

THE CARLETON SENTINEL.

WOODSTOCK, MARCH 23, 1852.

The New School Bill.

This Bill is now before the Legislature, but what it will be after it has gone through the hands of the wise ones at Head Quarters is impossible to tell. Almost every member is ready to pick a flaw in the Bill but without suggesting any improvement. We are aware that this is one of the most difficult questions to legislate upon that ever came before the House. All admit that our present school system is very imperfect, but few are prepared to say how it should be improved. The present Bill is doubtless the best ever introduced into the Country, but we do not believe it will remedy the evils complained of. In the first place it is clogged with too much machinery, and will cost a large sum of money to be kept in operation, without any corresponding benefits. There are to be three Trustees in every Parish—a Provincial Board of Education—Secretary under pay—a Training School—a Board of Commissioners in each County, whose duty it shall be to examine and certify candidates for licenses, who do not attend the Training School—and from eight to ten Inspectors with a salary of from £150 to £200 each. We cannot see what benefit is to arise from having so many Inspectors. If they are necessary at all, two or three proper persons appointed by the Government will answer every purpose, but even these we do not look upon as absolutely necessary, because the duties set off for them to perform can be just as well attended to by the Trustees, and a large saving in the expenses made.

We had hoped that by this Bill a considerable addition to the salaries of Teachers would have been made. We look upon this as the very first step towards improvement in our Parish Schools. It is impossible that a man properly qualified to teach can give his whole attention to a school for £60 a year, one half of this he is compelled to take in drab drabs, or the best way he can get it; a Third Class Teacher receives only £36 a year, one half from Government and the other half from the people. Now we doubtless have talented men as Parish School Teachers in the Province, but they will remain Teachers just so long as they have nothing else to do, and one half of the time they are put to their wits end to eke out a living for themselves and families. Who ever heard of an individual educating his son for a school teacher in this Province? They sometimes engage in the calling, but as we said before it is only because they have nothing else to do. Make the salary an object, and our word for it a better system will soon be in operation; men properly qualified will soon be engaged in teaching, and what is more they will give it their undivided attention. Again, if a liberal salary is allowed it holds out a great inducement for parents to educate their children with a prospect that at some future day one of them at least may obtain a situation as Parish School Teacher with a salary sufficient for his support. Such a thing now is never thought of. One section of this Bill would remedy the defect here spoken of if rendered compulsory; it provides that,

In every Parish or District in which the assessment principle shall be adopted, and put in operation under the provisions of this Act, and the sum required to be paid by the inhabitants of the Parish or District to entitle the Teacher or Teachers to the Provincial allowance, shall have been assessed and paid as required by the twenty-first section of this Act, each of the Parish Schools in said Parish or District shall be entitled to and shall receive annually thereafter so long as such assessment shall be annually continued and paid, an additional allowance of twenty-five per centum over and above what is allowed to Parish Schools of the same class in Parishes or Districts in which the assessment principle has not been introduced, and the tuition money of the pupils attending such Schools shall thereafter not exceed the sum of shillings per quarter.

We learn from the Freeman, that a requisition is being got up in Northumberland, and will shortly be presented to the Hon. J. A. Street, calling upon him to resign his seat in the Legislature, because of his support to the Railway, via the Valley of the St. John. Mr. Street has doubtless his political enemies as well as others, but that a majority of his former sup-

porters will call upon him to resign, for doing that which he could not help, is more than we can believe. The people of Northumberland are well aware, that Canada would not agree to join in a railway via the north shore, and that even if we were able to build it by this route ourselves, it would not connect with Canada, and would therefore be useless. The only choice left with the Govt. was, that if we were to have a Railway connecting the three Provinces, it must be built via the Valley of the St. John; how ridiculous then is the conduct of those people in venting their spleen upon Mr. Street because he could not compel Canada to join in building a Railway where there was no probability of its ever paying the working expenses, and where 3-4 of the inhabitants of the Province, without any benefit to themselves, would be required to build a railway for the gratification of the remaining fourth. If Mr. Street is called upon in a constitutional manner he will doubtless resign, but we are far from thinking that the Province will lose his services, even should Northumberland be mad enough to turn him off.

Since writing the above, we learn that a requisition has actually been got up and presented to Mr. Street calling upon him to resign, but that it proved a total failure, only 118 voters out of some ten or twelve hundred having signed it. This puny attempt at dictation—a handful of men attempting to rule the whole County—cannot be noticed by Mr. Street, while he retains the confidence of a large majority of his constituents.

