

Provincial Parliament.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

(From the Head Quarters.)

ELECTION BILL RE-COMMITTED.

(Continued)

THURSDAY, April 14.

Mr. Cutler then moved his former amendment, excepting one or two offices. This was deemed irregular and withdrawn.

Mr. Needham moved to expunge the disqualification of ministers, lost; also an amendment to give an additional member to each of the Counties and the city of St. John, also, one to Fredericton.

Mr. Needham.—Increase is necessary to the real independence of the House. Representation should enlarge with the population.—Benefits would be more than equivalent to expense.

Mr. Hatheway.—Much as I desire to obtain a member for Fredericton, I will not purchase it at the cost of this infliction on the whole country. 25 members would do the work as well as 41. I have opposed this principle, I voted against it on all the divisions, but the opposition is becoming factious and wasting time for no purpose. The Government have proved their strength and must take the responsibility for the way they are using it. I shall vote quietly in favor of ballot and registration when they come up, but shall do no more of the talking.

Mr. Boyd.—I am opposed to any increase in the representation.

Mr. Smith.—I am in favor of increasing the representation, but it need not be done now.—The Government are too comfortable with the present House to think of dissolving it. (Prov. Secretary—you are not sure of that—Hon. Col Hayward—it may be done.) I do not think Fredericton is entitled to a representative, but would give one to King's. I shall oppose the amendment at this time.

Mr. Williston.—I shall support the amendment. I think it will increase the usefulness and freedom of the House.

Hon. Col. Hayward opposed the amendment as leading to waste of time and increased expense.

Attorney General.—As unnecessary just now.

Mr. Cutler supports it. 16 new members would raise the House to a desirable independence.

Mr. Jordan.—St. John ought to have another representative, but this would be buying him too dearly.

Mr. Lewis.—I will vote in favor of the amendment.

Hon. Surveyor General.—I would support increase for Kings and Fredericton, and should be glad to get an additional member for St. John.

Mr. Pickard.—If there is to be any increase I shall go for a general one.

Provincial Secretary.—This is a very loose proceeding, we have no information before us no facts, no petitions, yet the subject is one of immense importance. I must say that I am surprised that it should receive such support in such circumstances.

The amendment was then put and lost 5 yeas 24 nays.

Mr. Smith moves an amendment to establish biennial Parliaments.

Mr. Smith.—I pledged myself at my election to attempt the introduction of two year Parliaments. It was then and still is my conviction they would best serve the interests of the country.

Mr. McLeod.—I am in favor of this amendment and of elective Governors, and of elective Legislative Councils. I shall therefore go for biennial Parliaments as one step towards these.

Lost.

To chapter 4th regulating qualification of voters.

Mr. Needham moved an amendment to extend the franchise to every British subject 21 years of age, and resident one year in the Province. Lost.

Yeas—Messrs. Needham, Cutler, and Dr. Thompson.

Mr. Harding then moved to give the franchise to every person assessed for £25 worth of real estate, or £250 of personal property.—lost.

Provincial Secretary.—I am in favor of a more liberal franchise than is provided for in this Bill. I would extend it to all who are assessed on real estate. But I had rather leave things as they are than enlarge the franchise without the ballot. With the ballot I will vote to extend the franchise, and then if the Committee reports progress I will give any assistance that lays in my power to devise a proper registry.

Mr. Botsford then moved his amendment in favor of the ballot which was carried on division—yeas 18, nays 17.

Attorney General.—Now that the system of ballot voting has received the sanction of this committee, I shall offer it no further opposition. It will not of course be expected that I should assist to carry it out, that task I must leave to my colleagues in the Government who voted in its favor. The principle is one to which I am opposed, and therefore I cannot assist in working out its details.

Provincial Secretary.—In voting for this amendment I vote not as a member of the Government, but as a representative for the County of Victoria, and in that character am prepared on this and all other occasions to afford any assistance in my power to carry on the business of the House.

Surveyor General.—I am strongly opposed to the ballot, and shall give no further support to the Bill.

Mr. Taylor.—I shall now vote to postpone the Bill or in favor of universal suffrage.

Mr. Barbarie.—There is no time now to perfect this measure. The principle is established and the Bill had better be postponed.

