

(Brought back from page 301.)

A Bill to Incorporate the North-west Bridge Company was committed.

Hon. Mr. Brown thought the Bill was rather novel in its nature, as there was but one toll bridge in the Province—that at the Falls at St. John. Perhaps it would be of advantage to the place where intended, and hoped that it might prove to be a good speculation; he had long entertained the opinion that there were several bridges in different parts of the country that ought to be toll bridges, he would instance the one at the Restook and other places where bridges might be built, such as Swim's ferry at the South-west Miramichi and other places, a small toll would add to the revenues of the country and would be of great service in the repairs of roads and bridges, and would not be hard on the public, as the tolls might be less than what was paid now for ferriage, he however thought that for a foot passenger was rather high, but as all the parties asked for was an Act to have power to form themselves into a Company and build a bridge at their own expense—he felt disposed to support the Bill.

Hon. Mr. Hill viewed the present Bill as a favorable omen in the history of the Province, and thought with his Honorable colleague, who had just sat down, that there were many bridges that ought to be subject to toll in the Province, and hoped the present Bill would soon be followed by many others, to effect that object. The monies arising therefrom would go to support Roads, Schools and Bridges, and would not bear hard upon the community for the reasons given by the last speaker.

Hon. Mr. Steves was surprised at the language used by the last speaker that the present Bill was a favorable omen, because it went to establish a Toll Bridge, and that it might be soon followed by many others of a similar character. He did not think the people of the Province would be willing to relinquish their share of public monies for the purpose of building Bridges and making Roads, and have in lieu Toll Bridges, when the Revenues of the County were increasing every year. He would ask what was the Revenue for but for such purposes and other public works. He felt inclined to afford every facility to those engaged in public undertakings, especially in those Counties that would not be favored by Railroads, they should receive every consideration at the hands of the Legislature in every reasonable and practicable undertaking it might be thought proper to engage in.

Hon. Mr. Hill thought there was no danger but what the public revenues could be expended to good advantage; if they had no bridges to build or roads to repair, they could pay off the Public debt, do more for schools, and give the Teachers better salaries, and many other things, and considered that there need be no fear on that account.

Bill agreed to.

[From the St. John Morning Times]

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

MONDAY, March 14.

On motion of the Provincial Secretary the House went into committee of the whole on a Bill to incorporate certain bodies in connexion with the Wesleyan Methodist Church in this Province.

Mr. Hatheway objected to a section of the bill placing the power of appointing the Trustees of chapels and other buildings in the hands of the Methodist Conference. He contended that it was a power the Legislature had not given to the Ministers of any other religious denomination, and would lead to much trouble as the Methodist clergy are not stationed permanently in one place, but are removed once in two years. The result would be that every time there was a change the new Minister might appoint new Trustees, whether the people liked it or not. He thought that as the buildings were chiefly paid for by subscription the pew-holders should have the power of electing the Trustees, and he would oppose the section.

Hon. Provincial Secretary said the Bill had been carefully prepared by Judge Wilmot, a prominent member of the Methodist body; it was similar to the Act now in force in Nova Scotia, and had been placed in the hands of

the general consent of the Society. It had been the invariable practice of the Methodist Society to vest the titles to their property in the Conference, and as the Legislature had never interposed their authority to amend a Bill incorporating a society, provided the society agreed among themselves, he hoped the section would pass in its present state.

Several hon. members having spoken to the same effect Mr. Hatheway withdrew his objection, and the Bill passed without amendment.

### Restook Boom Company.

Mr. Rice moved that the House go into committee of the whole on a Bill to continue the Act incorporating the Restook Boom Company.

Hon. Provincial Secretary could see no reason why the Bill should be committed the present session. There was nothing to be gained by it, as the present charter would not expire until the year 1855.

Hon. Attorney General had received a letter that morning from a firm in Bangor, (the Reporter understood the hon. gentleman to say the firm of Boynton & Co.) who were interested in the lumbering business on the Restook, which he would read. (The hon. gentleman then read the letter, which set forth that the parties had just heard of the Bill before the House—that the boom under the present charter, was injurious to the lumbering interests—that they had important alterations they intended to suggest, and praying that the House will suspend all action in the premises until they shall have time to travel to Fredericton and be heard by a Committee of the House.)—Without saying anything about the merits of the case, he (hon. Attorney General) thought it would be unfair to proceed with the Bill until they gave the opposing parties an opportunity to state their objections.

