

Provincial Parliament.

[From the Fredericton Reporter.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

WEDNESDAY, April 27.

Two Bills were passed by the Council this morning; one relating to the City of Fredericton, the other for dividing the Parish of Woodstock, after which a Bill was taken up which grants a patent to Mr. Cairns of the County of Kent, for smelting iron from the ore.

The particulars of the case, so far as we are able to gather them from the discussion which followed, are, that a gentleman named Clay, took out a patent for the above invention in Scotland; but that he died shortly afterwards, leaving twenty different parties the heirs to or owners of the patent. From one of these persons Mr. Cairns had purchased his share, and the present Bill was brought to extend the patent, so far as Mr. Cairns was concerned, for ten years, to this Province.

After several explanations given by his honor the Solicitor General and the Hon. Mr. Hill, who were both favorable to the principle of the Bill. The Hon. Mr. Chandler objected to passing it in its present shape, not merely because he was averse to encumbering the Statute Book with those private incorporations ecclesiastical and civil, which bid fair to have in a short time, one half the resources of the Province locked up in their keeping, but also on individual grounds, as Mr. Cairns owned only the twentieth part of the invention, and the others might be treated unjustly; or perhaps hereafter apply one at a time for the same indulgence now claimed by Mr. Cairns. He would therefore feel it his duty to amend the Bill in several places, for while he was willing to give the party applying a privilege good against the world, he would at least reserve the rights of those who held the patent at home, each of whom had an equal claim with Mr. Cairns.

Hon. Mr. Hill contended for the good policy which must result from the operation of such a useful invention, one which yet remained locked up in the breast of the proprietor, who would if trammelled with any absurd restrictions, keep the secret to himself, and the country would of course be the sufferer.

Advocated by the Hon. Col. Hatch on the ground of its general benefit to the Province.

Opposed by the Hon. Mr. Botsford because it was an Act for an individual, while there was a general law for all such purposes on the Statute Book, and because it was throwing the protection of the other parties on the Government, instead of the natural mode of legislation. He never viewed a monopoly as a public benefit; but if Hon. gentleman felt disposed to favor the present applicant, the only method would be to repeal the Act already passed and to bring in a general Bill, embracing the subject of this application.

Hon. Mr. Harrison contended that anything encouraging the outlay of labor and capital, would prove a public benefit, and that the contemplated invention must prove particularly useful in consequence of the recent rise in the price of iron.

Hon. Mr. Chandler begged leave to remind the Hon. gentleman, that the proprietor of the patent would not be so patriotic as to reduce the price of iron to any great extent. All he had to do was merely to undersell in the market.

Hon. Mr. Gilbert was in favor of the application. Our mines were of no value to us unless we worked them.

Hon. Mr. Hill said it was strange that while we granted patents to foreigners, we should manifest a disinclination to give an equal support to a person residing among ourselves, and purposing to introduce a useful and important invention in the Province. It might be generous, as in the recent act, to grant monopolies to the whole world; but there was little wisdom, in the meantime, to refuse such applications at home.

Hon. Mr. Botsford contended that beyond the mere assertion of the applicant—there was not a single particle of information before their Honors. There might be such an invention at home—but in one year after its successful de-

velopment, the whole thing would be patent to the world. The Hon. gentleman opposite had stated that we have a number of monopolies already in the Province; but he was happy to say there is yet not a single case in existence. This, if passed, would be the first in New Brunswick.

Hon. Mr. O'Dell viewed the Bill as founded solely upon the claim of an individual, and he not even an assignee of the original party, but merely holding a receipt for a certain sum paid for the privilege of owning a twentieth part of the invention. He considered the present Bill as conflicting with the general Act passed already, and also as framed without necessary information. If the principle spoken of were in operation in Scotland, we should already have heard of its effects in lowering the price of iron in Great Britain.

(Here the Hon. Mr. Chandler read several amendments; and progress was reported with the view of incorporating them in the Bill.)

THURSDAY, April 28.

