

interested himself so deeply in the affairs of Victoria county. It was because of his once representing them in this House, when that County formed a part of the county of Carleton, and because he had many warm friends there, by whom he had been handsomely treated,—he felt a deep interest in their welfare for these reasons. A letter from certain gentlemen residing in Victoria county, containing a petition to the three branches on the subject, had been placed in his hands, which he would read, as he had every reason to believe it stated the facts. The Hon. member then read as follows:—

"The Petition of the undersigned inhabitants of the County of Victoria humbly sheweth,—

"That on the first day of June last, pursuant to due notice for that purpose given, a public meeting of the resident rate-payers of this County was held at the Grand Falls, to take into consideration the propriety of incorporating the County according to the provisions of the Act of the General Assembly 14 Vic. chap. 38.

"That the votes were duly taken upon the said question, and entered in Poll Books kept for that purpose; and at the close of the meeting it appeared that out of 380 votes polled 276 were for the affirmative of the said question.

"That in further pursuance of the said Act of Assembly Francis E. Beckwith, Esq., the High Sheriff of the said county by his certificate bearing date the 4th day of the said month of June, duly certified under his hand and seal of office. "To His Excellency in Council, such facts as by the said law is required to certify, and that more than two-thirds of those who voted upon the said question, being duly qualified, did vote in the affirmative, thereby deciding the question of the propriety of incorporating the said County of Victoria in the affirmative."

"That this certificate was duly laid before His Excellency in Council on the 7th day of the same month, and His Excellency was thereupon prayed to grant to this county a Municipal Charter, in further pursuance of the said Act of Assembly.

"That such Municipal Charter has not been issued to this county; and your petitioners have lately learned that His Excellency in Council has definitely declined to issue the same.

"That your petitioners feel themselves aggrieved by such refusal of His Excellency, and consider such decision ill-advised,—that it violates the law of the land, and involves the assertion and assumption of a prerogative inconsistent with the constitution of the Province, and prejudicial to the civil rights and liberties of Her Majesty's liege subjects.

"That your petitioners believe a redress for this their grievance is, by the Provincial constitution, placed in the hands of the representatives of the people in the General Assembly and therefore.

"Your petitioners humbly pray that the matter of their grievance may receive a wise and attentive consideration; and such redress and relief granted them in the premises as your Excellency and your Honors may deem meet, and in accordance with the law of the land.

"And your petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray, &c."

(This petition is dated at Grand Falls, Feb 1854 and contains 35 signatures.)

Mr. CONNELL continued thus:—This is a petition placed in my hands to present to this House and we find it here stated—and I believe the statement is true—that the Sheriff of Victoria certified to the Lieut. Governor in council that the meeting was called and held according to law and that more than two-thirds polled, being duly qualified, did vote in favour of being incorporated. If this is true,—and no member of the government seems to contradict it—it bears me out in what I said yesterday; but when an hon. member of this House, who does not possess the power to express himself freely, attempts to fasten a charge on the government, and adduces facts in corroboration, the facts are overlooked, and the Hon. Attorney General, with his oratorical powers, gets up in the most overbearing manner to cry him down; this is the justice the feeble in voice, and men not much accustomed to public speaking, may expect at the hands of the Government in this House, for what I have experienced other hon. members may expect whenever they come in contact with the government. But I ask again what right had the government to interfere in this matter, and to withhold the charter from Victoria, having the Sheriff's certificate before them? If anything occurred to make the election illegal, then was the Sheriff's certificate wrong. (Hon. Attorney General.—He did wrong to certify.) But this is a point the government had no right to decide; his certificate was all they had to guide them—all they ought to be guided by—and if any parties were injured they had the means of obtaining legal redress. In this House, sir, although I am not gifted with great powers of speech, I have rights to maintain—my

own rights as a member, and the rights of my constituents. These I shall defend, and I will not be cried down by the hon. Attorney General or any other hon. member. I was justified in what I said yesterday, for the conduct of the government towards Victoria clearly indicates their sentiments in reference to municipal institutions. If they were justified in withholding the charter from that county, where shall their power stop? They had no right to interpose their authority betwixt the complainants, whoever they might be, and the law. It may be their policy to cry down those who in this House dares to charge them with what is wrong—vociferation and strong—all but parliamentary language may be their forte, but they shall not crush me so long as I have a constituency behind me telling me to speak the truth and fear not. I respect the hon. Attorney General personally, but in politics we differ; I wish to advance with public opinion and the condition of the country, which is continually changing,—he would take a retrograde step. I shall now conclude, sir; I know that many hon. members would have defended themselves from the hon. Attorney General's attack with more ability, but I think the evidence I have adduced will justify me in making use of the language I did, yesterday.

The Carleton Sentinel.

SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 1854.

MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS.—Some of the arguments used in the House of Assembly against the introduction of Municipal Corporations are extremely rich, and must lionize the great men who gave them utterance. We say arguments, but we are wrong, they are *Bug-Bears*, and only intended as such to frighten the people from going ahead, and to keep them from looking to deeply into public matters. These men know full well that if these institutions once become general throughout the Province, that their occupation is gone, that they will no longer be returned as Members, because they must stand on their own individual merits. The system of buying seats with the public money will have been done away with, and political jobbing brought to an end.

One of Mr. Botsford's arguments is, "that were all the Province incorporated, the Government would no longer be authorized to raise a large revenue, as at present, so as to be enabled to appropriate large sums annually for roads, bridges, and schools, but only just sufficient for the expenses of the Government, and the rest must be raised by direct taxation." Now, why did not the Hon. gentleman tell us what there is in Municipal Institutions to bring about this, (to him) great evil? Why did he not say boldly, that if the Province was incorporated the money for roads, schools, and bridges, would be granted to the several Counties in gross, to be divided by the Councils, and the Members of the House would no longer have the privilege of dribbling it out in small parcels, to purchase support at elections. Then, as now, a large revenue could be raised if the people desired it, the only difference would be in its expenditure.

He says again, "compel the Counties and Parishes to manage their own local affairs, and the people would immediately cry out against the large revenue, and compel them to reduce it to the mere expenses of the Government, and all other expenses would have to be kept up by local taxation." We have always looked upon Mr. Botsford as a very clever Legislator, and generally liberal in his views, but he here advances a curious doctrine; a people complaining of being too rich—of having too much money for their roads, schools, &c., and immediately adds, (in substance) they were too rich by indirect taxation, but the same amount must be raised by a direct tax. The Hon. Attorney General and Mr. Montgomery, and Messrs. Jordan, McPhelim, Dr. Thompson, Rice and others followed in about the same strain, one saying his constituents were too wise to govern themselves, another, that they had not sense enough and so on, but the general run of the arguments was that the people were not intelligent enough to elect the Parish officers. This is not exactly so expressed, but no other meaning can be taken from their words. The objections of most are that their constituents are not yet prepared to accept the measure. Now if this means anything, it means they are not intelligent enough they cannot elect the lowest officer in the Parish, but they are well qualified to elect the highest, or most important in the Province.

The people of Charlotte must be proud of their Member Dr. Thompson, they will certainly return him at the head of the poll, or his head on a pole, the next election. He said, "the Province was incorporated and that was enough." If the people

undertook to manage their own affairs they would be very likely to elect demagogues, who would deceive them." There is something personal in this remark, but the Dr. must not think that with him before their eyes for an example, the people of Charlotte will elect another likely to deceive them. He further says, "an attempt had been made in his own County to get a Charter of incorporation, and a public meeting of the rate-payers had been called at St. Andrew's, to decide. He had mustered as many as possible of those who were opposed to it, and went to St. Andrew's and voted, and made use of all his influence against it." The Dr. must be particularly delighted to know that he will have an opportunity to oppose this measure again on the 30th of June, as a public meeting has been called for that day to test the question. The petition to the high Sheriff to call the meeting, is signed by upwards of 130 names, among them are some of the most respectable in the County. Charlotte will this time we think, show Dr. Thompson, that they are no longer to be gulled by designing demagogues or old fogies, but will for the future look after their own affairs. The Dr. sanctions one of Cooper's remarks, "that the newspaper press in the United States misled the people, and that those who read most newspapers, were the most illiterate portion of the people, and the worst informed." All we have to say to this remark is, that if it applies to this Province, the Dr. must be a great reader, and liberally supplied with newspapers.

To be continued.

A very exciting debate took place in the House a few days ago on a Bill to increase the Representation of King's County. Strong arguments were brought out, and many interesting facts elicited in favor of the measure, and we are much surprised, and not a little grieved, that it did not pass.

His Honor the Speaker did not think that population alone should form the basis of Representation, but that potatoes, buckwheat, neat cattle, horses, sheep and hogs, should be represented, and on this head, King's was entitled to another Member. She possessed 18,295 head of neat cattle, 8,463 cows, 2,988 horses, 31,235 sheep, and we don't know how many hogs, and only returned three Members to Parliament, while Westmorland which did not possess near as many hogs, and only 11,725 head of neat cattle, sent four Members. York also sent four Members, and possessed only 5,705 cows. King's also possessed a large amount of shipping (in wood-boats,) which was not fairly represented. She was therefore clearly entitled to another Member. We are extremely sorry that this reasoning did not prevail with the House; we should be delighted were the principle carried out and acted upon, as we have no doubt but we could make out a case in favour of Carleton, sending one if not two more Members. We do not perhaps possess as many hogs in this County as King's, but in size and weight, we can lick them all to smash, in fact we challenge the Province to beat this. Mr. Bradley of Buttermilk Creek, killed a hog last week, which weighed when dressed 1120 lbs., now if this fellow, dead or alive, is not entitled to be represented in Provincial parliament, then the Hon. Speaker's arguments fall to the ground. Besides this we own a large amount of shipping. In number we are far ahead of any County in the Province, St. John excepted, and she can beat us but very little. It may not be generally known, but Carleton owns two steam-boats, about 250 tow-boats all rigged, and any quantity of batteauxs, log and birch canoes. Now with all these, and a 1120 lb. hog, we contend, upon the principle laid down by His Honor the Speaker, that we are fairly entitled to not only one but two more Members, and we hope the House will rescind their vote and establish the principle so ably contended for by His Honor.

