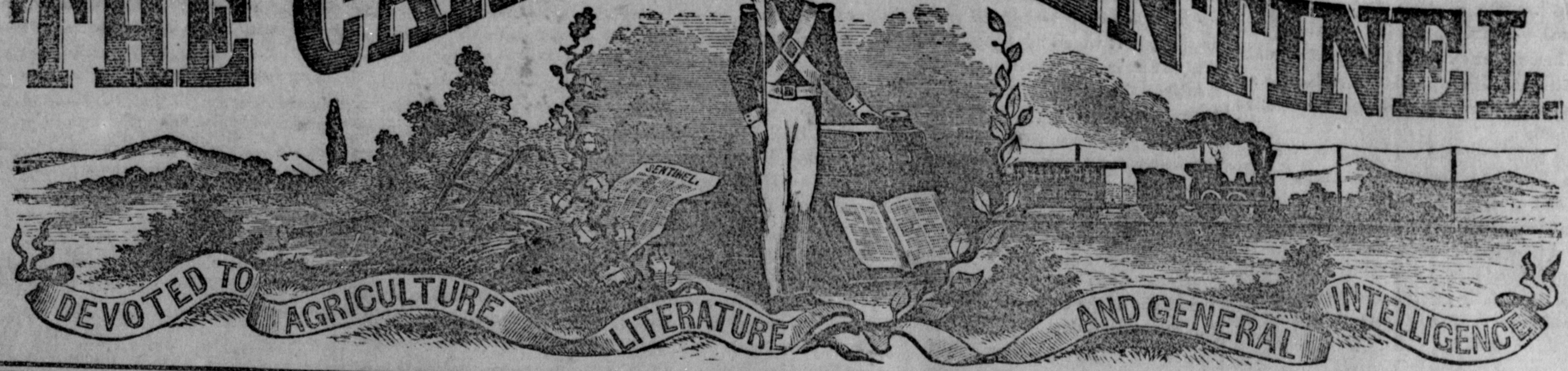


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## Provincial Parliament.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Reported for the Morning News.

WEDNESDAY, February 20th.

Mr. STREET was the next Speaker. He thought it was right to ascertain whether the Government possessed the confidence of the people. He was disposed to look at measures and not at men—and after making preliminary observations, he recapitulated the causes which had been alleged for turning out the old Government. First, the appointment of a Chief Justice was said to be in violation of the principles of Responsible Government. The second cause he passed over without much comment. The third was the reduction of the Judge's Fees.—Mr. S. thought the principles upon which the old Government had been ejected from office were not adhered to by the new. He also condemned the Government for not gazetetting their appointments, and dwelt at length upon Mr. Fisher's course during the short Session of 1854 in connection with his want of confidence Resolution; also his speech on the hustings in 1850, when he (Mr. S.) was represented as enunciating the principle that the majority should rule. He thought the Government had not carried out the principles upon which they had taken office. Mr. S. spoke at some length, & in course of his speech referred to the Election Bill, as not being such a measure as the country required. [The Speaker was obliged to suspend his speech in consequence of a Resolution having been adopted by the House that the debate be discontinued a quarter to 3 o'clock.] After a short discussion upon the time fixed for the order of the day, House adjourned to meet at 10 o'clock to-morrow.

THURSDAY, February 21st.

Mr. STREET arose and announced his intention of resuming the debate where he left off. The deficiency of the Governor's speech in not alluding to Educational measures, was the first thing the speaker commented upon. Next the grounds on which the old Government were turned out were carefully reviewed. The Provincial Secretary was also taken to task for his advocacy of the Halifax and Quebec Railway, to the detriment of the interests of St. John. Mr. S. spoke of the appointment of Mr. Partlow, after his principles had been condemned by a want of confidence. He also charged the present Government with drawing money without the sanction of the Legislature—a charge which they had attributed to the Government. The Reduction of Salaries. This the present Government had not striven to effect, although it was one of the charges brought against the old Government. The Hon. Mr. Brown had said that £500 was an extravagant salary, but that gentleman had taken an office with £600. Mr. S. then took up the speech of the Hon. Mr. Smith at the short Session, and reviewed it. The old Government had therein been charged with not taking the necessary proceedings against Mr. Thomas H. Peters, Deputy Treasurer at Miramichi, but the present Government had also thought proper to pay no attention to the suit, and leave it as it was, and as he presented it to them. The appointment of Mr. Williston (a defeated candidate) was another charge against the old Government. The present Government followed the same example in some of their appointments and they should not condemn their predecessors on that account. The old Government were charged with appointing themselves to office. He would ask if the same course had not been pursued to a certain extent with the present administration.—The speaker next took up the College question, the Attorney General's remarks in reference to the