The discussion on the patent right to Mr. Cairns, was renewed this morning, the Hon. Mr. Wark giving it a warm advocacy. He said that in reference to the solicitude expressed for the parties at home, it would be very unfair to amend the Bill so as to allow them to come in hereafter, and reap the benefit of the large outlay (say £5,000) which must be made by Mr. Cairns, in constructing the works necessary for the practical development of the invention.—He would protect the other parties so far as to give them due notice of the experiment, and allowing them to share the outlay and then the profits; but he would by no means allow them to stand idle in the first place, until Mr. Cairns had got the works in operation, and then to participate in the fruits of his industry and capital. It was in vain to talk of 5s. per ton on the speculation; no one would embark an enormous amount, with the prospect of others coming in at the very first moment, and taking his profits.

Hon. Mr. Hazen was as willing to do justice as any of their honors, but he would not wish to legislate without evidence, or in other words, upon the mere assumptions of any individual either in or out of the Province. At home the most minute investigations were entered into on subjects of this description, for it was found necessary to guard both the public and the party applying, from injustice; but in this case, their honors were called upon to legislate upon a number of mere assertions, which either might or might not be true. However respectable the party applying might be, he would not sanction such applications. This Bill assumed that a certain Mr. Clay had taken out a patent in England for the manufacture of Iron—that the said Mr. Clay had died—and that Mr. Cairns, the applicant, had purchased a twentieth part of his patent (upon which he claims the whole profits of the invention in this Province), all of which allegations and assumptions are totally unsupported by evidence. He (Hon. Mr. H.) could only vote for the Bill in conjunction with the amendments—let the applicant shew his patent, if he had any—and let the rights of parties at a distance be secured. It was no argument to controvert those rights to state that those on whose behalf they were argued resided in England.

Hon. Solicitor General concurred in the propriety of the amendments, and after several other speeches were made, embodying the views already advanced, by the Hon. Messrs. Chandler, Botsford, and Hazen, the Bill was agreed to.

(NOTE.—The Hon. Mr. Gilbert wishes us to state, that in the debate on the Grimross Neck Canal, he expressed himself favorable only to the plans 3 and 4, but against the adoption of the other line, (that at right angles with the river,) as he felt convinced that it would not answer the purpose.)

Here the House went into Committee on the appropriations, and several grants were agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Gilbert called the attention of the House to the Address passed some time ago in reference to the expenses of Government House and the College, and His Excellency's reply thereto, and wished to inquire of the members of the Government, what steps, if any, had been taken to afford the required information.

Hon. Mr. Botsford felt quite indisposed to

entirely an expense of £200 upon the Province, —a sum which must certainly be expended in such a search—for the mere purpose of gratifying the curiosity of the Hon. member, and that in reference to a variety of grants which would be found scattered over the Journals for the last 30 years, and which the hon. member himself had as ready access to as any official in the Province. The hon. gentleman who now moved his resolution, was himself in the Legislature at the time of the endowment of the College and the erection of Government House, and it was then he should have objected to those expenditures. The Legislature of that day, and not the Government should be responsible; and ever since, the expenditures had been made under the Acts of the Provincial Parliament. With respect to the recent grants to the College, every one knew their amount, as they might be seen every year on the Journals, and under such plain circumstances, while the labour contemplated by the hon. member would cost the people two or three hundred pounds, the whole information when collected from the records of 30 years' Journals, would not be worth five shillings.

Hon. Mr. Gilbert thought it was high time to do away with the clap-trap about the College. The whole information sought could be given in two or three hours. It was an odious monopoly costing the Province an enormous amount every year, but there was an unwillingness to afford information. It was alienating the loyalty of the people, and absorbing the amount which should be expended in the Parish Schools. Hon. Mr. Botsford replied that the College Registrar was well known to be one of the most zealous reformers in the Province; but that in a case of this kind, involving as it did a period of thirty or forty years, all he could do was either to employ some one to examine the vast amount of accounts involved, or to refer any persons seeking information to the public records of the Legislature as they stand on the Journals. It was thus that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Gilbert) committed a singular blunder in calling upon the Executive to furnish him with information, upon which he might lay his hands whenever he pleased. He (Hon. Mr. B.) had asked the original mover for this singular information, what his object was in asking for it from the Government, but he could give him no definite answer.

