

are in good condition but scant, owing to the fresh supply not having arrived.

Your committee held a special meeting on the sixteenth of November last, to consult as to the best method of meeting the wishes of your members, that they might be allowed the use of the threshing machine, as it could not be sold otherwise than at cost and charges, which no person was willing to give for it, until first tried; they directed the secretary to hire it out to any member of the society requiring the use of the same, at seven shillings and six pence per day, at the risk of the hirer, to be returned in like good condition as received or paid for at the amount of costs and charges, and it was accordingly let to Mr Hamilton, on the twenty fifth of the same month, but not yet returned on account of it having met with an accident on the first day of trial, that has not yet been repaired.

Your committee congratulate the county on having harvested a fair average crop of grain the past season, and although the potato disease made its appearance again partially, still the entertain a hope, that with economy, a sufficiency may remain after the winter for seed, which places the inhabitants of this county on a more favorable footing than are many other counties, with the exception, that this is without mills to grind its grain, nor has a market yet been erected, wherein to vend its produce.

On reference to the first report of this society, your committee find, that the then and now continued system, or rather the want of system, of laying off crown lands, had engaged the attention of the committee who had prepared it, but your committee regret to state, that no efficient measures have yet been taken to improve that method, or to establish a Meridional or Base Line in the county, to insure a uniform manner of establishing the boundary lines between lots; a matter of so much importance to the Agriculturists and owners of land, that your committee are induced by a strong sense of the necessity that exists of adopting an improved method of locating settlers, and determining their boundaries, to urge the subject upon your immediate attention, while the county is yet in its infancy; being well convinced that every additional line run under the old regime, will multiply the evils to be dreaded, from a continuance of the present practice.

Your committee have received a communication from the Saint John Agricultural and Horticultural society, proposing that a central Board of Agriculture be re-established in New Brunswick, which they lay before you for your consideration, and an expression of your opinion.

By Order, DUGALD STEWART, Secretary and Treasurer.

OFFICE BEARERS FOR THE YEAR 1848.

Ordered—That the said Report be received and published.

That the thanks of this meeting are due and are hereby given to the office bearers for the past year.

The president having vacated the chair, it was Resolved, on motion of William Hamilton, Esquire,—That Andrew Barbare, Esquire be re-elected President.

On motion of Peter Stewart Esquire—That Hugh Montgomery and James McPherson, Esquires, be re-elected Vice Presidents; that Dugald Stewart Esquire be re-elected Secretary and Treasurer; that John Douglas and Donald Stewart Esquires, continue in the committee, and that Thomas Murray, William Hamilton, and John McCormic, Esquires, be elected members of the committee, for the present year, in pursuance of the Rules of the Society.

Resolved—That should the threshing machine be repaired, and returned agreeably to the terms upon which it was hired, the committee are hereby authorized to dispose of it to the best advantage to any member or members of this society, so as, that other members may have the use of the same when required, for a daily hire, or sold at cost and charges, without any such restriction.

That all calves that may be calved after the 15th of March in every year be eligible to compete for Prizes; although such Calf may exceed the age of six months.

That the usual premiums offered by this society, be continued and in addition thereto, that prizes be awarded in future:—

- For the best sample of butter, in firkins or jars, containing not less than 50lbs. 20 15 0
- The second best sample of do. 10 0
- For the best sample of Cheese, not less than 20lbs. 10 0
- The second best sample of do. 7 6
- For the best piece of plaiding or

- blanketing, not less than twenty yards 15 0
- For the second best sample of do 10 0
- For the best sample, not less than 5lbs of wool, dyed black, blue, red, yellow, and green, from products of the country, the only allowable foreign product to be alum and copperas; the competitor to give a detailed statement of the process on oath if required, 5 0
- For the best three year old Horse or Filly 1 5 0
- For the best two year old ditto do. 15 0
- For the best one year old do do. 17 0

That any member of this society who shall exhibit an animal or article belonging to another person, who is not a member of this society, shall be expelled; and called upon to refund any premium he may have received on account thereof.

That forty copies of the British American Cultivator be ordered, and distributed as premiums, in the same manner as last year.

By Order, DUGALD STEWART, Secretary and Treasurer.

The Grain Show will be held in Dalhousie, on April 11th—the Cattle Shows at the usual places—and the Ploughing Match at Dalhousie, on October 17th.

Provincial Legislature OF NEW BRUNSWICK.

EXTRACTS FROM THE JOURNALS.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,

February 15.

Read a second time the following bills.—A bill to facilitate the construction of a line of Rail road to pass through this province, in connexion with a line in Nova Scotia and Canada.

A bill to provide for the moral effectual administration of an office of the justice of the Peace within the several counties in this province.

A bill to provide for the more efficient and equitable expenditure of the public Monies on the great roads of communication in this province.

Mr Street, by leave, presented a petition from William Kelly of Chatham, in the county of Northumberland, mail carrier between Fredericton and Miramichi, praying that a grant may pass to enable him to convey the mails between those places semi-weekly, instead of weekly as at present; which he read. Ordered, that the said petition be received and referred to the committee appointed to take into consideration all matters relating to the post office establishment, to report thereon.

