

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES.

FROM MR. TAYLOR'S REPORTS.

[Continued from 6th page.]

Saturday, 10th March, 1855.

The House went into a Committee of the whole on a Bill introduced by Mr. Connell to incorporate the New Brunswick Mining Company.

Mr. Connell stated that the bill was a transcript of a Law that ceased to exist last summer. The capital of the Company to be £30,000. Fifteen per cent to be paid down. And the stock to be divided into shares of £25 each.—Bill agreed to.

A Bill committed to facilitate the operations of the New Brunswick Mining Company.

Mr. Connell fully explained the objects of the bill, by stating that Mr. Stevens went to England last summer, saw several parties there who would have advanced capital, but on examining into the matter it was ascertained that the Law was about expiring; and they would not do so until another act passed. The present bill was an exact copy of the Law Incorporating the York and Carleton Mining Company, with the exception that Mr. Stevens name was inserted in this. He was anxious to have it pass at once, in order that Mr. Stevens might go immediately to England, which we doubt would be the means of introducing a large amount of capital into the country, which all must admit was very desirable.

Mr. End would be willing to give every facility for the purpose of introducing capital into the country, and opening up its resources. He was aware that a few years ago a bill passed to incorporate the York and Carleton Mining Company, which did but little good to anybody. He would like to get further information as to what effect the present bill would have, and whether it would go to lock up any more of the lands of the country; if so he would oppose it as there was far too much locked up already.

Hon. Solicitor General was as anxious as any one to open up the resources of the country, but he wanted to take the proper steps to do so. And in order to obtain further information he would move that the chairman report progress, and that the bill be referred to the Mining Committee.

Hon. Mr. Smith had little doubt but what the bill was all right; but the subject was a very difficult one to deal with, and he would like to have further information, and also in reference to the lease given to Mr. Wolhaupter.

Mr. Connell, in answer to the question of the Hon. Member from Gloucester, (Mr. End,) would inform the committee that the bill would not lock up any lands, as Mr. Stevens was the owner of it. He felt anxious for the reasons that he had already given to have the bill pass now.

Mr. Steadman thought that the right to all mining operations should be in the owners of the soil; and that if Mr. Stevens was the owner of the soil he was better without the present bill than with it.

Hon. Surveyor General believed that the object of the mover of the present bill was, to have it become law, so that Mr. Stevens might go to England at once for the purpose of inducing parties there to advance capital for mining operations. If that was the case he could see no objections to it. He therefore hoped that it would not be mixed up with the general question as it would cause delay, and be the means of putting it off for another year.

His Honor the Speaker did not think that it was necessary to refer this bill to the mining committee, after the explanation given by the Hon. Member from Carleton, (Mr. Connell,) as the object was merely to give a lease for the purpose of continuing the rate of duty, as it is at present. On the question being taken the motion for reporting progress was carried, and the whole subject referred to the committee on Mines and Minerals.

Hon. Provincial Secretary brought in a bill to establish a Board of Health for the City and County of St. John.

A short debate arose on a motion made by Mr. Hatheway, that Mr. Steadman be added to the Committee to take into consideration all matters relating to the Newfoundland and New York Telegraph Company.

Hon. Solicitor General would have no objections to have the Hon. Member sit on this committee with him or any other committee, neither would he object to retire from the committee, and let the Hon. Member take his place, but he would object after the committee had been in existence for a month, and got nearly through with their business to have another member added, and perhaps have to go over the whole matter again.

Mr. Hatheway said the reason why he moved that Mr. Steadman be added to the committee was that one of his constituents had requested him to

move that another member be added, perhaps thinking that those who composed that committee would be adverse to his interest.

Mr. End would object to having another member added to the committee, at so late a time in the session, when they were nearly ready to report. He did not know who the Hon. Member's constituent was, who wished to have another member added to the committee; neither did he care, but he thought that it was a piece of impertinence, whoever it was, to insinuate, that the existing committee would do anything but what they considered to be just and right for the public good. This he considered to be a great national undertaking, and thought private rights should give way to general undertakings, particularly when such private companies were a monopoly.

Mr. Steadman was surprised when he heard his name mentioned, to be added to the committee.—The Hon. Member had not consulted him on the subject. He had expressed his opinion as regards the company but not to the house; however he would rather not be on the committee.

Mr. Hatheway did not think that the Hon. Member from Gloucester was justified in using the language he did. He was not aware before that the committee had met, but knew that it was of frequent occurrence to add members to committees; however he did not feel disposed to urge the matter at this time under the circumstances.

On motion of the Hon. Attorney General, a bill relating to export duty on lumber received a third reading.

