

existing law would yield an ample amount to meet requirements; but if it should be necessary to raise £7,000, as stated, by extraordinary means, he would state how it could be done. At present, the Treasury collected duty on British imports, with an addition of one-ninth, to bring sterling into currency; the law, however, allowed the addition of one-fifth, or to reckon the pound sterling at 24s. 4d. If the Government would instruct the Treasury to carry out the provisions of the law in this respect, it would, judging from the income of past years, give the balance required. He would move an amendment to insert 10 per cent. on enumerated articles, instead of 12 per cent.

Mr. BORSANI complained of the great amount of bad liquor in the Province, and suggested a sliding scale for the duty on alcohol.

Mr. WILMOT approved of laying a high tax on wine, as it was a luxury. He should offer no amendment to the bill, as the disposition was entirely to swallow this and every thing else presented to them, regardless of consequences.

Mr. McLELLAN was of opinion that the 24 per cent. impost was the best plan that could be adopted. The House had agreed to the amendment, and should not now be asked to allow the Government to raise the necessary revenue.

Mr. WILMOT would offer no amendment. The House seemed disposed to swallow this dose as it had every other presented by the Government. Taxation and the duty on wine, he thought, it would be useless for him to resist. However, the time would come when means and credit exhausted, the people and the House would wake up to a true sense of its alarming position. He thought under the present revenue bill the income would meet the estimates.

Mr. INCHES thought the hon. Secretary had an ingenious way of getting the country out of debt. He had proposed to have bettered the financial state of the country by selling debentures. If he could only dispose of a million of them, he might by the same theory place the country entirely free from debt. It seemed to him like a man who staved off the payment of the face of a note by continued renewals. He thought the suggestion of Mr. Gray should be carried out.

Mr. HANINGTON said the constitutional time to make objections to the proposed mode of raising the revenue, when the Supply was under discussion. Hon. Provincial Secretary had asked the House to pass certain estimated expenditures. It had done so, and now it was right to place him in such a position as that he might raise a revenue to meet those expenditures.

Mr. McLELLAN thought the bill about to expire would meet all the exigencies of the present year, with perhaps the aid of a little management.

Mr. LEWIS said it was not wise to talk about enrichment with the public works commenced by the late Government, to be carried on. The hon. gentleman from St. John (Mr. Wilmot) talked as if no other hon. members in the House had any dread of running too far in debt, but there were members just as desirous as that hon. member to pay a due regard to the resources of the country, and the prosecution of the public works should be as far as possible exempt from duties—articles involved in the prosecution of the great industrial interest of the Province, while the former would affect only the more superficial articles and the luxuries of life.

Mr. GILMORE was of opinion that the shipping interests were not better protected than any other industrial interest of the Province. He could not see the wisdom of the policy of letting ships go free and taxing the manufactured lumber of the country, &c., upon which to so large an extent the welfare of the former interest depended.

Mr. LAWRENCE expressed the opinion that the present revenue bill was amply sufficient to meet the requirements of the year. There appeared to be a deficiency of £7,000 between the estimated expenditure and the estimated income under the present revenue bill, and to make up that deficiency the additional impost of 24 per cent. was proposed. The year 1857 was the most reliable year for the purpose of comparison, and he knew, all over the world, yet in that remarkable year the income of this Province was £133,798—or £10,000 more than the estimated requirements of the present year. The position of things this year (1859) was encouraging. Tranquillity virtually restored in India; a treaty entered into with Persia, which had put an end to the three hundred millions of inhabitants was thrown open to the trade of Britain and its colonies; a treaty with Japan likewise accomplished. All these facts in connection with the present favorable indication of a good home trade justified the belief that our income under the existing tariff would probably reach in 1857, one fact he would venture to say, as high as the year 1857. In New York the imports in the month of January, 1859, had been three times the amount of what they were in January, 1858. Then again, with improvement in trade and demand for goods in the British market, would be a proportionate rise in the value of those goods, and the value of the goods imported would probably reach in 1857, one per cent above what they did last year. Probably the Government in preparing the estimate had lost sight of this probable increase in the value of goods.

Mr. EXP reminded the hon. gentleman (Mr. Lawrence) that supposing goods in the British market did increase in value, the Province would not derive all that benefit. They only got a per cent of that per centage.

