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Fredericton bridge last year, and to whom paid, etc.

On motion that the House in committee resume supply, Mr. Alward moved, seconded by Mr. Smith, the following amendment:

That Mr. Speaker do not now leave the chair, but that it be resolved that

Whereas the expenditure for public printing appears large for the services performed, this house is of the opinion that as far as practicable the public printing should be let by tender.

The amendment was supported by Alward, Stockton, Phinney, Pitts and Pinder, and opposed by Blair, Mitchell, White and Tweedie. The amendment was lost, the vote being:

Yeas: Powell, Stockton, Phinney, Shaw Smith, (St. John) Alward, Pitts, Allen, Howe and Pinder.—10.

Nays: Blair, Mitchell, Emmerson, White, Tweedie, Labillois, Gogain, Harrison, Blanchard, Theriault, Russell Killam Flewelling, Scovil, Baird, O'Brien, (Northumberland), Dibblee, Dunn, McLeod, Wells, Farris, O'Brien, (Charlotte) Hill.—23.

The motion that Mr. Speaker leave the chair was carried and the house went into committee to further consider supply. The following items passed without opposition:

Natural history society	$ 125
Public health contingencies	1,100
Public hospitals	4,400

On the item of officers and messengers of the legislature, $2,345, Mr. Stockton moved an amendment that the amount be reduced by $435, claiming that one engrossing clerk could be done away with.

The amendment was lost, the vote being:

Yeas: Powell, Stockton, Phinney, Shaw, Smith, (St. John) Alward, Pitts, Howe, Pinder.—9.

Nays.—Blair, Mitchell, Emmerson, White, Tweedie, Labillois, Blanchard Scovil, Theriault, Sivewright, Mott, Flewelling, Baird, O'Brien, (Northumberland) Dibblee, Dunn, McLeod, Wells, Ferris, O'Brien, (Charlotte) Hill—21.

On the item of $1000 for law clerk Stockton moved an amendment that the blank be filled in with the figures "naught." This was lost, the vote being:

Yeas: Powell, Stockton, Phinney, Shaw Smith, (St. John) Alward, Pitts, Howe, Pinder.—9.

Nays: Blair, Mitchell, Emmerson, White, Tweedie, Labillois, Blanchard, Theriault, Russell, Sivewright, Mott Flewelling, Scovil, Baird, O'Brien, (Northumberland) Dibblee, Dunn, McLeod, Wells Farris, O'Brien, Charlotte)—21.

The item passed:

Contingencies $12,000, was criticised by Powell, Stockton, Pinder, Smith, Phinney.

The item passed.

On item of $11,000 for public printing Stockton moved an amendment that the amount be made $8000, but withdrew it after explanation by Mitchell.

The item then passed.

Further consideration of supply was made the order of the day for this (Wednesday) afternoon.

Mitchell introduced a bill providing for the incorporation of societies for the sale and distribution of seed grain on credit. Adjourned.

FREDERICTON, March, 29.—Blair rose to a question of privilege, reading letters from J, H. Barry, William Wilson and John W. Wetmore touching the charge of Pitts that William Quinn had contributed $200 on the understanding that he was to receive an office under the government. The letters gave a denial to Pitts' statement.

Pitts replied stating that he had never charged that Blair had received the money. There was nothing, he said, in the letters to show that his statement that Quinn had contributed on the understanding that he was to get an office was not correct.

House in supply passed several items and adjourned at 2.05 o'clock this morning.

FREDERICTON, March 29.—On motion that the house resume consideration of supply in committee, Howe moved the following amendment:

That Mr. Speaker do not now leave the chair, but that it be resolved that

Whereas the travelling expenses of the members of the government have of late years considerably increased, this house is of the opinion that they should only be paid on a detailed statement of such expenditure being given to the Auditor-General.

Mr. Howe said he did not intend making any lengthy speech. The amendment was not moved with a view of blocking public business. The travelling expenses of members of the government had greatly increased of late years and the opposition did not desire that the public should imagine that they (the opposition) had not raised their voices against such increase particularly in the face of the falling revenue and the necessity for greater economy.

The amendment was lost, the vote being:

Yeas: Powell, Stockton, Phinney, Smith (St. John), Alward, Pitts, Allen, Howe, Pinder, Perley.—10.

Nays: Blair, Mitchell, Emmerson, Tweedie, Labillois, Gogain, Lewis, Harrison, Blanchard, Theriault, Russell, Sivewright, Killam, Smith, Dibblee, Dunn, McLeod, Wells, Ferris, O'Brien (Charlotte), Hill.—23.

