To the Public.—During the Legislative Session we intend to publish a full sheet semi-weekly, which will contain impartial reports of the debates of both houses, and as full as we shall be able to give in six pages per week, of closely printed matter. No extra charges will be made to our subscribers. Non-subscribers to the Loyalist may obtain the paper during the publication of the debates (probably about 20 numbers) by forwarding their names to the publishers, accompanied by five shillings in advance; but no such orders will be attended to unless accompanied by the cash nor taken from the Post-office unless post-paid.—Terms; 12s. 6d. in advance for one year's Loyalist, with extra Nos. containing the debates. Doak & Hill.

THE LOYALIST, AND CONSERVATIVE ADVOCATE.

"All I Wish is to Serve my Country"

Vol. 2 FREDERICTON, N. B., FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 1844. No. 46.

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HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

(Thursday's debates concluded.)

Mr. J. A. Street moved a reconsideration of the vote. He said that the Bill would have the effect of taking the power out of the hands of the Sheriff—a responsible officer—and placing it in the hands of an irresponsible body.—As to the Bill having been drawn up by the Sheriff of Charlotte it was a very good reason why the Committee should oppose it, for he (the Sheriff) was anxious to get rid of a part of the labours and responsibilities of his office.—He hoped it would be rejected.

Mr. Partelow hoped the Bill would not be so summarily disposed of. He considered some alteration necessary, as the Sheriffs now have too much discretionary powers.—He did not know that he should support the Bill as it was, but hon. members should have time for consideration. He would move that they report progress.

Hon. Mr. Wilmot hoped the Bill would not be thrown out, as it was a very important one. Hon. members talked of the Sheriff being responsible, but he (Mr. W.) did not think so. He would ask them how they could prove a charge against a Sheriff of partiality. In St. John he would allow that the juries were generally very efficient and intelligent, but in small communities the trial by jury was not what it was cracked up to be. It was known for several months who were to be the jurors on a case, and the matter was frequently talked over and settled out of doors, before the trial came on! Then again let them suppose that a party who had a case coming on was on bad terms with the Sheriff, they would naturally suppose that he would summon a jury hostile to their interests, and though he should be innocent of doing any such thing, they would still imagine the contrary, and have no confidence in the jury; such was human nature. And if the Sheriff really was partial what address had they? How could they prove it? He (Mr. W.) did not consider it right that this responsibility, and frequently blame—for people often complained saying "if I had a good jury I should not have lost my case"—it was not right this should rest on the shoulders of one person; neither was it right that the Sheriff should have power to summon whomsoever he chose. Another very just subject of complaint was the jurors pay. He thought each juror should at least have 2s. 6d. a-day.—(A voice—how would you pay it?) Let it be paid by the County. He approved of the general principles of the Bill, though he did not think it perfect in the details; but he hoped the Committee would not throw it out, but take time for consideration, and make a good Bill of it.

Mr. Brown said that by the provisions of the Bill lists of those qualified to serve on juries would be made up, each parish (if we understood the hon. member aright) separately, and that the names would be drawn by ballot, each parish in proportion to its list, so that a jury would be composed of men from all parts of the County. The only objection to this mode he thought would be a mental disqualification of some of the persons thus drawn. As to the pay of the Jurors he thought that the shilling allowed them was formerly a labourer's day wages. In some parts of Great Britain wages was but little if any thing higher even to this day. But by the same rule, namely, allowing jurors a fair day's wages, a shilling a day was not enough in this country. They ought to have a fair remuneration for their time, and the loser of the suit should be obliged to pay them.

Mr. Barberie hoped that if the Committee determined to pass the Bill they would allow him to exempt the County of Restigouche. He thought that if they were particularly anxious for the change in one County they should try it there first.—In the County of Restigouche it would not do at all; there were a large number of back settlers, men who were qualified as far as property was concerned, but who were ignorant of the duties of a juror, and totally unqualified.

Mr. Boyd said that the Sheriff of Charlotte had not drawn up the Bill to screen himself, but to effect a necessary reform. He (Mr. Boyd) had lately conversed with a gentleman from St. John, in the Lobby of that House, who told him that he had served as a juryman in every Court that had been held in the City for three years past.

Mr. Partelow said it was a very important Bill, but as it had but just been received from the hands of the printer hon. members had not had time to peruse it, he therefore hoped they would report progress so that they would have time to give it that consideration its importance demanded.