mission of Mr. Chandler, the Reciprocity Treaty, and the political sins that were attributed to the old Government. Upon each of these questions he endeavored to prove that the charges brought against the old Government were not justifiable. In commenting upon the measures brought forward by the old Government the following were enumerated—The School Law; the Municipal Bill; the Reciprocity Bill; the Supervision of Steamboats, the Revision of the Statutes, and the Railway Acts. Upon each and all of these measures he commented at some length, and notwithstanding their utility they were told by the Attorney General that they had never originated any measure for the benefit of the country. Such assertions were not well founded, and he thought in return that he had sufficiently shown that the present Government had not practised what they preached. The Board of Works he would admit was a good measure, but it would have a tendency to increase the expenses of the Department nearly £1000. In reference to the Election Bill, he wished to know why the time fixed for its coming into operation had been put off till next year. He thought it should come in force sooner. The Jurors' Bill would also cost the Province a large amount, and he maintained that each and all of these measures were fraught with heavy expenses. The Speaker then proceeded to the consideration of Railroads, and in connection with his remarks upon this subject he accused Mr. Fisher of wishing to take into his administration some members of the old Government, and that some overtures were made. [Hon. Mr. Brown—I don't believe it.] But in respect to his mission, he saw it put forth in the Government organs that the Jackson contract was given up. He thought if it had come to this it was time to ascertain whether the Government possessed the confidence of the people. He didn't agree with Mr. Fisher in his Railway policy, especially that relating to the river St. John. A Railroad to the North Shore should be taken into consideration. Before Railroads were built he thought it necessary to ascertain the maximum extent to which the Revenues of the Province would be liable. The European and North American Railroad Contract had been framed by Judge Ritchie, and Mr. F. had given his assent to it at Portland, notwithstanding he had said the first time he saw it was in London. He was of opinion that the line between Shediac and the Bend should be commenced first, and in due time might be extended to Canada via the Gulf Shore. He thought Messrs Jackson & Co. were still bound to carry out their contract, and that it would be an act of suicide in the Government to give them a large sum of money at the present time. He thought it was a poor compliment of the Attorney General to his colleagues to leave out the North Shore line.

Mr. S. spoke at length upon Railway matters, and denied that the contract referred to was a piece of political jesuitism. That contract was lauded everywhere when it was made. He next commented upon Mr. Fisher's voting against Israel Atherton in connection with Bye Roads. The College Council was also dwelt upon, and the Initiation of Money Grants, which latter measure he was in favor of. In speaking of Government Appointments, he said several magistrates had been made in Gloucester who could neither read nor write. [At this stage of the proceedings the speaker passed several condemnatory remarks upon the Government for leaving out of the magisterial commission one Judge Davidson, who Mr. S. described as a Loyalist—had shipped the first cargo of deals from that section of the country—was from "the land of cakes"—had a large family, and was in the 68th year of his age. Several letters were read, one of which was explanatory of the cause for which the Government discontinued him, and another giving an account of

the course through life of the said Davidson.]—Several other matters were alluded to in Mr. Street's speech. He denied that Messrs. Garden and Cleary had been appointed by the old Government, they had only been continued. He did not uphold the principle of appointing a Barrister, but he might be appointed Judge of Common Pleas. He also made some allusion to Mr. Tilley's Estimate in connection with the Address, which was calculated to mislead the country. In summing up the charges against the Government, Mr. S. took occasion to refer to the Jackson contract. He thought the company should be made go on with the work before any thing else was done, and he did not think the Government competent for the management of great undertakings, nor did he think their past administration had given satisfaction to the country.

After Mr. Street had sat down the Attorney General arose and defended the position he and his colleagues had taken in reference to the grant to Mr. Atherton, together with the facts of the case. Mr. F. also stated in reference to some remarks made by Mr. Connell, that in so far as a representation of the different parts of the Province, should be had in the Executive branch it would be desirable; but Mr. Connell being a relative of his he felt bound to eschew any act that might strongly savor of "family compactism."

