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HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Reported for the Carleton Sentinel.

April 5th.

The first bill of any moment which came before the House this morning, was the bill to authorize the removal of the Shiretown of King's County from Kingston to Hampton Ferry. It was contended by many who spoke in favour of the bill that the present site was remote and inconvenient; that from its isolated natural character, it was only accessible at certain seasons of the year, and that the place itself was almost out-side the pale of civilization, and therefore steps should be immediately taken for the removal of the buildings to a place where people who were compelled to attend Court, could do so without travelling out of the world for the purpose. Two of the members of the County supported the bill, and the reason why it was not supported by the third was not given by the honorable gentleman himself, who it is generally known is not in the habit of troubling the House with long speeches. The fact however of there being a diversity of opinion among the members of the County, no doubt induced several to vote against it, but the opinion was acquiesced in by all, that the proposed change was very essential and must in the course of a year or two be adopted. The bill was lost by a small majority and in a thin House.

A long discussion occurred in consequence of a motion made by Mr. McPhelim, to place on Supply a sum of money for Joseph Wetmore, Esqr., High Sheriff of the County of Kent, to remunerate him for expenses incurred in conveying one John Smith to the city of St. John, by virtue of some proceedings had under the Prohibitory Liquor Law. The members of the County were also divided on this motion. It was the opinion of Mr. Cutler (to use his own language,) "that Joseph Wetmore, Esqr., High Sheriff of the County of Kent, had undergone all this trouble for the sole purpose of creating an enthusiasm that was designed to operate against the Prohibitory Law." Mr. McPhelim on the contrary, urged that the Sheriff actuated by a desire to discharge his duty faithfully, and that this House having passed the Law, it was just and proper that Mr. Wetmore should apply here for a return of monies expended by him in executing what resulted from its provisions being carried out. This opinion of the merits of the case was only shared in by one or two honorable members, one of whom was Mr. Smith, who strongly urged the justice of the claim. A large majority of the members however, believed it would be establishing a dangerous precedent to entertain such a grant, and so it was negatived.

The bill to amend the Charter of the City of St. John was recommitted for the purpose of amending it so as to give the Common Council of the City of St. John power to appoint a Chief Engineer for the Eastern and another for the Western side of the Harbour.

The bill relating to Land damages in connection with Railways, was next committed. A few members were anxious to have it deferred till Monday, others however urged that the Legislative Council were waiting for the bill to pass the Lower House. Hon. Attorney General made a speech of considerable length, and from his only having spoken once upon the Railway scheme, he replied to some of the arguments urged against it in both branches of the Legislature. He dwelt in pretty severe terms upon the officious conduct of a certain tall gentleman "up stairs," who it is known sports a moustache, and frequently makes colossal strides

through the Lower House when in Session. This gentleman it appears took occasion to speak in derogatory terms of the Attorney General's report of his mission, which he looked upon at least as a very poor State document. Mr. Fisher in reply, defied his Honor to write a better one, and then proceeded to speak minutely of the terms upon which the money had been obtained. Afterwards he spoke of the provisions of the bill which provides for the appointment of Appraisers to estimate the value of the lands required for Railway purposes. Mr. Tibbits was strongly in favour of giving the Government the right of entry, but was opposed to the payment of large sums for the land when the owners thereof were to be largely benefitted by the Railway passing through it. He contended that in view of the benefits arising in this way, landholders should give up the right of way or else the Government would unnecessarily be subject to an enormous outlay. Mr. End replied to Mr. Tibbits, and stated that his arguments were based upon hear-say evidence. Mr. T. replied to Mr. End, and said he would consider himself very much degraded if his word would not go as far as Mr. End's. He spoke at some length in justification of his view of the matter respecting the lands, and urged its plausibility from his own experience of such matters in the Province of Canada. During the course of his remarks, Mr. T. was interrupted by Messrs. Johnson and Smith: this however he did not mind, but stated with great firmness that he would not be gagged down by a couple of Lawyers. It is generally conceded that Mr. T. is able to hold his own ground as well as any other honorable member, and at the close of his speech he asked why the Railroads should be built unless they were likely to be a benefit to landholders. It was admitted by several that Mr. Tibbits' view, was a common sense one. No amendments however of any note were offered to the bill.

