

contemplated construction from the Strait of Canso to Louisburg, leaving the construction from New Glasgow to the Strait under the previous act. It gave a subsidy of \$5,000 per mile all the way to Louisburg. \$5,000 to assist in establishing a steam ferry across the Strait. 300,000 acres of crown lands and the minerals contained in 150,000 acres of crown lands, the richest in the island of Cape Breton, the richest mineral country on the globe. What practical result had followed from that legislation? He was sorry to be compelled to inform this House that no one proposition had been made to the Government. The bill now introduced, he believed, would afford, not only to the Eastern mainland counties lying between New Glasgow and the Strait, but to that large and valuable island lying beyond it, the hope at no distant day of seeing the fruition of their wishes.

If after the lapse of three months from the date of the passage of this Act, no such offer should be made by any person or company with security as provided by this Act, then in such case the said commissioner of Public works might contract as aforesaid for the construction of the said line, to Canso only, with a steam ferry across the Strait. An important clause of the Act was one providing that the parties contracting for the construction of the line of railway should be entitled to receive in addition to the lands promised by the Acts of 1874, a subvention from the treasury not to exceed on the whole sum of \$8000 per mile.

The resources of the Province, as everybody knew, were limited. The entire sum at the disposal of the government to the credit of the debit account on the Dominion treasury amounted to about \$1,080,000. The legislature was committed to some extent to the Nictaux and Atlantic road by the Act now on the statute book of last session. It would be seen that if the Government were enabled to obtain a contract for the construction of this road at a lower sum than \$8000 per mile, the amount at the disposal of the Government would be exhausted within a certain number of miles after touching at the waters of the strait of Canso, he thought that the measure would commend itself to the common sense, discretion and wisdom of this Legislature.

The two bills were read a first time, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. Black said he hoped there would be another bill to aid the Spring Hill and St. Lawrence road, to which the House was, to a certain extent, committed, and which, from its affording every assurance that it could be built with less subsidy, and would possess better paying qualities than any other branch road, had the best claim after the road to the Strait of Canso.

The bill to amend the Statute of licenses for the sale of intoxicating liquors, was read a second time.

The House in Committee on Bills passed several local Acts.

The Temperance Bill was taken up and the first clause read, which provided that licensed houses throughout the whole Province, including the city of Halifax, should be closed at 9 o'clock, p. m.

Dr. Farrell asked if that clause emanated from the City Council?

Mr. Gayton said it did not, but it was designed to extend to the city a provision of the law in force throughout the rest of the Province. To give members some idea of the nature of the bill, he would explain briefly the remaining clauses. The second clause provided that bar-rooms should have but one entrance, opening on the street; the third, that the law requiring petitions for licenses to be signed by two-thirds of the rate-payers should be extended to all incorporated towns; the fourth and fifth, which might be called the civil damage clauses, provided that those who suffered loss through the selling of liquor, should have a right of action against the seller to recover damages.

This law was in force in the United States, where it had done a great deal towards the suppression of the sale of liquor. The sixth clause provided that witnesses names need not be inserted in the summons, it having been found that the present law gave the seller an opportunity of tampering with witnesses before trial. Another clause gave clerks of license power to act throughout the whole country, instead of merely in their own districts, as heretofore. Another clause provided that no appeal be granted unless the party appealing make affidavit that he did not sell the liquor.

Mr. Longley said most of the amendments emanated from the three organized Temperance bodies, numbering some 30,000 or 40,000 in this Province. He thought the law requiring a petition from two-thirds of the rate-payers in the ward for a license had not emanated from the City Council, but it had had the effect of reducing the number of licensed dram-shops from over 300 to about 200. He thought, however, it would be well to meet the views of the hon. member for Halifax, in the hope that he would support the rest of the bill.

With the consent of Mr. Gayton the clause was struck out.

Dr. Farrell said he believed the reduction of the number of licensed houses did not reduce the amount of drinking. He was disposed to go a long way with the temperance men, but he thought they were themselves unwise and intemperate.

Mr. Longley asked how far the hon. member would go. He himself would go to the whole length of stopping the importation, manufacture and sale of liquor, but so long as that was impossible the only course was to draw tighter the restraints about the traffic.

Hon. Atty. General said he was always willing to give every assistance to those who were attempting to prevent illicit sale of liquors and the vice of drunkenness. His own view had always been that so long as we admitted the evil in vessel loads, all legislation was but tinkering with it. He feared that such shocking incidents as that which occurred lately at Windsor, resulting in the death of a young man with whom he had been intimately acquainted for years, and who, apart from this one failing, was a most estimable person, were due to a certain extent to the tendency of our legislation in throwing this traffic into the hands of men who ought not to have control of it, men who would sell liquor to a man for his last shilling, who had no feelings of humanity to restrain them from dealing out liquor to men known as habitual drunkards until it ended in their death. As for the prohibition of the importation of liquors, one of the first arguments that would meet a demand for such a measure would be that it would cripple the revenue, and he assumed therefore that the importation must continue for a time. So long as that was the case, such checks and guards must be used as would tend to prevent the evils of the traffic, some of which, he did not hesitate to say, were so horrible as to demand almost any sacrifice to prevent them. Though he did not belong to any temperance organization, he claimed to be a temperate man. He was afraid, however, that some of our legislation tended to enhance the evils sought to be prevented.

