

A discussion arose as to whether it would not be proper to appoint a Committee to attend to the supervision of Bills that were introduced. It was argued that where so many members were liable to be absent on Committees, a Bill of an important nature might pass in this House which might be rejected in a full House.

It was thought by some that the Attorney General and Solicitor General might assist in the supervision of Bills. The majority, however, seconded a motion to let matters remain as they existed at present.

Mr. LAWRENCE moved for leave to bring in a Bill for the better prevention of fires in the City of St. John.

Mr. LAWRENCE gave notice that he had prepared a Bill, which he handed to the Speaker with a request that it might be read a first time.

CHAMBERLAIN'S.—His Honor the Speaker, wished to know if members would be permitted to address the Chair from any position in the House, without being compelled to be at their own seat.

This gave rise to a discussion containing some points of interest.

Mr. MITCHELL thought it was right that members should be at their own seats when they addressed the chair. He said that some prominent members of the Government had taken good care to secure some of the front seats for their colleagues and friends, while the young members had to be satisfied with taking the poorest seats.

Mr. McANAN proposed that the Government, and their supporters should take one side of the House, and the Opposition the other side. This short speech from Mr. McANAN was well received.

Mr. WILMOT replied to Mr. Smith respecting the part he had taken in the disposition of the seats. Mr. S. replied that he supposed it was the duty of the Government to provide seats for their friends.

Mr. (Queen) said he was an outcast from all sides. He had neither a seat nor a desk, and he wished to know whether the Government or the Opposition would take him under their wing.

Mr. SMITH said that if Mr. Earle would come over to the opposition they would find a seat for him. (Much laughter.)

It was finally agreed that members should be in their own seats when they addressed the Speaker.

STATIONERY.—There was a long and interesting discussion about Stationery, consequent on a motion made by Mr. Tibbitts, that the Resolution limiting members to 20s. each to provide themselves with Stationery should be rescinded.

Mr. I thought it was a disgrace to the House that such a Resolution had ever been passed. The motion was put and negatived. This gave rise to another long discussion, and several members loudly complained of such restrictions being imposed upon them.

Mr. HATFIELD said he had purchased his 20s. worth, and he found that the amount would not afford the purchase of a pencil and pen-knife.

Mr. TAPLEY moved that the Clerk of the House be directed to ascertain from whom the members of the House had purchased their Stationery.

Several members spoke, most of whom seemed to be in favour of the Resolution passed at the short session, but at the same time were of opinion that members should be provided with all the Stationery they required for public purposes.

Mr. EARLE took occasion to state that reports derogatory to his character had been circulated among his political opponents in King's County, respecting his Stationery bill during the last session. He had heard that the report emanated from a member of the House, but he did not think any member would so far forget what was due to his position as to aid in the propagation of such a report.

Mr. TAPLEY's Resolution was not carried. The second day of the Session. No business of any consequence has yet been done. Next week the work is expected to commence in right good earnest. You may rely upon it there will be stirring times here in a day or two. It is generally conceded that the latter days of the present administration are at hand, and the question is not discussed among all parties as to who will compose the new regime.

SATURDAY, Feb. 14th.

The first two days of the Session have passed and nothing of note relative to public affairs has yet transpired. The House has met and adjourned at an early hour. Thus far the Speaker has been prompt and energetic in the preservation of order, and from having made a good commencement, may reasonably hope that there will be some of those inside squabbles which were a prominent characteristic of the proceedings of the last regular Session. It seems now to be generally conceded that the career of the present Administration is fast drawing to a close. In fact, it is rumored that one or two prominent members of the Government have become disgusted with certain transactions, and will tender their resignations by throwing themselves into the arms of the opposition. It is amusing to witness the means resorted to by the adherents of the Government in order to sustain a sinking ship. For instance, in some of the lists of opponents and supporters, which they have been exhibiting, they have the effrontery to put down every free supporter of the Government, and fit them for the opposition. It is decidedly amusing in parading such a calculation before the public gaze. Among their supporters, they count six from St. John and two from Northumberland, and so on in several other counties selecting several of the most determined Liberals as adherents to a tattered Administration. It is now uncertain beyond doubt that twenty-three members of the House will vote on the Liberal ticket. The Tories know this, and are struggling desperately to concentrate their scattered forces for the defence of their citadel. In view of the fact which awaits them, members of the Government have become sullen and ill-tempered for the last day or two. There will be many groans before they will finally consent to the surrender of the House and let the Government be re-elected.

