

initiation system was conceded to the Executive. The next matter to which he would refer was the subject of Education, and on this vitally important subject he had said to his constituents:

"In respect to Education, I think our present system a bad one. I am of opinion that some plan should be introduced by which all classes, both rich and poor should be identified in that great cause, the education of the people being of vital importance to the advancement of the country."

He believed it would be generally conceded that their present system of Education was a bad one. Large grants of money were annually made for the public schools in this Province, and he (Mr S.) believed that this country did not get an adequate return for the sums of money so expended. Attempts had from time to time been made to improve the system. A Normal and Training School had been established, which here, at any rate, had not been found to do much good; in fact, it had turned out almost a failure. For this he (Mr Street) was not accountable, and he was not prepared to say that the Training School in Saint John had not done good. He believed there it had worked pretty well, but what he did mean to say was, that something more was necessary to be done than had yet been done before the people of this country would derive for their children all the advantages which they had a right to expect from the large sums given for educational purposes. There was one point upon which he (Mr Street) had made up his mind. The people must be prepared to take a greater interest in the education of the rising generation than they had heretofore done, and he knew of no better way to accomplish this object than by resorting to direct taxation for the support of schools. He was aware that this was unpalatable with many, but he was bound to say that he saw no other way of attaining the end which all must desire—that is, to secure as far as possible a good school education to the youth of the country; and to this he would make the rich man who had no children, contribute to the education of the poor man's, who had. Who, let him ask had the greatest interest in the educational interests of the country?—certainly the man who had the greatest stake in it; and if the children were permitted to grow up in ignorance the country must suffer, and the value of property diminish. He knew full well that there was a dread of this sort of taxation, but let them look around and see what was doing in other countries. In Maine and Massachusetts the principle of direct taxation for schools was found to take admirably well, and when they could find a good example they should not hesitate to adopt it because it happened to prevail in a republican country. He would not, however, propose to go the length which had been gone in the United States, but would simply propose to raise by taxation the amount of money which the present law required to be raised before school masters were entitled to have the provincial allowance. Railways was the next subject on which he had touched in his address to his constituents, and on that topic he had said—

"In respect to Railways, I am disposed to encourage undertakings of that nature, as far as our finances will permit, and as is consistent with internal improvement and other important interests of the Province."

He would repeat then what he had said at the hustings—that he was in favor of Railways, and was by no means sorry to see the minds of the inhabitants of this country turned to a subject which had done so much for the neighboring states. As a member of the Government, and as a member of the House, he would be prepared to give all the assistance in his power to those willing to embark in undertakings of this description, but was against the Government becoming shareholders in speculations of any kind, which, if unsuccessful, might end in public bankruptcy. He would be willing to give at once such assistance as the state of the finances of the Province would permit, but he thought it unwise to do more than this. What answer, he would ask, could they give to their constituents if the Province should take stock in some of these speculations and find it a failure? They would then have lost the people's money for which they were only trustees, and it would be no answer to the people of this province to say, "Oh we thought the scheme a feasible one, and therefore involved you in this unfortunate difficulty." He believed the house itself had no right to do this; but if, on the other hand, they gave a certain amount of assistance, limited and fixed by law, the people would then know that such an amount might eventually be lost, but beyond this neither they nor their children were involved. With respect to the European Railway, a bill to incorporate which had passed the other day, he was in favor of that undertaking, but it was one far beyond the means of the Province to accomplish. Capital to erect such a Railway must come from abroad, and whatever assistance might be given to this scheme by the Province, he hoped that the good people of St. Andrews, who had labored so industriously to get a railway from that town to Woodstock, would not be forgotten. He (Mr S.) would consider it unfair to abandon them now, and be trusted that there was good feeling enough in the House not to do more for any Railway than they were prepared to do for the Woodstock and St. Andrews Railway Company. He would only trouble the house by reading another extract from the card already so often referred to, and he would have done:

"In respect to Responsible Government, we have it, and I have accepted office upon

principles of Responsible Government, and shall, while I am leader of all in my power honestly to carry out those principles in the administration of the Government, as far as is practicable and the state of the Province will permit.

