

## PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES.

FROM MR. TAYLOR'S REPORT.

Monday, 5 February, 1855.

After reading the Journals, and the reception of several petitions, Mr. Boyd asked whether members of the Legislature, were to make use of the Telegraph wires, during the Session at the public expense? The reason why he made the enquiry was, he went to the office with a dispatch, and offered to pay for it, and was told that he need not do so, as there was an account opened with the House of Assembly. He hoped that such would not be allowed, and that every member would pay for his dispatches out of his own pocket.

Mr. Connell, was glad that the subject had been brought up, and did not think it right to have such an account opened, with the Telegraph office, as it would be liable to a great deal of abuse, he had been in the habit of sending dispatches, and paid for them himself, but on one occasion was told that there was an account against the House. He thought that if members were allowed to use the Telegraph wires when they pleased at the public expense, there would be found to be a bill at the end of the Session, against the Province, of several hundred pounds. Now he hoped that it would be put a stop to at once, and let the operator in the office know, that the House would pay no such bill. He had heard it said, that the Legislative Council were in the habit of sending dispatches and charging the amount in the contingent expenses. He thought that the contingent expenses of that branch of the Legislature, ought to be more fully investigated.

After a few more observations from some other members, it was fully understood that no such account would be allowed.

Mr. Street brought in a Bill, to encourage the destruction of Bears in this Province.

A short discussion arose on the subject of the room, used by the Master of the Rolls in the Province Building, members generally being of opinion that the room ought to be used, for the Library, and that the Master of the Rolls, should be called upon to give it up.

Mr. Ryan Chairman of the committee on the Address in answer to the speech, reported, that His Excellency was pleased to say, that he would receive a Committee of the whole House at 2 o'clock.

Mr. Tibbits, asked that the time might be extended, to Tuesday the 20th inst, in the Scrutiny, in which he was interested, as he had telegraphed for a copy of the Poll Books, and had received an answer that they could not be prepared and give him time to be ready before the 20th inst.—He was not very well acquainted with the proceedings of Scrutinies, but, thought that the House would be willing to give him the time asked for.—Granted.

Hon. Mr. Smith on the subject of Reporting and Publishing the Debates, made a Report, to the following effect; that the Committee had received an offer from John Graham, to furnish two thousand copies of the Debates for £207. And that William Grigor and John G. Lorimer agreed to report for £100. The report was signed by all the Committee, and recommended it for the adoption of the House. The House resolved itself into a Committee of the whole, on the subject. Mr. End in the chair. Messrs Connell, Montgomery, and others opposed the reception of the Report, on the grounds that satisfaction, had not been given by former Contractors.

Hon. Mr. Brown thought a better scheme, could not be adopted and would go for accepting the report.

On the question being taken the report was sustained 18 to 13.

When the Speaker resumed the chair, Mr. McPhelim moved that a part of the Debates be published in French. Mr. Connell would support the motion, as he thought that it was no more than just, that such should be the case, in order that the French inhabitants might be able to read the proceedings of the Legislature in their own language.

The hour of 2 o'clock having come, the members proceeded to Government House. On their return the Hon. Attorney General, by command of His Excellency, laid before the House, several Messages, one relative to a grant of money towards the Patriotic fund, and moved that on Thursday next the House do go into committee of Supply, and that such message be referred to the Committee of Supply.

House adjourned.

Tuesday, 6th February, 1855.

Mr. Stevens brought in a Bill to reduce the omission of Supervisors of Great Roads.

Mr. Street asked for leave to introduce a gentleman, who had for eight years, been a Speaker of the House of Assembly, to a seat in the House, Members generally acquiescing. The Hon. Mr. Welden was introduced, and took a seat on the right, and in front of the Speaker's desk.

Hon. Attorney General brought in a Bill to divide the Parish of Dumfries, into two separate Parishes.

Mr. McPhelim, again moved his resolution of yesterday, that a certain portion of the Debates be published in the French language, for the use of the French inhabitants of this Province. The Hon. Gentleman observed that the French population amounted to about fifty-six thousand, he therefore thought in justice to them, that the House should make provision, in order that they might be able to read in their own language, the sayings and doings of their Representatives.

Mr. McNaughton, was glad that his Hon. friend from Kent, had brought forward the subject, and he did not think that there would be any great difficulty in accomplishing the matter, as he had understood, that there were two gentlemen in connection with the Press in Fredericton, competent to translate the Debates into the French language. The Hon. Surveyor General had made some objection, on account of the cost and impracticability of doing it, and said that those who spoke the Gaelic language, would have the same right to have a portion of the Debates published in their language as well as the French. He could not agree with him in that respect, as probably there was not a gentleman in the House, but who would like to speak the French language, and would care nothing about the Gaelic. He for one would not at any rate. In the Parish of Carleton, in his County, sixty per cent of the inhabitants could read French, and could not read the English language.