There was little more than ordinary routine business done to-day. There were but few of the members in attendance in the House. Several of the legal gentlemen were attending Court, which is now sitting here. Messrs. Gilmore and Goddard have not yet arrived. The Post Master General has also been away from Fredericton for some days. It is not known when he will return. Perhaps it will be about the first of March.

Some bills and a few petitions were laid before the House to-day.

Mr. MACNAUGHTON introduced a bill to amend an Act entitled an Act to regulate the election of Members to serve in the General Assembly. The Bill contemplates a few changes in the existing Election Law. It is improbable that it will pass.

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course necessary to be pursued under the Institution system. The petitions intended to be presented to the House would have to be referred to the Government who would recommend such of them as might be thought to present a consistent claim.

Mr. WILMOT stated that it was no intention of the Government to submit the estimated amounts requisite for the public service, but in the case of By-Roads the members would respectively have to agree upon the sums requisite for their own Counties.

Mr. EARLE (King's) presented a petition from the Rector, Church-Wardens, and Vestry of St. Paul's church in the Parish of Hampton, praying permission to dispose of certain lands belonging to said church.

Mr. LAWRENCE presented a petition from John Johnston, Esq., Police Magistrate of St. John, praying for an increase of salary. The petition asks that the Police Act may be so amended as to guarantee to him a salary of £400 or upwards with the privilege of paying any person that may act in his stead during absence or sickness. The petition was laid on the table.

Mr. GILBERT moved the following resolution, viz:—

Resolved, That a Committee be appointed to inquire into the claims of the Province, and to report thereon to the House.

On the motion of Mr. HARDING, it was moved that a committee be appointed to whom shall be referred all matters relating to the privileges of the House. The Speaker appointed Messrs. Johnston, Street, Harding, Gilbert, and Barbaree.

Mr. HARDING presented a petition, the signers of which pray that no Bill may pass to extend the powers of the South Bay Beach Company.

Mr. CONNELL presented a petition from several of the inhabitants of the County of Carleton, that all private land in said county may be taxed for school purposes.

Mr. STREET presented a Bill to amend the Revised Statutes. The Bill was read a first time.

A motion was submitted by Mr. WATTERS, to the effect that the House at a certain day will take into consideration all matters relating to the petition of Enoch Lunt, Esq., against the return of David Tapley, Esq., as one of the representatives for the County of Sunbury.

Monday, the 2nd day of March, was set apart by the House for the purpose of taking into consideration the petition of Enos Cowperthwaite and others, relative to the undue elevation of David Tapley and William E. Percy, Esqrs.

It is generally supposed that this will not affect the position of either of the representatives for Sunbury, and that they are likely to hold their seats as long as the present House continues.

The House adjourned some minutes before 12 o'clock. Prior to the adjournment, Mr. Fisher gave notice of his intention to move a vote of confidence in the Government. This caused a slight sensation, and an unprejudiced spectator might have traced tokens of despair on the countenances of several of the Tories present. There will be some pretty hot work in Fredericton for the next week or two. A pair of boots was exhibited in the House this afternoon, which showed that the Government intend to "walk out."

It is currently reported that a leading member of the administration signed a document last evening condemnatory of the body politic. Whether he was in his sober senses at the time I shall not pretend to state, but it certainly looks as if internal troubles were rife in the camp. This, with the outside pressure that is being brought to bear upon the Government, provides for the present Government to be remembered as "among the things that were."

Monday, Feb. 16.

Since Saturday there has been comparative quiet in the political world. It is stated that the supporters of the Government held a caucus on Friday evening, and that there was great dissension and disagreement among the members of the Government. There are rumors that the Government are resorting to efforts of the most desperate character for the purpose of securing a majority to sustain them; but that all will be in vain is now placed beyond the shadow of a doubt. It would scarcely be credited that the Government offered the Chief Commissioner of Railways to a prominent member of the opposition, who would consent to join their ranks.

