

The financial matters in connection with the Central Bank; but as all this information has already been clearly and truthfully published in the Sentinel, we omit it.

He then referred to the statements which had been put forth, that the Government was desirous to crush the Central Bank;—that which nothing could be more untrue. It was the ambition of the Government, even at some sacrifice, to assist in sustaining the credit of the Bank. And he felt that New Brunswick stood in a proud position; inasmuch as, while in other countries the banking and other commercial institutions were crumbling, and securities depreciating,—leaving capitalists in doubt as to where or how to invest their means,—the credit of this Province never stood better, and her debentures were never worth so much as at the present time.

(Mr. Tilley's speech was that of the session, so far, but one which it was necessary to hear in order to appreciate fully; it is only possible to report the gist of the arguments advanced; the manner and address which entered and gave weight to them is above our ability to depict.)

Mr. Wilton repeated the terms on which he would withdraw his motion; otherwise, if he stood alone, he should press it. He would contend for principle; while the Government, he insisted, had yielded principle for a paltry £220.

The amendment being lost, the original paragraph passed by a large majority.

A long debate took place with reference to publishing reports of the debates in French, which resulted in the appointment of a committee to negotiate the scheme—limited, however, to £200 expenditure.

[This very plausible notion to talk about is simply impracticable, if not impossible, we believe, at the present session.]

SATURDAY, Feb. 13.

Very little business done in the House to-day.

Mr. CONNELL introduced a bill to abolish the grant to King's College.

Mr. WILSON laid on the table a motion to rescind the motion passed yesterday relative to publishing Debates in French. Also to rescind the whole contract entered into with Mr. Woodrow, granting him sufficient remuneration for work performed up to this time.

Mr. M'ADAM introduced a Bill to incorporate Middle Bridge Company, at St. Stephen.

Mr. Tibbitts arrived to-day.

MONDAY, Feb. 15.

PROVINCIAL SECRETARY moves that, according to parliamentary usage, the House go into committee on His Excellency's speech at the opening of the session.

Mr. CONNELL, by leave, brings in a bill to reduce fees on marriage licenses.

Mr. MITCHELL moves for address to His Excellency, praying for copies of all correspondence with Canada relating to steam communication with that country.

Mr. EXP. by leave, brought in a bill to enable aliens to hold real estate.

Mr. CUDLIP, by leave, brought in several local bills which were read a first time.

ATROXNY GENERAL brings in a bill to incorporate Nashua Book Company, a first time.

Mr. MITCHELL, from contingent committee, submitted a primary report, in brief, as follows:

"They find in the report of the Contingent Committee of the July session certain reductions from sums charged in the contingencies of the session which ended in March, as follows:

On Clerk, £40

Index, £75

Clerk, £30

Engrossing Clerks, £30

Peter Parker, £6

£216

That by the report of that Committee, as it is recorded in the Journals, it does not clearly appear whether the House agreed to the reduction or not. The Committee therefore directed the Chairman of the House on the matter, as follows:

(Signed) P. MITCHELL, Chairman.

Mr. MITCHELL explained the object of the Committee in bringing in their present partial report. It was to obtain information and advice to guide them in making them up their final report.

A portion of the report of the contingent committee of the short session in July, did not appear in the Journals of that session. The portion omitted was an important one, as it contained the previous session, and contained recommendations to reduce certain items, being charges for extra services, alleged to have been performed by certain officers of the House. The committee was anxious that the House should take action on the matter, either amending the Journals or otherwise.

Mr. M'ADAM was a member of the contingent committee at the short session, but did not sign or concur with that portion of their report which referred to the previous winter session, because he considered the business of that session did not properly come under their consideration.

Mr. KERR said the report which appeared in the Journals only referred to the July session, while that very important part bearing on the winter session, and which contained important recommendations, did not appear.

PROVINCIAL SECRETARY would state for the information of hon. members, that it was the intention of the Government, in their budget, to recommend the amounts which they conceived should be paid to the officers of this House, and as some of the accounts of that session appeared to them very extravagant, conceived it to be their duty to take them up, investigate and bring them before the House. [Here, on motion, the House went into a committee of the whole on the report, Mr. Scott in the chair.]

Mr. MITCHELL proceeded. The expenses for the last winter session, which was a very short one, were as large as of any long session. The Clerk had made some extravagant charges for extra work performed by himself and assistants. His account was paid by the late Provincial Secretary without any investigation, either by a contingent committee, or by the House. Engrossing clerks had been allowed some eight dollars per day; the committee had recommended five dollars, which they considered amply sufficient. He (Mr. M.) could not account for the absence of a part of the report of the former committee from the Journals, except that the Clerk overlooked it in the hurry and confusion of the time.

