

[From the Head Quarters.]

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

(Continued from page 348.)

Dr. Thompson.—I am not quite satisfied with the extension of the franchise provided for in this Bill, and can fancy a more effective system for settling scrutinies, nevertheless, I shall not oppose the Bill.

I am not ever fond of the radical measures of the day, and don't believe at all in the efficacy of two year Parliaments. Even now, sir, we see enough to satisfy us that no great amount of benefit results from the rash experiments of inexperienced legislators, who generally possess a good deal more courage than wisdom. How often, sir, we have seen some new man inflated with conceit and full of patriotic inventions of economy and reform, strut into the House and undertake to cleanse the Augean stable with the besom of improvement. Well, sir, by the end of the first Session the patent reformer generally discovers that he has overrated his powers, that, at any rate, it will take a little more time than he at first supposed to purge all the institutions of the country. The second session is apt to disgust him altogether, and he will be heard to complain that he is associated with such a set of scoundrels, as to make any reformation quite impossible. In the third session he perceives that the only way in which he can accomplish anything for his country or himself is by cheating and manoeuvring as others do, and the fourth session finds him just as tricky and just as expert as the rest of them. This, sir, is the general history and experience of the Reformers in this House.

I am opposed to the ballot because it is mean and un-British, and it will add duplicity to cowardice. I shall lift up my voice against it, at any rate, until it is sanctioned by the example of the wise men in Britain. The secrecy of this system would destroy all confidence in the pledges and promises on which candidates are persuaded to come forward.

If we repeal the property qualification we shall offer a premium to vagabondism and loafing; everything that wears a head and is twenty-one years of age will be made an elector. It will break down all distinction between the idle and industrious, the drone and the honey bee of the hive. If you take the ballot universal suffrage will follow it immediately—so if you take a registration you may look out for raising Barristers, and a cost of four or five thousand pounds a year.

THURSDAY, April 14.

## ELECTION BILL RE-COMMITTED.

Motion to read Section by Section.

Mr. Cutler moves an amendment which in very general terms excluded all officers holding offices of immoderate under the crown and not being political from competency to sit in the Assembly.

Mr. Johnson moves an amendment specifying the officers to be excluded in lieu of Mr. Cutler's which is withdrawn.

Mr. Johnson.—I have made this specification of the officers to be excluded in conformity with the policy and provisions of a Bill which has already received the sanction of this House. The proportion of executive members and of members subject to executive influences now holding seats in this Assembly is too great.

Attorney General.—The Bill referred to was not sanctioned by this House, it was filled up with the names of a great variety of officers for the very purpose of defeating it up stairs, and it was defeated. Some of the officials who now hold seats here are among the most fractious and troublesome opponents of the Government.

Mr. Smith.—I am in favor of the amendment. Last year this House all but unanimously supported the principle involved in it. As a general rule no influence should be admitted here but that of the people. The officials now in the House may be independent, but we have no security that such a state of things will continue.

Mr. Needham.—The provision of the amendment should be made general or at any rate extended, and wind up with all practising lawyers.

Mr. Cutler.—The exclusion, if proper at all ought to be carried to all officers, otherwise the people should be left free to choose whom they please. It is not true that there was a secret opposition to the Bill last year. It was passed by a large majority, and the Government should have exercised its power to have "put it through" up stairs.

Mr. Boyd.—The object of the amendment is to defeat the Bill altogether. I would exclude Deputy Treasurers and Supervisors of roads, but none other.

Mr. Needham.—I voted to sustain the Bill, not because I like it as it is, but to make it ought to be committee. I would exclude no body but the Judges.

Hon. Mr. Speaker.—When I was in the Government I found these officers more troublesome than any body else, they are so anxious to exhibit their independence that they sometimes oppose the Government just to show it.

I have been sent here to five successive parliaments, yet I held one of the offices named in this amendment before I was elected the first time and have held it ever since. No government could live on the direct support of officials. If there be any exclusion it should be general, but I do not believe any to be wise or necessary. I shall not oppose it, but there are many things more essential to wholesome legislation.

Surveyor General.—When I first came to this House I had very strong opinions as to the impropriety of persons sitting in it who were concerned in collecting the revenue, but the Attorney General and myself then stood alone. No body can believe that any improper influence is exercised by or over the officers admitted to this House, and I see no necessity for the amendment. Let the people send whom they please, and if the person elected afterwards accepts an office let him go back to his constituents for re-election. This is all that should be required and this is now the case.

