

Hon. Mr. Todd said that it was not, perhaps, the interest of the owner of an old boat to take a new boiler and machinery, and he might rather risk the danger to life and property, were it not for the inspection provided.

Hon. Mr. President thought the provisions of this bill would be a great relief to the owners of boats. Hon. Mr. Botsford said, there should be a distinction made between the inspection of freight boats. Life and property had heretofore frequently been placed in jeopardy owing to vessels being placed in charge of ignorant or careless engineers. Very frequently self-interest prompted owners of vessels to disregard the public safety, and place the cheapest rather than the most competent man in charge. Hence the necessity for this bill. The fact of the vessel being insured might lessen the interest the owner felt in the safety of his vessel.

Hon. Capt. Robinson said, there was no scale on which they were to be examined, provided.

Hon. Mr. Seelye, this was left to the competency of the examiners. The question of the competency of the examiners should not only be competent otherwise, but should be of temperate habits; this evil should be guarded against.

Hon. Capt. Robinson, this was one of the evils to guard against which some provision was necessary, and he proceeded to explain his own experience in justifying and supporting the bill. This same rule operated in the appointments to the naval service generally; and he read from an authority on the subject to show the details of these examinations for the service. He thought the grounds upon which the examination was to be made, extended to the bill, in that it might be known upon what the applicants would be examined.

Hon. Mr. Seelye did not think the argument that the owner would get the cheapest man applied, because owners of steamers on the rivers were seldom insured, and the rate of insurance on the Bay boats was high that the boats were seldom insured for anything near their value. He supposed of course that the examiners would not pass any one but a person of proper habits.

Hon. Mr. Wark thought there should be some rule by which they were to be examined. Would it not do to give the power to the Governor in Council to prescribe the time to be made, and the manner, the nature of the examination desirable; this might be added in a small section. By this means uniformity of examination would be ensured; there could be no favoritism, and a strict examination would be enforced.

Hon. Mr. Robertson thought it would be better to have but one Board of Commissioners, and no more, to be located at St. John or Fredericton, and that would ensure to a great degree uniformity. It would be no great hardship for a young man desiring employment, to come to Fredericton or St. John for examination. So far as general character for sobriety was concerned, it would be difficult for the Commissioners to regulate that matter, because this habit might be formed after passing the examination.

Hon. Mr. Hamilton thought the discretion of appointing one or more Boards might be safely left with the Governor in Council. If necessary, they would be located at St. John or Fredericton, and that would ensure to a great degree uniformity. It would be no great hardship for a young man desiring employment, to come to Fredericton or St. John for examination. So far as general character for sobriety was concerned, it would be difficult for the Commissioners to regulate that matter, because this habit might be formed after passing the examination.

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Hon. Mr. Robertson said, if there were two or more Boards it would be found that one would be more stringent than another, and the less stringent one would be sought by the applicant for examination.

Hon. Mr. Wark thought that as from present appearances all steamboat travelling in the western portion of the Province would be done away with by the establishment of the proposed railway extensions, the north then would be the only portion interested in steamboat navigation, and it surely would not be objected to there being a Board of examination at some place.

Hon. Mr. Seelye said, the bill did not provide for more than one Board, unless it should be found necessary this, he did not think, would be the case. He thought St. John would be a convenient locality for the Board to be stationed at for all parts of the Province. He pressed the Governor in Council, without special authority, would have the greatest such rules for the examiners as might seem desirable.

Hon. Mr. Seelye thought the amendment very proper; it was merely the establishing of a set of rules, upon which parties would be examined. He asked if there were any provisions in the bill which would be withdrawn for drunkenness or other misconduct.

Hon. Capt. Robinson said there was.

Hon. M. Steeves said, when the Board of examiners was appointed it was supposed that it would be composed of men who thoroughly understood what was required, and who would not be influenced without instructions from the Government.

Hon. Mr. Wark said, his suggestion would amount to this, that the Commissioners would draw up a set of regulations and submit them for the approval of the Governor in Council. There would then be a check upon the examiners, and at the same time it would be known upon what points the examination would be based.

Hon. Mr. Botsford suggested that a provision should be made for the employment of an assistant engineer in steamers, especially when voyage occupies 24 hours. And approved of the amendment suggested by him. He thought the nature of the examination should be defined.

Progress was reported.