Mr. J. A. Street said he saw no objections to postponing the Bill, but he would observe in reference to the payment of jurors that the loser of a case would not be able to pay them. Still it was very hard not to pay them at all. A plan had been suggested by His Honor Judge Parker and himself to create a fund for the purpose.

Hon. Mr. Hazen said that the plan to which the hon. member for Northumberland (Mr. Street) had referred, would not answer, neither would it do to make jurors serve without any pay. If men *would* go to law they should be made to pay all expenses arising from it. They paid lawyers well, and why not pay jurors also? He did not see any reason why jurors were not as well entitled to pay as lawyers, and the loser of the suit was the party who should be obliged to pay them. In St. John the spirit of litigation had been carried to such excess that it had become a reproach to them. There was no need for so many lawsuits, and if people *would* quarrel with their neighbours and go to law, they should be made pay for it—they were not entitled to the services of the jurors, sitting day after day to try their petty squabbles, without remunerating them.

Hon. Mr. Simonds said the magistrates in Session were not a responsible body. The Sheriff was a responsible officer, and if they wanted "responsible government" they must let the power remain where it was, in the hands of the Executive.—As for the Bill then before them, he did not think it British; it had been borrowed from over the lines.

Mr. Fisher said he had not had time to give the Bill the consideration it appeared to deserve, and such he thought must be the case with other hon. members.—He hoped they would report progress.

Mr. J. A. Street, in reply to the Hon. Mr. Hazen, said it was impossible they could ever make the loser of the case pay the jurors; the plan to which he had referred suggested that every person who filed a case should pay a certain sum, and from the fund thus created the jurors should be paid.

Hon. Mr. Hazen said that the plan recommended the payment of five dollars by every person who entered a case, which would amount to the same thing he had been contending for, as the winner would have his money returned, and the loser would pay for all.

Mr. J. A. Street said it would not be so; the plan recommended that all who *file* a case should pay a certain sum, but there were many cases *filed* which were never *tried*. The Committee then arose and the Chairman reported progress.

Wednesday, March 6.

The House were in Committee of the whole on a Bill which had passed the Upper House relative to lands held by the Ordnance Department, when—

Hon. Mr. Wilmot arose and interrupted the proceedings. He said he wished the Committee to report progress, and the Speaker to take his seat, as he had just ascertained that one of the individuals who had been committed to gaol a few days before on the Speaker's warrant, and who was still *supposed* to be in the custody of the Sheriff of York, was then in a reporter's box in the gallery; and he wished the House to be organized, so that the subject might be taken into consideration. He would tell hon. members one thing, and that was—he (Mr. W.) would not sit in that House, if that individual was suffered to sit there and report.

Mr. Stewart said he was surprised at the hon. member's conduct in interrupting the business of the House in that way. He hoped the Committee would not report progress, but go on with the Bill. They had now been in Session nearly five weeks, and very little had been done; and he thought they would never get through if the business of the country was to be delayed every day just because an hon. member saw a person in the gallery who was obnoxious to him. If the hon. and learned member had any just cause for moving the standing order, let him wait until the Committee had got through with the business before them.

Mr. J. A. Street said that the matter of the release of the parties committed the other day on the Speaker's warrant, was then in the hands of the Committee of privileges to report thereon, and who were at that moment busily engaged in preparing their report, which in all probability would be submitted to the House before the close of that day. In the meantime he did not see what action the House could take upon the subject; for if they took it up then, before the Committee of Privileges reported, they would be obliged to take it up again after that report should be received, and they would only be delaying the business of the country. As to one of the individuals who had been discharged being then in the gallery reporting, he (Mr. Street) supposed he had as much right to be there as any other person.

Mr. Boyd said it was time this business was put a stop to. This affair had brought the House into contempt—they were defied to their teeth by the individual in question—they were bearded in the streets, or wherever they went, *and now they were bearded in their den!*

Hon. Mr. Wilmot said that the House had first been insulted and then *defied* by the individual then in the reporter's box, and since his committal he had added insult upon insult, and defied them again and again. If they had any privileges at all it was time they should know what they were. He for one would not easily yield up a right they had alway exercised, and he would go further and say that he would not *sit* there unless the dignity of the House was preserved.

Mr. Wark said the Committee had been interrupted in a most extraordinary manner. There was a time for all things, and the proper time to bring up this question would be when the Committee of Privileges had reported. To leave the business they were at and enter into the other question prematurely, would be nothing but a wanton waste of time, for which they were accountable to their constituents.