Mr. Vickery approved of the second clause of the bill, saying that there were men who would go in a back door to get a drink who would not care to go openly.

Hon. Prov. Secretary approved of the object of the clause.

Mr. Longley, in reply to the remarks of the hon. Atty. General, might say that he would not grant licenses at all, but would sooner that the traffic should be carried on without restraint than to give it respectability through legislative sanction. Under that sanction the vilest men now sheltered themselves.

It was the nature of the business of liquor-selling to degrade those who carried it on. Though there might be many reputable and otherwise estimable persons who had been engaged in the liquor business, he believed there were none who had not suffered from it in their own persons or their families.

The next, the civil damages clause, was read.

Mr. Longley explained that it was based on the principle that the man who engages in selling liquor for his own profit should be made responsible for the effects of his business.

Mr. McKay believed the principle a good one, if it could be carried out.

Hon. Prov. Secretary believed the principle was right.

The committee and House adjourned.

On TUESDAY several miscellaneous bills were read a third time.

The House in Committee on bills resumed consideration of the Temperance bill.

The civil damage clause was again read.

Mr. Woodworth said it allowed the prospect of an action to hang over the head of any man who sold liquor for years after any injury caused by intoxication. He asked why not introduce a bill to make the men who sold tea and tobacco responsible for the nervous prostration of those who used those articles to excess.

Mr. Black said that when asylums were established by philanthropic gentlemen and aided by the Government of the country for those who used tea or tobacco, and when such sad occurrences as that which had recently taken place at Windsor could be traced to the use of those articles, the hon. member might repeat the argument he had just uttered. A law similar to that now asked was in force in several of the Western States.

Hon. Atty. General said if there was not some mode of reaching the man who would, when another was on the verge of intoxication, sell him liquor, from any motive whatever, so as to make the person so selling responsible for the results of his conduct, there ought to be.

Mr. Holmes admitted that the object sought by this clause was a good one, to punish those who willfully contributed to injure their fellows, but he thought the clause too general in its terms.

It was agreed to allow the bill to remain in committee, with a view of amending this clause. After further discussion several clauses were added to the bill.

On WEDNESDAY after the reception of several local and railroad petitions,

Hon. Prov. Secretary laid on the table a letter enclosing a copy of a resolution of the City Council, which they desired to submit for the consideration of the House, in connection with the license law.

Also, by command, laid on the table the Report of the Superintendent of Schools for the year 1875.

Mr. Longley read the following resolution of which he had given notice on a former day:—

Resolved, That the Immigration Agency of this Province is not attended with any adequate returns for the money expended, and therefore that it should be immediately abolished, the trifling services performed being assigned to the Provincial Secretary, or a clerk in the Provincial Secretary's Office.

He had been under the impression ever since the establishment of the office, that the expense was far in excess of the value received in return. Of the 99,000 immigrants that had come into the Dominion, about 50,000 had left it, most of whom had gone over to the United States. The proportion that had gone from Nova Scotia was larger than that from any other province. The amount paid for salary in 1864 was \$636.30, and the expenditure \$2,444.80. In 1865 the salary paid was \$800, and the expenditure \$2,000.

In 1864 only 24 immigrants had been brought in through the instrumentality of the office. In 1865, 84 immigrants, as nearly as he could ascertain, had been brought in at the cost of \$2,000. In 1866 the expense was \$5,800, and there were 209 immigrants. In 1867, 932 immigrants had cost \$4,800. In 1868 the service cost the Province \$3,000, and nothing worthy of the name was done. In 1869, \$800 was paid for salary, and it was in the report for that year that the agent stated that he had only been applied to for assistance by 20 immigrants. In each of the years 1870, 1871 and 1872, the amount of the salary, \$800, was drawn, and little or nothing done in any of those years.

In 1873, the expenditure was \$3,202. In 1874 the expenditure was \$7,772. Last year, according to the best information he could obtain, the entire expense had been about \$13,000. There was another feature connected with the department last year which he did not find in connection with any former year. He referred to the sum of \$200 paid for a clerk. The office had been held by a non-resident, to a large extent, as a sinecure.