Hon. Capt. Robinson moved for a committee on Fisheries, which was accordingly appointed as follows: hon. Capt. Robinson, hon. Mr. Davidson, hon. Mr. Odell and hon. Mr. Hamilton.

FREDERICTON, MAR. 12.

A Bill for the establishment of a Poor House at St. George, Charlotte County.

Hon. Mr. Seelye moved upon the question of suspending the rule of the House requiring the publication of bills.

Hon. Mr. Robertson said, the rule should either be enforced in all cases coming within its terms, or else the rule should be repealed. He thought the observance of the rule, in the present case, would be interesting information upon the proposed legislation.

Hon. Mr. Todd wished to know if the rule would not be essentially complied with by publishing the substance of the bill, as well as the publication of the whole bill. One reason why this bill had not been published was, that it was not worth the expense incurred in printing it. The public would be put sufficiently on their guard if the mere substance were printed at a small cost.

Hon. Mr. Kinnear was in favor of the enforcement of the rule, except in cases when a special and good reason for its non-publication could be shown. He thought the suggestion of hon. Mr. Todd might be sufficient to call attention to a proposed measure. It might answer just to publish the title of the bill.

Hon. Mr. Odell was of opinion that the rule was a very desirable one. He thought the publication of the title would be quite sufficient. He thought the titles of the two Bills should be assimilated.

Hon. Mr. Chandler, the title would not be sufficient, but the general purpose of the bill should be declared in the publication.

Hon. Mr. Botsford said, it would be entirely impossible in this country, to Legislature, if the rules of the House were to be strictly adhered to. As, in the case of the present bill, he thought there were sufficient reasons to justify the suspension of the rule. Where the operations of the bill were general, it would be most unfair to enforce strictly the publication rule.

Hon. Mr. Wark suggested that some means might be adopted by which the rules of the House would be so assimilated, as that compliance with the rule of one House would be compliance with that of both. Would not sufficient publicity be given if parties were to give four weeks notice, that a certain bill was to be read in sessions.

Hon. The President thought it would be always wise in constraining objects of the rule, to consider its bearing upon the public interest as involved in the several bills coming within its terms.

Hon. Mr. Seelye, if the rule be suspended now it must be on all bills of a similar nature, when they have been read before the grand jury; there was no doubt that parties were also, and in the requirements of the two Houses should be assimilated. He thought the title and substance of the bill would be quite sufficient.

Hon. Mr. Kinnear would only advocate the suspension, when the parties misapprehended the nature of the rule, and when it was shown that they had supposed the spirit of the rule had been fulfilled.

Hon. Mr. Steeves said, the publication in a newspaper was not a right mode of giving information to the public than reading before the Grand

Jury. He had no objection to dispense with the publication of bills, in the present case.

Hon. Mr. Hamilton thought the rule a good one, and should be enforced when practicable, and when it did not interfere too much with the public interests. There was no good of having rules unless they were observed, but thought all future contention on this subject should be avoided, by a uniformity of rules between the Houses.

Hon. Mr. Harrison, whenever we found that the public and private rights would not be infringed upon, and that sufficient information had been given the rule might very properly be dispensed with.

Hon. Mr. Robertson said, that in Britain all the details and notices to the several parties affected, were published previous to a bill affecting individual or private rights, being submitted to Parliament. He thought if the rule were modified it would not so completely serve the public interests.

Hon. Mr. Seelye did not altogether disapprove of the rule of the House, but what he did dislike was the course pursued in the present case. Last year a bill for the erection of an Alms House at St. George was up, it was by a large vote resolved not to dispense with the rule, and the bill was withdrawn; nothing had been done since, and either the inhabitants did not want the bill, much, or else they were not willing to incur the expense of publishing it.

Hon. Mr. Todd complained of the grievance inflicted by the enforcement of the rule in localities where there was but one paper, whose publisher might enforce the payment of a very large sum for the publication of a bill. He thought, therefore, their honors would be disposed to admit that the publication of a synopsis or the mere title of the bill is sufficient.

On the vote to suspend the rule, so far as applies to this bill, it was agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Steeves, a member of her Majesty's Executive, laid before the House returns of the Central Fire Insurance Company, returns of the St. John Bay Boat Company, the Commissioners of the Public Hospital, St. John, and the fifth annual report of the Post Master General.

House go into committee on a bill to define the boundaries of Carleton and Victoria.

