

## Provincial Parliament.

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

(From the St. John Weekly Freeman.)

FRIDAY, April 6.

Mr. Partelow said he thought this a proper time to bring before the House a matter in which he was much interested. As it was very important, he desired particularly that it should all be published. He then read from the *Carleton Sentinel* of April 23rd, a passage of the speech reported to have been delivered at Woodstock, on Nomination Day, by Mr. Connell, where he is reported to have said—"I have good grounds for stating that my enemies in this village have had the Telegraph actively employed in sending for and receiving from one of the members of government information respecting my movements. But I can disregard any interference on the part of the government, or any of its members. You have all heard or read of the matter of the Book Leaves being taken out and replaced, and that the transaction had been satisfactorily explained. I do not believe everything relating to it was exposed. There is dirty work somewhere, and this very government official who takes such an interest in my movements, knows well that if I get a seat in the Assembly, that book affair will be more thoroughly sifted. It may be that he is afraid of its being brought up that he expresses so much anxiety for my defeat." He also referred to another report of the same speech, where Mr. Connell is reported to have said—"Even the Provincial Secretary had made himself very busy about this election—had been telegraphing with parties here. Parties in the Legislature were anxious to smother over certain transactions about some accounts, (of which they might have heard something,) which they were afraid, if returned, he might stir up. Was a man who had acted as Mr. Partelow had fit to be Provincial Secretary?" Before he proceeded further he would ask the hon. member from Carleton, if he adopted the speech reported in the *Sentinel*, and if he (Mr. Partelow) were the official there alluded to?

Mr. Connell—Go on and I will answer you.

Mr. Partelow—I want the hon. member to answer my questions first. Did he use this language, and did he mean to apply it to me?

Mr. Connell said he had no wish to deny anything he had said on any occasion, or to take back one word of it; but he was not prepared to adopt all the satellites and dependents of the Secretary chose to report of him. One report referred to was got up and published for the purposes of the election, and the report in the *Sentinel* was, he thought, not exactly the report of what he had said. He then read from another report published in hand-bill form, and said this, though not very accurate, was more nearly what he had said. He then proceeded to say that the Telegraph had been used and dispatches received from members of the Executive, and had been used against him. One bearing the Secretary's signature, declaring that he had not resigned his seat in the Council, was used against him and deprived him of many votes in one Parish, Government influence had been used in every way, and they had got Mr. Barbarie to write to the Rev. Mr. Barron, the Catholic Clergyman at Woodstock, to influence the Catholic electors against him, telling him that he (Mr. C.) had no influence with the Government.

Mr. Partelow—Pshaw! Why doesn't the hon. member answer my question?

Mr. Connell—But the Catholics, to their praise be it said, acted as independent men should act, and voted as they pleased. They were not influenced by such means. As for what he had said of the accounts, the Report of the Committee which had just been read, fully bore out all he had said. There was no doubt that there was something wrong, the committee themselves said so.

Mr. Partelow—Why don't you come to the point? Why don't you answer my question?

Mr. Connell proceeded to speak of the accounts and the Reports of the committee, and said he was fully prepared to have the whole matter thoroughly investigated and explained,

that this was due to the country and all concerned, and if there was any guilt, that the guilty parties should be known, while, if there were none, the innocent should be exculpated.

Mr. Partelow, who had during the course of Mr. Connell's speech, repeatedly asked him to answer his questions, &c., said the hon. member had talked a good deal, but had completely evaded his questions. He again read the extract from the report in the *Sentinel*, and asked him if he had said this. He wanted an explicit, direct answer.

Mr. Connell—Go on and I'll answer you.

Mr. Partelow—I want the answer now.

Mr. Connell—I'll take my own course.

Mr. Partelow—Then I tell the hon. gentleman, and I am sorry to be obliged to style him so in this House, that if he said so, it was a gross, deliberate, wilful slander, and what he knew to be unfounded and untrue.

The Speaker here rose and called the Secretary to order.

