

it, that there was such a bill on the files of the House, having had his attention taken up by other matters.

House adjourned at 4 o'clock.

Wednesday, 21st Feby.

Mr. Cutler moved an address to his Excellency, to have laid before the House, all correspondence between the Lt Governor, and the Colonial office, in reference to the change in the Customs Department, and also in reference to Deputy Treasurers. Messrs. Cutler, Lunt, and Botsford, a Committee to wait upon his Excellency.

At half past 12 o'clock the House resolved itself into a Committee of the whole, on "Ways and Means" for raising a revenue. Mr. Taylor in the chair.

Hon Provincial Secretary in a very able and lucid manner, explained the scheme which the Government had prepared to submit to the House.

He acknowledged the position to be a novel one, it being the first time that the Government in the Province had brought down a Revenue Bill. The Hon Member proceeded, and gave a statement of the Financial condition of the Province, similar to what has already been published. And stated that it was to be regretted that when the Government announced last year that the country was virtually out of debt, that they had not given a full statement for the information of the people, of the debt due the Savings Bank, which then amounted to £75,000.

It had been stated that when the late Government went out of office there was a surplus on hand to the amount of £38,000, but at the same time there was £52,000 liable to be drawn at any time. The way the Government proposes to raise a revenue for the ensuing 4 years is,—many articles will be subject to the same duty as under the present revenue Law; some articles that were 7 1-2 per cent will be raised to 10 per cent.—Brandy 4s gallon duty, Gin 2s 6d gallon duty, Rum and alcohol 1s 6d gallon duty, Tea, Coffee, and Tobacco there will be a small advance of duty.—The probable amount that will be required this year to be raised for the public service will be little upwards of £170,000.

Mr. Boyd acknowledged that the statements made by the Hon Provincial Secretary to be clear and explicit, the duties mentioned on many of the articles he could agree with, and there were others he could not.

Mr. Wilmot could not go for all the scale of duties as recommended, but when they came before the committee item by item, then he would give his opinion as to what amount of duty he thought that they should bear.

Mr. Ryan spoke of the duty of 30 per cent on Agricultural implements, and said that the farmers generally were willing to pay a fair duty on such articles, for raising a revenue.

Mr. Tibbitts was glad that the Government had acted as they had done, as it was a step in the right direction. He hoped that the House would adopt the duties as recommended by them; if anything he thought them rather too low. He would like a scale of duties that would raise the revenue from £250,000 to £300,000. Then the Government would be prepared to go on with public works, and build more substantial Bridges, such as would not be giving away every year. He knew the duties to be much lower in this Province than in Canada.

Mr. Cutler observed that the manner in which the Hon Provincial Secretary had acquitted himself was very creditable, but the course pursued by the Government was not just such as he had expected; for he had expected them to have come down with a revenue Bill and stand by it, and take the responsibility.

Hon Surveyor General would be willing to take the vote on each class of items, if the Committee would agree to that, but supposed that they would not, as his Hon Colleague (Mr. Boyd,) wished to take up each item separate and give his opinion.

After a few remarks from his Honor the Speaker, and Hon Messrs. Johnson and Ritchie, and Messrs. Gray, Montgomery, Hatheway, Wilmot, and Harding, the Chairman reported progress, to stand as the order of the day for Monday next.

On motion it was agreed that 200 copies of the Schedule with the figures be printed for the use of the Legislature.

House adjourned at 5 o'clock.

Thursday, 22nd Feby.

A short discussion arose in reference to Charles Bartlett's Petition, respecting a road in York County.

Honble Mr. Connell laid the following resolution on the Table, for the information of Hon Members, which he gave notice that he intended to move as an amendment to a resolution moved by Mr. Boyd, some days since. Whereas on the day of February inst., by command of his Excellency the Lt. Governor, was laid before this House by Message, a Report of the Commissioners appointed to take into consideration the state and condition of Kings College,—which report embraces various recommendations, with reference to the Educational establishment of this Province.