Mr. Johnson.—I am opposed to the postponement, we had better report progress. The friends of the ballot can then consult together and arrange the details of future legislation.—The Attorney General should not refuse his assistance because the ballot is adopted, he has consented to afford his very valuable services in carrying on the Government under the responsible system, though he resolutely opposed the introduction of that system as entirely unsuited to the requirements of the country.

Progress reported.

Appalling Calamity—Probably Fifty Lives Lost.

A most appalling calamity occurred Friday morning on the New York and New Haven Railroad. Owing to the carelessness of the engineer, or some other cause not yet fully explained, the Express train which left this city at 8 o'clock in the morning for New Haven and Boston, plunged into the river at Norwalk, Conn.; the draw having been opened to admit the passage of the steamer Pacific, which had just gone through as the train approached. The locomotive, baggage, and smoking cars, two passenger cars, and part of the third, were in a moment precipitated into the gulf,—some fifteen feet below the level of the bridge. Among the passengers were several distinguished physicians, returning from the medical convention which closed its sessions in this city on the evening previous. In the list of killed the reader will be pained to see the names of Dr. A. Welch, of Hartford; Dr. Beach, of Bridgeport; Dr. Smith, of Springfield; and Dr. Pierson, of Salem. Dr. Ives of New Haven, we are happy to see is among the saved. The whole number of dead bodies recovered prior to 5 o'clock last evening, was 45, and it was thought possible that more were beneath the wreck. About twenty persons were wounded two of whom died before the hour just mentioned, and three others were in a very dangerous condition, including a daughter of the Rev. Dr. Griswold. All the employees of the Company escaped with their lives, although most of them were bruised or otherwise injured. Mr. Comstock, the conductor, was in the second car, and received several wounds, but none of them are dangerous. The Express Agent was sitting on a trunk, in the baggage car, and escaped by forcing his way through the roof. He is badly

wounded. The newsboy in the broken car escaped unburnt. An infant in the care of an aunt, and on its way to its parents in Springfield was saved, but the aunt was killed.

The occurrence of this sad disaster, so close upon the loss of the steamer Independence with 125 lives, of the Ocean Wave with 25 lives, and the collision on the Central and Southern (Mich.) Railroads, with the loss of 15 lives, is well fitted to remind travellers (and almost all are travellers these days) of their liability to be called suddenly from earth, and the wisdom of so living as never to be greatly surprised at the summons.

The scene at the Railroad station house in Norwalk, yesterday afternoon, was appalling. In one apartment there were twenty-eight ghastly corpses, rigid in death; and in another seventeen,—thickly covering the floor. Among them numerous surviving friends were eagerly scrutinizing each countenance, with mingled hope and fear, searching for the lost. As one after another was identified, the scene was often painfully affecting. Infancy, youth, and old age were all represented among the dead. The body of a beautiful female child, seeming to be almost animated with life, elicited exclamations from many. Almost all the bodies were disfigured with bruises and cuts, and probably in a majority of cases, injuries of this kind were sufficient cause of death. A few evidently died of strangulation by water. Before dark nearly all the bodies were divested of their clothing, put in neat coffins of walnut, and forwarded to their friends. Every arriving train brought many in search of those that were supposed to be lost, but it was supposed last evening that all had been found, and of those very few remained unrecognised.

The cause of the accident is attributed solely to the engineer, in failing to observe that the signal was given that the bridge was open, until too late to save the train. A red ball is erected on a tall pole on the draw. When this is displayed from the top of the pole it signifies all right; but if the engineer can't see it from a point on which is written "Look out for the Draw," with a hand pointing in the direction of the ball he must stop. It is shown in evidence before the Coroner that the ball was down from ten to fifteen minutes preceding the arrival of the train. The engineer is named Edward Tucker, and has had long experience. He was injured about 18 months ago by a railroad collision, for which he was not blame-worthy, and was enabled to resume his occupation only about a month since.

ANOTHER RAILROAD ACCIDENT.—Fifteen Persons Injured and Two Cars completely Demolished.—On Saturday, at 4 1-2 o'clock, as the New Bedford and Taunton train was about one mile and a half below Taunton, the axletree of the tender gave out, causing a succession of serious mishaps. The tender was immediately thrown down an embankment, some thirty feet. The baggage car, directly behind, was precipitated below on the right of the track and also the succeeding car, in which was twenty-five passengers. All three were completely demolished. As if by a miracle no lives were lost. One young man, whose name was not ascertained, belonging in Providence, was rescued from beneath the ruins and was at first supposed to be dead. He however, very soon partially revived, and was able to proceed on his journey. The third and last car was displaced from the track, but not thrown down the embankment.