Mr. Wilnot did not think that there should be an export duty on sawed lumber; and considered it wrong to compel persons, to pay a duty on lumber cut on their private property, that they had purchased from the crown and paid for.

Hon. Surveyor General said that this was not an export duty only so far as lumber cut on private property was mixed up with it. He did not know how it could be separated; if it could be done he would do so, but it would not do to reject the bill. As to going back to collect the stampage in the old way, he thought that would never do.

Mr. Boyd had formerly been against the collection of the export duty, but it had worked so well, he was now in favor of it, and would support the bill.

Mr. McPherson, although it had taken money out of his pocket, and no doubt would do so, he would rather that such should be the case than have the bill lost, and would vote for it.

Mr. Gilmour thought that the export duty as far as crown lands were concerned was proper enough, but it ought not in his opinion be collected from lumber cut on private property.

Messrs. Street, Connell, Cutler and Ryan also supported the Bill.

And Messrs. Harding, Steadman, and Stevens against it. On the question being taken there appeared for it, Yeas 16. Nays, Messrs. Wilnot, McPhelim, Steadman, Harding, and Stevens, 5. His Honor the Speaker directed that the Hon. Attorney General do take the bill to the Legislative Council, and desire their concurrence thereto.

A motion was made by the Hon. Attorney General, that the House go into committee of supply, for a short time, but it being Saturday, and many members being absent and others wishing to go home, the question was negatived; and the House at 2 o'clock adjourned.

Monday, 12th March.

A Bill brought in by Mr. Partelow to continue the Cash Credit of the Province, at the Bank of New Brunswick:—Committed and passed.

Mr. End observed that the thanks of the people of the Province were due to the Hon. Member from St. John, (Mr. Partelow,) for being the means of making the arrangement some years ago respecting the Bank, as it had worked very beneficially, and he felt it no more than just and right to make these remarks.

Hon. Surveyor General would support the Bill, as no doubt the arrangement that had been entered into, had in a great measure saved the credit of the Province.—Bill agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Smith brought in a bill to provide for the payment of Petit Jurors. The Hon. Member stated that as the bill was a very important one, he would move that one hundred copies be printed for the use of the Legislature.—Agreed to.

Mr. Cutler, Chairman on public accounts, brought in a report on the different Sheriff's accounts, and moved that the several amounts recommended by them, be referred to the committee of supply.—The Hon. Member stated that they had received all the returns except those from the Sheriffs of Carleton and Queens Counties, which had not as yet been received.

Mr. Connell observed that the reasons why he

did not sign the report, was that larger amounts were recommended than those provided by Law, which he considered wrong; and if the Law was wrong it should be amended in this respect.

Mr. Cutler said that they had followed the course adopted by a former committee; and that if they had gone strictly according to Law, they would be doing a great injustice to all the Sheriffs throughout the Province.

House at 1-2 past 2 o'clock resolved itself into Committee of Supply. The first amount that came up was one for Z. B. Brown, on account of Horses and Molasses that were seized by Mr. Winslow, a year or two ago in the county of Victoria. Resolution supported by Hon. Attorney General, Messrs. Tibbits, Connell, and others; and opposed by Hon. Messrs. Johnson, and Smith, and Messrs. Montgomery, Partelow, and others. Sustained 13 to 11, and the blank filled up with £29 6s 9d.

A grant of £50 to aid in keeping a superior school in Restigouche passed.

A long debate arose on a resolution moved by Mr. Botsford, for a sum of money to build a lock-up House in his county. A majority of Hon. Members contended that such buildings when required, should be built by assessment.—Resolution not sustained.

Previous to the Committee's reporting, Hon. Solicitor General moved a re-consideration of the grant to Z. B. Brown, which was carried, and the grant thrown out.

Mr. End stated that if the Hon. Member could show another year that the goods had not changed hands up the river previous to the seizure, he would cheerfully support it.

Mr. Tibbits observed that if he would be allowed, he would withdraw the whole matter, as he would be able to show that this year; and he would bring it up before the Session closed.—(Very well, from Mr. End and other Hon. Members, then I'll support you.)

Communications.

To the Editor of the Carleton Sentinel.

Sir,—I notice that there is a paper published in your village under the very attractive head of *Journal*: I am not a subscriber to that valuable sheet, but have frequently had the pleasure of seeing it. It appears to me as very desirable that a publication in order to usefulness and respectability should endeavour to make selections to that end; and that its editorials should occasionally have even a little smattering of truth. I am sorry to say that your Woodstock contemporary pays but little attention to these necessary qualifications, as I have not taken up a single issue that does not contain some vile and slanderous attack on some individual or individuals. The selections and statements made by this respectable "Journal" are such that scarcely any other member of the press would touch, but are in accordance with the refined taste of the conductors of that celebrated periodical.