Mr. Harding read a telegraphic despatch he had received from Jewett & Co., nearly the same in effect as the letter received by the hon. Attorney General. He hoped that time would be given to the parties to reach Fredericton before the Bill was recommitted.

Mr. Hatheway said the opposition came from parties who were interested in the Fredericton Boom Company. That Company wished to monopolize all the business of the river—It did not suit them to have a boom at the mouth of the Restook, or at any point above Fredericton, because they wanted all the timber to run into their booms. Once there, however and it was not so easy to get it out. Frequently the timber ran into the Fredericton booms during the Spring freshet and could not be got out again before July or August, to the great loss of the owner, who, could he have got it to St. John in the Spring, would have found a ready sale and good prices; but when detained so long, he usually found the market dull. He cautioned the House to beware how they gave one Company a monopoly of the river-driving.

Mr. Macpherson said Jewett & Co., carried on an extensive lumber business, and were shareholders to a large amount in the stock of the Fredericton Boom Company. Of course they were opposed to a renewal of the Restook Boom Charter, because they wanted to bring grist to their own mill. If there was no timber rafted at the mouth of the Restook, or at any other place above Fredericton, it must all run into their boom, and be subjected to their boom charges. He had no objection to Americans doing business on the river St. John, but he was opposed to giving them a monopoly. He was himself a practical lumberer, and could state from experience that the Boom Company's charter had proved highly injurious to the lumberer of moderate means. What his hon. colleague had stated about the detention of lumber for two or three months in the booms was correct, and it was the lumberers doing a small business who suffered most by it. He might have a thousand trees in the boom, and one of those large American firms might have twenty thousand trees there, and it was so managed that the party having the largest amount of timber in the booms got it out first. The boom Company enjoyed too much power, and it would have been better for the country if they had never been incorporated. He had upon

one occasion heard the hon. Provincial Secretary express himself to the same effect.

Mr. Johnson said it was evident that the Fredericton Boom Company wished to monopolize the trade, hence their opposition to the renewal of the charter of the Restook Boom Company; they wished the charter to expire in two years, and that must give them a monopoly.—They call the Restook Boom a nuisance, but surely the farther the river the less the obstruction by booms, and it was cheaper to raft the timber at the mouth of the Restook, than to drive the river all the way to Fredericton. If the parties opposed to the renewal of the charter wanted time, in order that they may be heard, he had no objection to give them a few days, but he hoped the Bill would pass during the present session.

Hon. Attorney General said he knew nothing about the merits of the case, nor had he expressed any opinion about it. He had received the letter he had read, and he considered it fair to give the parties time to come forward and state their objections.

Mr. Williston thought but very little delay should be suffered to take place, as it would prove injurious to the Boom Company. In order to repair their boom this season, the logs should be got out at once, and hauled over the ice.—When the spring freshet came nothing could be done.

Mr. Needham had never heard of timber being rafted at the Restook and run from thence directly to St. John. They merely rafted joints at the Restook, and when they reached Fredericton they put several of these joints together, and thus made the rafts they ran to Saint John. He would not express any opinion at present on the merits of the case, but the parties who were opposed to the Bill, had, apparently, notified members of the House to that effect, by letter and by telegraph, immediately on learning there was such a Bill before the House, he should therefore go for giving them time.

Mr. Pickard said hon. members often got up and made speeches on matters they knew nothing about. He knew all about the boom, and the manner of running down the timber, and he was in favor of the Bill; but he was willing to give its opponents time to come forward and state their objections; and he would give them ten days, or a fortnight. If the Bill was pressed immediately he would vote against it.

Mr. Ryan was willing to give the parties time, but he would not give them the time named by the hon. member for York, as it would prove injurious to the other party.

Hon. Provincial Secretary said the Boom Company was first incorporated in 1844. The Act was about to expire in 1848, when it was renewed for seven years, and consequently would expire in 1855. It had been stated that the opposing parties were Americans, but what of that? Were the Americans doing business in this Province to be deprived of even-handed justice? Jewett & Co., were doing a large business on the St. John river, and owned a large establishment in the city of Saint John, worth probably £10,000, and they were entitled to a hearing. There was a petition in favor of the Bill, but even that was not signed by the Company, it contained the signature of the President only.

