

against the Council as at present constituted, if the Government had, when filling it up, made selections from the different rural districts, so that there might be one member from each County. He would vote against the present bill, and one reason for doing so was because the Council had not passed a bill for the pay of members of that House, which has been before them for the last two months.

Mr. English had formed his opinion as to the election of members of the Legislative Council long before he was a member of that House, and had seen nothing to alter his mind since. He thought that the Council should be so constituted as to be a check to the Executive, as well as the popular branch of the Legislature, and he knew of no better way to accomplish that object than by having the members elected. As to their being paid, he had his doubts whether they should receive any remuneration for their services. Whether they were elected or not at present, he would oppose paying them; he thought the Government might have carried the measure if they had filled up the Council, as they had the power to do; and they should have ascertained the political views of the members recently appointed, before the appointments were made, as they must have known that the elective bill would have been brought forward. If it could be done, he thought it would be better to fill up the Council now for that purpose, and let another bill be introduced, as the people were anxious to have them elected and would not be satisfied otherwise.

After several other speeches a motion was made that the further consideration of the bill be postponed for three months, which was carried by a large majority.

THURSDAY, April 10.

The house went into committee of the whole and agreed to a bill to continue an act to provide for the payment of the petty jury, in the different Courts of record in this Province. Mr. Steves in the Chair.

Col. Hayward in the Chair of the Committee, in further consideration of a bill for the collection and protection of the revenue in this Province.

Mr. Wilmot moved a section to the effect that, in addition to smuggled goods being seized, and the vessel or carriage conveying them being confiscated, every person detected smuggling shall be punished by paying a fine not exceeding £100, or be imprisoned at hard labor, for a term not exceeding twelve months, at the discretion of the Court, which was agreed to.

Mr. Barbaree would move an additional section to the fixed salaries of the Treasurer, his first clerk, and two assistant clerks.

Mr. Wilmot would like to have the motion withdrawn, in order that he might move for the reconsideration of the first section in the bill fixing the maximum of Deputy Treasurer's salaries at £200 per year. He thought it was better, fit any reduction of salaries, the committee might make to do it in a separate bill.

Mr. Barbaree consented to withdraw the Section, and adopt the course recommended by Mr. Wilmot but the Committee objected.

His Honor the Speaker observed that he came to the House, pledged in favor of retrenchment, and he thought this a proper occasion to do so. He thought £600 a year enough for the judges, and £500 a year enough for every other public officer, except the Governor. He also considered £200 enough for any Deputy Treasurer.

Mr. Montgomery wished the motion made by the hon member of St. John (Mr. Wilmot) to prevail. Deputy Treasurers had to give bonds to the amount of £5000 for the faithful performance of their duties, which was not easy to do. He thought their salaries at present should not be reduced.

Hon. Mr. Partelow would remind the Committee that the Treasurer was obliged to find sureties in the sum of £12,000, and Deputy Treasurers in £500. There was some difficulty in procuring proper securities, and salaries should not be placed too low. He was willing to have the reduction of the Treasurer's salary to £500, as to the Clerks they had better be provided for in supply.

The bill to abolish the judges fees came down from the Council to day, and passed the House, with a suspending clause.

FRIDAY, April 11.

Mr. Steves in the Chair of the Committee, when a bill passed to repeal all the acts now in force relating to the Corporation of the City of Fredericton, to make further provisions in law thereof.

Mr. English thought the Elective Franchise too high, as it would be the means of disfranchising a great many persons who should be allowed to vote, but if the people of Fredericton were satisfied with it, he would make no objections, but if it was for his County he would feel bound to object, if it was found not to work well; and an alteration was thought advisable, that could be done another year.

Mr. Hatheway hoped the present bill would pass without any alteration, as three or four public meetings had been called, and the provisions of the bill had been fully discussed and was known to a large proportion of the constituency of Fredericton, and if it did not suit them they would have to bear the responsibility.

The bill was reported as agreed to by the Chairman, without any amendment.

Col. Hayward in the Chair of the Committee when progress was made in a bill to alter the Charter of the City of St. John.

The House went into committee of the whole in supply for the public service. Col. Hayward in the Chair, when several grants passed. Among the number was one of £30 to John Funnor to keep up a line of stage between Fredericton and St. Andrews until the 1st of August next, and £150 to the Roman Catholic School in St. John, which elicited considerable debate, but both were finally sustained, by a large majority.

The consideration of the state of the Province has been postponed by the House until Monday next. This was done in consequence of the Hon. Attorney General being engaged in the other end of the building at the Court.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER.