Hon. Mr. Botsford said, it did not appear whether the line had been run by the magnet or the meridian, but he thought the line according to the law of the Province, and therefore he did not see the necessity of the bill.

Hon. Mr. Rice said, it was only sought to explain the boundary, according to the law of the Province, dividing the counties; but there was a mistake in the codified lines in which the line was described as being run from the mouth of the river to the De Chute; by that line it ran obliquely across the farms of some parties, and they only asked to carry out the line provided by law in the first instance.

Hon. Mr. Seelye said, as the members were agreed and the present line cut through the farms, leaving a part in one County and part in the other, there can be, he thought, no objection to the bill.

Hon. Mr. Percie explained that the object of the bill was merely to explain and carry out the spirit of the law.

House went into committee on a bill more effectually to provide for the repairs of streets, bridges, side ways, &c., St. Stephen. The 34th rule was suspended.

Hon. Mr. Todd explained that the bill did not alter the mode of expending the money, but in the computation. The street referred to, is the great thoroughfare through St. Stephen. The commutation money now, 25 cents, was not sufficient and, he thought, too low. It reaches only the rich tax payer while the poor man can commute his tax for 25 cents.

Hon. Mr. Seelye was not disposed to oppose the bill, but thought there should be some provisions. This was one of those matters in which the enforcement of the 34th rule seemed necessary, but it had been suspended this morning and therefore was not. There was nothing before the House to show that the people desired this bill.

After some further discussion the bill was agreed to.

A bill to amend an act incorporating the Petition Bridge Company was committed, the 34th rule being suspended.

Hon. Mr. Chandler explained that this bill merely contemplated extending the time, and giving power to the corporation to divide the capital stock into smaller shares. Agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Botsford presented the petition of Margaret Brown against repeal of an act 3rd Vic., relating to wharves at St. John.

March 14. Bill to provide for the erection and maintenance of a Poor House in the Parish of St. George. This bill provides for the assessment by the Justices of the Peace, of the necessary amount for the erection of the necessary buildings, and empowers the appointment of Commissioners, and provides for the necessary management, &c.

Hon. Mr. Todd said, the bill only gave authority to erect, it would be well to give power to purchase property, as well.

Hon. Mr. Robertson was understood to advocate the placing the regulating of the poor of the several Counties in the hands of the sessions, without the necessity of special legislation in each case. He thought but one general Alms House in each County would be necessary.

Hon. Mr. Todd, the economy from the adoption of Alms Houses, depended upon the Commissioners, but thus far in Charlotte County, the principle had worked well. And its operation had proved it much superior to the out-door and system; frequently applicants for aid, when told they must go to the Alms House, will in preference make greater exertions to earn their own support, and thus a great saving to the Parishes is effected. As to the bill, it would be well to extend the powers of the local authorities in Counties, so as to give them jurisdiction over matters of this kind, it would save legislation. He believed the inhabitants wished to have this Alms House erected. This was the third in the Province.

Hon. Mr. Harrison said, £2000 was a very heavy sum to be raised in any one Parish, and would not be prepared to give his sanction to the bill unless fully satisfied that the inhabitants were fully aware of the measure, and were anxious to have the bill passed. He expressed through the printer for it. The interest, £30, would go a long way toward supporting the poor. If the people want a change they should ask for it.

Hon. Mr. Seelye thought there should be some more evidence before the House, that the people wanted it passed. He agreed with those hon. members who were disposed to place the management of the poor entirely in the hands of the sessions of the several Counties. He was quite in favor of the bill provided the people interested wanted it.

Hon. Mr. Rice did not think the bill could be sustained because the rule of the Lower House had not even been complied with.

Hon. Mr. Todd, oh, yes, it was read in sessions.

Hon. Mr. Rice, we are, I regret to find, giving rise to some objections, and serious difficulty may arise in passing bills when we are not aware that the people interested are informed upon the subject. He would be willing to give the Grand Jury the power to regulate the poor of the several Counties, but not the sessions.

Hon. Mr. Steeves said, the bill had been read in sessions; had passed the Lower House; the journals of the House were circulated in St. George, Charlotte, and the people that Parish must know the position in which the bill is, and if they send now no remonstrance it was rather good evidence that the people were satisfied. If the rule has not been literally complied with, it has virtually. He would go for reporting progress, in order to give further time for any remonstrance which might be desired.