Mr. Partelow—I know the hon. Speaker's sympathies are with Mr. Connell, but I will not submit to be assailed in this manner and maligned before one of the constituencies of the country without repelling the charge. I tell the hon. member, that if he said what is here reported, he told a wilful deliberate falsehood, for the purpose of stabbing me in the dark. In the face of the Representatives of the people I tell him this—it was in character with his nature, as he is incapable of all candor and of what is honorable or manly. What had I to do with the public Accounts? I now call on every member of the Committee to say whether I had anything whatever to do with the alteration of the Accounts. I have nothing under heaven to do with them. He then spoke of the charge of sending telegraphic dispatches. He had some days before Mr. Connell left Fredericton, received a dispatch as Secretary from Mr. Tupper, asking if Mr. Connell had resigned, and replied he had not. Mr. English, before leaving for Woodstock, asked him to let him know if Mr. Connell sent in his resignation, and he promised he would. He received also, another dispatch, which he showed Mr. Johnson, as well as the answer, which was merely "Connell has resigned." This was all he had done in the way of telegraphing, and as for taking any part in the election, the Government never had the remotest idea of anything of the kind—they had no wish to interfere, as they cared little about the result. Neither of the parties was worth taking any trouble about—that was the truth of it. Perhaps, if they were, the Government might exert itself, but as it was, they took no part and used no influence in it. He again referred to the affair of the accounts, and called on the members of the Committee to say if he were in any way implicated in the matter.

Mr. Connell said—in coming to this House I thought I should come amongst gentlemen—

Mr. Partelow—You should never come amongst gentlemen.

Mr. Connell—I thought I had come amongst gentlemen.

Mr. Partelow—You were never fit to be amongst gentlemen—

Mr. Connell—And so I believe I have with one exception. If I could descend to the position occupied by the Secretary to-day, or my feelings would allow me, I could go into this matter so as to draw tears of grief and sorrow from him.

[The "News" reports this differently, and perhaps more correctly. It was often difficult to catch what Mr. Connell said.]

Mr. Partelow—Do! Let us hear.

Mr. Connell—But I cannot descend to this and will not, I am not here, however, to retract or to take back one word that I have said. I believe Government influence was used against me in every way, and that members of the Government subscribed the funds raised to oppose me. (Cries of "Name, name.") He would name the Surveyor General as one who had been applied to and subscribed. He then again referred to the accounts, &c.

The Surveyor General wished Col. Hayward to be present before he replied to the charge made against him; and when, some time after, the Colonel came in, said he was spoken to on the subject of the election (by Mr. Tupper, we

believe) and replied, that the Government did not wish to interfere in the election in any way.

Mr. Connell—Did you not subscribe?

Mr. Wilmot—I subscribed to a paper, as I suppose many other hon. members were asked to do.

Col. Hayward stated, that on the occasion referred to he and the Surveyor General had, on the part of the Government, disclaimed all wish to meddle in the election.

Mr. Cutler—As the members of the Committee had been called on by the Secretary to say if he were in any way connected with the cutting of the leaf, he would say, most emphatically, that there was nothing whatever to show that he was in the slightest degree connected with it, nor was there the least intention on the part of the Committee, at any time, of implicating him in any charge of the kind, &c.

The Speaker wished to explain. When a few minutes before he had risen to call the Provincial Secretary to order, that gentleman said he did so because his sympathies were with Mr. Connell. His sympathies were not with Mr. Connell but with the House, whose dignity he wished to maintain at all times.—Perhaps if the Secretary knew his feelings in this matter he may find that his sympathies were not with Mr. Connell, &c.

Mr. Kerr (referring to the speech of Connell, &c.) said that the Provincial Secretary had nothing to do with the mutilation of the accounts. The committee on accounts, he thought were included in the accusation, and he asserted that they had done all in their power.—Passing then to the Report under consideration, he gave his idea of the change that would be required in order to get the accounts and finances of the country satisfactorily arranged and accounted for. He would abolish the offices of Receiver and Auditor General, have the Treasurer at Fredericton as the head of the department, and doing the business now done by the Deputy Treasurer. The offices of Treasurer, Deputy Treasurer at Fredericton, Auditor General, £756; Receiver General, £350; now amount in all to £1,836. He would give the Treasurer or Receiver General, £600 a year; the Financial Secretary, whose duty it should be to audit and check all accounts, furnish a clear full financial statement to the Legislature, &c., £600 a year. Two clerks in his office each at £250. The Deputy Treasurer at St. John, £400 a year; and pensions of £150 each to the present Receiver and Auditor Generals—making in all, £2,400. The increased expenditure, £564, he felt confident would thus be secured. The accounts, he said the Committee did not yet understand, and could not.