"I have only further to add, that if a straightforward, honest, independent, and zealous discharge of my Legislative and official duties will secure me the confidence of the country, I do not despair of success; but if, on the contrary, vain promises and clap-trap measures are necessary to secure that confidence, then I am not the man; as such I will never resort to, to hold office or to obtain any other object."

What he stated then he would repeat in his place in that house—if straightforward conduct could ensure the confidence of the House and of the country he did not despair of success. He had been called a man of integrity, but that was no credit to him or to any other man, for it was only by integrity he could hope to succeed in anything, and the man who thought differently was in his (Mr Street's) opinion, little removed from being a fool. All that he had, he had made in the country, and all that he had made was within the Province. He was born in the Province, and if the Province was prosperous he must rise with it, and if otherwise he must fall with it. He had, therefore, everything to gain by an honest and faithful discharge of his official and Legislative duties, and everything to lose by adopting an opposite course. He had every possible inducement to endeavor to benefit the country, and no inducement whatever to cling either to office or power, when he felt he could not assist in accomplishing that object. There was another point on which he wished to say a few words, and that was on the subject of an Elective Legislative Council. On this subject some parties might think that he had changed his opinion, but it would be recollected that last year, he opposed the measure, not because he disapproved of it in toto, but because it was brought in at a late period of the Session, and that there was not sufficient time to deliberate properly on a measure of so much importance, as that of changing the entire constitution of one of the branches of the Legislature. In this opinion, however, he was left in a small minority, and an address had gone home to Her Majesty's Government from the last House, to which an answer had been received, intimating that Her Majesty's Government was prepared to accede to the wishes of the House, under certain necessary guards. A bill would therefore be brought into the Upper House to accomplish this object, as he believed that was the proper place for such a bill to originate. In conclusion he could only add, that he deeply felt the responsibility of the station which he then occupied before the House and before the country. He had no pretensions to infallibility, and would at all times be ready and anxious to listen to and weigh well the suggestions which might come from the opposition, or from any other quarter of the House. He liked a good healthy constitutional opposition as much as he hated a factious one; the former was directed against measures—the latter against men.—He had always had opposition, and always expected to have, but a fair and manly straightforward opposition had always commanded his respect. Having said this much he would only add, that he hoped too much would not be expected of the Government—at any rate during the present Session. He had accepted office only recently. He had been obliged by the spirit of the law to go back to his constituents for re-election, and since his return had been upwell, and consequently could not have given all that attention to the preparation of measures which he could have desired. He might also add, that besides the resignations already before the public, there were other members of the Executive Council who desired to be relieved from their public duties, consequently there would be a number of vacancies to fill up, and he thought it but reasonable to allow the Government time for reflection before any final steps were taken in this important matter. He would simply state what measures the Government were prepared to bring in. In the first place, they intended to bring in a bill to establish Municipal Corporations, based on the principles which he had already explained. This bill was prepared, and he would move for leave to bring it in before he sat down. A School bill was prepared, which he would also move for leave to bring in before he sat down. The bill for rendering the Upper House elective, was also in course of preparation. A bill to authorize the appointment of a commission to report on the best means of simplifying the law relating to pleading, was also in course of preparation. A bill to amend the Act relating to the collection of the Revenue, would also be brought in. The Post-office bill was already in, and the Report on the Fisheries was not yet furnished. The hon. member concluded by moving the School bill and the bill to provide for the better establishment of Municipal Corporations in this province.

February 20.

On the subject of Mr Needham's improper charges in the contingent bill, Mr Barberie said he hoped the hon. member would make the *amende honorable* where he had made the charges. He saw in the Morning News that one Mr Needham—he did not say this was the hon. member for St. John—said, a vast deal about gold pencil cases and silver pencil cases. He was quite startled, and began to ask himself if this could be. He had been in the house fourteen years and never saw anything of it. These charges were circulated

through the country, and the people began to say—oh, here are the men we are sending to the house. The presumption was they were all gentlemen there, and hon. members should not forget, when in the house, that they were not in the Mechanics' Institute or the Market Square. What the motive for making these charges were the public must now judge. He was glad to hear the Clerk, whom he had known from twenty nine to thirty years, spoken of so highly by Mr Ritchie. He hoped there would be an end to these petty matters: as if they were to descend to them as frequently as they had done, that they would make this house what no deliberative body ought to be.

