

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES.

FROM MR. TAYLOR'S REPORTS.

Wednesday, 14th Feb., 1855.

A short discussion arose on a Petition being presented by the Hon. Solicitor General, on account of a building being set fire to, by a pauper, and burnt.

The Honble Member, could not support the prayer of the petition without further information. Petition received and ordered to be laid on the table.

Honble Attorney General, brought in a Bill to amend the Municipal Act, as far as relates to the County of York.

Mr. Hatheway brought in a Bill to amend, and increase the Capital Stock of the Fredericton Boom Company.

Mr. English, presented a Petition from James Stickney, and fifty-one others, praying for a Prohibitory Liquor Law.

The Hon. Member did not expect to receive any Petitions on the subject as, the Temperance Community generally throughout the Province, had made up their minds, not to Petition on the subject this year, after the way they had been treated by the House last year, but as the Petition had been sent to him, he felt it his duty to present it. Received and referred to the Temperance Committee.

Hon. Attorney General, by command of His Excellency, laid before the House, certain Returns relative to Mining Leases.

Mr. Partelow, presented a Petition from F. Thibodeau, L. R. Coombs, and three hundred and eight others, praying that the Return of the Sheriff for the County of Victoria may be confirmed, and that James Tibbets, Esqr., may be allowed to hold his seat.

Mr. Partelow also presented a Petition from James Tibbets, Esqr., praying that an investigation of the votes of Francis Rice, Esqr., be gone into. Received.

Mr. Partelow arose and said, that in consequence of the death of the Honble Thos. Gilbert, of Queens County, Member of the Legislative Council, and for many years Member of the House of Assembly, he would move that the Members of this House do go into suitable mourning for thirty days.

Hon. Surveyor General had for many years sat in the House of Assembly, with Mr. Gilbert, and also in the Legislative Council, and although he might have differed with him in many things, he considered him a good Representative, and had much pleasure in seconding the motion.

Mr. Taylor brought in a Bill to authorize the issuing of Debentures, for the purpose of aiding the rebuilding a part of the City of Fredericton.

Honble Solicitor General, would like to know what the object of the Honble Member was.

Mr. Taylor would answer, that it was well known that a large part of the City of Fredericton had been destroyed by fire in July last, and the object contemplated was to assist parties, in putting up fire proof buildings. Some had already done so, while there were others who required a loan for that purpose.

A long discussion took place on a Petition moved by Mr. Tibbets, for a grant of money to assist in building a Bridge over Salmon River, in the County of Victoria.

Messrs. Connell, English, Tibbets, Honble Surveyor General, and others, contended that the inhabitants living at Salmon River, were peculiarly situated, as they lived on the Eastern side of the river, and had to go up to the Grand Falls, some miles out of the way, in order to get down to Woodstock, which would be avoided by building a Bridge over Salmon River, and that a special grant was required for that purpose.

Mr. Ryan and others, said that the Petition could be taken before the Road Committee, by the Hon. Member, and that it would not be treating other Members fairly, to receive this Petition and refer it to the Road Committee, while others had been rejected. On the question being taken the Petition was rejected.

Mr. Partelow presented a Petition from Bishop Connolly, praying for a grant of money to aid in supporting the Orphan Children, left destitute in consequence of the ravages of the Cholera in Portland, and the City of Saint John, last summer. No Bills committed, and no Debate of importance.

House adjourned at 5 o'clock.

THURSDAY, 15th Feb. 1855.

A discussion arose on a Petition, introduced by Honble Provincial Secretary, from the Rev. Mr. Ferry, requiring the usual grant, in support of

Coloured Childrens' School. On motion that the Petition be referred to Committee of Supply,—Messrs. Connell, End, Montgomery, McPhelim, and Boyd, thought that all such Petitions ought to be laid before the School Committee for investigation, and that they should not be referred to Committee of Supply.

Mr. Harding brought in a Bill relating to the debt and property, of the City of Saint John.

SCHOOL PETITIONS.

Mr. End, moved a Resolution that all School Petitions, heretofore, referred to a Committee of Supply, be referred to the School Committee to report thereon. The Honble Member stated that as this was a new House he wanted to start fair, and serve all parties alike, and not give a preference to a few favourites to the exclusion of others. The Country expected even handed justice at their hands, and he hoped that they would get it; and plenty of it too. He did not intend to oppose any of those petitions if they possessed any merit, neither did he think it a good reason to refer them to the Committee of Supply merely because the old House had done so. He was Chairman of the School Committee, and as far as he was concerned would show no favoritism.

Mr. Wilmot, could not see any reason why those Petitions should be referred to the School Committee, there were but a few cases, and the practice had been to refer them to the Committee of Supply at once.