(Mr. Johnson withdraws his amendment to admit Mr. Cutler's more general one.)

Dr. Thompson.—I see no necessity for exclusion except in the case of Ministers.

(To be continued.)

Mr. Cutler, from the Committee on Public Accounts, submitted a report in reference to the Office of Audit, as also that of the Receiver General; and he having read the same, it was handed in at the Clerk's Table and there again read, and is as follows:—

**Auditor and Receiver General's Offices.**

"The Committee on Public Accounts have had under consideration the present system of auditing and checking the Provincial Accounts with a view to ascertain whether this important branch of the public service is performed in such a way as efficiently and effectually to answer the purposes which it professes to accomplish, and they beg leave to submit the following report on the subject:—

"In pursuing their enquiries the Committee have had before them the Auditor General and the Clerks employed in the Department, and the facts which are contained in this report are the results of their examination.

"In the first place it appears that the Accounts of the Provincial Treasurer, and his annual Balance Sheets are made up and rendered without any reference to the system of keeping the accounts in the Audit Office, or any reference to the balances of accounts appearing on the respective Balance Sheets. In consequence of the annual Balance Sheets of the Treasurer and the Auditor General differing very materially in the amounts appearing due by or to the particular Accounts, the committee are unable to ascertain on which Balance Sheet to rely. While it is admitted by the Officers in the Audit department, that the Treasurer's Balances are perfectly correct, yet they allege that their Balance Sheets are also correct, and the differences appearing on the face of the respective Accounts can be traced to the charges and payments in the respective Accounts; in some instances being carried to one Account by the Treasurer, and by the Auditor to another. It further appears, that for the last five years no steps have been taken in either of these Public Departments, to compare their respective accounts, or to ascertain in what particulars the Balances annually exhibited differ; and the Officers of the Audit department admit that it can only be by a comparison of the Books of the two Departments that the Balance Sheets can be made to agree.

"The state of confusion in which the Audit now stands, will be better understood by a few facts from the evidence before the Committee.

"The Balance Sheet of 1851, on page 54 of the Auditor's Report published in the Appendix to the Journals for 1852, page 401, shews to the debit of Beverley Robinson, Province Treasurer, £9,889 18 10 3-4. In this amount the Treasurer is said to be charged with the St. John Burnt District Bonds and the Water Company's Bonds, as assets in his hands. At the close of 1852, the same Account is closed with a balance against the Treasurer of £786 5 2 1-4, which the Auditor in his Report for 1853, page 57, as it stood when laid before the House, placed at the top of the Balance Sheet. It will be observed that in the new Balance Sheet, page 57, the Burnt District Bonds are charged against the Treasurer as £4,050. It is asserted that the Treasurer's Account, as audited in 1851, is correct, and that the £4,050 should not now stand charged against the Treasurer, while it is apparent that the balance of £786 5 2 1-4, omitted from the new Balance Sheet of the Auditor, page 57, should have appeared as a charge against the Treasurer.

"In this state of the evidence from the Audit Office the £4,050 are in the Treasurer's hands unpaid, and form part of the assets in the Hon. Mr. Partelow's Financial Statement, in which however they are incorrectly set down at £3,064 16 5, instead of 4,050, the amount which the Treasurer himself states to be due. The fact that £100 in 1851, £2,700 in 1852, being omitted by the Auditor to be carried to the credit of the Burnt District Debenture Account, and a difference of £114 1 7 appearing between the Treasurer's and the Auditor's Balance Sheets, respecting the St. Andrews Saving Bank on the 31st December 1849, in which the Audit Report is admitted to have been wrong, are additional instances adduced to show that the present system of audit is not such as can be relied on; and the Committee without intending to reflect on the characters of the head or subordinates of that Department are of opinion that the present Audit of Public Accounts does not afford that check and control of the public expenditure which is indispensably necessary.