Mr Williston said this was made a matter of canvass; and some of the members, who were left behind, suffered materially from it. Mr Carman, he believed, may attribute to it the loss of his election. Statements such as these going forth uncontradicted must affect any one. It was said the hon. Secretary participated in the fraud. The spectacles were spoken of more than once. This explanation, no doubt, would prove satisfactory. He had examined the papers, and from what he saw of the diligence and minuteness of the committee, he would now vote for a Committee of Contingencies, though he had voted against it before, and he believed money would be saved by the appointment. He had a high respect for the Clerk, but if he was proved culpable, he (Mr W.) would declare him unfit to hold any situation in that house. The present explanation would do more good than anything that had been done since the opening of the Session.

Mr Johnson was not aware that this was made a matter of canvass. No one in Northumberland would accuse Mr Carman, or think him capable of being concerned in such transactions. He, (Mr J.) not only did not make such statements, but never heard them made. The politics of the hon. Secretary were the subject of comment, but none of these matters.

Mr Needham rose to vindicate himself. Mr Williston had no reason to complain if these statements produced the effect he stated; as in that case he must thank himself for being in the room of one of those left behind. The statement he had made respecting the member for Sunbury, (Colonel Hayward) and he was bound to face it. He was prepared to give up the author, as he stated at the time (Name) he would give the name to the gallant Colonel any moment, and then he could write himself. He could only tell the hon. member from Sunbury that after he (Mr N.) had made that statement, two persons, one of them a member of the house at that time, told him that they knew the story and had often laughed at it, but never fancied it could produce such a thrilling effect until they heard it in the Institute. It was said this was a small business, and intended for the gallery; he thought all they said was intended for public, otherwise they had better sit with closed doors. If any other hon. members had objections to make to any of the other statements he (Mr N.) had made, he was ready to meet them. What he said in the Institute he would stand by or fall. If the statements were made on his own authority he would prove them; if on the authority of others, he was prepared to give up the authors. If the Cow-scrape was not true he was ready to aid in any explanation, and he was ready now that these matters were brought up, to examine the truth of any one of his charges, to satisfy any hon. member that chose of their correctness.

The conversation ended here. Mr Williston presented a petition from the Justices of Northumberland, for a grant to pay off the county debt—£449.—He, on their behalf, would take what he could get.

Mr Johnson, the Petition of R. Crocker, R. Doak, and two hundred and eight others, praying investigation into the state of the Magistracy in Northumberland.

Mr Barberie thought this a strange petition, that the house erect itself into a tribunal to try the Magistrates. They ought to apply to the Executive. The Petition should be rejected.

Mr Ritchie knew of no more proper petition, if the people are dissatisfied with the state of the Magistracy, they had no better place to apply to than to their representatives. Then the house had to take action upon it, and address his Excellency, and if they did not succeed they could proceed further.

Mr Crane was for receiving the petition; it ought to go with the other (Mr Williston's) and thus, perhaps they could get some valuable information respecting the appropriation of public money that was sought.

FREDERICTON, Feb. 27.

This morning, immediately after the Journals and Bills were read, Mr Beardsley rose and said he had long been of opinion that Quadrennial Parliaments were too long. They gave rise to unnecessary expenses—sometimes ruinous—at election, and led to gross immorality, drunkenness and perjury. He believed those evils would, in a great degree, be done away with if the term of Parliament was shortened. Last year, when on the hustings, he pledged himself, if returned, to do his utmost to procure annual parliaments and vote by ballot; he now redeemed that pledge by introducing a resolution, which he begged to lay on the table, and he would shortly move it under the consideration of the House. The hon. member then read the following resolution:

Whereas, Experience teaches that the present election laws, and duration of Provincial Parliaments, are attended by results injurious to the moral and political integrity, as well of the elected as the electors, and this not as a

casual incident, but as a necessary consequence of the system; and whereas, as long as a seat in the Assembly has directly or indirectly a money value, or such a value as to induce the expenditure of money to any considerable amount to secure a seat, the franchise itself will in numerous cases be put to sale to the highest bidder, or otherwise prostrated under the excitement of alcohol, furnished at the expense of the candidate, and moral and political rectitude be driven from the field; and whereas the absence of a law for the registration of votes leads in practice to almost universal suffrage, without its benefits, by inducing a resort to what may be termed the 'Alcoholic Element,' for the purpose of bringing in unqualified voters, by which the law itself is made a nullity, or the defeated candidate is compelled to incur the peril of an appeal to the often ruinous remedy of a scrutiny; and whereas, although corruption may not be eradicated by legislation, the motive to it may be greatly diminished if not wholly removed by shortening the duration of Parliament, therefore