Mr. Cutler was willing to give the parties time to come forward and state their objections but the question arose how much time was necessary? Here was one party praying to have the Act of incorporation renewed, and another party opposing it, and why? evidently because they wanted all the water for their own mill. Now he was willing to give them four or five days and no more. Their friends could notify them by telegraph, and the time he had named was ample.

Mr. Scoullar was in favor of the Bill. The Company wanted to make extensive repairs the coming season, and wished their charter to be renewed first. As there were parties opposed to the Bill he would give them time to come forward and state their objections. Four or five days was not enough as Mr. Glasier one of the opposing parties, was out of the Province, and some of them were in Bangor and others in Boston. He would go for giving them a longer time.

Mr. Harding said Messrs. Jewett & Co. had telegraphed to him as soon as they had known this bill was before the House, and they stated that they had amendments prepared which they wished to be introduced in the new charter; they were interested in the boom, because they lumbered extensively on the Restook.—Sufficient time should be given to enable them to reach Fredericton before the bill be recommitted.

Mr. Rice had no objection to the motion for postponement, to enable the opposing parties to reach Fredericton and obtain a hearing. The Committee then rose and reported progress, and the bill was made the order for the day on Wednesday the 23d inst.

[The House was chiefly occupied on Tuesday, in debate on the Report of the Committee on the Fisheries; but as we have not a copy of the Report to lay before our readers, the debate would be uninteresting. Mr. English brought in a Bill to erect the Parish of Woodstock, County of Carleton, into three separate parishes.]

(From the New-Brunswickier.)

THURSDAY, March 17.

Mr. Harding moved that the rule of the House be suspended, in order to bring in a Bill to alter and amend an Act intitled an Act to incorporate the St. John Gas Light Company. (Bill received.)

Mr. Kerr moved for leave to bring in a Bill to establish certain Roads in the County of Northumberland, as great roads of communication. (Bill received.)

Mr. Johnson moved a resolution that an humble address be presented to his Excellency, praying that a copy of the Report of the Board of Education, Petitions, and other papers connected therewith, be laid before the House.

Hon. Mr. Partelow said the Report and petitions were already before the House.

The Speaker said that as the Report and papers were before the House, as stated by the Hon. Secretary, they could be taken up by the House, referred to Committee, or otherwise.

Mr. Johnston claimed the right of the House to investigate the Report, as well as any other matter. The Hon. Secretary and Mr. Hanington held the same opinion, and no hon. member questioned it.

Mr. Smith laid before the House certain resolutions calling for a full statement of the expenditures, &c. of King's College, from its erection to the present period.

The House went into Committee on a Bill to assess certain districts in the Parish of Saint Stephen, County of Charlotte, to defray the expense of a Fire Engine, and the apparatus connected therewith, in the said Parish. (The Bill was reported agreed to.)

Also, a Bill to increase the Capital Stock of the St. Stephen's Bank, in the County of Charlotte. (Bill agreed to.)

Also on a Bill for the more effectual protection of the navigation of the River St. Croix.—(Agreed to.)

Also on a Bill to amend the Act to incorporate the St. Croix Bridge Company. (Progress reported thereon, and leave asked to sit again.)

Also on a Bill further to amend an Act intitled an Act to provide for the Municipal authorities in this Province.

Hon. Attorney General moved that the chairman report progress; and then he would further move, that the bill be referred to a select Committee. Mr. Johnson moved as an amendment, that the bill be postponed three months.

Hon. Attorney General hoped his hon. colleague's motion would not be sustained; he was not certain that he should support it, but was requested to bring it in, and surely it was worthy of investigation; the subject demanded a fair trial.

Mr. Smith had no objection to report progress on the bill, nor to allow it to go to a committee, yet he could not suppose for a moment that such a bill could be sanctioned.

Hon. Secretary said the Bill should not be too hastily disposed of; some good legislation might grow out of it with regard to Sheriffs.

Mr. Hanington did not like the Bill in any of its provisions; there was only one County in the Province (Carleton) that had adopted Municipal regulation, and there they go on the old