[From Mr. Hogg's Reports.]

FRIDAY, April 4.

The House went this morning in Committee on the Municipal Corporation Bill. The hon. Mr. Saunders in the Chair. The 7th section which provides for the vote being taken by ballot, was opposed by Col. Hatch, on the ground that it did not involve the true principle of British independence, which supposes that all persons are to vote in an open and undisguised manner, which this Section precludes. Hon. Mr. Brown on the other side, advocated the principle of voting by ballot, as having been tried, and found the best in all the minor Elections in the country; and instanced the Charlotte Agricultural Society, which always elected office bearers by that method, and the proceedings of which had been characterized by much harmony and usefulness. Hon. Mr. Saunders would not oppose the section, although with Col. Hatch he thought it deficient in English boldness and manly principle: but the officers of the Government having, in this instance adopted it, he would let them have their own way, and give it a trial. Hon. Mr. Harrison opposed it. Hon. Mr. Brown again advocated it, on account of the tendency it would have to put down bribery and corruption at elections, now arrived at such a fearful pitch in certain parts of this Province. Candidates would be loth to pay their money, under the dread of a double deception. Hon. Mr. Hill thought that instead of vote by ballot, preventing independence, it would be the very best method to promote it. Whatever pecuniary influence might be used at elections, every freeholder would know that he yet might use his own discretion. Hon. Mr. Botsford said that, whatever might be said to the contrary, there were evils on both sides; little low mean feelings would still operate; and bribery and corruption would yet prevail to such an extent that the mischief on either side would be nearly balanced. Hon. Col. Hatch reiterated his former opinion, that it would probably lead to double instead of single corruption, as the man who would take one bribe would probably take two, and cheat both sides. Hon. Mr. Kinnear thought this as good a way as the experiment of vote by ballot could be tested. There were many persons who did not wish to be prominent at elections, and this would give them an easy and quiet method of disposing of their votes. Bribery and corruption may still prevail; but not likely to such an extent; as the parties would be afraid that the man who took one bribe, would also take another.

Hon. Mr. Hazen denied the existence of the inconveniences attributed to St. John. There were two systems in use in St. John and Portland, but although joined so closely no interference of an unpleasant nature had occurred, and the people were satisfied. Hon. Mr. Saunders had ever been an advocate for popular rights, and would ever remain so, and had consequently sustained the Bill for the election of parish officers; but in the general anxiety felt now a-days for the introduction of something new, he feared that many excellent and long tried usages were to be thrown overboard. But that the old system of Education was not so bad, none could be a more practical witness than the hon. member (Mr. Brown) who was now so willing to exchange it for another. He believed that the law already in being gave the people all the facilities which they required, for Parish Government; and with regard to our much abused system of Education he considered it as cheap and good as any that the present circumstances of this Province could permit it to adopt, in its place. The extreme cost of Municipal Institutions, wherever they had been adopted, had lessened the value of property, from 25 to 30 per cent, both in England and Canada; and he knew a man who had commenced building in the vicinity of a town in Canada, who had abandoned his extensive improvements, on finding that the place had been brought within the range of Municipal Government. Light as the taxes are now, the people yet complain of them; and so far as Education was concerned, no taxation could give a better class of Teachers, nor could the Parish Officers instruct the Teachers. The Teacher, now is as well used a man as lives in the Province; but he wants to be the gentleman of the place, to an extent which the people cannot afford. Why should poor communities be called upon, either to tax themselves, or go without schools altogether; for the latter alternative must follow; where the people are so poor that they cannot pay those taxes. There was a restless desire for change throughout the Province; and the adoption of American usages, was becoming quite fashionable. Persons who now have their country guarded and protected by British Troops and British Ships of War, and who have every farthing of their money left for their own local institutions, are getting in love with taxation, and will find the lesson which it will give, to be rather expensive. This was wrong. The farmers at their own doors, may carry on their own business in a cheap, and even comfortable manner; but the moment you attempt to wrong money out of them, the effort will prove a failure.

