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By James McLaughlan.

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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES.

FROM MR. TAYLOR'S REPORTS.

TUESDAY, March 27th.

On motion of Mr. Lunt, a Bill was committed relating to Mill Reserves. The Hon. Member explained the Bill. Messrs. Connell and Ryan thought that Reserves should be given to Mills built on small streams, for the benefit of new settlers, and considered that a clause might be added to that effect—Motion lost and the Bill passed.

Mr. End's Bill recommitted to authorise Aliens to hold Real Estate in this Province. A long debate ensued, and similar arguments made use of to those of a former day. The Bill was ably supported by Hon. Surveyor Gen. Hon. Mr. Ritchie, and Messrs. End, Boyd, Gilmour, McAdam, McNaughton, English, Hatheway, and Steadman, and opposed by His Honor the Speaker, Hon. Solicitor General, Hon. Mr. Smith, and Messrs. Street, Gray, Hayward, Montgomery, McLellan, Tibbits, and McPherson. When the question was first taken the Bill passed—yeas 16, nays 15; but other members came in previous to the Chairman's reporting, and the matter was again debated and lost. On motion of Mr. Gray, that it be postponed for three months—yeas 21, nays 16.

The Prohibitory Liquor Bill, at 11-4 o'clock, came up for its third reading, and passed—yeas 21, nays 18. Mr. Taylor, who was out on business, was the only Member absent. Mr. Gilbert, who was Chairman when the Bill was discussed in Committee of the Whole, voted in favor of it today, and Mr. Rice, who on a former occasion was absent on leave, voted against it.

House in Committee of Supply at 11-2 o'clock Several Grants passed. Among the number was one of £300, to aid the Female Department of Mr. Allison, Sackville, County of Westmorland. The Grant was ably and eloquently advocated by Hon. Messrs. Smith and Ritchie, and His Honor the Speaker, and Messrs. Steadman, Wilmot, Gray, Ryan, McAdam and McLellan spoke in favor of it. There were no objections to sustaining the resolution, but the discussion arose on the amount. Mr. Parfelow moved that — be filled up with £200, which was lost, 14 to 13. Several other Members came in, and the £300 was carried, 19 to 14.

On motion of the Hon. Attorney General, a Bill was committed for the better supervision of Great Roads and Public Works in this Province.

Hon. Attorney General did not think that it was a Bill that required much discussion, to convince Hon. Members of the necessity of such a measure, and thought that it must commend itself to every one, particularly when it was considered that about £20,000 was spent on the Great Roads every year, besides grants for other purposes, without any particular supervision of them. The Hon. Member gave an account of the progress made in Canada under the supervision of a Board of Works, since the beginning of the administration of the late Lord Sydenham in that country. In this country the Government propose, if the Bill passes, to have a similar Board, and the head of the department to have a seat in the Legislature, and also to be a member of the Executive Government.

Hon. Surveyor General, and Messrs. Boyd, Gray and Montgomery supported the Bill. Mr. English made an objection because the Bye Roads were not included. Mr. Gray said that if the Bye Roads had been included the Bill would have met with most strenuous opposition.

Mr. Street spoke on both sides of the question, and did not say whether he would support the bill or not. There were no speeches made directly against it. The Chairman reported progress to be

taken up again to-morrow. Mr. Gray gave notice that he would, at an early day, again move the House in Committee of the Whole on the College question.

House adjourned at 5-1-2 o'clock.

WEDNESDAY, March 28th.

A Bill to establish a Board of Works in this Province.

Col. Hayward approved of the principles of the Bill, although he would object to some of the details.

Mr. Gilbert was well pleased with the Bill, and if his vote would save the political existence of the Government for once, he would give it. He believed that such a measure was loudly called for by the country. He did not think that Queens had received justice in Road Grants heretofore, but for the future hoped that such would be done.

Mr. Rice had no doubt but that the Bill would give general satisfaction, and was glad that it had been introduced by the Government. He believed that it was a step in the right direction, and had no doubt but that it would be the means of having the Roads and bridges kept in better repair; and believed that if such an establishment had been in existence years ago, many thousands of pounds would have been saved to the country.

Mr. McPherson was in favor of the Bill, and wanted to see it pass. As to which branch of the Legislature the Head Commissioner had a seat in, he was willing to leave that with the Government.

Hon. Mr. Ritchie did not intend to occupy much time, as the Bill was likely to pass with the approbation of all parties. He had long thought that no Government could carry on the business of the country satisfactorily and practically without such a Bill, and was glad that it was likely to pass without any alteration.

Mr. Steadman thought that the Bye Roads required as much supervision as the Great Roads. The principles of the Bill he highly approved of, but he would support the motion to prevent all parties holding office under the Board from holding seats in that House.

Mr. Gray approved of the principles of the Bill, but would move an amendment to one of the sections, to prevent any persons holding situations under the Board from holding seats in the Legislature.

Mr. Montgomery was surprised at the opposition of the Hon. Member, and of the motion made by him, when he agreed to the Bill as it was read section by section. If the objection had come from the Hon. Member from Northumberland (Mr. Street), who was not present during the debate, he would have thought nothing of it. He hoped that the motion would be withdrawn, and let the Bill pass as it now stood.

Mr. McPherson would oppose the motion, as he did not believe that the people should be prevented from sending any person to the Legislature they thought proper.

Mr. English was sorry that the Bye Roads were not included. He would give the amendment moved his best support, as he thought that Government influence should be removed from the House as much as possible. The Government had connections and friends on the floor of that House that they had too much influence over.

Mr. Connell remarked that as to the Government having friends and connections in the House over whom they had influence, he could speak for himself, that as for the Government having undue influence over him, they had never attempted any thing of the kind; they knew better than to do so. He would go as far as any one, at the proper time, to support a Bill to exclude certain persons

from holding seats in that House. But thought that it ought not to be introduced in the present Bill.