I am no office-holder at present, and perhaps may continue so. I have learned that the conductors of the *Journal* are a disappointed faction, never recognized by the people, but always by some underhanded means have succeeded in holding on to all the local offices of the County; and their great fear is that justice will be meted out to them at no distant day, and that they will occupy the place that Providence has designed they should.

In the last two numbers of that paper, I particularly noticed a laudation of the Government, couched in language usual with sycophants, and such as servile fear would induce. Does one of the writers for this sheet so soon forget "my friend, the late Attorney General," so lately the admired and immaculate? Such men and their motives I despise. If I was as poor as Job's turkey, I would not have presented such a Petition as I saw not long ago in a paper published in Carleton County, not for the most valuable of the official situations, either Post Master or Deputy Treasurer.

Now if the people of any County in New Brunswick are disposed to elect a man from *Canada* or *Boston*, that is their own concern, and is not left for the consideration of other people. Perhaps he would not have been there if the late friend of the parties, the late Attorney General had redeemed his promises. I will say no more on this head at present.

I have lived a little time in this world, and have learned a little too. I have learned to despise that class of people whose chief delight is to bow and act the sycophant to the powers that be. Out of this class the writers for the *Journal* appear to have arisen. I will say no more for the present. They may for all I care continue their weekly avocation.

12th March, 1855.

DEN.

The Carleton Sentinel.

SATURDAY, MARCH 17, 1855.

CORRECTION.—Our readers when perusing the votes upon the Election Bill are requested to observe that the names of Messrs. End and McNaughton, should have been recorded among the YEAS, but were inadvertently added to the NAYS. As our Reporter did not discover the mistake until it was too late to make the alteration, we take this method of remedying the defect.

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.—We observe that some of our St. John contemporaries have got hold of the rumour in circulation, "that it is probable the Legislative Council will not give a very favourable consideration to the Election Bill in its present shape." This has led us to reflect a little upon the construction, as well as upon the powers possessed by that body; and we are satisfied that an alteration in the construction of that branch of our Legislature is absolutely necessary. We have not room this week for any lengthy remarks on the subject.

We understand that the Legislative Council is limited to a certain number of members, who have the power to amend any Bill that may come before them, except those relating to money matters. A moment's consideration will show that the exercise of this power may materially affect, at any time, the exertions and influence of the Government. We freely admit that it is necessary that a proper check should be placed somewhere to prevent unnecessary innovations. But can this check be kept up and properly sustained under the present construction of the Legislative Council? We think not; and in a few words will shew our reasons for thus thinking. In the event of the present Government discovering a probability of the Council's rejecting a measure that has been deemed necessary to effect a change in our system of elections, they will have recourse to constitutional means to secure their object, by filling up existing vacancies; and it is not very likely that such vacancies will be filled with men inimical to their views. This has been done in England, and may with propriety, be done in this Province. The Council will then have its quota of members.

Should the Government forfeit the confidence of their constituents, or not be able to command a majority in the Assembly, they will be obliged to make room for their successors. This frequently occurs. The party coming into power may introduce other measures which they confidently believe to be as desirable for the interests of the country as that of an election law. Those may not meet the acceptance of the second branch of the Legislature. The Government will be anxious to carry their measures; and how can they do it? No vacancies are to be found at the Council Board. A majority of the Council are hostile to the Government. They conceive that the passing of this Bill or that Bill into a Law will have an injurious tendency; and therefore commence to amend, and it may be mutilate it so much that its original features can scarcely be recognized. What can the Government do in an emergency of this kind? Will they break down the established limit, and add beyond the prescribed number? Will they encourage others to set Laws at defiance? Let Governments carry out this principle, and in a short time we shall have more Legislative Councillors than Members of the Assembly.

It may be said that the decision of a body of men, constituted as is that of the Legislative Council, and filled up with its proper quantum of Members forms a safe and proper check. We are not prepared to admit that this is a proper criterion to test the propriety of such measures as any government may deem advisable for the good of the country. The majority of the Council may be of a different political creed from that of the government of the day; and while they might be desirous of dealing fairly and honestly with all questions brought before them, yet it is well known that men are more or less influenced by their prejudices.

We do not profess to be so well versed in politics as many of our contemporaries, yet we think the foregoing hints are sufficient to show that a different construction of the second branch of our Legislature is really necessary. We intend returning to this subject at no distant day.

FIRE.—We regret to state that the dwelling-house of the late Elijah R. Watson, at Meductic was totally destroyed by fire on Tuesday last. The origin of the fire we have not heard.