Hon. Mr. Chandler thought it passing strange that his honorable friend could bring himself to vote for such a bad measure. He also thought it somewhat singular that he (hon. Mr. Saunders) had entirely forgotten, that no Parish in the Province was called upon to adopt this Bill, unless its inhabitants chose of their own voluntary accord to do so. It was left with the people for a year's trial; and there was no great danger that any portion of them would be found so foolish as to tax themselves. He would tell the hon. member, that in Canada, where a similar Bill with this had been in operation in some parts for twelve years; and where they had once burned Warders in Emory, there is not at the present time a single word of complaint in the country, nor has there ever been a single petition in reference to its repeal before the Legislature. When the hon. member's

speech would find its way to King's County, the people there would be amazed at the dreadful evil, which it was intended to inflict on them, but still more so, when they found the hon. member, who had represented the vastness of this evil, voting for the measure which he had condemned. Here the hon. member proceeded to detail the many advantages which would result, morally, politically and educationally; from the adoption of the Bill by the people, who were nevertheless left to their own discretion, in its adoption or refusal. The many advantages resulting from its operation in Canada were apparent, and could not now be doubted by any one who read of, or travelled in Canada. The hon. member concluded by quoting an Extract from Lord Durham, in which his Lordship states, that the people of these Colonies can never be happy or prosperous until they learn and apply the principle of self government. The Canadians were now in possession of this local Legislative power, and had it for the last ten years, and they are well able to estimate its value, through its favourable operation, during the whole time.

(After a number of other speeches, the following remarks were made by the Hon. Mr. Connell.)

Hon. Mr. Connell thought there would have been no objection to the present Bill, for as the principle objection to the Bill introduced the other day, for altering the constitution of the Legislative Council, was founded upon the present ignorance of the people, he believed that such a Bill as this, which would tend to give them a practical education would have proved acceptable. It was strange that when any measure for reform was introduced, the people were represented as too ignorant for its provisions, while any thing calculated to give them education was equally opposed. In reference to reform, it was impossible to keep it from the people much longer. Lord Durham had said years ago that the great Anglo Saxon race, wherever situated in the world, must have free Institutions; and every day proves more plainly the truth of his assertion. An hon. member (Col. Minchin) had stated that there were no petitions in favour of the present Bill; this was not correct, for he (hon. Mr. C.) had presented several, and if the Bill became a law, he believed the people of Carleton would be glad to receive it. One third of the time is now occupied in the Legislature with business which the people could better dispose of themselves, if they were taught to rely upon their own resources; but the speech of the hon. member (Mr. Saunders) who had notwithstanding promised to vote for the Bill, was more calculated to injure than promote, this laudable endeavour. The manner in which assessments are now made by the Magistrates, is far from agreeable to the people. In many instances they (the Magistrates) live at a distance from the shire towns, and cannot attend; and it thus lies in the power of the few who are present, and who too often are local in their views, to adopt a system of assessment, which proves highly partial and injurious. If the people got leave to manage their own affairs, they would, at least in this instance, have no ground for complaint.

(The Hon. Mr. Harrison said a few words in reply, after which the vote was taken, and the Bill agreed to; the minority being the Hon. Messrs. Minchin, Hatch, Odell and Harrison.)

Below we give Mr. English's Speech on the Ritchie Resolutions. It will be perceived by reference to the last paper, that Mr. Beadsley supported the Amendments, while Mr. E. voted for the original Resolutions. No doubt they both acted conscientiously, though it is to be regretted that they could not agree. We cannot always expect our members to see alike on minor matters, but on a question of this kind it is thought that when the division is taken their names should not be found in opposition.

Mr. English would not take up much of the time of the Committee, only that he wished to say to some of the reporters that had been in the habit of misrepresenting him, he hoped that they would not do so at this time but fully understand him when he informed the Committee that he intended to support the resolutions. He did not belong to any party, neither had he ever been consulted by the members of the Government, or what was called the opposition; therefore he was free to give his vote as his conscience told him was right. He would say that if he had any predilections in favor of either party it was in favor of the hon Attorney General, and the hon. Secretary, as both in and out of that House they were acknowledged to be very efficient gentlemen to do the duties of their several offices, but as he viewed the question now under consideration of great importance to the true interest of the country, he would vote irrespective of any party. A great deal had been said by some hon. members of a former trial of the Government, but as he and the hon. member from York (Mr. McPherson,) did not happen to be members of the House at that time, it could not have reference to them. Hon. members would observe that he and his colleague would differ in their votes on this occasion; but he believed that he (Mr. Beadsley) was sincere in the vote that he gave, and that they had not tried to influence each other in any way whatever. They had endeavoured to agree in most matters, but at this time he would feel bound to support the resolutions, while his hon. colleague had supported the amendments brought in by the Government; except the first resolution, he (Mr. E.) thought the preamble of the first resolution was the most important part. He believed that the House had a right to all the despatches that came from the Colonial Office. If they only had extracts, the power would be left with the Government to say what part they should have and what they should not. He thought the House ought to be the judge of what was for the best interest of the country. He believed that when despatches were laid before Parliament in England, the whole was given, except in some instances.