April 7th.

There was a novel and amusing feature in the early part of to-day's proceedings. It seems that Mr. Gilmour in the sincerity of his wishes for the educational improvement of Magaguadavic, moved for a sum of £50, to be applied towards the maintenance of a Superior School in that village. The grant was warmly supported and as warmly opposed. Several members threatened that in case it should pass, they would immediately make a similar motion for some favourite section of their own County; and sure enough, when Mr. Gilmour's motion was sustained, the threat was carried into effect. Members rose in rapid succession, and for about twenty minutes it was nothing but "Mr. Speaker, I move for a grant of £50 towards the support of a Superior School in the Parish of — and County of —." Scarcely any opposition was offered as it was conceded that such a course would have been useless when the principle was assented to in the first instance. The most successful and skilful scambler turned out to be the honorable member for Victoria, (Mr. Tibbits,) who succeeded in placing on the Supply Book, a grant of £50 for the support of a Superior School in the Parish of Andover, and a like amount for a like purpose in the Parish of Edmundston, County of Victoria.

The bill for the Repeal of the Prohibitory Law stood as the order of the day; when 12 o'clock arrived however, Mr. End who had charge of the bill did not evince an earnest desire to move in the matter and so nothing was done. It is generally supposed that if the bill is taken up at all during the Session, it will be rejected by a considerable majority.

The House was in Supply during a great part of the day. Several educational grants were disposed

of; among these was one to Timothy Murphy, of Kings County, a third class Licenced Teacher, although Timothy's case was not considered to be fully represented, the House exercised a generous disposition, and allowed the grant to go on Supply. The next grant of any importance was one moved for by Mr. McPherson, in the sum of £55 8s. 4d., to Sheriff Winslow of Carleton, to reimburse him for expenses incurred in conducting a Scrutiny between Mr. Harding and the late Mr. English, and also for attending a Committee of this House to answer certain charges preferred against him. The Hon. Mr. Smith seemed to be of opinion that the unsuccessful party in the Sheriff's Scrutiny should pay that portion of the expense. According to his view therefore Mr. Harding had a right to pay.— Mr. Hatheway differed widely from Mr. Smith, and denied that there was any possibility of Mr. Winslow proceeding against Mr. Harding for such costs. Mr. End made a short speech in which he warmly eulogized the character of Sheriff Winslow, and stated that while before the Committee of this House, he had cleared himself from the charges brought against him. He also stated that if the Government removed Mr. Winslow from office, it would be the duty of the Legislature to endeavour to counteract such a proceeding. Mr. Watters replied to Mr. End, and stated that the Government would act in the matter without consulting him or asking for his advice. Mr. W. urged that that part of the claim referring to services on Committee before this House should be paid, and no other. Messrs. Allan, Street and several others, agreed with the view taken by Mr. Watters. Mr. Connell alluded to some circumstances bearing upon this matter, and contended that the House should pay Mr. Winslow for expenses which he incurred in coming from Woodstock to attend before the Committee. He also alluded to some matters connected with the reappointment of Mr. Winslow, and stated that he as a representative, was determined to act independently and for the interests of his constituents. Mr. McPherson finally consented to reduce the amount one half. Mr. Tibbits arose with the Sheriff's account in his hand, and stated that it contained a list of absurd and extravagant expenses. After looking over each item, he stated it as his opinion, that the sum of £7 16s. 8d., was all Mr. Winslow was entitled to, and he therefore moved that the blank be filled with that sum.— This motion was carried by a vote of 18 to 15.