Therefore Resolved, as the opinion of this House, That it is one of the first and most important duties of the Legislature to provide for the Education of the Youth of this Province;—and that in order to give effect to the wishes of the people in this respect, this House is of opinion that it is the duty of the Government to lay before this House such a scheme as will not only provide for the Education of the Youth, in the higher branches usually taught in Universities; and also make ample provision for the Common schools of the Province, in order that every child within its precincts may have the means of being educated placed within its reach; and also provide that the Teachers be properly remunerated, so as to secure, as far as possible, men of the best ability; and in every school the Scriptures shall be publicly recognized and taught; And that after the 1st day of January 1856, no further Grant will be made by this House for any Denominational or Sectarian School.

The following is Mr. Boyd's resolution;—

Resolved, as the opinion of this House, that the practice of granting money for the support of Denominational and private schools, has caused great dissatisfaction throughout the Province. And whereas the monies so granted are the monies of the whole people, and not of any denomination or Sectarian portion of them, therefore resolved that in future, this House will not make any further provision in aid of, or for the support of any denominational Academy or College.

Mr. Steadman moved for the incorporation of the European and North American Railway Company.

Mr. Connell presented a petition from the Warden, and Municipality of the County of Carleton, praying that an act may pass to prevent the Manufacture, Importation, and Sale of Intoxicating liquors, referred to the Temperance Committee.

Mr. Steadman brought in a Bill relating to the appointment of the commissioners of Sewers in the County of Westmoreland.

Hon. Attorney General said that he would move the House into a Committee of the whole, on the election bill, his object for doing so was merely to read it through, and then report progress, and tomorrow go into discussion of it.—Agreed to.

Hon Mr. Johnson Chairman of the Victoria Scrutiny, made a report. That the Committee had on the first day met and appointed him chairman, and had also met to-day and from evidence before them found it necessary to have the Clerk of the Peace for Victoria, and the Poll Books, present & had made an order to that effect; and that they had adjourned over not to meet again until the 20th March next.—James Tibbitts Esqr., the sitting member, having made it appear to the satisfaction of the committee, that it was necessary to do so.—Report received and adopted.

Progress made in the St. John Protestant Orphan Asylum Bill.

This bill elicited considerable discussion.—Hon Messrs. Ritchie, Brown, Johnson, and Mr. End thought that the Theological code ought to be struck out of it.

Hon Provincial Secretary, and Messrs. Street, Wilmot, Gray, and Ryan, thought that as all the parties asked for was an Act of Incorporation, in order that they might erect suitable buildings, for the maintenance of destitute orphan children, and did not ask for any money, there ought to be no objections to it. They however would have no objections to have progress reported, in order to give Hon Members further time to examine the Bill if it was desired.

A Bill to incorporate the St. Croix lower Bridge Company recommended, and caused some discussion.

Mr. McAdam had from interested motives al-

ways opposed the passage of such a Bill, but when elected as one of the representatives for Charlotte, he told his constituents that nothing of a personal nature should prevent him from doing that which would be for the public good. (Hear, hear.) He therefore intended to support the measure, and hoped Hon Members would assist him in it, in order that the bill might pass.

Mr. Boyd observed that he had not the same objections to the bill that he formerly had, but would like that progress be reported for a few days, to give time for him to hear from some of his constituents on the subject.

Hon Surveyor General, and Messrs. Hayward and Tibbitts supported the measure; and Messrs. Wilmot and Hatheway opposed it on the grounds, that it would interfere with the navigation of the river St. Croix.

Progress reported, and the House adjourned.

Friday, 23rd February.

When a Bill came up for a third reading to divide the Parish of Chipman in Queens County,—Mr. Gilbert said that he was not aware that there was such a Bill on the files of the House, having been absent for some time, he therefore had not had an opportunity to look into it. Last year his constituents censured him very highly for voting for a measure that deprived them of electing their own Parish Officers, notwithstanding when the law first passed, because he was favourable to it, he was told by them that he wanted to introduce Republican principles into the country. Since last year on account of his constituents censuring him as they did, he had made up his mind, not to support any measure that would make any particular change in the country, unless they petitioned for it.

Mr. Lunt remarked that he had made enquiry from some of the people living in the Parishes, and they were in favour of the measure; that was the reason why he said nothing on the Bill, when in Committee. He as a freeholder, in that County felt it his duty to make the enquiry that he did, and was satisfied that the people required the division to be made.