A few minutes after 3 o'clock, Hon. Mr. TILLEY arose and addressed the House in a speech of nearly two hours in length, which was listened to with much attention. He thought the opposition had put the Government on their trial, not so much for what they had done last Session, but for their acts since the first of April. The hon. gentleman first took occasion to glance briefly at the present position of Mr. Gray as leader of the opposition, with a few facts of interest in connection with the movement. He would define his position on the Railway question. In 1851 he was opposed to Railways being undertaken by Governments.—From what had since occurred he was disposed to think that unless Government undertook such works we must remain without Railroads. The hon. gentleman took occasion to make a few remarks in reference to the motion made by Mr. Street for the appointment of a Road Committee, and his object in so doing. He also humorously alluded to the measure for the destruction of bears and wolves which elicited roars of laughter. In reference to the College Council, Mr. Tilley explained how at the time of the meeting last summer he was unavoidably prevented from attending. He next dwelt upon the convenience of Mr. Connell's position as the second, and Mr. Gray's as the mover of the Want of Confidence Resolution, and the points upon which they respectively differed in their opposition to the Government, of which Mr. Connell had said he might have been a member. The latter assertion, however, he, Mr. Tilley, was inclined to dispose of in a somewhat humorous style.

The hon. gentleman next alluded to the statement that had been put forth by some members that the Government should have agreed upon some scheme before they sent to England. He would tell the members of that House that there was an obstruction in the way, (alluding to the Jackson contract,) and they felt themselves bound to get rid of it. If the Government had not acted with such promptness, they would no doubt have been accused by the opposition of inactivity and want of energy in not taking a decided stand in the matter. He would ask honorable members to wait and see the papers before they denounced the scheme which was yet to be introduced.

The hon. gentleman next went into a lengthy explanation of matters in connection with the European and North American Railway, and the man-

ner in which the liabilities had been met in reference to that contract. He also took occasion to refute the gross wilful misrepresentations of a portion of the Press in regard to the finances of the Province in connection with this subject. The very grave charges which had been preferred against the Government on this point, and which had been sounded throughout the length and breadth of the land were fully exposed by Mr. T., who also narrated the difficulties under which the Government had laboured in consequence of parties abroad failing to meet their engagements.

The Government had also been charged with extravagance in certain matters, and voting large amounts in excess of the estimates. The course he, Mr. Tilley advocated could only be remedied by having the power to prevent the evil—viz; the Initiation of Money Grants to the Executive. The hon. gentleman next entered into a defence of the Prohibitory Law and its relation to the finances of the country. His exposition on this point was clear, and he denied that the revenues of this Province thus far had been injured by its operation.—He also referred again to Mr. Gray as the exponent of Temperance votes for his Resolution from a certain quarter in introducing this subject; but he, Mr. Tilley, was not afraid to meet him fearlessly and openly upon that question, and however much he had always admired his gentlemanly conduct and his high honourable feeling, he felt that this attempt to decry the credit of his country was an act wholly inconsistent with his position and previous career. He, Mr. Tilley, was not afraid to meet his constituents on the Prohibitory Question, notwithstanding that he had been publicly honoured and consigned to a warm berth.

The hon. gentleman next amusingly described how negotiations were carried on between Mr. Street (General Williams) and the mover of this Resolution, and how the latter had been deputed to fire the first gun, and if he "could only get the seat" all would be right. He next dwelt upon the remarks made by Mr. Gray in reference to figures, and he thought he could not fail to prove that in this department his knowledge was deficient. He, Mr. Tilley, felt it due to his office to strive as far as possible to keep the expenditures of the country within the amount of revenue. It might be very well for members to strive to make themselves popular with their constituents by getting large Bye-Road grants, but they never considered the necessity of keeping within the means. An exposition was also afforded to members concerning the Banks, & he, Mr. T. denied a check of the Province was not worth £100. He explained the difficulties which had met them when they assumed the reins of Government; the commercial depression which followed, and the present and past position of matters in connection with the several Banks, to which Mr. Gray had referred to in derogatory terms.

The Hon. gentleman then went into a lengthy and elaborate exposition of the finances; the Revenues and Expenditure; the liabilities and assets of the Province, together with a full statement of the affairs of his office from the time of his accepting it up to the present time.

He also took occasion to refer to the slanderous assertions that had during the past year been put forth by a portion of the Press in charging the Government with extravagance and other things over which they had no control. These charges were fully met and explained by the Hon. Secretary.—He was no aspirant for any office, he cared not whether he was in the Legislature or the Government so long as he could be of service to his country. He (Mr. T.) would admit that the Government might have erred in their distribution of patronage, and if so it was that they had to a certain