The estimates for the Great Road service were laid before the House. Mr. Tibbits contended that the Roads eastward of St. John had been well provided for, and the Road from Fredericton upwards and in the direction of Canada had been neglected. He expected a new system when the Board of Works was introduced, but the scale he said did not show it. Mr. T. was replied to by Mr. Brown and other members of the Government who endeavoured to point out where justice had been done to all.

April 8th.

Shortly after the reading of the Resolution, it was moved by Mr. McPherson that the Resolution thereon appropriating the sum of £7 6s. 8d., to Sheriff Winslow, be expunged. A division was called for on the question, and first the Speaker decided that the nays had it; on a second trial however, it was discovered that the yeas had a majority of one, and so the motion was sustained. After this the House was engaged for nearly one hour and a half in transacting business with closed doors. It was whispered outside that a certain honorable member was being arraigned for having a day or two since procured a key from one of the attendants, and making use thereof entered the House, ransacked several of the desks, and carried away a

quantity of stationery and other materials. It was further whispered, that another honorable member had prepared a Resolution, with a determination to pass it, and have the whole matter exposed.— This however was not effected, and so the matter terminated. The affair has created much sensation, not only within the walls of the House, but throughout the whole city. There was a short discussion in which the name of Michael White was freely used respecting a proposed increase of salary to the Clerk of the Peace for York County. In the afternoon Mr. End made the opening speech on the bill to repeal the Prohibitory Law. The Chairman was Mr. Kerr, Mr. Hatheway having declined when asked by the Speaker. Mr. End spoke at great length in opposition to the Prohibitory Law and coercive measures. He quoted the opinion of Judge Shaw, of the United States, upon the unconstitutionality of such laws, and read such lengthy extracts from a journal which he had in his hand, that members became wearied, and the honorable gentleman finally found himself talking to empty benches. There were a few ladies however in the gallery, and this no doubt cheered him on his desolate course, but at last he wound up by stating that he was thoroughly exhausted, and he supposed the House was tired of listening to him. An "Amen," from some quarter responded to this, and the honorable gentleman accordingly took the hint, and also took his seat. Mr. Boyd made a short speech pointing out the bad effects of the Law, and calling upon the Legislature to repeal it. The honorable gentleman was very hoarse and as he would probably say himself, had a bull-frog in his throat. Mr. Steadman said he had no desire to speak on the bill, and as it had been before the House last year and thoroughly discussed, and further, that it would only be time unnecessarily taken up, he would move its postponement for three months. Mr. McAdam seconded the motion. Mr. McPhelim and Mr. Street objected to the bill being disposed of in this way, and so it was decided to report progress.

April 9th.

The proceedings of the House in the early part of to-day contrasted strangely with what was transacted yesterday, or what was supposed to be done during the time of closed doors. The first bill of any note was introduced by Mr. McLellan, the object of which was to prevent the delivery and transportation of mails in this Province on Sunday.— There were several honorable members who warmly supported the bill, and several who thought it very novel and entirely inapplicable to the present condition of Post Office matters. Mr. Connell warmly urged the passing of the bill. He referred to Nova Scotia, where a similar restriction had been adopted. He thought that as it would be six or seven months before the law would become operative, it would be pretty well ascertained by the next Session, whether its working would be attended with beneficial results. It was further stated by some members that it would be a great hardship where a Courier would have to stop his mails at 12 o'clock on Saturday night, which might perhaps be in the midst of a forest. The question was taken upon the bill and not sustained, immediately after which Mr. McNaughton arose, and preserving his usual gravity introduced a bill, the purport of which was the revival of an Act in force in England during the fourteenth century, which inflicted a penalty upon persons for not attending the sanctuary on the Sabbath. Several members thought Mr. McN. was not serious. He replied however that he was, and that in these days of Prohibition, such an Act was very necessary. Whether however the mover was serious, or otherwise, there was a majority to sustain him in having the bill read a first time. Mr. End's