Mr. S. Earle said the Reporter's box had nothing to do with the business then before the Committee, neither did it matter to them who was in it reporting. He considered the person who was then reporting there had as good a right to do so as any other reporter, and he would say more—his reports were the only correct reports which had been published during the Session. The party came there to report to fulfil his engagements with his subscribers, and he looked upon an attempt to drive him off as very unjust, for the act of reporting had nothing whatever to do with editorial articles. There had been things said in that House which never would have got abroad only for the party thus complained of, and the country would have been kept in ignorance. There was another reporter nearly over his head who dressed up in fine style the speeches of some hon. members, and made others to say just exactly what they did not say. If one reporter was excluded he (Mr. E.) would do his best to turn out the other two.—(Mr. Wilmot—Turn them all out).—He supposed it would suit some to do so, but it was his wish to let the country know what they were doing.

Hon. Mr. Wilmot then pressed his motion for reporting progress, which, on a division, was carried, by a vote of 13 to 11.

The Speaker having taken the chair, he ordered the Sergeant at Arms to clear the gallery. This officer motioned the people to withdraw, which was not immediately complied with.

Hon. Mr. Wilmot then arose and said he was determined not to sit in that House while one of the publishers of the *Loyalist* was present reporting. They (the publishers) were *supposed* to be in still in the Sheriff's custody, and if they had got off the House had no official information on the subject, and as the matter was referred to the Committee of Privileges, who had not yet reported, he thought it the height of *impudence* on the part of one of the individuals in presuming to come there to report while the affair was undergoing an investigation. He would move the standing order from time to time—he cared not about the delay of public business—just as often as he saw that individual in the House, and if he could not be kept out any other way he should propose that constables be appointed to guard the gallery door, and prevent his entering there:—either that individual should be kept out of the House or he (Mr. W.) would leave it.—He begged a moment's time while he prepared a resolution. (He then prepared and offered a resolution to the following effect:—whereas Thomas Hill, one of the publishers of the Loyalist who was committed to gaol on Monday the 26th ult. &c. is now in this House, therefore resolved that the Sergeant at Arms be instructed to arrest him and again commit him to the common Gaol of this County.)

Here there was considerable commotion in the House, several hon. members arising at once to speak; when Mr. Wilmot said "I withdraw the resolution. I perceive the bird has flown,* *and I have accomplished my end.*

Hon. Speaker then again ordered the gallery to be cleared, which after considerable demur, and evident reluctance on the part of the public, was slowly effected, and the doors were closed.

* The first time the Speaker ordered the gallery to be cleared as a matter of course we left the box; but instead of having *flown* we were standing in front of the gallery, looking Mr. Wilmot full in the face, *and had his eye* at the moment he uttered the sentence!!!

Thursday, March, 7.

MILITIA LAW.

When we entered the House to-day they were in Committee of the whole on a Bill to repeal the existing Militia Law, Mr. Partelow in the Chair; and Mr W. H. Street was about concluding his remarks.

Mr. Connell said he did not like the idea of repealing the law altogether; he thought it might be modified. The present system was oppressive as it compelled people to leave their work in a very busy time, and three day's training were, he thought, unnecessary.

Mr. Fisher said he never had but one opinion of the Militia Law; he thought it was a humbug. Formerly there was one argument in favour of it, which was that the boundary between this Province and the United States was unsettled. But that argument was now exploded. He characterized a militia law by which every man was obliged to turn out and train as absurd, foolish, and oppressive. He would propose that it be suspended for a number of years, aud in case of invasion (he was not alarmed, for he did not think any one present would live to see the like)give the Lieutenant Governor, or the administrator of the government for the time being, the power to revive the Act, so that in case of an emergency it would be found as effective as ever. He (Mr. F.) had no objection to see militia officers who were fond of displaying a pair of epaulettes enjoy themselves;they might still sport their swords, cocked hats, &c. but he did not wish to see the people put to the expence and inconvenience of training in a time of peace. Let them first look at the three day's labour; he would ask hon. memers what equivalent they got for it? It was nothing but three day's foolery. Hon. members complained of the roads, but here was three days work in a year thrown away by all the able-bodied men in the Province, which, if prperly applied, would go far to repair the roads. It was said by some 'let us keep up a military sprirt,' he (Mr. F.) had no objection to that. He would place in the Governor's hands the means of keeping up the military spirit of the country by encouraging the formation, to a certain extent, of volunteer companies. These would be all-sufficient for the defence of the country; they would be well-trained and efficient, whereas under the present system the militia knew no more about military discipline when they had done training than they did when they begun.