Mr. Johnson argued that Mr. Connell's speech neither meant what Mr. Kerr thought it did, nor went further than was proper; he did not think it reflected on the committee of accounts at all. He reproved the Secretary for the violence of his language, &c. The Committee did not mean to charge the Secretary with being implicated in the cutting of the leaves.—There was no evidence to show that he had anything to do with the accounts, but the evidence of the Auditor General himself was, that he would as a matter of course, issue a warrant for any amount for which the Provincial Secretary may choose to draw. Having animadverted on the mode of auditing the accounts, and pointed out some of the discrepancies, he complained of the way in which the Government acted, disbursing the public monies as they pleased, and not even condescending to render an account until asked for. Last year with much reluctance, the House passed a vote of £1,151 11s. 11d. for the outlay on the public buildings, but the Government issued their warrant for £1,700. They now asked for £900 though it appeared the amount of the expenditure was £1,455 8s. 1d., and the balance of £552 would be paid without having that amount ever appropriated by the House. This sum was not even set down in the list of unauthorised expenditures, and there was nothing to show the country how it was drawn. Besides this, there were warrants for gratuities of which neither the House nor the country knew the meaning, amounting to £176, and miscellanies of which they were told nothing, exceeded all the rest, amounting to £6,314 5s. 6d. No one could tell what these were.

The Prov. Secretary said this could be ascertained at the Auditor's office.

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

TUESDAY, April 26.

Mr. Cutler, from the Committee on public accounts, submitted a Report in reference to a return laid before the House by order of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor shewing amounts drawn from the Treasury without the sanction of law; and he having read the same it was handed in at the Clerk's Table where it was again read, and is as follows:—

"The Committee on Public Accounts have examined a return of Warrants, drawn without authority of law, laid before the House in answer to an Address of date 18th March last, and find that in 1851 several sums were repaid by the Government amounting to £94 12 2, and in 1852 the gross amount so paid is £5,165 7 4.

"The Committee must object in the strongest terms against the Government paying out or disbursing any moneys from the Provincial Revenues without the sanction of the Assembly, and in none but cases of extreme urgency and necessity should any moneys be so paid, until the Accounts have been submitted to and sanctioned by the House, or a grant of the amount made in Supply; and when such extreme necessity does occur, that money should be drawn without application to the Assembly, the Committee consider the Government called upon to make a report to the House, with a detailed statement and account of the manner in which such sums have been expended, the object to which they have been applied, and the necessity for their being so paid, without provision being first made by the Assembly.

"The Committee cannot too severely censure the payment of so large a sum as £5,165 7 4, for the purposes mentioned in this return, upon the sole authority and responsibility of the Provincial Government, and should some of these payments be in themselves correct, your Committee cannot admit the necessity for their disbursement before the Accounts had been submitted to and investigated by the House; nor can they feel satisfied with the course pursued in not furnishing any detailed account or statement of these disbursements at the present Session.

"Your Committee must also remark upon the extraordinary fact that no application was made at the last Session for any Grant in Supply to reimburse the amount drawn for, without authority in 1851, nor is there now any made for the very large amount so paid in 1852; and your Committee deprecate as unconstitutional and dangerous to the rights of this House and the interests of the country, that any Government should consider themselves authorised so to pay monies, and withhold from the Assembly all information until expressly called for by address.

"Your Committee find it quite impossible to make any particular report on this return, wanting the necessary detailed accounts, and can only refer the return back to the consideration of the House, recommending that it be published in the daily Journals as a part of this Report.

"In reference to the surplus Civil List Accounts, your Committee have to express their surprise that the sum of £200 should be paid therefrom for His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor's Contingencies, without any Authority therefor.

Respectfully submitted,

R. B. CUTLER,  
B. BOTSFORD,  
ALBERT J. SMITH,  
GEO. L. HATHEWAY,  
JAS. A. HARDING,  
J. W. JOHNSON, Jr.,  
GEO. KERR,  
M. McLEOD,  
J. T. WILLISTON.

Committee Room, April 26, 1853."

Ordered, That the Report be received.

It is rumored that bull-fights are to be introduced by the Empress at the Hippodrome, in Paris. Bad as this may be, it is not half so brutal as a spectacle recently exhibited in New Orleans, of a fight between a Jackass and three Bull-dogs. A community in which such exhibitions can be tolerated, cannot have much reason for reproaching the Hottentots with barbarity.