Mr End, by leave presented a petition from William Napier, Benjamin Dawson, Esqs, and two hundred and seventy two other Freeholders of the county of Gloucester, setting forth the great necessity of a bridge over the Big Nepisiguit, in the county of Gloucester on the great road between Newcastle and Dalhousie, and praying Legislative aid towards the erection thereof; which he read. Ordered that the said petition be received and lie on the table.

Mr Wark by leave presented a petition from the Justices of the peace for the County of Kent, praying to be reimbursed sundry expenses incurred in the care and medical attendance upon an emigrant pauper, ill with ship fever; which he read. Ordered that the said petition be received and referred to the committee for taking into consideration, claims for the support of emigrant poor; to report thereon.

Mr Barbare, by leave, presented a petition from John Gibbs, Alexander Fraser, George Gordon, John Dumeau and sixty others, Freeholders and master Lumberers, of the county of Restigouche, praying Legislative aid towards removing rocks and other obstructions in the Navigation of the river Restigouche, above the tide-way; and also towards removing rocks from the Upsalquitch river, in the same county; which he read. Ordered that the said petition be received and referred to the committee for taking into consideration, the improvement of the navigation of the rivers in this province, to report thereon.

Mr Barbare presented a petition from Donald Stewart, and Adam Ferguson, Esqs, commissioners of Buoys and Beacons for the port of Dalhousie, and Campbellton, in the county of Restigouche, praying that a grant may pass to enable them to place a number of Buoys in the Restigouche River, which were carried away by the drift ice, in the month of November last; which he read. Ordered that the said petition be received and referred to the committee of trade to report thereon.

Mr Read, by leave presented a petition from Richard Garmay Esquire, receiver of crown debts for the county of Gloucester, praying to be remunerated for his services in that capacity which he read; Ordered that the said petition be received and lie on the table.

February 21.

Read a second time.—A Bill to facilitate the settlement of the wild lands of this province.

A bill to provide for the collection and protection of the Revenue of this province; Resolved that the bill do pass.

Read a third time as engrossed, a Bill for ascertaining the population of this province, and for other purposes therein mentioned. Resolved that the Bill do pass.

Mr Hayward from the committee to whom was referred the various petitions for relief by reason of the failure of the crops, submitted their report, and he having read the same, handed it in at the clerk's table, where it was again read, and is as follows:—

The select committee appointed on the 16th day of February instant, to take into consideration the petitions presented to this house from various parts of the province, praying relief in consequence of the distress and destitution occasioned by the failure of the grain and potato crops, having examined the various petitions referred to them, beg leave to report—A bill to provide for the necessities occasioned by the failure of the potato and other crops during the past year.

Respectfully submitted.

THE NEW CONSTITUTION.

The Honorable Mr Hazen, a Member of Her Majesty's Executive Council, in pursuance of an Address of the House of the fifth instant, by command of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, laid before the House the following extract of a Despatch from the Right Honorable Earl Grey, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, to His Excellency Sir John Harvey, the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, and stated that the said Despatch had been transmitted to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, by Earl Grey, as containing His Lordship's views on the system of conducting public affairs in the Administration of the Government of Nova Scotia; which do not merely relate to that Province; but are of general application to British North America.

Extract of a Despatch from Earl Grey to Sir John Harvey, dated Downing street, 31st March, 1847—No. 25.

Upon a careful comparison of these very able Papers, in which the Members of your Council, and their political opponents, have stated their respective views as to the manner in which the Executive Government of Nova Scotia ought to be conducted, I am led to the conclusion, that there is not in reality, so wide a difference of principle between the conflicting parties as would at first sight appear to exist; and that it may not be impossible to chalk out a system of Administration to be hereafter adopted, to which, without the slightest sacrifice of consistency, both might assent.

On the one hand, I find that the Members of your Council declare that they desire in no degree to weaken the responsibility of the Provincial Government to the Legislature; and I gather from the general tenor of their Papers, of the 28th and 30th of January, that they are aware, that in the present state of affairs and of public opinion in Nova Scotia, it is necessary that the Governor of the Province should, in administering its affairs, have the advice and assistance of those who can command the confidence of the Legislature, and more especially of that branch of the Legislature which directly represents the people.

On the other hand, I can hardly doubt that the Gentlemen of the opposite party, who have insisted so strongly upon the necessity of what is termed Responsible Government, would admit the justice and importance of many of the arguments which have been used in order to show the danger and inconvenience of making the general tenure of offices in the Colonial service to depend upon the fluctuations of political contests in the Assembly.

I am the more convinced that the Gentlemen of the opposition will recognise the force of these arguments, because I observe in the various Papers in which they have stated their views, frequent references, either direct or implied, to the practice of this Country, as that which affords the best model for imitation in laying down rules as to the manner in which the Government of Nova Scotia should be carried on.

