevent their establishment if the whole county was hostile to them. He thought the proposition of the hon. member for Inverness was a fair one, and he would agree to it.

Mr. McDonald thought, the circumstances of some counties might be different from those of others. He believed it would be preferable to amend the law so as to give the power to the Board of Commissioners, in case an Academy was not deemed requisite, to allot so much of the money to the common schools, and so much to the grammar or superior schools, as might in their judgment appear advisable. Such an amendment, in his opinion, was preferable to that of the hon. member for Inverness.

Hon. Prov. Sec. said that the effect of such an amendment would be to prevent an Academy being established. The Commissioners were scattered all over the country, and local jealousies would certainly arise.

Mr. Parker was afraid that the experiment now about to be tried would not be successful, for past experience had shown that academies did not answer in this country. It would be preferable, he thought, to appropriate the money intended for this purpose over the different counties for the benefit of the common schools.

Mr. Pryor said that the difficulty with the hon. member was that there was no academy for Colchester.

Hon. Prov. Sec. said that whenever the hon. member for Colchester (Mr. Parker) got up, he appeared to be under the impression that he was making a hustings' oration. He explained that the country was in a very different condition to what it was when academies were tried before. Looking at the remarkable progress it had made and was making, there appeared every guarantee for their success. One of the principal reasons, he added, they had not succeeded was the inadequate compensation afforded to the principals, but that difficulty was removed by the present bill. He looked upon these academies as the nurseries for the collegiate institutions of the country.

Mr. McLellan had no desire to withdraw the amount granted to any existing institutions. He had felt on looking at the clause in question, that it might to a certain extent tend to break down these institutions that we had been building up for years. He had also taken into consideration the fact, as shown by the hon. member for South Kings, that the higher branches had received more attention than the lower ones.

Mr. Blanchard's amendment was agreed to, and added to the 17th clause.

On the House resuming, Mr. Tobin introduced a bill to amend the Chapter in Revised Statutes relating to Licenses for the sale of Intoxicating Liquors, in accordance with the prayer of a petition he had presented a few days ago.

The House then adjourned.

THURSDAY, March 3rd.

The Education Bill was taken up and the question of county Academies further discussed. The only difficulty was in reference to Antigonish. It was objected by several members that this county ought to be placed on the same footing as the other counties receiving denominational grants. The Provincial Secretary defended an appropriation of \$600 for this county, because the St. Francis Xavier College, being a theological school, the Protestants were not there supplied with higher education.

Mr. Archibald objected and said he had not much respect for the Protestant who objected to receive higher secular education at a school, simply because it was taught by Roman Catholics.

The Hon. Prov. Sec. and Solicitor General expressed surprise to hear such a sentiment as that from the hon. member. Antigonish was struck out and the Academies' Schedule passed. The Schedule naming the sum to each county for Common Schools was then agreed to. The Bill was then passed as a whole, and reported.

FRIDAY, March 4th.

Several private bills were read a second time, and petitions presented, after which the Education Bill came before the House and was agreed to and sent to the Council. Enquiries concern-

the Intercolonial Railway were made, the Revised Statutes were taken up and several chapters passed—of Copyrights, of Frauds and Perjuries, of Useful Inventions, of Municipal Corporations, &c. &c.

The House then adjourned to Monday.

MONDAY, March 7.

The House met at 3 o'clock.

Mr. Killam, from the election committee on the return of Mr. Stewart Campbell, reported they had decided that Mr. C. was legally entitled to retain his seat for Guysborough. The Assessment Law occupied the remainder of the day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

On Tuesday, 23rd ult., after petitions from various parts of the Province had been presented by several of the Honorable gentlemen, all praying for alteration of the Dalhousie College Act,

Hon. Mr. Dickey presented the following To the Honorable the Legislative Council of the Province of Nova Scotia:

The Petition of the Trustees, Governors, and Fellows of Acadia College,

Respectfully Sheweth:— That your Petitioners are ardently desirous of the extension of knowledge, by the most improved and effective appliances that can be devised or imagined.

That in the judgment of your Petitioners suitable provision is made for education in the higher branches of literature and science by the denominational Colleges which are now in operation.

That however desirable the establishment of a Provincial University might be under other circumstances, your Petitioners submit that it is now too late to make the attempt, since the supporters of the Denominational Colleges cannot be expected to consent to the sacrifice of their own Institutions, that another may be built upon their ruins.

That whereas Dalhousie College might have attained a provincial character thirty years ago, the opportunity was lost, in consequence of the avowed determination of its Governors to act on sectarian and exclusive principles; and that such opportunity cannot now be regained, the condition of the Province in an educational point of view being materially altered.

That the Act "for the regulation and support of Dalhousie College," passed during the last session of the Legislature, though apparently liberal in its construction, contained provisions, the operation of which would tend to place its funds and its property in the possession of any religious body that might avail itself of its provisions, and thus divert the said funds and property, unfairly and unjustly, to sectarian purposes; and that this statement is justified by the measures adopted by the Presbyterians of Nova Scotia since the passage of the Act, whereby Dalhousie College has become a Presbyterian Institution, largely supported by public money.

That your Petitioners regard such use and application of the funds and property of Dalhousie College as inconsistent with the equal claims of all denominations to legislative aid.

That the Denominational Colleges are as liberal in their arrangements as Dalhousie College, being equally free from the imposition of tests and restrictions.

That the Governors of Dalhousie College, as your Petitioners learn, are indebted to the Province in the sum of five thousand pounds currency, lent them in the year 1823, together with interest thereon, for the repayment of which money the property in their possession is pledged.

Your Petitioners, therefore, humbly entreat your Honorable House to take these premises into consideration, and to amend the said Act, so that it may not operate to the disadvantage of any religious body or public Institution in this Province.

And your Petitioners further request that your Honorable House will demand payment of the debt due by the Governors of Dalhousie College, and appropriate the funds thence arising, or the interest of the same, to the furtherance of education in connection with the Collegiate Institutions of the several religious denominations existing in this Province.

Your Petitioners, finally, beg to inform your Honorable House, that in presenting these statements and requests they express the sentiments of the members of the Baptist Denomination, generally, throughout Nova Scotia.

And your Petitioners will ever pray,

Hon. Mr. McCully observed that there seemed to be some misunderstanding with regard to this Dalhousie College matter. The petitions seemed to be based on the supposition that the house was now going to legislate with regard to Dalhousie College. That was not the fact. It seemed strange that the parties who now took so deep an interest in the matter, did not oppose the act when it was before the legislature last session. He had heard it stated elsewhere that the measure had passed through the legislature in some extraordinary way. On turning to the journals he found that the bill came this house on the 23rd April, and was then read a first time. It was read a second time on the 24th April, and read a third time and sent to the Assembly on the 28th April and received the Governor's assent on the following day. It seemed singular that the petitioners did not then oppose it. The hon. gentleman (hon. Mr. Dickey) took exception to one of the clauses, but he did not take exception to the bill. He observed that the petitioners from Acadia College stated that they represented the Baptist denomination generally. He was certain that there were a good many