Hon. Mr. President said, the inhabitants of St. George numbered 3000. He was in favor of reporting progress in order if it should appear that they really wished the passage of the bill the people's desire should be complied with, although they had not strictly complied with the requisitions of the law.

Hon. Mr. Botsford said, it would not be necessary to report progress, because if passed it might stand over, for a third reading, for a length of time sufficient for any remonstrance to be received against it. He was pleased that the people of this Parish had determined to improve the condition of their poor, such a step should be encouraged. It was satisfied that as the bill had been read in sessions had received the support of the County members in the other branch, and a letter had been read in its favor from several leading gentlemen of St. George, the people must be aware of its nature. He warmly advocated the encouragement of the establishment of Alms Houses.

Hon. Mr. Wark was strongly in favor of County

Alms Houses, and County control and management of the poor in general.

Hon. Mr. Steeves expressed himself in favor of the bill, and particularly pleased with the suggestions of hon. gentlemen for the establishment of County Alms Houses, and the control of the poor being placed in the hands of the County authorities.

The bill was agreed to.

Bill to define the Boundaries between Carleton and Victoria was, again, committed and agreed to without discussion or amendment.

March 15, 1864. The Council went into Committee in consideration of a bill authorizing the municipality of York to issue debentures to the amount of £500 and assign generally, to assist in the arrangements for the Exhibition of 1864 under the direction of the Provincial Board of Agriculture.

Hon. The President said he certainly approved of the bill.

Hon. Mr. Wark expressed great pleasure at the liberal spirit evinced by the City of Fredericton and the County of York, in the present case.

Hon. Mr. Botsford felt called upon to make a few remarks, contradictory of statements which had been uttered in this House a few days since, and published in the reports. On that occasion, reference was made to irregularities in the accounts of a society in the County of St. John, and from this reference he had taken the whole Board of Agriculture had marked its displeasure, at the conduct of the Society in question, by withholding the usual grant, this year. Had hon. gentlemen taken the trouble to enquire into the circumstances they would scarcely have spoken in the way they did, and the thought would be much better if hon. gentlemen, instead of ignoring the claims of the agricultural interest of the Province, upon which all other interests were largely based, would turn their great intellects to an investigation of, and reform in, the public departments of the Province.

Some hon. gentlemen were very much opposed to a sum of \$10,000 for the encouragement and development of agriculture, while two thirds of the revenues of the Province was derived directly or indirectly from the agriculturalists. Here the hon. gentleman proceeded to refer to the expenditures and receipts of the Crown Land Department, as showing an improper state of things, the revenues being so exceedingly small, while they were nearly all used in the expenses of the Department of the Post Office Department, which was especially referred to professional and mercantile men, required a sum of £2000 from the general revenues to make up its deficiency, and notwithstanding it was not self-sustaining, the additional expense of the general offices of the Department of the establishment. He did not not intend going into the details of the accounts as the gentlemen who had made the remarks alluded to were not present. The course adopted by York County in this matter, was highly creditable, and had fully justified the action of the Board in determining upon holding the Exhibition in Fredericton in 1864. If it were not for the arrangements made by the Board, the Exhibition would have been held in St. John, and the revenues of the Province would have been £5,000. The receipts from the coming Exhibition will go into the funds of the Board, while all the money appropriated from its funds towards these arrangements will be £300. He doubted if even the rich and flourishing County of St. John would have acted as liberally as had York. The arrangements, for the purpose, would be as complete as any in the continent. The Board would be in a position to offer large premiums and thus ensure a better show. Referring to the advantages resulting from such exhibitions, he said that the Secretary of the Agricultural Society in 1862, at St. John, in Sussex, pronounced the ploughing there superior to any he had ever seen in Maine.

Hon. Mr. Wark was sure Mr. Botsford did not intend to cast reflections on the whole County of St. John, because one local society had allowed irregularities in its accounts.

Hon. Mr. Botsford meant to say the operations of that particular society were not such as was creditable to the County or the Province generally.

Hon. Mr. Todd expressed the very great satisfaction he felt in the assurance that the Exhibition of 1864 would be so completely provided for, as to require but a small amount of the general revenues, and was pleased, that while the money was in some instances, misapplied by local societies, that on the whole the operations of the Board were being attended with success. Give that Board a fair trial and prove its inefficiency before condemning it.