HON. SOLICITOR GENERAL was only disposed to give a fair remuneration for services performed in connection with the House; still he thought it would establish a dangerous precedent, did they travel back to former sessions and demand of its officers to refund sums which they had received for services performed. The officers themselves were innocent in the matter; if blame attached to any one it was the Government, who paid the claims. Perhaps as the Clerk receives a stated yearly salary, and the duties of '57 were not so large as some other years, that £20 extra paid might be considered as a fair remuneration for the extra work performed. He thought the late committee had no power to take up the outlays of a previous session.

Mr. WILSON thought it quite proper for the House to take up the accounts of its officers if they had charged and obtained too much. The late Government did not feel disposed to become a contingent committee for the House, and the only course it could follow was to pay the account made up by the Clerk, leaving it for the House to decide upon its correctness.

Mr. CONNELL thought the committee had done very properly in bringing the matter before the House at the present time, he agreed with Mr. Gillmore, that the House could not now carry out the recommendation to call upon the officers to refund, especially as there was nothing in the Journals to warrant such a course. The course adopted by the present Government, as intimated by the Hon. Provincial Secretary, was one which he (Mr. C.) had often recommended, and was glad that hereafter the Government would assume the responsibility of recommending the salaries of the officers of the House.

PROVINCIAL SECRETARY.—The Government was not justified by the Journal, but was led to believe that there was some misunderstanding with reference to the matter, and only withheld amounts in order to have an opinion, clear and explicit, of the House, as to what they should do.

Mr. SMITH wanted to deal fairly alike with officers of House and public interests. He did not feel that the House should receive as much for a session of forty as of eighty days. Thought that Mr. Wilton (late Provincial Secretary) had acted prudently; having, while he paid the amounts, done so without assuming responsibility, leaving the matter between the officers and the House for decision, as to whether the amounts were correct or not. He (Mr. S.) then moved a resolution that the reduction recommended by the contingent committee of July last be adopted, and a committee of this session take such steps as may be necessary to carry out the wishes of the House.

Mr. CHANDLER said it appeared to him at the time that in the particular state of things, the Clerk had undertaken to cut and carve for himself. The charges he certainly thought were extravagant. He was surprised at the doctrine of the Hon. Solicitor-General, the second officer of the crown, that when a man pockets more money than he is entitled to, he should keep it, to keep it. He could not blame a man, as it was very natural for overrating the value of his services (a voice—law commissions.) As law commissioner, he, for one, was very poorly paid, and hoped the House, by spontaneous action, would give him some more. He was for paying a fair remuneration, but not the sum proposed to be granted. He would be of great service in carrying out bye-laws and other essential public works throughout the country.

HON. PROVINCIAL SECRETARY would move an amendment, as follows:

Resolved, That the following deductions be made from the amounts paid the officers in 1857, viz:

Clerk, £40

Index, £75

Engrossing Clerks, £30

P. Parker, £6

£193

Mr. MITCHELL had prepared the following, in justice to contingent committee and the House:

Resolved, That the reductions recommended by the contingent committee, reported to the House in July last, be approved, and that the Government be requested to retain the sums so named from the salaries of the respective officers therein named.

He had understood that the late Secretary had thrown the responsibility on the Clerk. If the House allowed these charges and neglect the recommendations of their committee, they would justify their own acts.

Mr. EXP. thought it perfectly intolerable that the Engrossing Clerks should get as much as was charged and paid; but it was another question whether the House could or should cause a disengagement of the contingent committee of July '57, had no right to go into the business of a former House, the House by which they were appointed being a new one. The duty of the hon. member for Northumberland, believing that the Journals of the House contained untrue records, was to move a standing order, and have the matter thoroughly investigated. They should not be placed in the jeopardy of doubting the statements of the Journals. He thought it was perfectly right to pay the usual sum for the long session to the Clerk and his assistants, because the Upper House did so. No justification in the business; because the business of the House of February '57, was under the control of a committee of July '57.

Mr. KERR thought it would be no hardship, after the Clerk had been told by the Provincial Secretary, that he (the Clerk) would have to take the responsibility of the correctness of his charges, if the House, finding that too much had been charged, did not allow the sums so overcharged to be refunded. The committee, he thought, had done perfectly right; and it was for the House now to decide in the matter under discussion, and by their action advise the present committee as to the course it should adopt.

