

## PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES.

FROM MR. TAYLOR'S REPORTS.

Tuesday, 27th February, 1855.

Mr. Gilmour brought in a Bill relating to Hacmatic Knees.

Mr. Partelow thought that there was no necessity for such a Bill, and the evil complained of, was remedied by the Reciprocity Treaty.

Mr. Gilmour thought not.

Mr. Boyd brought in a Bill to authorise the Church Wardens, and Vestry of Saint David's Church, in the Parish of St. Davids, to sell certain lands and re-invest the proceeds.

Mr. End introduced a Bill to regulate the navigation of the lower St. John.

A Bill committed to divide the Parish of Samarans, in the County of Gloucester.

Mr. End said it was a local measure, and that it had been read in Session.—Agreed to.

Mr. Connell moved the House into Committee of the whole, on a Bill relating to Copper Mines in the County of Carleton. The Honble Member stated that his object in bringing the Bill forward was in order to have it become law as soon as possible, as the party, the most deeply interested in it (Mr. Stevens,) intended to proceed to England, and he was desirous to have it pass before he left, in order that it might be fairly brought before capitalists in that country. Mr. Stevens was the owner of the soil, and for the reasons given he hoped that there would be no objections to it.

Hon. Mr. Ritchie would go for any measure that would advance the real interests of the county; but thought in a measure of this kind, caution should be observed.

Mr. Cutler thought that before the present Bill was disposed of, Honble Members ought to be called to their places. He considered that a general measure should be introduced that would apply to the whole Province, and not legislate on separate cases, which instead of doing away with the heart-burnings that already existed in various parts of the country, would only increase them.

On motion, the Chairman reported progress.

A Bill to reduce the fees of Registers of Deeds and Wills, and to prevent practising Attorneys from holding the Office, elicited considerable discussion.

Honble Mr. Smith thought the Register's fees were too high, and that the object of the present Bill was to reduce them. He was willing that they should receive the same pay for writing a folio as the Lawyers received, and no more; which was sixpence, but they at present received a shilling. Another object contemplated was to prevent practising Attorneys from holding the Office.

Mr. Boyd fully concurred in the remarks made by Mr. Smith, and would support the Bill.

Honble Mr. Ritchie observed that there was no Office in the Country more important to the people than that of the Register's. It ought to be remembered that in some Counties, the fees amounted to a very considerable sum, in others such as Restigouche and Gloucester, it was not the case. But in every County it was desirable and necessary to have competent persons to do the duties for the protection of the people. The latter part of the Bill he would go for, to prevent practising Attorneys from holding the Office. At present he would not consent to the reduction of fees.

Mr. Cutler thought there were two ways that the difficulty might be remedied; either give them a fixed salary, and let them pay over the fees, or in the small Counties, give the persons holding the offices other situations, so as to make it an object to keep their offices open.

Mr. Connell considered the office a very important one to the people of the country. He thought the evils in a great measure might be got over, by the Honble Member's introducing a Bill, to shorten instruments that have to be recorded. He thought some steps ought to be taken to compel all Registers to have proper safes to deposit documents in. In some places he had been informed that they were kept in a trunk, that might be carried away with ease. As to the fees, he had the returns from different Counties made in 1852, and they were as follows:—Victor County, £46 12 6d, Gloucester, £27 11 6d, York, £170 6 1d, Sunbury, £56 0 0, St. John, £309 0 0, Northumberland, £87 0 0, Albert, £83 0 0, Restigouche, £19 8 0, Kings, £222 8 8d, Queen's, £70 0 0, Charlotte, £151 0 0. He had always been an advocate to reduce high salaries, but considered that every man should have a fair remuneration for his services.

After a few remarks from the Honble Solicitor General, and Messrs. Street, End, Hatheway, McLelan, and Botsford, who severally opposed the reduction of fees.—Progress was reported.

At 1 o'clock the Election Bill was recommitted.

Mr. Ryan would not consent to interfere with the Franchise. If they did so, he did not think that they could stop short of universal suffrage. A proper system of Registration of voters he approved of, and would support it. As to the ballot he cared but little about it; and it was immaterial to him whether it passed or not, in fact if he had his choice he would a little rather it had not been introduced in the Bill; (Laughter) but he was not exactly certain which way he should vote on that point.

Mr. Rice approved of the three leading points in the Bill, the extension of the Franchise, Registration of Voters, and Vote by Ballot, and would support them. The ballot had frequently been discussed at public meetings in his county, and it was thought it would be one of the means of putting an end to Scrutinies, he entertained that opinion. The Bill should therefore receive his support.

Mr. Botsford long ago had come to the conclusion, that the three leading features in the Bill, were correct principles. He considered that all persons who were qualified by law to serve as Jurors ought to be allowed to vote.

Mr. McPhelim thought that the same restrictions ought to be laid down as to the Candidates, qualification, as that of the Voter. He should not only be compelled to describe his property, but should be compelled to swear to it if called upon to do so. He approved of the Ballot, and the Registration of Voters, and would vote for the Bill.