House then went into supply.

Upon the item of lunatic asylum ($45,000) being taken up, Dr. Stockton said that in February, 1893, a young man named Rudick Kirk was sent to the asylum and in October, it was alleged by his mother, had been summarily ejected from the asylum, and nothing had been heard of him since. It was said that he had gone to the lumber woods, but the report had not, as far as he knew, been verified.

Hon. Mr. Blair said Mrs. Kirk had come to him and had somewhat aroused his sympathies, but he was forced to the belief that she was not entirely reliable. He had ascertained that this patient was a full grown man, and he had been discharged from the institution as cured. He understood that he had gone to the lumber woods and that letters had been received from him since. Mr. Blair said a good deal of entirely unfounded criticism had appeared in the press with reference to escapes from the asylum. It was not true that there was a larger proportion of escapes from the asylum than from other institutions of the kind elsewhere.

Dr. Stockton—You are wrong there. I saw a statement of the escapes from 10 or 12 institutions, which showed to the contrary.

Hon. Mr. Blair said whatever defects there might be in the management of the asylum it could not be denied that Dr. Steeves gave his best thought and energy and effection to its welfare. It was very unfair for persons who had no special knowledge on the subject to rush into print with attacks on that official which were groundless.

Mr. Phinney said he had hoped that some explanation would be given by the government as to their present policy with reference to the management of the asylum as to the municipalities, which has been rather a live question of late. The assessment for this year, by the arbitrary authority of the attorney general, has been withdrawn. Would that involve a double assessment next year or was the assessment next year to be reduced? He had examined thereport of the superintendent with interest. Presumably that report was written in December, andit must have been communicated to the government before the first of January, so that they must have been advised of Dr. Steeves' view of the law some time before the latter communicated with the municipalities; hence they must have known what construction he was going to put upon it. Dr. Steeves in his report referred to the extreme care which it was necessary to use as respects the health and safety of the inmates, which was the best possible argument why they should not be handed over to the alms houses or farmed out by public auction as was done in some sections. It might be said that it was not the intention of the government that dangerous lunatics should be handed over to the municipalities; but it was very difficult to draw the line between dangerous and harmless lunatics. The responsibility rested upon the province to care for these people. Dr. Steeves in the report complained that he had no power to refuse admissions. Why did not the government endeavor to meet that difficulty? If that power was given to Dr. Steeves the necessity for the obnoxious legislation of last year would be very small indeed. He was surprised to see from the report that it was not so much the outlying counties that were unloading paupers upon the asylum, but the St. John county alms house.

Hon. Mr. Mitchell said it was not the case that Dr. Steeves had written the report in December. He knew that the doctor had written the report in the early part of February, and it had not been forwarned to the department until February 20th.

Mr. Phinney asked if the government concurred in the view expressed in the report that there should be no distinction as regards the various classes of indigent patients, as far as allocating the cost of their maintenance is concerned. The report did credit to Dr. Steeves' head and heart, and showed that he had given a marked attention to his duties. He (Phinney) submitted that before the item passed, the government should explain their policy.

Mr. Sivewright believed that hon. gentlemen opposite were simply dodging around the question for political effect; and that in their hearts they were in favor of the principal of the legislation they now condemned. He thought the object of the asylum should be to care for dangerous patients, and that it was not correct that the pauper insane should be sent there. The bill of last year did not impose direct taxation, but it gave the municipalities the choice of sending the pauper patients there or keeping them at home.

Dr. Alward said there was one very striking observation in the report of Dr. Steeves which seemed be very much at variance with the contention of the gov- namely: "It is thought that a large number of patients have been committee to the asylum who might have been cared for well enough elsewhere. I may say with reference to this belief that it is a popular one and contains some ground of truth, but the number of these cases has been over-rated." The report bore internal evidence of being written by Dr. Steeves to pave the way for the operation of the act of last session and in support of direct taxation.

Dr. Stockton said the superintendent in the report on page 14 states with respect to the lunatic asylum act that it "will" come into operation. Evidently that was written before January 1st, 1894.

Mr. Russell said that with a proper system of admission to the asylum, 25 per cent less patients would be admitted and there would be no need of direct taxation. At present the doctors all over the province issued certificates whenever asked to do so and received their fee of $4. He knew that people had been sent there from his county who were no more insane than himself or the hon. member from Kent. Just as great a saving could be effected by changing the system of admission as by enforcing the act of last session.