Hon. Mr. Steeves said, a little amused at the remarks by Hon. Mr. Botsford complaining of statements made by other hon. gentlemen in his absence, while there was no hon. gentleman more ready to find fault than himself. He could not even make his defence to-day without complaining of the operations of the Board, and he thought it was fair to mention that such investigation could do no harm. He was pleased at the favorable position in which the preparations of the coming exhibition were. He would like to know how the £4,500 had been provided. In Canada these exhibitions were held annually, and were calculated to improve the agriculture and mechanical interests, and much good must, he thought, result from them when properly conducted and judiciously managed.

Hon. Mr. Botsford perhaps could not mention all the items which make up the balance. The York Agricultural Society had for three years past appropriated a large portion of its grant and subscriptions to the Exhibition fund. Last year a private subscription had been made in Fredericton which amounted to £300. There was £100 of the proceeds of the show last fall appropriated to this purpose. When he complained of the management of any of the public departments he had data upon which to base his complaints; as to the case with those who had been referred as complaining of the Agricultural Board.

Hon. Mr. Steeves thought it would be difficult for his hon. friend to manage the Crown Land department for less expense than it was now conducted, and he had forgotten in his estimate of the cost of the Exhibition fund, the cost of the amount of export duty collected at St. John, which was legitimately from the Crown domains. The expenses of the department had been very much lessened by the system of confining the advertisements to the Royal Gazette, while at the same time the charge of an undue influence, by this patronage, had been removed.

Hon. Mr. Steeves said, he thought it was rather curious that the hon. friend had been quite satisfied by the debate on this subject last year. The deficiency in this department, complained of, could not only be removed, but a surplus ensured if the Legislature were to see fit to return to the old system of advertising in pamphlets, &c., the territory of which was not involved in the expenditure, and made no return to the revenue.

The bill was agreed to.

March 16. Council went into Committee on a bill to amend an act relating to certain exemptions from duty at the port of St. John, and to provide for the payment of rates of pilotage, which had been exempted by the law.

Hon. Mr. Todd: This bill arises out of an imaginary grievance on the part of the Pilots of Charlotte County. The operations of the law will not have the effect anticipated by the pilots, who suppose that all vessels entering the ports will refuse to take pilots, but now as always, foreign vessels entering the harbor will have to take pilots and thus be themselves liable to pay the usual rates. He was not opposed to the bill, but thought it was not needed.

Hon. Mr. Seelye said that in the port of Saint John, pilots offering their services to vessels entering the harbor of St. John could claim half-pilotage; perhaps this was the grievance really complained of by the pilots of St. Stephen. As this seemed to be making rather a small matter of legislation, he would not insist upon its repeal, but if it next time he would move to postpone it three months. This motion passed.

Bill relating to Steam navigation was committed.

Hon. Mr. Steeves said that it had been found that the bill was sufficiently guarded so as not to require the amendments suggested when the bill was before committee on a former occasion.

Hon. Mr. Hamilton thought the bill was loosely drawn, so far as related to the control of the Government over the Examination Board, to the employment of an efficient assistant Engineer. He enjoined great care on the part of the Government in the appointment of Engineers, who had in charge the lives and property of the subject.

Hon. Mr. Steeves said the object of the bill was to provide for the safety of the subjects and their property by the employment of an efficient assistant Engineer as Engineers and assistant Engineers as are tho-

roughly competent. No doubt the Government will regard the subject as a very important one, and exercise great care in the appointment of the Examiners.

Hon. Mr. Earle did not think bill went far enough and should provide for an assistant engineer; it should be compulsory, the appointment of assistant engineer.

Hon. Mr. Seelye thought there would be no difficulty in this respect as for the sake of their own interest the owners of the boats would secure a sufficient number of officers.

Hon. Mr. Odell could not understand why the operations of this bill should be deferred until the first of August next, nearly one half of the season. If the measure, as generally acknowledged, was a desirable one why should it not go into force at once. He complained that the penalty of \$100 on the owner of the boat for every offence was entirely too small; it seemed useless to put a penalty upon the engineer but there should be a very heavy one on the owners.

Hon. Mr. Todd, the great change contemplated might if the measure were enforced at once, have the effect of driving all the present engineers from their positions, as they might require some time to prepare themselves for the examination. He thought the penalty was sufficient and that upon engineers was so large, \$100, compared to their wages that they would be interested in the matter, and observe additional caution. The penalty could be enforced for every day in which the rules were violated.