Mr. Tibbits would not like to see the bill mutilated, or incumbered with any amendment, but let it pass as it stood. And when the Hon. Member from Kent, introduced his bill, he would support it, and go as far as any one to exclude persons holding office of emolument from holding seats in the Legislature. He felt the influence of office-holders at the last election. As to the amount of salary to be received by the head of the Board, he thought that £600 a year was too little, for the first year at least the office would not be a sinecure, for the working members of the Executive Council, the heads of departments had a great many outgoes that the people did not understand. In Canada formerly, the salary of such persons was £800 a year, but lately it had been raised to £1000. As to the present bill giving the Government more power he thought otherwise, as it would increase their responsibilities. He had no doubt but if there had been a Board of works established in the Province ten or fifteen years ago, it would have been a saving to the country of many thousands of pounds.

On the question being taken on Mr. Gray's amendment it was lost, yeas 16, nays 24. The bill then passed without the slightest alteration.

House in Committee of supply at 3 o'clock, and passed the great and by-road grants. A long debate arose on the usual road grant given to New Brunswick and Nova Scotia Land Company, for roads in that settlement. The resolution supported by the Honorable Attorney General, Honorable Surveyor General, and Messrs. McPherson, Taylor, Hatheway, McAdam, Street and others, and opposed by Hon. Mr. Ritchie, Hon. Mr. Solicitor General, and Messrs. Ryan, Cutler, Gilmour and Gray, — on the question being taken the Committee divided, yeas 19 — nays 19. The Chairman Mr. Harding then gave the casting vote against the grant. Mr. Hatheway then gave notice, that he would enter it on the supply book again to-morrow. Chairman reported, and the House adjourned at half past 5 o'clock.

Thursday, 29th March, 1855.

A short debate arose on a motion made by Mr. Street, that there be placed in the hands of the Government the sum of £2,000 to aid destitute persons in the various parts of the Province to purchase seed during the ensuing spring.

Mr. Parfelow thought that such things going abroad would have a tendency to injure the Province, as emigrants would not come to the country, if they thought the people already here were in a state of starvation. He would rather let the matter stand as it was, and if there should be any real cases of necessity, let the Government provide for them.

Mr. Connell did not like the resolution, but would move as an amendment that there be a committee appointed, consisting of a member from each county, to make enquiries as to the condition of every section of the county, and recommend such sum as would in their opinion be necessary, to be laid out by a proper person to be appointed in each County.

Mr. Tibbits strongly urged the necessity of something being done, although he did not approve of placing the £2,000 in the hands of the Government.

Messrs. McNaughton and Rice explained the condition of their respective counties, and urged that something should be done at once, or the results would be most disastrous.

Honorable Attorney General thought that the mat-

ter had better remain as it was, as there was £1000 already on the supply book, and did not believe that much good would result from it even if the amount was granted.

Messrs. Street, End, and Montgomery made a few remarks in favor of the Resolution, when the question was taken and the Resolution lost.

On motion of Mr. Lunt a Bill was committed, brought in by him, relating to the repairs of Roads and Bridges throughout the Province. The Hon. Member fully explained the objects of the Bill, and said that the Bye Road Money would be granted to each parish in gross, to be expended by Commissioners elected by the Ratepayers, at their annual parish elections. He thought that such a Bill would be the means of having those meetings more generally attended, when they found that they had the expending of the Bye Road money. He never did like the system hitherto pursued—that persons had to hang round the lobbies, and ask of Members a small sum of the people's money for a certain Bye Road, and if they got the promise of it to go away with a thank you. He hoped the Bill would pass, so that the people would have the expending of the money themselves, and elect such persons as they thought proper for that purpose.

Hon. Messrs. Fisher, Ritchie, and Tilley, agreed with the principles of the bill, and would grant the bye road money to each county in gross as soon as they adopted municipal institutions, but thought that if they passed it at present, it would have a tendency to retard self-government, and put back the adoption of those institutions for years.

His Honor the Speaker, Hon. Mr. Surveyor General, and Messrs. Hayward, Harding, and Steadman, would support the bill, and thought it would work well even without municipal institutions.

Mr. Connell did not like this piece-meal legislation, and thought that the adoption of Municipal Institutions would do away with the necessity of such a bill. He hoped that the Government would bring in a measure another year at least, if they did not do so this year, and make it imperative on every county in the Province to adopt them.

Colonel Hayward would support the bill, and would oppose any measure to be forced on the people without their consent. There was a Petition in the hands of the Sheriff of Sunbury, to call a meeting for the purpose of considering the necessity of adopting municipal institutions, if they accepted of them he would be perfectly satisfied.

Mr. English thought that the business of the county could never be done in a satisfactory manner until such institutions became general. Since he had a seat in the Legislature, he had been in favor of granting the bye-road money to the municipality of the County of Carleton in gross, to be expended under their supervision, and hoped it would be done so this year, as they wished it, and no good reason could be urged why they should not have it. The principles of the bill sustained to come into operation March, 1856. Progress made to add some amendments, — one is to elect the Commissioners by ballot.

House in Committee of supply at 1 o'clock, — several school grants passed.

Mr. Hatheway, moved for a reconsideration of the Road Grant to the N. B. and N. S. Land Company, which, after a long debate pro and con, was carried and £200 granted. £5,500 passed for the collection and protection of the Revenue.

The Queen's County Militia bill, to reimburse Silas McMahon for costs in defending law suits respecting Coal Mines in that County, caused a long discussion. Resolution sustained through the great exertions made by Messrs. Cutler and Gilbert—yeas 20, nays 15—a grant of £67 4s 2d passed. The grant to the Adjutant General of the Mi-