Hon. Mr. Hazen was free to acknowledge his belief that the College was one of the greatest grievances in the Province. How this had originated he could not say, but he was at least conscious that the Grants in its favor were made, as public every year as they could be. Whatever his hon. friend might complain of, it should not be for want of information. The only object which the resolution could accomplish was, that it would place those hon. members who did not wish to impose such an expense upon the country in a false position. It would be said that they were hostile to the required information. The Law at present granted £1000 annually to the College, and every one knew this circumstance; if therefore his hon. friend complained of the amount, his proper plan would be to bring in a Bill to repeal it, instead of searching a parcel of old rusty records which were open to the observation of the world.

Hon. Mr. Harrison said he was not the mover of the Resolution, but as some hon. gentlemen wished to know its object, he would inform them that he believed it was to bring the subject before the people for an expression of public opinion. Through the Government measure for the support of Parish Schools, property is at the mercy of a majority of rate-payers, without any regard to qualification or election. The amendment to restrain that unlimited power had been rejected in the other branch, and nothing had been substituted in its place to remedy the evil. The next general election would however give the people an opportunity of deciding whether they will tax themselves and allow their money to be appropriated as it is at present, or whether what is paid by the people shall be spent for their benefit.

Hon. Mr. Hazen briefly stated that there was not the least disposition on the part of the College Council to withhold information; and that in fact they had no information to withhold.—The salaries of the Professors, as well as every

other particular relating to the management of the College, were open to the inspection of the world; and no information which could be afforded through the adoption of the Resolution could make them more public.

A pretty long discussion followed, the principal part of which was borne by the Hon. Mr. Gilbert. It ended in the postponement of the discussion till to-morrow.

All Sorts of Paragraphs.

When is a soldier not a soldier? When he is mustered.

Why is a watch dog larger at night than he is in the morning? Because he is let out at night and taken in in the morning.

Why is a person with the lumbago like a man smoking a cheap cigar? Because his back is (baccy's) bad.

When is red paint green? When it is first put on.

Why are coquettes like wheelwrights? Because they "tire" their "fellers."

Oh my.—When does a young lady wish to win more than seven beaus at once? When she tries to fascinate (fasten-eight).

SURE ENOUGH.—"Mother," asked a little girl, while listening to the reading of Uncle Tom's Cabin, "Why don't the book never mention Topsey's last name? I have tried to hear it whenever it spoke, but it has not once spoke."

"Why, she had no other name, child."

"Yes she had mother, and I know it."

"What was it?"

"Why, Turvey—Topsey Turvey."

"You had better go to bed my dear," said the mother. "You are as bad as your old grandmother for she can't say pork without beans for the life of her."

Speaking of an aged man one of the papers says, 'he retained remarkable possession of his mental faculties down to within a few miles of his residence!'

Some days ago, a female in Sheffield came to a neighbor with the astonishing intelligence that the devil was dead. The story did not meet with acceptance, and the sceptical woman therefore accompanied her friend to the shop in which she had seen the fact advertised. After wandering through the streets of the town they at length reached a dyer's shop, in the window of which was a placard with this inscription—"Satin dyed here!"

IN-I-GO, JONES.—There was a boy called Jones, who was continually entering Buckingham Palace clandestinely, was as regularly ejected by the police, but with respectable pertinacity constantly returned, and on one occasion effected a lodgment in the royal bed-chamber. Some happy wit, in just admiration of such perseverance and impudence, christened him In-I-go Jones.

Among the early laws enacted in Connecticut the following is the substance of one:—"No man shall carry to meeting for a Sabbath lurchon, a doughnut so long that while he is eating at one end, he cannot keep the pigs from eating the other."

"What brutes your southern men are—always smoking cigars," said a northern young lady to a Creole miss. "Yes—but your northern men in Maine, you know, smoke herrings," was the quick rejoinder.

Jamie, says one honest Irishman to another the first time he saw a locomotive—

"What is that snorting baste!" "Sure replied Jamie, "I don't know at all, unless it is a steamboat splurging along to get to wather."

A Loafer who was reading in the Old Testament this phrase, "Go to the bee, thou slug-gard," thinks it must be a misprint, and that "bee" should be bed.

To make bread go a great ways let a dirty girl mix it and allow your boarders to witness the manipulation. One loaf of this bread will go as far as a dozen ordinary ones.

The king of clubs—a hickory axe helve loaded with lead.

"He married forty thousand dollars—I forgot her other name."