Honble Attorney General, hoped that his Hon. friend from Gloucester, would not press his motion. In many instances where parties petitioned, it was for work already performed; and they had frequently bought and sold on the strength of it.

Mr. Connell differed from some of the remarks that had been made. He thought all School Petitions should go before the School Committee, for investigation, as it would save a great deal of the time of the House. He considered this mode of granting money wrong altogether; and that some new system should be introduced, for under the present system the out Counties did not get their fair share of School money. He would support the Resolution, and all claims that were good he would support them. He believed that unless a better system was adopted, they would not have properly qualified Teachers throughout the Country.

Mr. Hatheway, did not think this the proper time, to discuss the present School law. All would agree that a change was highly necessary, and he would go as far as any-body to break down the present system. But he was surprised that some of those Honorable Members who complained so loudly did not bring in a Bill to remedy the evil. Mr. End this is a beginning. He, (Mr. Hatheway) did not think it a proper way to begin, if it would have the effect of breaking down all denominational grants, he would support it even if it took £300, from the Wesleyan Academy, and £250 from the Baptist Seminary, it should have his sanction, as he considered all such grants improper.

Hon. Mr. Montgomery was not surprised that the Honble Member from York, (Mr. Hatheway,) was getting alarmed, as it might have the effect of preventing Fredericton and Saint John from getting more than their proper share, as had been the case heretofore. He fully agreed with the remarks made by the Honble Member from Carleton (Mr. Connell,) and would support the Resolution.

Mr. Tibbets thought that there was as great necessity for a revision in the mode of receiving Petitions in that House, as in the Laws. He did not think that there would be any harm in letting the Petitions go before the School Committee for investigation, and if they possessed merit, justice would be done then.

Mr. Boyd, observed that it was his intention soon to move a Resolution, to sweep off all those denominational grants in the Province, for he considered that if People would have them, they ought to support them out of their own pockets.—He would refer Honble Members to Mr. Ryerson's Report, to see how they were supported in Canada.

Mr. McPhelim thought that if those Denominational Grants were wrong, the sooner the Hon. Member from Charlottetown brought up his Resolution the better. He thought that when he did do so, he would find but few supporters, and that there would be found a large majority to throw it out. (Mr. Boyd, then I will be in a glorious Minroity.) He, (Mr. McPhelim,) thought that such would be the case, and that any Honorable Member who would support such a measure at the present time would soon snuff himself out of Political existence. (Mr. Hatheway, not in York) He Mr. McPhelim was not so sure of that. He

thought all School Petitions should go before the School Committee, and all past claims would be reported favorably on, and no doubt the House would pass them.

Mr. Partelow did not care whether the Resolution passed or not, as there were but four or five cases altogether; and they had been before the House for years.

Mr. Cutler,—If all School claims were to be referred to the School Committee, he would support the Resolution. He had always gone for all Denominational Grants, as he believed by piling on the brush in this way, the system after awhile, would tumble down. If the Resolution was only intended to apply to a few cases he would oppose it, but if to all, it should receive his support.

Mr. End thought that all school claims should go before the School Committee. He did not consider that justice had been done to the resolution, or his motives in bringing it forward. He had no intention of attacking Denominational schools. If any Honble Members supposed that he intended by the resolution to attack the Roman Catholic School, the Baptist Seminary, or the Wesleyan Academy they were mistaken. All he desired was, that all School Petitions should be properly investigated, and even-handed justice dealt out to all parties. On the question being taken, the resolution was lost by a small majority.

Mr. McAdam brought in three bills, 1st to Incorporate St. Stephens Church, 2d to Incorporate the St. Stephens Bridge Company, and 3d to Incorporate Midland Bridge Company.

Honble Provincial Secretary, by command of his Excellency laid before the House certain Returns, relating to Light Houses, Roads, Bridges &c.

House adjourned at 1 1-2 o'clock.

Friday, 16 Feb.

Mr. Lunt from Sunbury, obtained leave of absence till Monday next.

Mr. Ferris asked that the Rule might be suspended, in order that he might have an opportunity, to present a petition from W. F. Bonnell Esqr., Post Master, Gagetown, praying for an increase of Salary.—Not complied with.

Mr. Boyd asked why the Custom House returns had not been laid before the House before now? It had in former years been the practice to lay such returns before the House the first week in the Session, but this year, sixteen days had passed, and it had not been done. He would like the Honble Provincial Secretary to explain why such had not been done.

Honble Provincial Secretary said that the returns, had not been received from St. John; but that they had been received from St. Andrews a few days ago; and when they were received from St. John, which he expected would be the case in a few days, they would all be laid before the Legislature.

Mr. Connell had received a Petition this morning from Joseph Phillips which was of great importance to the parties, he would move for the suspension of the rule in order for its reception. He had received a Telegraph dispatch, that the petition had been mailed on Wednesday; what caused the delay he could not tell. He however hoped that the House would accept the explanation and receive the petition, as there was new evidence, that had not been before the House.—Not received.