TO OUR AGENTS.—We are under deep and lasting obligations to those of our agents who so kindly interest themselves in our behalf, and who are constantly furnishing us with the names of new subscribers. To their exertions are we mainly indebted for the increase of our circulation from four hundred and fifty to ONE THOUSAND COPIES. We hope they will continue to favour us with their patronage, and we promise, from the increased facilities afforded us by our Reading Room, to make the Sentinel, after the close of the Legislature, a more interesting paper than it ever has been. Now that we are shortly to take upon ourselves the management of our Parish and County affairs, we conceive it to be the interest as well as the duty of every Rate payer in the County to take the Sentinel, by no other means can they learn the doings of the County Council, and be kept well informed as to the expenditure of the public money, and the action taken by the Council on all other matters coming before them. It shall be our duty to watch well this body, whoever may compose it, and give their acts publicity at the earliest possible moment. This will enable the public to judge of the fitness or unfitness of our County Officers to discharge their several duties, and will throw the blame of mismanagement, if any there be, on the proper person without condemning the whole body. There are some however, known as our agents who never allow us to hear from them, and who appear to take no interest whatever, in the circulation of our paper. These will have to give place to men better disposed towards us, unless an early and favourable change takes place in their conduct.

A Bill is now before the Provincial Legislature to do away with the selling of Timber Berths by Auction, and to allow the first applicant to have the berth at a fixed mileage. A petition is in course of signature in Woodstock praying that the Bill may pass. We are surprised that some such movement was not made years ago, for a more absurd practice could not well be imagined. Under the present system a man will spend several weeks in hunting up a Timber Berth, and when one is found to suit him, he applies at the Crown Land Office, and the Berth is offered at Public Auction. It too frequently happens that persons are found who, to gratify a little petty malice, will attend these sales, and oblige the person who really wants the Berth, to pay £40 £50, and even £60 more than he would have done, had a proper system been in operation. Again a person may obtain a Berth, clear out the stream some forty or fifty miles in length, and get only a part of the Timber, and the next season it is sold at auction, and another who has been at no expense can afford to out bid him, and thus reap all the bene-

fit of his labour. These are only some of the evils attending the present practice, but in our opinion they are quite enough to warrant the change contemplated by the Bill.

RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT.—We have always understood, that from the time the Post Office affairs came under the management of the Provincial authorities, that the Office of Post Master General, was to be a political one, and that the holder of the office should secure a seat in the Assembly or resign. We are at a loss to know why this has never been done as we conceive that the holder of this Office is as much entitled to run the Gauntlet as the Provincial Secretary—the Commissioner of Crown Lands, or any other officer in the Government. If the principle is not to be carried out, the public should know it, if it is, it is quite time it was attended to, that all may fare alike. We hope the question will be taken up in the proper quarter, and decided one way or the other at once.

We have something to say about Post Offices which will be attended to when this affair is settled.

A LIQUOR SCRAPE.—Some five or six weeks ago twelve Barrels of Yankee White eye were seized by the Custom House Officers at St. John, and claimed by the American Consul as the property of an American Citizen, who it was stated was taking it up to Houlton in Maine. The liquor was passed through in charge of two officers, who were directed to deliver it in Houlton, and take the receipt of the Custom House Officer there. This was done and the Liquor entered at Houlton as the property of a man on the Restook. Every thing remained quiet, until a few days ago, when the liquor was placed on a sled, and started for the Restook. The team had proceeded but a few miles when it was overtaken by five or six men in disguise, who stated that they were authorized by the authorities of Houlton to seize the liquor, and immediately knocked in the head of every barrel, destroying the whole of the liquor. The owner has no redress, as he cannot name one of the party engaged, and even if he could it is doubtful if the law would protect him.

We are requested to state that the Annual Meeting of the Carleton County Auxiliary of the British and Foreign Bible Society will be held at the Hall of the Mechanics' Institute this evening, at half past seven o'clock. Addresses will be delivered by several Gentlemen.

A Collection in aid of the Funds of the Society will be made at the meeting.

We give insertion in this number to the communication of a "Lover of truth" but it must be the last on that subject. A controversy of this kind is not calculated to benefit any body, and must be uninteresting to the generality of our readers.

The result of the election in Cumberland (N. S.) as now reported is—Howe 903, Fulton 903, DeWolfe 617, McFarlane 656.

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY.

By Telegraph to the Sentinel News Room.