Hon. Mr. Seelye thought some time for preparation should be allowed the engineers previous to the enforcement of the bill. He also thought the bill was sufficiently guarded so far as the penalty was concerned.

Hon. Mr. Odell was afraid of the practical operation of the bill, and that complaints would not be made until an accident occurred. The certificate, he thought, should be hanging up in the boat in such a manner that the boiler certificate should be visible to the public, and that the law going into effect.

Hon. Mr. Steeves said the provision that the bill should not go into effect until the 1st August is a most salutary one, in order to do justice to the owners of boats who now are, or would be soon, running and might be injured by the measure. He urged the wisdom of the law going into effect.

Hon. Mr. Odell thought the fact that they might have to make a general change in August was an argument in favor of his suggestion as it would be better to make the change in spring than in August. He deprecated the idea of having the influence of the Council entirely die down and their privileges impaired by trustees declining to amend bills, for fear they should not be agreed to in the other branch of the Legislature, from capricious and frivolous jealousies existing there on the part of some members towards the Council.

Hon. Mr. Seelye thought the objections of hon. hon. friends were captious and frivolous. The system under which this Council was deprived of any of its former privileges by the giving up of the initiation of the money grants, was one in force in the mother country and in the colonies.

Hon. Mr. Hamilton thought the delay in the operations of the bill a most objectionable one, and that the owners of boats time to secure efficient Engineers.

Hon. Mr. Seelye: As soon as the bill passed it would be the first aim of the owners of boats to secure competent Engineers, such as will pass examination, as they will not want to change their Engineers until the next year. He could not understand the care taken by the owners of the boats between Boston and St. John to secure the most efficient Engineers.

Hon. The President was pleased with the bill, as it would afford additional security to the lives and property of travellers. In neither of the cases where accidents had occurred on this river did the accident occur through inefficiency of the Engineers but rather through their carelessness. He thought it only fair that some certain time should be allowed to give Engineers opportunity to prepare themselves for examination under the rules of the Government.

Bill was agreed to.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY. FREDERICTON, MAR. 10, 1864.

This morning, after a very little formal business, the debate on the Railway resolutions was resumed by Mr. Fisher, who proceeded, in a speech said to be the most powerful he has ever delivered, to consider the whole subject. First arguing the peculiar advantages to this Province of the Inter-colonial scheme, whether financially, as to the small amount it would cost and the facilities offered for getting the money, or generally in a military, mechanical and political point of view. He held that we should use every endeavor to obtain the road upon the proposed terms; at all events we could not properly consent to a repeal of the bill of last year when by the agreement two years were to be allowed during which time Canada might come in.

Hon. Mr. Wark, in the very anxious and 25 years agitation, to give the Inter-colonial bill when just within our grasp, and just when Canada was beginning to show vivacity in the matter. The efforts of the opponents had generally been directed to show rather how we can get rid of our engagements than why we should.

To repeal the law now would be to lay ourselves open to the charge of having shirked our responsibilities in the late colonial scheme in order to adopt a new one, the Western Extension. He recited the correspondence, and various correspondence, on the subject to substantiate his position, and show that Canada had not withdrawn from the compact, or that we were in a position to proceed to new legislation. However the result might affect the Inter-colonial bill, he was desirous to maintain the good faith of the Province. The government would vote for the amendment, and then for the resolution of Mr. Fisher.

Hon. Mr. Seelye followed the Provincial Secretary, and went at length into the Inter-colonial scheme, its origin and objects. He intimated that the people of the Province had been misled into supposing that we would have a voice as to the route to be chosen for the road; had the truth been known Mr. Gray would not have been returned last year from St. John. He then dwelt upon the obscurity of the provisions of the bill, and the fact that the expense of the road was not limited; our legislation, he declared, had been entirely premature. Canada had not acted with bad faith, but had distinctly and unequivocally declared she was not bound any further by the basis of 1862. The Government of Nova Scotia do not consider themselves bound, and it was a rather striking fact that at the last election every party who opposed the Railway bill was returned triumphantly. The public press had, as generally, as last year they favored the Inter-colonial scheme, this year unanimously declared that the basis of '62 had been abandoned and we were no longer bound.

He had always regarded a connection with the United States as of the first importance for our trade. It was no advantage to get money for nothing, and expend it where it made no return, and therefore better to pay even 6 per cent. to build the Western Extension, because it would pay five times as much as the Canadian road. In 1851 there was an opportunity of having an Inter-colonial road on the favorable terms, under the proposal of Earl Grey, but the country declared against the proposition. Our repeal of the bill would not be an endorsement of the charges of perfidy against the Canadian Government.