Progress made in a bill to Incorporate the St. John Orphan Protestant Society.

Honble Provincial Secretary observed that a large number of influential citizens of Saint John, wished to make provision for the destitute orphans who had been made so in consequence of the scourge that visited that city last year. The Bishop of St John had made provision for those in connection with his Church; and other denominations wished to do the same. All that was asked for was an act of Incorporation for the purpose of holding property, and erecting suitable Buildings. A large sum had already been subscribed, and it was expected to reach £5,000.

Mr. Harding expected that a more noble scheme would have been introduced, one that would not possess anything like a sectarian character. He could not go for a measure of this kind, that went to incorporate certain Denominations to the exclusion of others. In the United States the different states had Institutions, as contemplated by the present Bill, that were supported out of the state funds, and where all denominations were treated alike; but in Saint John they had no such thing as an Infirmary or proper hospital; nothing but a Poor House. He could not support the Bill in its present shape; but a measure for all classes he would go for it.

Mr. Ryan said when it was taken into consideration, the awful calamity, that visited Saint John

last year, he was surprised to find any opposition to the present Bill. It must be evident to all, that a large number of orphans had been left destitute; and that it was necessary that some provision should be made for their protection; he should therefore support it, and hoped that it would pass. Progress reported.

A Bill to amend the Act of the South West Boom Company. And a Bill relating to the Municipality of the County of York,—committed and passed.

Progress made in the following Bills.—A Bill relating to the Nashwaak Boom Company.—A Bill relating to the Fredericton Boom Company.—A Bill to Incorporate the Saint Stephens Church, Saint Stephens.—And a Bill to encourage the destruction of Bears.

Mr. Street would like Honble members, to pay a little attention to the bill, particularly Honble Members from the County of Charlotte, whose constituents had no doubt received much benefit from the operation of the Law. The present bill is the same as the old Law, except wolves are excluded, and that no person should receive a bounty unless they killed at least two or three bears in the same season. If the bill passed, encouragement would be given to the Indians to make a business of it.

Messrs. English, McLeod, McPhelim, and Steadman did not think that the passing of such a bill, would be the means of their being one more bear killed, for people were in the habit of destroying them when found in their neighborhood, without a Bounty.

Mr. Sutton was glad that his Honble Colleague, had introduced the bill, as something ought to be done for the destruction of Bears. In many places they were very destructive. In Northumberland Sheep and Cattle had been killed; and also in the adjoining County of York. He however, thought that a bounty should be given for the destruction of one bear as well as two.—After a few remarks from other Honble Members, progress reported.

House adjourned at 1 o'clock.

English and Foreign.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

In the House of Commons, on the 26th ult., Lord John Russel explained the circumstances under which he had resigned office in the government, and as the subject is one of some interests, we subjoin an abstract of his remarks:—

He said that he found it impossible to resist the motion for inquiry into the state of the army before Sebastopol, and into the conduct of the military departments at home. The accounts which arrived of the state of the army were horrible, and they could not be denied. There was something in the accounts from the Crimea, inexplicable.—If any one had told him last year that an army so finely appointed, only seven miles from the sea and from a secure port, would at this moment be in want of food, clothes, and shelter to such a degree that the men were perishing at the rate of 80 to 100 per day, he should have said that such an idea was preposterous; but so it was; and he assigned various reasons why he could not resist inquiry. When the office of secretary at war was separated from that of the colonies, Lord Aberdeen proposed that the Duke of Newcastle should take the new office. He concurred, but during the recess it struck him that a better arrangement of the war department ought to be made, in accordance with the recommendations of several commissions and the pledges of the government in October and November. He had a correspondence with Lord Aberdeen on the subject. He suggested, on the 17th of November that the departments of secretary-at-war and secretary of the war department should be consolidated and placed in the hands of a privy councillor and member of that house. He further suggested that Lord Palmerston should be appointed to that consolidated office before the present meeting of parliament. Lord Aberdeen replied, on the 21st November, that he should not remove the Duke of Newcastle for Lord Palmerston, as it would involve a dislocation of the whole government. On the 28th, he again wrote to Lord Aberdeen, urging that, as the premier did not take an active part in the conduct of the war, the minister of war should be an energetic person who had experience in such a department; but Lord Aberdeen replied that he could not make such a recommendation to the Queen in justice to the Duke of Newcastle. He (Lord John Russel) consulted friends, upon whose judgment he relied, as to the course he should pursue, and, acting on their advice, he pursued the matter no further. The doubt at that time on his mind was, whether he ought not then to have resigned; but his friends, and among them Lord Palmerston, urged him not to bring the matter to such