They even consented to issue an Extra Gazette on Friday last containing notice of the appointment; but the honorable member, strong in the liberal faith, spurned the proffered bait, and placed the Government in the humiliating position of being compelled to submit to the rejection. This is but one of the many rumors that are going the rounds, which show that the Government are in a desperate fix. The all important subject before the House to-day was Mr. Fisher's motion of Want of Confidence. Previous to the question being taken up for discussion there was some general business transacted.

Mr. Kerr moved for leave to bring in a Bill to erect a post at Nelson, North Ek, in the County of Northumberland, into a separate Parish. Leave granted.

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All past differences seem to have been forgotten among the Liberals; and the harmony and unanimity which now prevail in their ranks is a certain indication that they are about to be successful. The Tories on the contrary are said to be split up and disorganized by the prevalence of internal dissensions; and if troubles of a serious nature do not soon break out among them it may well excite surprise.

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The next point wherein the honorable gentleman showed delinquency and mismanagement on the part of the Government, was in their Railway proceedings. He pointed out the position occupied by some of the members of the Government in regard to Railways. Mr. Gray according to the stand he took last winter, was for a grand and magnificent scheme. Mr. Wilmot was appalled at the magnitude of the late Government scheme, and that it would produce mourning, lamentation and woe. Mr. Allan on the Hastings said the Railroad from Fredericton to Woodstock should be proceeded with. Mr. McPhelin ridiculed the scheme of the late Government. The honorable gentleman commented at some length upon the Railway policy of the Government, and the mode in which the Railway works had thus far been carried out. His remarks on this point will place the Administration in rather an unfavorable light before the Country, showing the dangerous side of things that was likely to arise from one member of the Executive Council having control of the whole Railway works, and the most, if not all of his property situated in the direction of the line. He (Mr. Fisher) would not trust any man with such power—a power that gave him liberty to expend thousands with results of the most dangerous character to the political liberty of the people. Then again he asked, how the money had been raised? Who authorized the Government to raise £50,000 Debentures? The answers to these questions the hon. gentleman placed in contrast with the coolness and nonchalance with which the Government attempted to get over it in their speech. He asked honorable members if they were prepared to sustain a Government that would raise an amount like this, without any authority whatever. Here was the amount of the By-Road appropriation for three years, taken by the single stroke of the pen. Mr. Fisher remarked at some length upon the mismanaged financial policy of the Government, and placed the present Provincial Secretary in an awkward position respecting some of the financial state of the Province, which he had exhibited at the short Session. He showed that the Secretary either wilfully misrepresented his predecessor or displayed an ignorance of facts and figures. The learned member also pointed out the course pursued by the Administration and many questions as contrary to the Departmental system of Government. The people were told at a canvass during the late election that the Government then appointed, was only a provisional one; but that he did not believe, and his suspicions turned out to be correct. He commented upon the fact that the office of Surveyor General had been left vacant for some time, at a most important season of the year. This negligence was shown to be productive of bad results in various ways. Then again, there was the Board of Works, which was left vacant for some months to the detriment of the progress of the Public Works throughout the Country, but the office of Postmaster General must be immediately filled up in order to exert certain influences at the election. The manner in which the duties of Postmaster General were carried out, was also the subject of some comment by Mr. Fisher. He showed that this officer had displayed a lack of practical knowledge, and in one of his notices in the Gazette, he pointed out wherein there was a lack of common courtesy towards the Postmaster of St. John. (This was the celebrated "notice," about the book-keeping.)

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novel, but whether that majority will consent to its being done at the present time is uncertain.

The debate on the want of confidence was resumed this morning a few minutes after 11 o'clock. The Hon. Mr. Allan, Solicitor General, led off in the debate. He spoke for upwards of one hour, principally in reply to the speech of the ex Attorney General delivered yesterday.

The only points of importance referred to in Mr. A's speech, were the non-enforcement of the Election Law, and the Governmental railway policy. He thought that the Government were entitled to great consideration for saving the expense to the country by the non-appointment of Commissioners.

Mr. HATFIELD followed Mr. Allan and delivered a powerful and eloquent speech. The galleries and lobbies were crowded all the time with spectators, and Mr. H's speech has told with wonderful effect against the Government. He charged home upon them in telling them plainly that if they offered him a Commission of the Peace, he would have accepted it, and he would have been a powerful and eloquent speaker.

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