Now there is scarcely any part of the system of Government in this Country, which I consider of greater value than that, which, though not enforced by any written Laws, but deriving its authority from usage and public opinion, makes the tenure of the great majority of offices in the public service to depend upon good behaviour.

Although, with the exceptions of those who hold the higher judicial situations, in which judicial independence has been considered to be necessary, the whole body of public servants in the United Kingdom held their offices technically, during the pleasure of the Crown; in practice, all, but the very small proportion of offices which are distinguished as political, are held independently of party changes; nor are those who have once been appointed to them, ever, in point of fact, removed, except in consequence of very obvious misconduct or unfitness.

This, in fact, though the legal tenure of "during good behaviour" is rare, tenure during good behaviour, in the popular sense of the term, may be said to be the general rule of our public service.

The exception, as in the case of those high public servants whom it is necessary to invest with such discretion as really, to leave in their hands the whole direction of the policy of the Empire, in all its various departments, such power must, with a Representative

Government, be subject to constant control by Parliament, and is, therefore administered only by such persons as from time to time enjoy the confidence of Parliament, as well as of the Crown. These Heads of Departments or Ministers, together with their immediate subordinates, who are required to represent or support them in Parliament, are almost invariably, Members of one or the other House, and hold their offices only as long as they enjoy the confidence of Parliament. Though it is not without some inconveniences, I regard this system, as possessing, upon the whole, very great advantages. We owe to it that the public servants of this Country, as a body, are remarkable for their experience and knowledge of public affairs, and honorably distinguished by the zeal and integrity with which they discharge their duties, without reference to party feeling. We owe to it, also that as the transfer of power from one party in the state to another, is followed by no change in the holders of any but a few of the highest offices, Political animosities are not in general, carried to the same height, and do not so deeply agitate the whole frame of society, as in those countries in which a different practice prevails.

The system with regard to the Tenure of Office which has been found to work so well here, seems therefore well worthy of imitation in the British American Colonies; and the small population and limited Revenue of Nova Scotia, as well as the general occupation and social state of the community, are in my opinion additional reasons for abstaining so far regards that Province from going further than can be avoided, without giving up the principle of Executive responsibility, in making the Tenure of Offices in the Public Service dependent upon the result of party contests.

In order to keep the Executive Government in harmony with the Legislature, it is doubtless necessary that the direction of the internal policy of the Colony should be entrusted to those who enjoy the confidence of the Provincial Parliament; but it is of great moment not to carry the practice of changing Public Officers further than is absolutely necessary for the attainment of that end, lest the administration of Public Affairs would be deranged by increasing the bitterness of party spirit, and subjecting the whole machinery of Government to perpetual change and uncertainty.

In the political application of these views there will, I am aware, be room for considerable difference of opinion. In this, as in questions of classification, varying circumstances and the various views taken by different men, will give rise to discussions, and occasional alterations with respect to particular offices. Your acquaintance with what has passed and is passing in the Mother Country, suggests to you instances in which the question has been raised, whether a particular office should not be a Parliamentary Office, or some in which different offices have been deliberately removed from the one into the other class.

The question, how many of the Public Offices in Nova Scotia ought to be regarded as political, is one to be determined on the general principles I have before laid down, and with reference to various considerations arising from the peculiar exigencies of the Public Service, and the finances and social state of the Colony. The practical end of Responsible Government would be satisfied by the removability of a single public officer, provided that through him public opinion could influence the general administration of affairs. Without quite assenting to the too modest estimate which your present Council has given of the resources of the Province, I admit that the smallness of the community, its want of wealth and the comparative deficiency of a class possessing leisure and independent incomes, preclude it from at present enjoying a very perfect division of public employments. Small and poor communities must be content to have their work cheaply and somewhat roughly done. Of the present Members of your Council, the Attorney General and Provincial Secretary, to whom the Solicitor General should perhaps be added, appear to me sufficient to constitute the responsible advisers of the Governor. The holders of these offices should henceforth regard them as held on Political Tenure, and with a view to that of the Provincial Secretary should be prepared in the event of any change, to disconnect himself from his office, that of the Clerkship of the Council, which seems to be one that should on every account be held on a more permanent tenure.

It is possible that in the event of any change being rendered necessary by the course of events in the Provincial Parliament, party succeeding to power might insist on creating this number Political Officers, by adding to the list of those to be so regarded, cases such a question should arise, I will leave it to your discretion, on a view of various local and temporary circumstances, which are unable at present to appreciate, to give your own decision with respect to any such demand. I should feel no objection to what increasing the number of Political Officers, should the expense of doing so, without injustice to those now in public service, found to be not more than the Colonial Revenue would conveniently bear.

But I rely on your using your influence to resist that disposition, which, a party succeeding to power, often exhibits, to throw open various offices of emolument to their friends without sufficient regard to the mischief thereby permanently entailed on the public service; and it is but due to what I have said of the conduct of the principal advocates of Responsible Government in Nova Scotia,