Hon. Attorney General did not intend to oppose the Resolution, if it was thought to be really necessary; but he thought the first thing that ought to be done was, to make proper provision to have the Debates reported, and published in plain English, after which he thought that it would require a staff of competent persons to translate them into the French language. He cared but little about it, as far as he was concerned; but if those gentlemen who partly represented French constituencies, wished it, and it could be carried out without too much expense, he would not offer any opposition.

Mr. End, would be one of the first to oppose the measure if he thought that it would in the slightest degree have a tendency to prevent the Anglo-fication, of the different classes in the Province. He thought that the reverse would be the case, and that it would have a direct tendency to advance Education. He would be willing to have all classes in the country, no matter what language they spoke, to have an opportunity to read, and know for themselves, what was doing in the Legislature as far as practicable.

Mr. Partelow said, as arrangements had already been made, to have the Debates published, a Committee ought to be appointed to ascertain what the probable cost would be to have a portion of them published in French, and would move an amendment for that purpose.

Hon. Mr. Brown did not object to the measure yesterday, and neither would he do so now, if it was thought advisable, and could be carried out. He merely said he thought that the English language should be taught, and preserved as much as possible. When he examined the Schools in Westmorland, as one of the Commissioners, he found that a great many of the French could read the English language. As to the Counties of Kent, and Gloucester, he did not know so much about them. The Hon. Member, Mr. McNaughton, had misunderstood him, he did not say that the Scotch would have as good right to have the Debates published in Gaelic, he merely mentioned the circumstance, that they might be called upon by others who could not speak English, to furnish the Debates in their language. He believed that there were but few Scotch in the Province but what could read English, although there were some who could not do so. Why he spoke yesterday on the subject was, he was afraid by moving the Resolution it would upset the whole arrangement of reporting and publishing the Debates, entered into. He was an old hand in the House, and had seen such things done. He thought the Resolution a proper one if it could be carried out.

Mr. Cutler had no doubt as to the practicability of the subject, and hoped the Resolution would pass.

Hon. Mr. Smith, observed that it was an act of justice due those people, to give them a share of the Debates in their own language. Whatever course the subject took, he did not think it would

interfere with the arrangements entered into yesterday, as the Committee had reported, and the House had adopted their Report; and directions had been given the Reporters and Publisher, and they had entered upon their duties. He however thought that a new Committee ought to be appointed.

Mr. Hatheway thought that all the children of the Province, from this time forth, ought to be educated in the English language. He would like to know from the Hon. Members who represented the French constituencies, whether they expected to have an equal share of the English Debates, as well as those printed in French, if so he would oppose the Resolution, as that would be unfair, (you may have a portion of them from Mr. McPhelim.) He (Mr. Hatheway) did not want any, but would be willing to take his part of those printed in the English language.

Mr. Tibbits was not going to argue as to how such Debates were to be divided, but would say that he was not prepared to hear that the French population was so large as that stated by the Hon. Member from Kent. In common justice to those fifty thousand persons, he hoped arrangements would be made to give them in their own language a fair proportion of the Debates, that they might be able to read for themselves what their Representatives were doing, they were our fellow subjects, in every sense of the word; and had a just right to have an equal share of the public moneys and everything else, as much so as the English population. Some Hon. Members thought, that many of them would not read the Reports of Debates if they got them. He thought otherwise.—He believed that the most of them would almost give their eyes out of their head, to have an opportunity of reading for themselves in their own language, what was doing in the Legislature. It would also assist to educate them, and aid very much in introducing Municipal Corporations in those Counties.

On the question being taken on the amendment, the House divided—Yeas, 16. Nays, 15.

Mr. Connell moved that the same Committee be appointed, as they had arranged for the other Reports. He thought they understood the matter well, and probably would do better than a new Committee.

His Honor the Speaker, then appointed the same Committee, when the Hon. Mr. Smith declared most positively, that he would not serve. (Sensation.)

Col. Hayward was surprised at the Honorable Member of the Government, in making the declaration he did. He would remind him that when he first introduced the subject of reporting, he merely asked him playfully if it was introduced as a Government measure. The Hon. Member turned around and looked very wise, and said it was just such a question as he would expect to be asked by the Hon. Member from Sunbury, and would impute it to his ignorance. Now, he (Col. Hayward) would not only impute the Hon. Member's declaration to his ignorance, but also to his impudence, in answering the Speaker as he did. (Sensation and cries of order.) He, (Col. Hayward) could stand a great deal, (so you can from Mr. Partelow.) Well, well, he could stand a great deal in various ways, and he did not think that the Hon. Member of the Government, was justified, in answering him as he did the other day. Perhaps as a Member of the Government, he considered himself justified, but he thought otherwise.