FREDERICTON, Monday, March 15, 1852. To-day the House went into committee on a Bill that, except present Lessees, none but owners of land had a right to mine thereon. They are to get a licence from Government—the Government to fix the price of the licence. The Bill was supported by Wilmot, Hannington, Chapman, Lewis, Stiles, Earle, Montgomery, and Ryan,—and opposed by the Speaker, Street, Taylor, McPherson, Johnston, Thompson, English and Williston. Progress was reported.

The Bill to incorporate the Diocesan Church Society came down from the Council amended. Bill passed the lower House as Secretary wished and fixed the Bye Laws by Law. Amendments adopted all the bye-laws and leave the Secretaries to make whatever they like, and where they like. Street moved not to concur in the Bill. The motion was supported by Wilmot, Robinson, Beardsley, Needham, and Johnston, and opposed by Botsford, Hannington, and Williston. The Bill was rejected by a large majority. The House went again into committee on a bill to do away with auction Timber Berths, and allow the first applicant to have Berths at fixed Mileage. Progress was reported.

The Council passed the Railway Bills to-day by a large majority. On the first section testing principle there was only five against.

Tuesday, March 16.—There was a thin House this morning. The House went into committee and passed a Bill giving proprietors an exclusive right to minerals; the Bill will be tested in a full house on the third reading.

House in supply and passed a grant to the Stanley Land Company of £150 for roads; and another to Michael White of £70 for services in the Clerk of the Pleas Office for 9 months. There was a good deal of disorder and wrangling.

Wednesday, March 17.—House in committee on the School Bill, and fourth section under discussion. Johnston moved an amendment that Superintendants be established in every County, with a superior School, which was negatived 24 to 7. Hannington moved an amendment to the same section that the old law be retained, with the single alteration of one Inspector appointed in every County, which was also negatived 17 to 16. Motion for a general Superintendent was lost; the 4th section was then carried. Fitzgerald then moved the postponement of the Bill till the first session of the next General Assembly, which was lost with only Fitzgerald, Thompson, Johnston, and Harding for it. The 5th section was then carried, appointing a Secretary with a salary of £100.

Thursday, March 18.—This morning House in Committee to amend the St. Andrews Railway Facility Bill. This provides that Provincial Stock be paid in proportion with class A, which will secure signing and carrying out contracts—carried 17 to 11.

A Bill giving Farmers a right to minerals on their own lands up for third reading. A warm discussion ensued—carried 21 to 13.

School Bill recommitted and some sections passed. The House was in favor of Local Inspectors. The fifth section appointing a Secretary of the Board of Education was reconsidered. Street moved that the section be altered—appointing a General Superintendent, who shall be Clerk also—carried 18 to 14. Street moved that his salary should be £250,—to which Johnston moved an amendment of £100; the amendment was lost by a large majority. Street's motion was lost 16 to 14. Scoullar moved £200—lost 16 to 14. There was tremendous wrangling for about half an hour.—Progress then reported.

Friday, March 19.—House in Committee and read Mr. Gray's Bill on the amended law. Progress reported.

The House went into Committee of Supply, and passed some petty grants, and some to build wharves in Westmorland, Albert, and elsewhere. Passed Great Road and Special Grants; the Committee then rose. To-day is the last day for entering grants on the Supply Book, and the day wound up with a general scramble for money.

Saturday, March 20.—The House is still occupied with the School Bill; the salary of the General Superintendent was fixed at £200 a year, and £50 for travelling expenses and contingencies. The Attorney General's motion for District Inspectors was negatived, meeting for Inspectors in every County carried, to inspect every school four times a year, and to receive 7s. 6d. for each inspection, provided that no Inspector have less than £50 paid per annum. Nineteen sections of the Bill are now passed, but these contain nearly all that is important.

CENSUS OF QUEBEC.—From the late census returns we gather the following statistics relative to the Upper Town of Quebec:—

Table with 2 columns: Category and Value. Total population 5,725. 440 are natives of England. 233 " " Scotland. 1139 " " Ireland. 1961 " " Canada French descent. 1727 " " English. 223 " " other countries.

1344 belong to the Church of England. 124 " " Scotland. 3242 " " Rome. 32 " " Free Church.

The remaining numbers are divided between Presbyterians, Methodists, Jews, Unitarians, &c.

The house of Mr. John C. O'Riordan, Killarney, having been robbed of plate and wearing apparel, a police constable detected the robbers by assuming the disguise of a tinker. He was engaged by the burglars to melt the plate.