Fifteen persons were more or less injured. Among them was Mr. John Witherell conductor, who resides in Roxbury. His injuries are not of a dangerous nature.

The cars and tender were thrown some forty feet from the track, and in their fearful passage completely revolved three times. The rails of the track were torn up for several rods. No defect was discovered in the axletree.—Boston Paper

SEAMENS' HOME.—The "Seamens' Friend Society" in this city, having leased and fitted up a spacious building in Britain Street, near Reed's point, as a "Home," have opened it for the accommodation of Seamen. It is under the care of Mr. and Mrs. J. Turnbull. The Rev. E. N. Harris, Seamens' Chaplain in St. John, has been the principal mover in this laudable undertaking. Family Worship is performed in the dining hall every evening, at 9 o'clock.—Religious Intelligencer.

English News.

Arrival of the Atlantic.

By Telegraph to the Sentinel News Room.

NEW YORK, May 11, 1853.

The "Atlantic" arrived at 8 o'clock this morning with Liverpool dates to the 3rd.

Breadstuffs lower. Wheat and flour 6d. to 1s lower.

The Europa and Andes arrived at Liverpool, the former in 10 days 15 hours, and the latter in 11 days 22 hours.

In the British Parliament the Financial debate still continued.

A motion repudiating the continuance of the income tax was negatived, 71 majority for the Government.

A meeting had been called at Greenock to encourage Kossuth.

The Roman Catholic Bishops Ullathorne and Moore had been imprisoned for debt consequent on the failure of a bank in which their funds had been invested.

FRANCE.—M. Montelambert's expected motion ascertaining the illegitimacy of appropriating the receipts of the sales of the Orleans property fell still born, only one member supporting it, and the Assembly ultimately rejected it.

Some political arrests had been made in Paris—one a reputed delegate from a London committee.

Napoleon 1st had bequeathed half of his private domain to soldiers, and their widows and children are raising claims to the legacies, and a committee is considering them.

PRUSSIA.—Alexander Humboldt and 1000 citizens of Berlin, had petitioned the King of Prussia to remove the Jewish Disabilities Bill.

Ludwick Tiecke died at Berlin in his eightieth year.

SWITZERLAND.—The Cantons of Ticino and Grisons, formally notify the federal Swiss Government that they will not give up refugees.

The federal Council was hastily summoned to consider the fact of Austria advancing her military post on a point near Stadio, regarded as Swiss territory.

Friburgh is in a state of siege. Thirteen of the insurgents are detained in custody.

VIENNA.—Letters express fears of short crops, owing to wet seed time.

ITALY.—Sardinia is improving her coast defences.

TURKEY.—Little as ever is known of Menchicoff's negotiations.

No Christians were massacred in Broussa, but a religious conspiracy was discovered amongst some young priests, of whom 19 were banished to the Cape of Good Hope. Pacification progressing—the Proclamation of Peace was actually expected.

MEXICO.—The "Diario Espanolo" states that Santa Anna has got aid from Spain to repel an anticipated Fillibuster expedition from the United States.

In the British House of Commons, on Tuesday evening the Government was asked whether any directions had been given authorising the Postmaster General to open the letters of foreign refugees.

Lord Palmerston denied that any such letters had been meddled with.

The enquiries were supposed to be with reference to Kossuth's complaints.

Business steady at Manchester but not very lively.

Three ships arrived at London on the 3rd, with over one million and a half of gold from Australia.

THE YANKEES AND THE FISHERIES.—The Eastport correspondent of the Boston Traveller thus discourses:—

"The fishing season has commenced favourably, and Jonathan with his wonted boldness and sagacity seems determined to circumvent John Bull, and have a share from his fish pond. So to avoid too great a risk, he makes a nominal transfer of his vessel to some avaricious traitor, over the line, takes papers in John's name, and then fishes under his flag just where he pleases. You don't find a Yankee napping along this coast when such an offer presents."

We believe there is no doubt that such rascally conduct as is above mentioned actually took place last year; but if Jonathan tries such tricks this season he will find that a law has been enacted which will confiscate his vessel, and place him and his confederates in a stone building where their stay may be prolonged over many fishing seasons. The Blue-noses are not as slow as Jonathan supposes.—New Brunswick.