Hon. PROVINCIAL SECRETARY said the poetry of Mr. Lawrence's speech was scattered to the wind by one simple fact. Without going abroad to the United States or elsewhere, that fact was found at home—it was that the first quarter of the present year showed a deficiency of nearly £100,000, and with the same quarter last year. The Government was perfectly aware of the power they had under the law of adding one-fifth instead of one-ninth to sterling, but they hesitated about using it, and much preferred the plan proposed; because the proposition made by Mr. Gray would add to the weight on all imports by the tariff, and the articles which it was desirable to enter under as light a duty as possible—conflicting seriously with the various industrial interests, particularly ship-building, as it would involve material used in that business, to a very large amount. The additional 24 per cent. would on the contrary only affect the articles of luxury, and the articles which the Government could well bear a higher duty. Surely his hon. friend (Mr. Gray) would prefer that wine should be taxed than ship materials. The Government would have been only too happy to have done without imposing the additional 24 per cent., but had done the best they could.

The question being now taken, the bill was passed as submitted by Government. Yeas 24; Nays 12. House adjourned.

FRIDAY, MARCH 18.

The Railway Committee having now got seriously to work, the committee-room has become the centre of interest, and in consequence none but mere formal business is done in the House before 12 o'clock.

The committee above referred to have commenced in their investigations at the time when the Government first became proprietors of the line, and are pursuing them with respect not to generalities, but to the most minute details. This fact and a glance at the voluminous accounts and documents, books, &c., is quite sufficient to impress upon the mind the belief that the investigation is finished. The labors of the committee are facilitated very materially by a tracing, beautifully executed from a plan of the line, by Mr. Lunn, under the supervision of Mr. Light, which is suspended on the walls round the room. Upon this plan at a glance can be seen the alterations which have been made in the original location of the line by Mr. Light, and the distance saved and the number of curves avoided, are very striking. Some three miles of distance have been saved in the whole.

Mr. MITCHELL's resolution for an address paying for enforcement of the conditions of the repeal of the navigation laws, was taken up, discussed and passed.

Mr. GILMORE was favorable to the principles of the bill, and desirous that the principles of reciprocity should be enjoyed, but he was not disposed by hasty or unguarded legislation in seeking for additional advantages, to jeopardize the continuance of those now enjoyed. The resolution embodied too much. Suppose the address to Her Majesty led to an enforcement of the provisions of the act repealing the navigation laws, and the American trade, instead of being a source of revenue to the Province, would result in a loss to the Province. The advantages derived by this Province from the existing navigation laws were very great, and the passage of the resolution in its present form might have the effect of re-establishing the old system, which surely every hon. member would be prepared to deprecate. He thought the facilities for ship-building in the Province were equal to those of any country, and that branch of business had proved itself the most advantageous to prosecute of any other.

Mr. MITCHELL expressed his willingness to modify the language of the resolution.

Mr. McLELLAN did not think the resolution if passed would have much effect. He should not vote for it if he considered it would lessen the amount of American coasting trade, but he did not think it would do so, he had rather give up the north and south in the United States than the former preferred having restrictions. Still he believed they would come into the arrangement contemplated by the resolution, if carried out.

Mr. SMITH said the resolution amounted simply to this—allowing Great Britain to withhold from the United States and other foreign countries the rights they enjoyed under existing navigation laws, unless they would reciprocate. This policy he thought not a good one. The language of the resolution should be modified.

Mr. TIBBETS thought the terms of the resolution were too vague, and he did not believe in asking for a thing, and then in the next breath saying we didn't care whether we got it or not.

Mr. HANINGTON thought the Americans would readily accept the proposition contemplated. With that belief he would vote for the resolution. Mr. MITCHELL moved an amendment, changing the terms of the resolution, which was carried.

Mr. GRAY's bill providing that Government may be tried in a court of justice, was again committed. Mr. Gray submitted an amendment, which qualified the terms of the original one, making it apply only to the Railway Commissioners as a Corporation, and those servants, in the opinion of the hon. member, after a lengthy discussion, the principle of the bill having been affirmed by a negative vote on the question to postpone three months, progress was reported, to allow the hon. member to alter the phrasing.