The office itself seemed to be simply kept alive for the sake of according a little favor to certain parties, and not for the promotion of the interests of the country. He did not like to speak disparagingly of the country, and he did not for a moment intend to say that the condition of Nova Scotia as to its general prosperity was less favorable than other countries, but he thought it must be conceded that notwithstanding all its resources and its general prosperity, it presented a somewhat narrow field for immigration. He considered that more attention should be paid to the endeavor to keep the young men of the province at home than to the effort to attract immigration from abroad. He entirely disclaimed the wish or intention to cast a single reflection upon any gentleman that had held the office. He did not blame them for accepting the office, but he did not hesitate to say that, as a rule, the \$800 given annually and the \$1000 given last year, had been paid out without any adequate return, and that the money might well be devoted to a better purpose.

Hon. Atty. General would call the hon. gentleman's attention to the fact that 454 immigrants came into this province in 1873, and 659 in 1874, years in which he had stated that but a few immigrants had entered the country, and the whole expense for those years was \$3,202 and \$7,772 respectively. He would call his attention, too, to the fact that in 1872 a protocol was agreed upon at Ottawa, by which arrangement was made for the continuance of the present immigration system of this province.

The hon. member should remember that last year the number of immigrants introduced into this Province exceeded the number in any previous year during the existence of the agency. He found on reference to the report for the past year, which he might say did not merit the disparaging remarks of the hon. member, and which afforded considerable valuable information, that in 1875 no less a number than 1318 immigrants came into this Province, of whom 1259 still remained under the control of the agency.

The hon. member for Annapolis had unfairly added to the expenses for 1875 the cost of the erection of buildings and other outlays which the immigrants would be obliged to repay, and the sum of \$2000 expended in the construction of roads which would forever remain to the advantage of the country, but including these items, the whole amount expended was but little in excess of \$900, and for that 1259 people had been settled in the country. In view of this discussion he had telegraphed to New Brunswick and had received an answer that the expenditure of that province for immigration in 1875 was \$13,335.54, about \$4000 more than this Province had expended, while the number of immigrants was less by about 1000. The Dominion Government in 1873 expended \$161,575.86 on this service. The single province of Ontario expended \$159,178. So earnest was that great province in the work of attracting immigrants to its territories that it gave a bonus of six dollars to each individual immigrant in addition to the assistance given by the Dominion Government, and the free grants of land it provided for settlers. Turning to the lower provinces he found that New Brunswick in 1873, expended \$70,133 in the further-

ance of the immigration system, against the extravagant sum of \$7,772 spent by Nova Scotia. Quebec in the same year gave \$40,681.25, for the same service. In 1874, the Dominion Government gave \$281,413; Ontario \$108,878; Quebec \$48,978, and New Brunswick \$71,466, while Nova Scotia gave the exorbitant sum of \$8,500. In view of these facts he thought the House would agree that the hon. member for Annapolis had not made out such a case as would justify the abolition of the department in this province.

Mr. McKay said the hon. Atty. General's whole argument was based on the report of Dr. Clay, Dominion Immigration Agent. He would ask that hon. gentleman whether he had got the number of immigrants for 1875 out of Dr. Campbell's report or Dr. Clay's.

Hon. Atty. General said the paper he had read from was a paper appended to and referred to in the report.

Mr. McKay said Dr. Campbell, in his report, made no reference to those brought here under Dr. Clay's agency. The local agency cost this country over \$13,000, including all the services until the immigrants were located, and including the cost of building a number of houses. He would not say the charge was extravagant, and he was glad to believe that the Icelanders would make good settlers, if we could keep them. Mr. Rutherford states that the General Mining Association has now no Frenchmen in its employ, and that he believes those it had employed had returned to France. If this was a fact, it was hardly right to refer to those large figures and speak of 1318 immigrants. So long as the Dominion Government had an agent here, he thought it would be better for the Local Government merely to render him every assistance, which could be done by a clerk in one of the offices. In view of the claims of railways and other important public services, this, and perhaps some other expenses, might well be lopped off.

Hon. Prov. Secretary said with regard to the expense of the department, last year the greater part of it had been incurred in settling the Icelandic immigrants. A large number of these people had come from Ontario, and so far as one could judge were permanently settled here. It was right to state that 27 houses had been erected for them, nineteen of which were now occupied by families. A gentleman had been sent to Iceland to state the inducements this country afforded, and to bring out 20 families if possible.

The Immigration office was both responsible and necessary, as a large amount of correspondence had to be conducted with all parts of the empire, in addition to the care of immigrants arriving in the Province. He had heard all his life that what Nova Scotia wanted was not resources, but population to develop those it possessed in such abundance, and we would be recreant in our duty if we did not use every means to induce immigrants to come to our shores. In view of the fact that the resolution was based on narrow grounds, and opposed to the public interests, he would move that it would be injudicious to abolish the office of Immigration Agent.