Mr. Gray considered that every Member had a perfect right to give his views on this or any other measure, and no person had a right to condemn him for it. As to the Bill there were only two new principles in it, one was the extension of the suffrage, and the other Registration of Voters. As to the ballot there was no principle involved in it, as it was merely exercising the Franchise by a different mode of voting. He did expect that the Honble Attorney General would have made known the policy the Government intended to pursue in his opening speech on this Bill; he had not done so, but said the Government ought to be judged by their acts. Although the Honorable Attorney General deprecated universal suffrage, yet he (Mr. Gray,) contended that the present Bill would lead to it. He was in favour of extending the Franchise to a certain extent, if it could be done with safety. He was also in favour of a Registration of Voters, if a proper system could be adopted; but he was aware that the adoption of such a mode was a very difficult matter.

The Honble Member then took up some of the appointments made by the present Government, and said that the old Government had been in part condemned for making appointments, precisely on the same principle as those made by the new Government; and mentioned the case of Mr. Geo. Bliss, who had received the appointment of Clerk of the Peace for Sunbury County, in the place of his brother. Also the appointment of the Shipping Master at the Port of St. John, who had offered twice as a Candidate, and had been rejected. The old Government was censured for appointing Mr. Williston of Northumberland, to the Office of Deputy Treasurer, because he had failed in being elected at the last election, notwithstanding that he had been returned by the people of that County on more than one occasion. And also for appointing Mr. Chipman Drury to the Office of Register, for the City and County of St. John, in the room of his brother who had resigned. How the present Government could justify such appointments, as made by them, after the course they had adopted at the short Session was a mystery to him. The Honble Member concluded by saying that he would vote against the whole Bill.

Hon Mr. Ritchie in a most eloquent speech defended the appointments made by the present administration, and also in support of the bill. As to the appointment of Mr. Bliss to the Clerk's office in Sunbury, it was not made until after his brother had left the County, and gone to Richibucto to live; and it was notorious that the office was vacant for some weeks before it was filled up; and the Government were aware that there was no Lawyer living at the Oromocto. With Mr. Geo. Bliss they were well acquainted and knew that he was well qualified to do the duties of the office. As to Mr. Chipman Drury he was a very gentlemanly young man, against whose character nothing could be said; but the people of St. John were surprised, when they found that his Brother in the prime of life, and a most excellent officer had resigned, and the office filled up without giving those

who might consider that they had claims an opportunity of applying for it. He did not consider that the present incumbent had any claims whatever beyond being a very gentlemanly young man and dancing attendance for two or three years as Private Secretary at Government House, therefore when the appointment was announced, the people were taken by surprise.

His Hon Colleague had referred to the appointment of Mr. McLean as shipping Master at the Port of St. John, and mentioned that he had been rejected twice by the constituency of that County.

He (Mr. Ritchie) believed that if the Scrutiny had been carried through that Mr. McLean would occupy the seat now held by the Hon Member, (oh, oh, from Mr. Gray.) He had no doubt about it. He thought the course pursued by his Hon Colleague in reference to the present Government, while the present Bill was under discussion was altogether wrong, and had nothing to do with the subject; for if they had done wrong let a vote of want of confidence be brought up, and if the House condemned them they would cheerfully resign their offices, as much so as they accepted them. The Hon Member then took up the bill, and in a most masterly manner advocated its principles throughout, and said that he would support every section of it.

House adjourned.

## MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

SPECIAL MEETING.

COURT HOUSE, 19th Feb. '55.

Council met—Warden in the Chair.

Present—Messrs. Lloyd, Sharp, Gallop, Clouse, Weade, Esty, Carville, Craig, Wheeler, Dibblee, Kerr, Gray, Hay.

The Warden stated that the following Requisition had been addressed to him, on which he had directed the Secretary Treasurer to call this meeting.

"To the Warden of the Municipality of Carleton. We desire you to call a Special Meeting of the Municipal Council of this County, at as early a day as may be deemed proper, to take into consideration matters relating generally to the affairs of the Municipality.

Your Obedient Servants,

ELI SHARP,  
GEORGE CLOUSE,  
OLIVER HEMPHILL,  
J. S. CARVILLE.

31st January.

On the reading of the Minutes of the last day's meeting of the Council, Mr. Dibblee objected to their correctness; that in their present shape they gave wrong impressions in reference to himself and Mr. Hay; that while in moving for the appointment of Firewardens for Woodstock, they had classified the Firewardens for the Upper Village by themselves, they had included those for the Creek and the lower village in one list, but that such had been separated in the list as published. To this the Secretary Treasurer replied that he had no particular motive in the separation; that he thought it very strange to see those officers classified for the upper village, while those for the Creek and lower villages were united, and concluded that Mr. Dibblee must certainly have made a mistake; and that under this impression he had made the separation alluded to, as that had been the case (he believed) years ago when the Firewardens were first appointed.