Mr. Hanington said that although the militia had been styled the right arm of the country, there was no need to keep it up as they formerly did. The troubles in Canada and the boundary affairs had rendered it necessary in years past to have an effective militia law, but that was now exploded; there was every prospect of peace, and militia trainings were no longer necessary. The hon. member of the City St. John had said that by repealing the law they would be taking the power out of the hands of the Lieut. Governor; but if they passed a bill or repealed a Law the Lieut. Governor was not obliged to give his assent. That House was a Branch of the Government, and the proper way for them to tender their advice to the Governor was by passing a Bill, by which they expressed the wishes of the House.—As for the present Militia Law he thought it was uncalled for; during the last ten years the amount of labour spent in trainings would in a great measure have repaired the bye roads. He hoped something would now be done to remedy the abuse.

Hon. Speaker said that the Law in the Statute Book gave the Lieutenant Governor the power to dispense with one, two, or all the days of training. This had been partially carried out, for in 1842 the militia were only called out for one day, although in the last year they had been called out two days. (He here read an extract from an Act passed in the year 1828, by which the Lieutenant Governor or Commander in Chief for the time being, is authorized to dispense with a portion, or all of the militia trainings.) He (hon. Speaker) thought they should not repeal the law unless they were prepared to pass a vote of censure on the Lieutenant Governor, for by repealing the Act it would be virtually censuring his conduct. Besides, such a course would be labour in vain, for even if it should pass the other Branch it would not receive the Royal assent, as the Royal Instructions were such that the administrator of government must disallow any such act.

Mr. Jordan said that of all the speeches he had heard on the subject before them, the Hon. Speaker's was the only one which carried any weight with it. He (Mr. Jordan) did not approve of the idea of doing away with the Militia Law, whether it might be popular or not. This Province ever had a Militia Law since it was first settled, and he did not think it would be well to abandon it. He would like to see all turn out at least once a year, that they might know their effective force, and *that* he thought would be sufficient in peaceable times. It had been held to be a good maxim to prepare for war in time of peace.—He hoped they would not do away with the Law altogether; and if they thought they military should be called out only one day in the year, an address to the Lieutenant Governor to that effect would be all-sufficient.

Mr. End said if any reason could exist for opposing a militia Law it could only be in case the Province was governed by a martinet; then he should have been willing to go for something of the kind. The preamble to the Bill for repealing the law was a libel on the people of this Province. Militia in other countries had contended against regular troops, and successfully too; and if ever the Militia of this Province should be called out, there was no doubt but their cause would be as holy. But the Lieut. Governor of this Province was not a martinet; he was a very humane man, and although he held a military rank, in his habits he was almost a civilian.—As an instance of the spirit which exists in this Province he would refer them to the late border troubles. The men living on the frontier showed themselves ready, and came forward nobly to defend their country and repel invasion, (and they received nothing for it) but they were now called on to say that it is a pernicious system and that by bringing so many people together it promoted intemperance and immorality! He (Mr. E.) would deny that; temperance was now spreading,& he was aware that people took the opportunity afforded them by the militia trainings to hold temperance meetings. this country was not like the old country; there were no wakes nor fairs, no hunting parties, &c., and he believed hon. members would try to stop every little merry-making, or any source of amusement by which men were bound to love their country. The existing law left it discretionary with the Commander-in-Chief whether the militia should be called out or not, and he (Mr. End) had confidence in him, and should go against the Bill then before the Committee. But if the Bill should pass he would call on the hon. mover (Mr. S. Earle) to alter the phraseology of the preamble, as in its present state it censured the men who had volunteered during the border troubles. He would conclude by moving that the further consideration of the Bill be postponed for six months.