Resolved, As the opinion of this House, that Annual Parliaments and Vote by Ballot would operate in a salutary improvement if not effectual remedy of the evils consequent on Quadrennial Parliaments and *visa voce* voting.

Mr Scoullar rose to ask the hon. leader of the Government—and he hoped the question was not an improper one—when it was intended to fill up the vacancies in the Executive Council. He (Mr S.) had given notice that he would yesterday move a resolution that the house do yield up the Initiation of Money Votes to the Executive, but he wished to put it off until the newly elected member for Carleton took his seat, and would like to hear something about the filling up of the Executive Council before he brought it forward.

February 28.

The Attorney General's bill to amend the act relating to the collection of the Revenue: The bill to shorten the wording of the Acts of Assembly, were read a first time. The bill to authorize the Rev. Mr Wishart to celebrate marriage, was taken up. Mr Needham supported the bill in an able speech. He spoke of Mr Wishart as a gentleman and a Christian, and claimed this privilege for him as a right. Mr Gilbert said Mr Wishart was a musty old piece of divinity. Mr Thomson said too much learning had made him mad—objected to the bill, because it was legislating for an individual, and this would cause disputes hereafter about property. Dr. Gordon read a document showing that Mr Wishart had been excommunicated because he did not believe in baptism. The Speaker inquired what were Mr Wishart's views regarding the Sabbath and some other points. Mr Needham replied at length. Mr Barberie agreed with Mr Thomson. Mr Wilmot opposed the Bill. Mr Gray would give the same right to others as he claimed for himself, and would vote for the bill. Mr Johnson and Mr Botsford spoke in favor of the bill, on the ground that the Legislature could only give the power to make a civil contract. Mr Hatheway and Mr Porter also spoke in favor of the bill. Mr Gilbert having proposed an amendment on the division, there appeared for the amendment—the Speaker, Rankin, Barberie, Montgomery, Gilbert, Robinson, Thompson, Wilmot, Street, Tilley, Rice, Williston, Gordon and Crane—14. For the bill—Partelow, McPhelim, Beardsley, Taylor, Hatheway, McPherson, Gray, Hayward, Cutler, Needham, Steves, Earle, Johnson, Chapman Porter and Botsford—16. Messrs Hannington and Tilley were absent—when they came in they asked to have their names recorded in favor of the bill. This was objected to.

March 1.

The house almost deserted and very little done to day—members mostly on committees. The bill to regulate the services of non-bailable process was read a third time—this bill provides that agents, clerks, or partners known to be conducting business of any one absent from the country, may be served and put in appearance, service always to be by the sheriff or his deputy. The inland post bill has passed; it empowers the Governor to make arrangements for a uniform rate of postage with other Colonies and the United States, and fix the postage on books from England to any part of the Province at six pence the first half pound, a shilling for a pound, and a shilling for every additional pound.

In the course of a long discussion on the exclusion bill, which only served to give an opportunity for some speeches replete with the most patriotic nothings, Mr Botsford scattered through the house a little *all spice*, that flavored a debate previously as insipid as you can fancy. He charged magistrates, with pandering to popularity, and declared he could put his finger on men whose decisions were biased by such motives. This raised quite a storm. Mr Crane, his voice never very strong, rendered tremulous by excitement, asked if he were the man. Botsford said he had made no allusions to any one—he only put a hypothetical case. Hannington who was said by some to be one of the accused, now brightened up, and said some one must have been meant. Montgomery said the same. Botsford again denied that he had alluded to any one. Had it not been so late in the day, it is probable this would have led to something amusing, but the house soon after adjourned.

The Attorney General again laid down his extraordinary political doctrine in the course of this debate. The despatches, according to him, regulate all matters, and the decisions contained in them are final and indisputable.