Mr. Holmes said that a great deal has been said about the amounts paid by other countries for this service, but such comparisons only tended to mislead. The question here was whether it was worth while to pay an immigration agent \$800 for writing a report of two and a half pages in which he showed that he had done nothing at all but reside in Inverness. The whole work seemed to have been done by others. With what propriety, for instance, could the agent say anything about the children brought here by Mrs. Birt? Then an extract from Dr. Clay's report was placed at the end of the book, giving a table of the number of immigrants who had come into the Province, and the whole thing was advertised for tenders at a cost of about \$50.

He (Mr. H.) now held the report in his hand, and he now charged the hon. Atty. General with attempting to mislead and deceive the House.

New Brunswick had valuable crown lands, while the Government of Nova Scotia had sold every foot of valuable land in the Province to a company of speculators. In view of the fact that enormous grants were being made to railways, that our subsidy was likely to be reduced by \$82,000, and that our expenditure was soon likely to exceed our revenues by \$200,000, according to present appearances, it was the duty of this House to select every item of public expenditure which would bear to be cut off, if we wished to avoid going into bankruptcy. He knew no other item which could better be cut off than the \$800 paid to the Immigration Agent.

A long debate ensued, at the close of which, Mr. Longley said he wished it to be understood that he would not oppose a single obstacle in the way of immigrants coming to Nova Scotia, but wished again to call attention to the history of this office. He was a party to the establishment of the office in 1863, but circumstances were different then. We were then separated from the other Provinces, and in circumstances which gave great promise of future success, and the construction of the Pictou railway gave hopes of attracting immigrants. What he complained of was, that year by year this department cost a large sum of mon-

ey, while for four or five years nothing had been done by it.

He did not wish to say a word in disparagement of the present agent, but it was evident from the facts that his duties could just as well as not be discharged at \$400 or \$500 a year by some man in Halifax. Of the 1,318 referred to but few had been brought here through the local agency. So long as the indifference in certain quarters allowed the coal trade to remain in its present depressed condition, one field for immigrants was closed up. As for the imputation of improper motives in introducing this resolution, he could clearly say that he was simply actuated by a desire to lessen unnecessary expenditure.

After a call of the House the amendment was put and carried.

For the amendment—Hon. Prov. Secretary, Hon. Atty. General, Hon. Com. of Works and Mines, Hon. Com. of Crown Lands, Hon. Messrs. Campbell, McDonald and McKinnon, and Messrs. Robichau, Johnson, Lovitt, Eisenhauer, Boudrot, McCurdy, Franchville, Dickie, Farrell, Mack, Freeman, Gayton, and Fraser—20.

Against—Messrs. Holmes, Cameron, McKay, Moseley, Woodworth, Longley, Black, McKinnon, Allison, Troop, Patterson, Vickery and North—13.

On THURSDAY petitions were presented from two or three places in Cape Breton, asking that they be made the terminus of the railway.

On a motion for the second reading of the Railway Extension bill Mr. Holmes occupied a large part of the afternoon endeavouring to shew that it would be for the interest of the province to take the offer of the Pictou railway and go on with the construction of the extension to Canso as a provincial work rather than give the work to a company. He moved that the construction of such Eastern Extension be immediately proceeded with as a Provincial work; and that such legislation be forthwith adopted as will authorize the Government to construct the said railway by public tender and contract on the credit of the Province.

Mr. Mosely seconded the motion.

On FRIDAY the Nictaux and Atlantic Railway bill was under discussion.

On SATURDAY morning the House in Committee on Bills took up the bill to incorporate the Nova Scotia Fishing Company, and read it clause by clause. In the afternoon the discussion of the Nictaux and Atlantic Railway Bill was resumed.

Mr. Black said he thought it would be much better that the government should aid the Springhill and the Peggwash lines which would have been of far greater advantage to the revenues of the Province.

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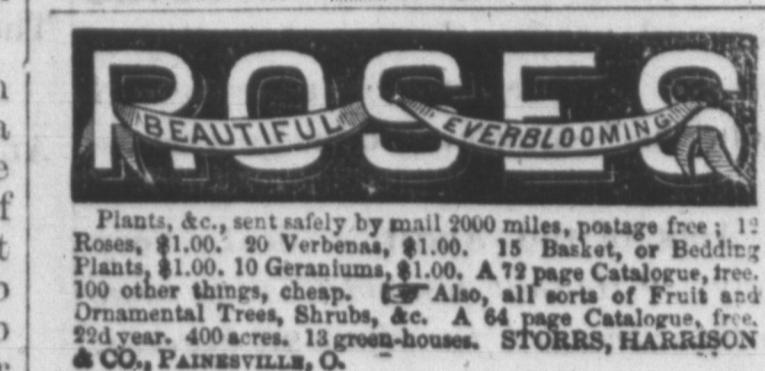
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