Mr. Gilbert did not agree with the hon. member for Gloucester about people taking advantage of training days to hold temperance meetings; he thought it was all the other way. He would not do away with the Militia Law, he would merely suspend it during peace, as trainings now were useless. The hon. Speaker had given them valuable information, but if the Governor could not sanction their proceedings, let them go at once to the fountain head. The question was asked why should they do away with trainings; and he would answer—for the best reason in the world—to save money. They could save the salaries of the Adjutant-General and Quarter-Master-General, besides saving the time expended in training. He (Mr. G.) did not think the Law would even be necessary in the time of war, nor even should this Province be invaded. It was not needed at the time of the Restook troubles, for the men turned out of their own accord, and volunteered with alacrity; and in a similar case they would no doubt do so again. If they wished to abolish these foolish trainings, that was the time—the only time—when they had it in their power. The people were crying out against the oppressive measure, and the voice of the people must be heard and responded to. Our enemies—not that he supposed they had any enemies now, but he meant the Americans, whom we were wont to consider our natural enemies—were about setting us an example worthy of imitation, for resolutions had recently been introduced into Congress for the purpose ef abolishing militia trainings in that country. If the Committee were determined to keep up the staff of the militia, and spend the public monies on the Adjutant-General, Quarter-Master-General, &c., he hoped, for heaven's sake, they would not force them to leave the harvesting of their bread-stuffs, and assemble together to get drunk! He hoped the Committee would no longer force people to do this, but suspend the existing law.

Mr. Fisher arose to offer an amendment. (This we understood was to the effect that the Militia be suspended except under certain emergencies, such as war, invasion, &c. which was to be left to the discretion of the Governor.) Hon. members had alluded to the Restook war; he (Mr. Fisher) had the honour of serving in that war—but it was by substitute (a laugh) and he thought the less they said about it the better. There was no fault in the militia men, but it was certainly a foolish and disgraceful affair.—Those in whose hands the management of things then rested, had certainly backed out. But the affair had one good effect, for it proved this:—that our men were all ready; they turned out cheerfully, leaving their homes, their wives and children, and submitting to military discipline with a good grace, ready to sacrifice every thing for their love of country. And when they were so deeply interested they took great pains to inform themselves of their duties, and soon exhibited surprising efficiency. It also proved that their previous trainings had done them no good, for they were totally ignorant when they first assembled. (Here it was intimated to the Committee that the Sheriff of York was in attendance, when they arose and reported progress.)

PRIVILEGE.

The Speaker having informed the House that the High Sheriff of the County of York was in attendance, pursuant to the order of the House of the preceding day, it was ordered that he be brought to the bar of the House. The Sergeant at Arms then introduced the Sheriff, when the Speaker accosted him as follows:—

"Edward W. Miller, you are the High Sheriff of York?"

"I am, sir."

"Will you inform the House, sir, why James Doak & Thomas Hill, who were committed to your charge by an order from the Speaker of this House, have been discharged?"

"They were discharged, sir, under a writ of Habeas Corpus, and by the order of Mr. Justice Carter."

"Have you that order in your possession?"

"I have, sir." (Here the order was presented to the Clerk and by him read.)

"When were the prisoners discharged?"

"They were discharged on the 2nd day of March."

"You may withdraw."

Mr. End then said that as the House had now ascertained in an official manner why the prisoners had been discharged, he would move that this matter be submitted to the Committee of Privileges to report thereon.—This was agreed to. The House then resolved itself into Committee of the whole, and resumed the consideration of the

MILITIA BILL.

Hon. Mr. Wilmot said he was not well prepared for the discussion of the Bill before the Committee, for it had been brought forward so suddenly that he had not had time to inform himself.—He thought Militia trainings should be done away with; not that he wished to check the martial spirit of the people, but a substitute could be found, which was, volunteer companies. He thought that if some little encouragement were given, such as exemption from road work, and some other privileges, such a force might be kept up as would be found efficient in the event of a war. He thought that if this were done St. John would furnish from eight to ten companies; Fredericton three or four, Charlotte three, Woodstock three, and King's County two; as to the other Counties he was not sufficiently acquainted as to speak with any degree of certainty. The Lieut. Governor would order the different companies of each Battalion to be disciplined alike, and the force would thus be ready at any time to unite, whether they were Infantry, Artillery, Cavalry, or Riflemen. This force would be sufficient, and all the rest might be done away with. They should allow them some immunities, and he had no doubt but a force of ten or twelve hundred men could soon be raised, which would be well-trained, and fit for duty in case of a war; but as for the general training it was a complete burlesque, as he knew from experience. He thought they should suspend the present Law and at the same time give the Lieutenant Governor the power to encourage the formation of voluntary companies. They might not suspend the militia trainings until a certain number of volunteers were organized, but when that was done let the Lieut. Governor carry out the measure. He (Mr. W.) thought the number might be settled at 1000 men and he would be bound to say that that number would be raised, if the measure was carried, before midsummer. He hoped they would suspend the present Law. He had found by experience that it was useless, and he thought the voluntary principle would be found sufficient. These were merely his opinions; he was not prepared to go into the subject thoroughly, but merely threw out these suggestions.—The Committee now had the power to make a good Bill, and to do away with a useless Law.—There was another practice of training militia which had obtained in Prussia, and other countries on the continent of Europe; that was to embody the young men until they were thoroughly trained, and make them serve in this way for two or three years; a certain number of them at a time, and then disembody them and draft others. Those who had thus served being thoroughly disciplined never forgot it, and thus the whole male population were ready to serve as soldiers with scarcely any additional training.—He was not prepared to say that this system would be proper to introduce into this country; he merely threw out the suggestion.