Mr. Gilbert would have to vote against it, if pressed now. The Bill to stand over until to-morrow, to give the Member an opportunity to look into it.

Mr. Wilmot moved that a select Committee be appointed to take into consideration the Petition of John Sears of St. John, relating to Copper Coin.

Hon. Mr. Smith observed that the matter underwent last year, a very careful investigation by a Committee, and £90 was recommended and passed in supply. Therefore he did not think that the House ought to be troubled with it again.

Mr. Wilmot said that Mr. Sears had other information to give, and had not taken the £90, as he did not consider that sufficient.

Mr. Kerr took the same view as the Honorable Mr. Smith, that it would not answer to receive Petitions year after year on the same subject, after being fully investigated.

Mr. Ryan said if the subject will bear investigation, he could see no objections to having a Committee appointed.

Mr. English would not vote to have a Committee, but thought that there ought to be some limits to receiving Petitions, say after a matter had received two or three investigations; after that he thought that Petitions on the same subject ought to be excluded.

Mr. End thought that to deprive persons of the right of Petition, would be one of the last things that he would think of. He would support the motion. Messrs. Wilmot, Gilmour, End, Gilbert and Purdy, a Committee for that purpose.

Mr. Cutler reported that his Excellency was pleased to say in reference to the Custom's Departments, that he would cause the correspondence to be laid before the house; and in reference to the Deputy Treasurers, he would consult with his Council.

The Albert Scrutiny committee reported that they had issued an order for the clerk of the county, with the poll Books, and the Sheriff to appear before them on Friday, 2nd March, and that they had adjourned over to meet again on Thursday, 1st March.—Report accepted.

Election bill taken up 1-2 past 1 o'clock, Mr. McLeod in the Chair.

Hon Attorney General observed that it had been very justly said that this was one of the most im-

portant bills that would come before the Legislature during the present Session. He had been requested to state the policy the Government intended to pursue while the present bill was under discussion. He did not think it a very hard matter for any Government to define a certain policy in a country with only two hundred thousand inhabitants, but he considered the best criterion to judge a Government by was their acts, and the measures they they brought forward for the benefit of the Country. The Hon Provincial Secretary had a few days ago gone into the Financial state of the country. Now he (the Hon Attorney General) intended to go into the Elective Franchise. Perhaps he would not be willing to extend the Franchise as far as some Hon members might desire, and perhaps there were others who might think that the present bill went too far; but he wished to take a medium course, such as that laid down by the bill now before the committee. As for universal suffrage under existing circumstances, and at the present time he abhorred it. He would not pretend to say that this was a perfect measure, but he and his colleagues in the Government thought that it was such as would be applicable to the present state of the country. It should be remembered that from the first settlement of the Country to '41 there had been no change in the election law. Then the fifteen days system was reduced down to eight days which system continued until 46 or 47, when the present law passed; still the Franchise remained the same notwithstanding the population had increased; also the revenues, and the trade of the country. He thought it high time that a change should take place in this respect.

The principle changes proposed by the present bill were Registration of Voters, Vote by ballot, and the persons authorised to vote are those having real estate to the amount of £25, Personal estate £100, or Annual income £100. The Hon Member fully explained the leading features of the bill. He thought that the universal suffrage system of Nova Scotia would be found to work bad, and that they had got from bad to worse.—He hoped that the measure would be met with a spirit of fairness; and also every measure brought in by the Government. What they required was a fair field, and no favor. The measures that they would bring down from time to time, would have to the greatest number of persons. The Hon Attorney General concluded his speech, by explaining the electoral system of England and the United States; and stated that all elections that took place in England, except members of Parliament, was under the ballot system, therefore it could not be said to be anti British.

Mr. Boyd had been instructed by his constituents, to keep the Election Law as it was, or go down to the foot of the ladder, and give a more general system of voting. He was decidedly in favour of a registration of voters, and vote by ballot. No one had suffered more than he had done for want of such a system, by having to defend himself in a scrutiny for over two years. If he could not get such a measure as he desired he would go for the present Bill.

Mr. Street wished to speak on the subject, but as his time had been taken up by other matters, he would rather not do so until to-morrow, and would move that the Chairman report progress.—Agreed to.

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