Hon. Attorney General read from a speech of Mr. Arthur of Canada, in which he said neither the House or people had confidence in the Government which had disregarded Canada, broken faith with Nova Scotia, and in reply to those who complained of the charges against Canada of violation of good faith.

March 11, 1864. Our readers have already been made aware, by telegram, of the peculiar aspect which the railway question suddenly assumed this morning, by the announcement by the Provincial Secretary, that Nova Scotia proposed to repeal the railway bills of last winter, and his request that, for the present, the debate on Mr. Cutlip's resolutions be not proceeded with, as the result would be probably aware before these lines were read and in time to inform our readers in another column. Suffice to say that the announcement seemed to upset to a great extent, the theories and ideas of nearly all the hon. gentlemen. It must have been a relief to the Government to have the result of the debate not proceeding very honorable position, and giving new *relat* to the Provincial Secretary, whose conduct, had he foreseen

the action of Nova Scotia could not have been more judicious, or his very powerful speech of the 10th better timed. And then again the prospects of the Western Extensionists very suddenly brightened, so suddenly, we can imagine, for some in whose desire for Railroads, anywhere or anyhow, some people have very little faith. In the afternoon, there being a committee on the bill to incorporate the Woodstock and Houlton Railroad Company. We did not hear all the debate and, therefore, cannot give even an epitome of the speeches. This, however, is not much loss. It took most hon. members by surprise that any opposition should be offered to the bill at all, as it was for a mere local line, had some hon. gentlemen got the idea into their heads, that there was something hidden in it; that it affected general interests, &c., and in consequence they made flourishing speeches against it. Mr. Anglin said, after hearing the plain, sensible exposition of Mr. Munroe, that he saw the serpent in it, or words to that effect. Mr. M. did not catch the words at the time, but said, afterward, when they were commented upon by another hon. gentleman, that had he heard Anglin use them he would have knocked him down. Mr. Anglin pretended to get the idea that the Western Extension scheme would suffer by it, and he and others imagined that it would tend to draw the trade from St. John to Bangor, forgetting all the time their advocacy of the Western Extension to Bangor. Lindsay pointed out the selfishness of St. John and its past dependence upon the products and trade of up-river.

Mr. Skinner who had, during Mr. Lindsay's speech, sat and jeered at and tried to interrupt him, saying "hadn't you better have a drink &c." got up to reply to Lindsay. He said that Lindsay put great stress upon the benefit to St. John of the up-river trade, but St. John could take care of herself, he said Lindsay boasted of the Carleton County potatoes and wheat, probably he had been RAISED ON SUCH FOOD, to a great extent, as he was noted for an amount of IGNORANCE which was only exceeded by his IMPUDENCE.

Mr. Lindsay here rose and said, that if the House allowed such language, and did not protect its own dignity, he would protect himself, and if such a remark was again made would punish Mr. Skinner at his own desk. There was some excitement now, and some desired that the doors should be closed, but as the chairman of committee had not taken down the offensive words, it was deemed to report progress, and soon after the House adjourned.

Mr. Fisher and the Attorney General, as well as the Chief Commissioner of Public Works, took part in the debate, speaking in favor of the bill, the Attorney General particularly, making a statesmanlike speech embracing comprehensive and liberal views.

March 12, 1864. To-day there has been simply nothing done of interest or importance to our readers. The only matter which has engaged the attention of the House is a bill relating to the Jurisdiction of the City Court, St. John.

The lobby is deserted by the members of the several delegations which for several days of this week crowded them and this, with the general eclipse in the excitement of the past few days, shed a certain aspect of desolation over the House.

March 13, 1864. The House was in supply to-day and a few items passed; the most of the time being occupied with questions and replies, elucidating the financial statements and matters relevant thereto.

Mr. McClellan introduced a bill to amend the consolidated highway law, and Dr. Dow one to incorporate the Fredericton Skating Club—important measure this.

March 15. With the exception of some talk over and about bye roads, militia, steam navigation, &c., not assuming the complexion of a discussion, the house simply passed a vote to pay R. B. Cutler a claim of \$25 for services in connection with the disputed territory; and two items of supply, viz. Post Office and Public Works, these latter without amendment.