On motion, ordered—That the minutes be amended and the lists published as first handed in.

The Secretary Treasurer read a reply from the Provincial Secretary, to the application from this Council for a set of Weights and Measures for each Parish in the County, stating that the price of each set is £180, and enquiring whether at that price the Municipality still desire to procure them.

On motion of Mr. Dibblee, seconded by Mr. Gray,—Resolved,—That a Committee of three be appointed to enquire and ascertain the cost of such weights and measures as may be deemed necessary for the use of the County.

Committee,—Messrs. Dibblee, Clouse, Gray.

The Warden stated that a Lunatic, named Adam Hale, had been confined to the Gaol; that a certificate of Lunacy had been shewn him; and that from the exigency of the case he had drawn funds to the amount of £9 for transmitting said Lunatic to the Asylum; £2 10s. of which for clothes required by the regulations of the Asylum.

On motion of Mr. Dibblee, seconded by Mr. Carville,

Resolved,—That the action of the Warden and Secretary Treasurer in drawing £9 to meet the expenses of the contingency be sanctioned by this Board.—Carried.

Mr. Lloyd presented an account from James I. Nevers, for arresting the said Adam Hale, and lodging him in the County Gaol—which, on motion was ordered to be referred to the Auditor for investigation.

Mr. Clouse one of the signers of the Requisition stated that it was intended at this meeting to offer suggestions for amendments to the Municipal Law, embracing the subjects of a Board of Health, for Good order &c., and other subjects relating to the Municipality; after which he read the following, when

On motion of Mr. Dibblee, seconded by Mr. Gray.

Resolved—That the said suggestions be taken up paragraph by paragraph, and disposed of according to the views of this Board.—After a careful consideration they were unanimously adopted, —viz:

For the Councillors of each Parish to have power and authority to call upon the inhabitants and Parish Officers of such Parish to settle up all money matters and Statute labour as early as the 10th of September in each and every year, and all such returns to be completed on or before the 1st of November immediately following, to be presented at the Council Board for confirmation, and that the Parish Clerk give such assistance as may be necessary.

That the Councillors and Parish Clerk, for any Parish, be authorized, in addition to Magistrates, to qualify all and any of the Parish Officers; that all Parish Officers be compelled to qualify themselves within fourteen days after their appointment or confirmation; that the Magistrates, Councillors and Parish Clerk within ten days after the said fourteen days, make due return of all Parish Officers so sworn, to the Secretary Treasurer; that every Magistrate, Councillor or Parish Clerk, furnish each Officer so qualified with a certificate of his being qualified, and the office or offices for which he is qualified; that any Magistrate, Councillor or Parish Clerk neglecting to make return of any such qualification shall pay all the costs, and any fine that may be imposed upon any Parish Officer on account of such neglect; and that it be the particular duty of the Secretary Treasurer to proceed against all Parish Officers delinquent in taking such oath, and of whose qualification no certificate has been furnished.

To prevent the carrying of Fire through any street or way, in any town or village, unless secured in some iron or other fire-proof vessel.

To prevent the burning of shavings, rubbish or combustible matter of any kind within the limits of any town or village.

To prevent smoking tobacco, either by pipes or cigars, in any street, out-house, barn or stable, in any town or village.

To prevent the using of any candle or lamp in any out-house, barn, livery or other stable, without being properly secured in a glass or tin lantern.

All penalties should be recovered with costs.

To regulate the driving or riding of horses or carriages on or over any bridge within the county.

To prevent immoderate or disorderly riding or driving of horses, cattle or beasts with or without carriages or other vehicles, in or on any of the Highways, Streets or Roads in the county.

To make regulations relative to pits, precipices, gullies, ditches, or other places dangerous to travellers, being within the limits of any street, road, highway or bridge.

To prevent the spreading of infections distempers within the county, and for providing places of comfort and relief for destitute persons and strangers unable to provide for themselves, to be removed to, and taken care of in cases of Cholera.

To provide for the associating of other persons with Councillors in each Parish as Boards of Health; but the Council in all cases to have control of all expences and passing accounts, and to make Bye Laws for the same; and in cases of Small Pox to stop the intercourse of persons laboring under such disease for twenty days, or such periods as the Bye Laws may direct.

To provide for the better observance of the Sabbath.

To authorise the framing of such Bye Laws as will regulate Elections for Councillors and Parish Officers.

Council adjourned until 10 o'clock to-morrow.

COURT HOUSE, 20th Feb. '55.

Council met—Warden in the chair.

Present—Messrs. Lloyd, Sharp, Gallop, Clouse, Weade, Esty, Carville, Craig, Wheeler, Dibblee, Kerr, Gray, Hay.

Minutes read and approved.

On motion of Mr. Dibblee, seconded by Mr. Clouse—Resolved—That in reply to Mr. Fisher's letter, asking for suggestions from this Board, as to the necessary amendments to the Municipal