A LARGE HOG.—Our Provincial Contemporaries of *Big Hog* notoriety, will perhaps think we are joking in the weight of the porker mentioned, in another place, but it is a fact. Mr. Bradley has carried off the palm for the last two years in the weight of hogs, not only in this County, but in the Province, and with one or two exceptions, in the United States. The hog now killed was, we believe, about two years old—when dressed he weighed 1120 lbs. honest weight; when this is beat Mr. Bradley will likely try again.

"A lover of Equality." "A lower Woodstocker." "An Observer," and several other articles, have been crowded out of this number to make room for the English News and the Proceedings of Council. Several advertisements have also been left out this week from the same cause.

We will give the remainder of the Proceedings of the Council, with a sketch of the Speeches in our next.

OUR READING ROOM.—We have turned our reading room into a Printing Office, but if sufficient encouragement is offered, we will fit up a room on the second flat of this building, and all persons willing to subscribe, will please call and leave their names at an early day. Should not a sufficient number offer all must be content to wait until publication day for the news, as we cannot afford to keep open a room and pay for despatches for the accommodation of only two or three, at the low price of subscription now asked.

The Election in Fredericton for Councillors came off to-day and terminated as follows:—

Wellington Ward—MARSH & McCAUSLAND.—
St. Ann's Ward—WM. SEGEE and W. D. HARTT.
Carleton Ward—JNO. DAVIS and A. MITCHELL.—
Queen's Ward—GOWAN and McINTOSH. King's Ward—RITCHIE and BLOCK.

COUNTY COUNCIL.

SPECIAL MEETING.

A Meeting of the Council took place in the Court Room on Thursday last. The Warden in the Chair.

The Warden explained that the meeting was called by a requisition, signed by four Members of the Council, to take into consideration the subject matter of a Petition from the High Sheriff of this County to the Legislature, preferring certain charges against this Municipality, a copy of which Petition had been forwarded to the Council by order of the House of Assembly.

The Petition was read by the Secretary Treasurer as follows:—

[Copy,]

TO THE HONORABLE LEGISLATURE OF THE PROVINCE OF NEW BRUNSWICK, &c.

The Petition of JOHN F. W. WINSLOW, Sheriff of the County of Carleton.

Humbly Sheweth:—

That since the erection of this County into a Municipality, Petitioner has been frequently called upon in his official capacity of Sheriff, to perform, and cause others to perform, various services connected with the administration of Justice therein, for which services accounts have been presented to the Courts who ordered such services to be performed—that such accounts after being adjudicated upon, certified and recommended for payment, have been presented to the County Council for payment, that said Council has utterly refused and still doth refuse to order payment of such accounts as passed by the Supreme Court or the Court of Common Pleas of this County, and said Council has gone into the several items of each account for Public Services and made such deductions on each as said Council thought proper, thereby setting at naught the settlement and certificates of the Courts, and bringing about a state of things injurious and detrimental to the Public Service in this County, as from the uncertainty of obtaining a fair remuneration to officers since the Municipality was formed, much dissatisfaction has already been expressed and services cannot be expected unless payment is guaranteed.

That the only remedy open to Petitioner and others, is an action at Law against the Municipality, which Petitioner is very averse to commencing, and Petitioner has therefore come before your Honorable Bodies with the circumstances of the case, and to pray that you will take the same into consideration and so amend the Municipal Act as to make the certificate of the different Courts for services actually performed by order of such Courts in the Administration of Justice within the County, obligatory for payment by the County Council, or to grant such other relief in the premises as to you may seem just and expedient.

And as in duty,

Your Petitioner will ever pray.

(Signed) JOHN F. W. WINSLOW,
Sheriff of Carleton.

Sheriff's Office, Woodstock, 18th March, 1854.

On motion of Mr. Diblee, seconded by Mr. Lindsay.

Resolved, That a Committee of five be appointed to take the said Petition into consideration and to prepare a reply thereto.

Whereupon Messrs. Clowse, Lindsay, Burpee, Wm. Hay, and Gray, were appointed as such Committee.

Mr. Lindsay from the Committee to whom was referred the Petition of the Sheriff reported as follows. "The Committee to whom was referred a copy of a Petition of J. F. W. Winslow, Esq., High Sheriff of this County, preferring certain charges against this Municipality, beg leave to report the following Resolutions, and an Address founded thereon to the Legislature.

(Signed,)

WILLIAM LINDSAY,
GEORGE CLOWSE,
WILLIAM HAY,
WILLIAM GRAY,
S. G. BURPEE.

Committee Room,
30th March, 1854.