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be competent evidences. As there were no ladies present, hon. members gave pretty free reign to their fancies in discussing the subject, and no benefit could, we imagine, arise from our publishing a report; suffice to say, the bill passed with amendments.

Mr. FISHER (Attorney General) rose and read a letter, of which the following is a copy:

MARCH 19, 1859.

DEAR SIR: On the day of the general election for York, in 1856, Mr. E. L. Wilmot, then Provincial Secretary, came into the Crown Land Office and said to me that "THE GOVERNMENT CLERKS WERE EXPECTED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO VOTE FOR THE GOVERNMENT. I immediately informed him that Mr. Lockwood and myself had intended not to vote at all. He still remained, as if pressing compliance, I said, "I will let you know in a moment." I felt coerced; and in the next room alone most unwillingly made up my mind to vote as asked, but determined on the spot that I would inform Mr. Fisher why, on the first opportunity—which I did.

You appear to be supposed that I spoke to you in confidence, and I fully appreciate the motives which to-day prevented you from giving me your authority.

Mr. Lockwood and I felt that we voted under direct coercion. Mr. Wilmot says that he made it optional with us to do so or not, as we wished. No doubt he is under the impression that he did so; but I can only say that we were allowed any such alternative. I very much regret to have to differ from Mr. Wilmot, but my recollections on the subject are most distinct.

Yours truly, ANDREW INCHES.

Hon. C. Fisher, &c. &c.

Mr. WILMOT said at the time mentioned he was Secretary, and the clerks in his office did not vote, and even now, it would be his duty to refuse to vote in the Crown Land Office, and asked Mr. Inches whether he thought of the dissolution, and he expressed an agreement with the step. He (Mr. W.) then said to Mr. L., he did not see any reason why he should not vote. He denied most distinctly that he had ever coerced any man to vote.

A bill introduced by Mr. Bosford to amend the act for incorporation of the Town of Moncton was taken up and passed.

MONDAY, MARCH 21.

Mr. WATTERS presented a petition signed by R. Thériault, J. P. L. Balleur, J. P. W. Hart, J. P. J. L. Levesque, J. P. J. and 200 others, in support of the petition of the County of Grand-Jury—same as Parish Offices—in the County of Victoria.

Mr. TIBBETS asked the Government whether it was their intention to lay before the House any correspondence which may have passed between the Hon. Provincial Secretary and the Hon. Attorney General, upon the address of the House, under date of 25th March, in reference to the surrender of the Ordinance Land at Grand Falls.

On motion, the House go into committee of the whole, on a bill introduced by Mr. Eal. "To remove all disability to take and hold real estate by persons of alienage," being an act reciprocating one passed by the Massachusetts Legislature in 1852, and couched in these terms: "Aliens may take, hold, convey, and transmit real estate."

The mover spoke at length and forcibly in advocacy of his bill, and was supported by several gentlemen, who earnestly and eloquently dwelt upon the necessity there existed of breaking down all existing barriers to the free trade of the Province of those intelligent, enterprising persons from the United States and elsewhere, who would, could they come on equal terms, be prepared to assist materially in developing the resources of the country. On the other side of the question it was urged that the passage of the bill would only tend to encourage speculation, and that the law was unnecessary, as even now aliens could hold property against every power but the crown; and impolitic, because the United States had not shown a disposition to meet subjects of Great Britain on terms of fair and equal reciprocity. A bill was introduced by Mr. Eal, which was a bill to amend the act for incorporation of the Town of Moncton, which was taken up and passed.

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the same story which had been repeated in the letter, a month after the occurrence. In Charlotte, Mr. Boyd went into offices in St. Andrews and gave clerks there to understand that Government expected clerks to vote for them.

Mr. ALLEN said that he had ever attempted to induce clerks to vote for the Government. He (Mr. A.) knew not what course individuals would take, but as a Government, they had never intimated that they expected public officers to vote for them.

Mr. MITCHELL said that he was a member of a Government he would go for turning out every public servant who voted against them. His greatest fault against the present Government was that they had not turned out every clerk who had opposed them. He was willing to give them the privilege of staying in their office and not voting at all.

Mr. EXP thought the Province was not prepared for anything like that.