Mr. Pitts said it was quite evident that Dr. Steeves was not in accord with the policy of the government, for while the municipal councils were raising Cain and the attorney general was taking back water by writing letters to them, Dr. Steeves was sitting down writing a report that the municipalities should be thoroughly dosed with direct taxation. He (Pitts) did not agree with the view of some members of the opposition that Dr. Steeves was a successful superintendent. Public sentiment in St. John was that there was maladministration in that institution. The public had lost confidence in that official and it would be a wise thing for the government to secure a medical expert to displace that gentleman. He believed that all classes of insane should go to the asylum and that the proper way out of present difficulties was to reduce the cost of maintaining that institution.

The item passed.

The item of $4,000 for encouragement of dairying passed without opposition, and further consideration of supply was made order of day for tomorrow.

Mr. Smith (St. John) made his motion for details of expenditures on Suspension bridge. He repeated his observations of last week to the effect that he had information that while the province paid at the rate of two dollars and fifty cents a day for the wages of all the men at least one half of the whole fifty two employed on the bridge had only received $2 per day. He wished, in justice to the present chief commissioner, to say that the expenditures were made before he took office He described the efforts that he (Smith) had made last year to get the information now asked for. He had to be content with partial information. In addition to his statement of last week he had since heard that some of the men who appeared in the accounts as receiving two dollars and fifty cents a day had not worked on the bridge at all.

Mr. Emmerson said it was his desire to have the matter fully investigated. He suggested to the hon. member whether it would not suit his purpose to have access to the original accounts.

Mr. Smith said he would not consent to anything but getting the information in the manner he had asked for it.

Mr. Emmerson said all the information would be furnished without an address. If the province had been defrauded the guilty parties, whoever they might be, would be followed and restitution would be demanded.

Mr. Smith said he would be glad if a full investigation showed that a reasonable explanation could be made in what now seems a very improper transaction. With the assurance given by Mr. Emmerson he would withdraw his motion.

Mr. Blair introduced a bill respecting the registration of deeds and other instruments relating to lands.

Mr. Tweedie introduced a bill further relating to crown lands.

Mr. Phinney gave notice of motion for copies of all petitions or memorials in reference to a grant to Julien Dorian of four acres of land in the parish of Richibucto.—Adjourned.

(Continued on page 2.)

Local Legislature.

FREDERICTON, March, 27.—The House met this afternoon but adjourned after routine until the evening, the attendance of members being small.

House reassembled this evening.

Hon. Mr. Blair from the committee to nominate all standing committees recommended the following:—

Public Accounts:—Flewelling, Farris, Dibble, Powell, Shaw, Pinder, Killam.

Agriculture:—Russel, Theriault, Baird, Dibble, Harrison, Robinson, Gogain, Howe Farris, Dunn, Scovil, Kiallm, Blanchard, Shaw, Mott, Lewis.

Municipalities:—Emmerson, Mitchell, Blair, Mott, O'Brien, (Northumberland), Russell, Wells, Blanchard, Farris McLeod, Alward, Stockton, Flewelling, Theriault, Howe, Pinder, Gogain, Dibble, Killam, Shaw, Scovil.

Law Practice and Procedure:—White, Mott, Wells, Emmerson, Powell, Phinney, Stockton.

Corporations:—Mitchell, Blair, Labillois Tweedie, Hill, White, Baird, O'Brien, (Charlotte), Robinson, Smith, (Westmorland), Dunn, Harrison, Sivewright, Stockton, Powell, Perley, Pitt, Allen, Smith, (St. John), Phinney, Lewis.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Mitchell, the auditor general's report and public accounts for 1893 were referred to committee on public accounts.

Hon. Mr. Mitchell introduced a bill to further amend the act relating to the solemnization of marriages.

Mr. Smith, (St. John) gave notice of motion for a detailed statement of the cost, etc., of repairs to the suspension bridge during the summer and autumn of 1892, embracing quantity and quality of lumber, by whom furnished, price paid per 1,000 and ton for same, and cost of painting, whether done by contract or days work; if by days work, number of men, number of days employed and rate of wages per day; also the quantity of paint and oil, by whom furnished, price per pound and gallon, quantity of nails spikes, bolts, washers and nuts, price and from whom purchased, cost of blocks and rope used and by whom furnished. Are the same on hand? If sold how much was received for them? Cost of blacksmith work and by whom done; also to whom did the department of public works send money to pay for these repairs, and was money paid to the employes and others furnishing materials and supplies by the party who first received it from department.

Mr. Pitts gave notice of motion for details of expenditure of $5,263 on the

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