"Your Committee are forcibly struck with the fact, that up to the present time they have been unable to have laid before them, from any responsible authority, any accurate statement of the present state of the Provincial Liabilities. In the Report of 1853, the Auditor General states the balance of Ordinary Revenue to be £121-841 12 10, which amount constitutes the 2nd item in the Balance Sheet, page 57 of the Report, and its plain meaning is that that sum is the present indebtedness of the Province; this amount is incorrect on the face of the Report, but your Committee take it as they find it—The Hon. Mr. Partelow on the 22 of March last, laid before the House his Report on the Finances of the Province up to the 31st December last, by which he alleges the Provincial Liabilities at that date to be £87,341 2 1.—Your Committee thus find a difference of £34,500 10 9 between the respective statements, while your Committee are fully satisfied that neither statement correctly exhibits the Financial condition of the country.

"The period has arrived, when in order to maintain the Provincial credit, and to carry out the Public works which have been entered into and charged upon our future Revenues, the Legislature of the country is imperatively called upon to adopt such a system of managing the Provincial Finances as will not only effectually prevent any part of the Public Moneys being drawn from the Treasury without legal authority, but ensure a stricter supervision of all Public Expenditures, and the punctual payment of Provincial Liabilities. In addition to these important objects, the necessity of being prepared at all times to exhibit the true state of the Provincial Liabilities and Assets, has long been seriously felt, and must be provided for without delay.

"The Committee have arrived at the conclusion that the present Offices of Receiver General and Auditor General should be abolished; and the Committee deem it the duty of the Government, without delay, to adopt such measures as they may think most suitable for the future management and control of the Provincial Finances, in prospect of a rapid increase of Revenue, and of the heavy liabilities into which the country has entered.

R. B. CUTLER,  
GEO. KERR,  
ALBERT J. SMITH,  
JAS. A. HARDING,  
B. BOTSFORD,  
M. McLEOD,  
J. T. WILLISTON.

Committee Room,  
April, 25, 1853." }

Ordered, That the Report be accepted.

The following Resolution then passed in Committee, but was not reported to the House:

**Resolved,** As the opinion of this House, that it should affirm and adopt the Report of the Committee on Public and Private accounts presented to the House on the 25th day of April, inst., respecting the Public Finances of the Country, and the present offices of Receiver and Auditor Generals, and that it is the duty of the Government to carry into effect the recommendations contained in the said Report: without delay.

THURSDAY, May 3.

Mr. Connell from the Committee appointed to wait upon His Excellency with the Address of the House, requesting the appointment of a competent person to examine the Site, Plans, and Specifications for the new bridge over the Maduxnakik, reported his Excellency was pleased to say that he would have much pleasure in complying with the wishes of the House. A like answer was given to the Address for the appointment of a Commissioner to explore a road from Patchel's Ferry to the Beckaguimick.

**LATE FROM CALIFORNIA.—Loss of the Steamer Independence.**—Dates from San Francisco to the 1st of April have been received at New York, bringing the melancholy intelligence of the loss of the Steamer Independence on the Island of Margarita, with 122 souls, including fifteen of the crew. There were five hundred passengers on board, the greater part of whom leaped into the water, and tried to swim on shore. After the steamer grounded, she took fire from her furnaces, and the flames extending to the powder magazine, blew the stern of the vessel to pieces; and finally communicating with the coal, completed her destruction. The boats were upset in the surf on the shore; and the current setting from the Island, prevented many from landing who were floating on pieces of the wreck.

The losses which some of our California friends have met with on their passage home lately has led to some novel expedients. A Hoosier that came by the steamer adopted the following plan: He placed his dust in one corner of his trunk and four rattlesnakes in the other. As this was done openly, it is not necessary to say that his property was very little disturbed even on the Isthmus.—*Dutchman.*

**NEGRO STAMPEDE.**—25 negroes run away from their masters in Boone County, Ky., on the night of the 2d inst. Among those who have lost their servants are two ministers of the gospel. The Aurora Banner says that some weeks before their departure one of the slaves procured and read to his comrades "Uncle Tom's Cabin;" and it is supposed that the beauties of Canadian freedom, as pictured by Mrs. Stowe, were the inducements to run away.

An insane man, named John Rose, died recently at Goshen, N. Y., having starved himself to death. On a post mortem examination of his body, it was found that he swallowed a large silver teaspoon, a pair of steel spectacles folded up, and a key or crank, used for winding a clock.

The Eureka diamond found in California, and thoroughly tested, is as large as a hen's egg; much larger than the crown diamond of Great Britain, which is valued at \$10,000,000.

A Salmon sold for eighteen dollars in New York the other day.