Mr. TIBBETS said the hon. gentleman might call it what he pleased; he (Mr. M.) called it principle.

TUESDAY, MARCH 22.

Mr. TIBBETS this morning gave notice of a motion for an address to Government asking the appointment of a delegation to visit Canada during the recess, and endeavor to make some arrangement by which the Government of the Province might be induced to prolong the Grand Trunk Railway down to the Grand Falls—our own Government to render every possible assistance to the St. Andrews and Quebec Company, to enable them to meet the before mentioned road at the Falls.

BILL TO REPEAL INSOLVENT DEBTORS' LAW, was again committed, most fully and ably discussed, and finally carried by a large majority.

Hon. SOLICITOR GENERAL briefly expressed the opinion that the present law should not be repealed this year, as it had only two years legally to exist from its passage.

Mr. WILMOT felt some doubt as to what course he should pursue with reference to the bill. There was a great deal of uncertainty connected with business, and misfortune and loss would sometimes befall the creditor, and he was not sure that he was not better off than he was before. He thought, therefore, that he should be some law by which such an unfortunate debtor might be enabled to divide his property among his creditors, and commence business again. Here Mr. Wilmot proceeded to read some very interesting statements prepared by Gen. Dearborn of Massachusetts, which were collected by the hon. member, and which he had been for many years. One conclusion the general had arrived at, from his own investigation as well as from the concurrent testimony of others well qualified to judge, was that out of every hundred business men not more than three obtain a better position than that of the bankrupted debtor. While the rest of the hundred die in poverty, the remaining three are left to the restraining and punishing of fraudulent debtors, they should at the same time protect the honest, unfortunate debtor from the unfeeling persecutions of a heartless creditor. It was often the case that when all the rest of the creditors of a man were left to the mercy of the law, the creditor of the bankrupted debtor would hold out demanding his pound of flesh, and refusing to give the debtor any chance. Still there were some amendments required to render the present bill all that could be desired, and with those additions he thought it would do good. He should oppose the bill before the House.

Hon. PROVINCIAL SECRETARY said that at times, when as within a few years, a tide of ruin and commercial devastation had swept over the land, there should be some provision made to assist those who were the subjects of misfortune; and it was influenced by such feelings he had voted for the insolvent law last year; but now as sufficient time had been given to the creditors to make arrangements for the law and the insolvent law, he was beginning to resume its more favorable aspect, he would go for a repeal, lest the existence of the law might encourage recklessness, extravagance and speculation. The law had proved in many instances vicious in its operation. In many instances creditors had become the mere slaves of their debtors, and were forced to comply with their demands on every terms dictated, under the threat that if refused they would go into the insolvent court.

Mr. SMITH said that people who obtained the property of another, should be expected to pay for it. While he was quite willing to extend every leniency to the honest and industrious man, still that was not the class of persons who most generally figured in the insolvent law. He thought the insolvent law was a law which was not only a law of idleness or in idleness in luxury; and if such got in debt, he did not feel much commiseration for them, even if they were brought to their senses by being placed in goal for a time. The hon. gentleman here took up the lists from the different counties giving the names of applicants in each. He commented upon them. The amount of the promises were for one shilling in the pound in a very few instances; down to one farthing and about one halfpenny seemed to be the average. One person in his own county (Westmorland), worth £200, and only owing £50, had gone into the insolvent court. Another man in John, whose liabilities were £18,000, went through the law, and was paying 45. Those facts he considered sufficient to induce a uniteness of action towards wiping off the law from the statute book.

Mr. PHELPS said he did not hear.

Mr. ALLEN briefly expressed himself in favor of the repeal of the law, in its principles, and thought its operations had been in many instances most salutary.

Mr. CHANDLER contended that it was contrary to the spirit of the age, that poor unfortunate debtors should be left liable to arrest and incarceration like a common felon. As he had been observed that the law was a law of idleness or in idleness in luxury; and if such got in debt, he did not feel much commiseration for them, even if they were brought to their senses by being placed in goal for a time. The hon. gentleman here took up the lists from the different counties giving the names of applicants in each. He commented upon them. The amount of the promises were for one shilling in the pound in a very few instances; down to one farthing and about one halfpenny seemed to be the average. One person in his own county (Westmor