Mr. M'ADAM.—The Government had a right to investigate the accounts of the committee in July with respect to that portion of their report which referred to the previous winter session, because he considered the business of that session did not properly come under their consideration.

Mr. KERR said the report which appeared in the Journals only referred to the July session, while that very important part bearing on the winter session, and which contained important recommendations, did not appear.

PROVINCIAL SECRETARY would state for the information of hon. members, that it was the intention of the Government, in their budget, to recommend the amounts which they conceived should be paid to the officers of this House, and as some of the accounts of that session appeared to them very extravagant, conceived it to be their duty to take them up, investigate and bring them before the House. [Here, on motion, the House went into a committee of the whole on the report, Mr. Scott in the chair.]

Mr. MITCHELL proceeded. The expenses for the last winter session, which was a very short one, were as large as of any long session. The Clerk had made some extravagant charges for extra work performed by himself and assistants. His account was paid by the late Provincial Secretary without any investigation, either by a contingent committee, or by the House. Engrossing clerks had been allowed some eight dollars per day; the committee had recommended five dollars, which they considered amply sufficient. He (Mr. M.) could not account for the absence of a part of the report of the former committee from the Journals, except that the Clerk overlooked it in the hurry and confusion of the time.

HON. SOLICITOR GENERAL was only disposed to give a fair remuneration for services performed in connection with the House; still he thought it would establish a dangerous precedent, did they travel back to former sessions and demand of its officers to refund sums which they had received for services performed. The officers themselves were innocent in the matter; if blame attached to any one it was the Government, who paid the claims. Perhaps as the Clerk receives a stated yearly salary, and the duties of '57 were not so large as some other years, that £20 extra paid might be considered as a fair remuneration for the extra work performed. He thought the late committee had no power to take up the outlays of a previous session.

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payment of money. While all the hon. gentlemen advocated the right of the petition, some contented to have the particular petition laid on the table; some to have it referred to a select committee; others to a committee of the whole House. These latter contended that, as the questions of removals from office for political reasons was involved, the whole House had better, on this petition, have the whole matter fully discussed.

Mr. THIBBETTS brought in a bill to establish the road laid out by Messrs. Gordon and Ferguson, leading from the River Saint John, on the north side of the Tobique, in the County of Victoria, to Campbell Town, on the Restigouche, as one of the great roads of communication.

Mr. GRAY gave notice of motion for address to His Excellency for information relating to conveyance of property to European and North American Railway Co., &c.

The SPEAKER reported that he was by vote of the House at the short session directed to order the Clerk to give the services of the House, under the name of members. Whether the House intended that it should refer to the short session only, or for the long session, he did not know. He (the Speaker) had communicated with the Clerk and Sergeant-at-Arms as to their respective duties; he had directed the Sergeant-at-Arms to engage one slightly, which officer had reported the duty assigned to him.

Mr. MITCHELL.—The contingent committee were anxious to obtain this information: There were two sleighs in attendance, and only one had been ordered; and he (Mr. M.) wanted the House at once either to recognize the necessity of two sleighs, or to say that the unauthorized sleigh standing by should be paid and the owner of that informed of the same.

Mr. WILSON gave notice of motion for address for information respecting petitions for employment of unemployed laborers, mechanics, &c. &c., of the City of St. John.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 16, 1858.

After some routine business, Mr. McADAM presented a petition from Mr. Thos. E. Parley, praying for a resolution that the certain Crown Lands represented as having been bought and paid for by never granted.

The petition gave rise to another edition of the discussion had yesterday on Mr. Richard's petition. Some hon. members contended that the petition involved money, and therefore could not be entertained at the present session, by which all money grants must be recommended by the Government.

Mr. EXP. took the opportunity of expressing his abhorrence of the present system, to the introduction of which he had always been opposed, and which he hoped to see rescinded before he died. He thought the Government had no right to grant an inalienable right of British subjects, to seek for redress of grievances by petition to the Legislature.

PROVINCIAL SECRETARY spoke in substance as follows: The Government have given public notice that the Budget would not be brought down until fourteen days after opening of session, in order, by that delay, to give the hon. members an opportunity to present their petitions. The Government have not, as intimated by an hon. member, displayed any desire to prevent the exercise of the right of petition; we only desire that the petitions should come through the proper channel. So far as the principle of initiation is concerned, Mr. Speaker, I am convinced that the credit, standing and prosperity of the province depend upon the maintenance of that principle; and I shall always contend, whether in or out of this House.—Indeed, it is impossible for the business of the country, when great public works, involving the expenditure of large sums of money, are being carried on, to be properly conducted under any other system.

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