Hon. Mr. Smith, observed that if there was an Hon. Member in the House, to whom the word impudent would apply, it was the Honorable Member from Sunbury. He would merely say that he did not intend any disrespect to the House, in saying that he would not serve on the Committee, (I will receive it as an apology if you will acknowledge that you did not know any better, from Col. Hayward.) He (Mr. Smith) would make no such apology, but he did not think it right that he should be forced to serve on the Committee against his will, when there were plenty of others just as capable. Here the subject dropped, and Mr. McNaughton appointed a Member of the Committee instead of Mr. Smith.

The House adjourned.

Wednesday, 7 Feb., 1855.

Hon. Provincial Secretary laid before the House, by command of His Excellency, a message relative to the Audit office, and other heads of Departments.

Hon. Mr. Connell would move that the documents, be printed in the daily Journals, in order to give the country, the information they contained, especially those having reference to figures.

His Hon. the Speaker would give no particular order until after Hon. Members had an opportunity

of examining them, to see what part they would have printed.

Mr. End would not like to impose a task on the printer, that he would be unable to perform, and thought the suggestion of the Hon. Speaker a good one, as it might be found unnecessary after the examination, to print the whole of the dispatch.

Mr. Connell's object was to afford that information to the country, as to the state of the Province, that the people wanted. He would, therefore, press his motion.

Mr. Gray would also like to see the despatch printed, provided it could be done without delaying the Journals too long.

Hon. Provincial Secretary gave some information as to the Finances of the country, it had been stated by some that the Province was virtually out of debt, but the truth of the matter was, there was really a debt of a Hundred thousand Pounds.—Ninety-five thousand pounds of which, was due to the different Savings Banks. If those claims were not to be paid, still there would be a balance of five thousand pounds.—The Hon. Member stated that £171,000, and a little upward, would be required for the public service, for the current year, and if a new Revenue Law was based on the present one, there would in all probability, judging from the present depressed state of trade, be a deficiency of about ten thousand pounds. He would inform Hon. Members, that if it was the wish of the House, that the Government should propose a Revenue Bill, they would not shrink from that duty.

Mr. Connell gave notice of his intention to move an address in reference to a Road in the County of Carleton.

Mr. Tibbits gave a similar notice in reference to a Road in Victoria.

Mr. Boyd presented a petition from Ruben Stiles, a candidate at the last election in Albert County, praying that the Sheriff's return may be set aside, and a writ for a new election ordered.

Mr. Gilbert observed, that as the conduct of the Sheriff was impugned, he should have notice of the charges preferred against him, and should receive a copy of the Petition, in order that he might have an opportunity of rebutting them, by being heard at the bar of the House. He had no hesitation in saying, that if he was guilty of the charges alleged against him, the sooner he was dismissed from his office the better.

Hon. Mr. Ritchie presumed that the necessary bonds had been filed; for if the Sheriff could rebut the charges, it would not be right to put him to such expense, as he would certainly be put to, by coming here, and have to pay them out of his own pocket, neither would it be right to pay them out of the public funds.

Mr. McLelan had no doubt that the reports put in circulation against the Sheriff, could be satisfactorily refuted, if time were given him to do so.

Hon. Mr. Brown, remembered once of being in a similar situation, the first thing to be done was to furnish the Sheriff with a copy of the Petition, and if he could not rebut the charges, it might be the means of upsetting the whole election. If so, there would be no necessity of going into a scrutiny.

On motion of Mr. Gilbert, it was agreed to send a copy of the petition to the Sheriff.

Difference of opinion seemed to exist between some Hon. Members as to leaving the matter to the same committee as that of Lewis vs. McLelan. After some discussion, as it seemed to have matters connected with it, of rather an extraordinary nature, it was decided to refer the Petition to the Committee of Privileges.

Mr. Harding moved a resolution, to the following effect, that the Government will for the future bring down a revenue Bill.

Hon. Mr. Brown observed that as such a proceeding was new, he hoped Hon. Members would be called to their places, before the question was taken. He hoped that they would not only be able to get up a good Tariff, but a Revenue Bill for four years.

Mr. End had every confidence in the present Government, but he did not wish to invest them with too much power at once, such as would take all the power out of the hands of the Committee of ways and means. He was glad to hear that the present Government would not shrink from bringing down a Revenue Bill, he hoped that they would not shrink from any duty.

Mr. Wilmot had always been of opinion, ever since he had been a member of the House, that it was the duty of the Government to bring down a Revenue Bill, and thought the Government deserved credit when they declared their willingness to do so.

Mr. Tibbits was glad to hear that the Government was prepared, and would not shrink from the task of framing a Revenue Bill. He consid-