Mr. End would ask a question of the hon. and learned member.—The voluntary system in his (Mr. End's) opinion was nothing but gas. To-day perhaps they would be willing to volunteer, and to-morrow they would not. They would quarrel about trifles and become dissatisfied; start a thousand difficulties—wish to elect their own officers, &c. Young men were fond of military trappings, but he had never known them to be contented long—he thought they could not depend on the voluntary system at all.—The complaints against the present law arose principally from the rural districts, and if they thought proper they might relieve those men from their duties, and confine the training to the inhabitants of towns and villages. The question he wished to ask the hon. and learned member was, if he thought they could trust to the volunteer principle altogether, or if he did not think there should be some compulsory power. He wished the hon. member to state how volunteer companies should be kept together.

Hon. Mr. Wilmot said that the question put by the hon. member for Gloucester was a very proper one. He (Mr. W.) was not prepared—as he had said before—to enter into the details of the plan, he had proposed, at present, but he would state that he had never intended it should be altogether voluntary. They should not be allowed to withdraw from a company after once joining. Their act in joining a company at first should be voluntary, but afterwards there should be a certain degree of compulsion. He thought they should be bound to serve under certain regulations for a number of years, but this was merely his opinion. He would be prepared to explain himself more fully when they went into detail. But he would say this much that it could not be left altogether to their own free will.

Mr. J. A. Street said the getting up of volunteer companies would do very well for pastime or amusement, but it would not do to trust to that system altogether. But though he (Mr. S.) did not think that system would do he was not in favour of the other, for he believed militia training under the old regulations were all a humbug. The amendment offered by he hon. & learned member for York *might* be very good, which was to suspend the law except under certain emergencies, which were to be left to the discretion of the Lieutenant Governor. But he (Mr. S.)would not not go so far as to suspend the law altogether.—He did not see any good in the present training; they met, and walked about, lost two or three day's work, and learned but little. It had been shown that the Lieutenant Governor had the power to do away with training, but that was no argument, as he had not exercised that power. He would wish the militia to be called out one day in the year, which would be sufficient.—The hon. Speaker had said that to legislate on the question would be to pass a vote of censure on the Lieutenant Governor; but he did not think that. (The hon. member then made some humorous allusions to the conflicting opinions prevailing among the different militia officers who were members of that House.)

Hon. Mr. Simonds said the hon. and learned member for Northumberland had called three day's training in a year a humbug, and yet recommends one day's training. Now if they learn but little in three days, they must certainly learn less in one day! or if they learn *nothing* in three days he would like to know how much they would learn in *one* day! He (Mr. Simonds) thought that according to the hon. member's reasoning if the old system was a humbug the other must be a humbug too!—The present system cost the people 75,000 days labour a year; this was a great deal, and now when they were not apprehensive of difficulties for a great many years to come why not suspend it?—He thought they had better report progress, to give hon. members time to mature some plan for the encouragement and organization of a volunteer force. He thought something of that kind had better be done, and for that reason he would move the Committee rise and report progress.

Hon. Speaker said that by the act now in force the Lieutenant Governor had the power to dispense with all the militia trainings, or a part of them, as he thought proper. He thought therefore they had better address his Excellency praying him to limit the trainings to one day, which, he had no doubt would be complied with. He thought that would be all it was necessary for them to do, and in the mean time the voluntary system could be carried out all the same.

Mr. Smith said he had had some experience in militia trainings, and he did not wish to see the present system done away with. He had seen a great many volunteer companies got up, and watched their progress, but they did not last long—no matter how much they flourished at first they soon showed symptoms of decline. He did not think the voluntary system would do, neither did the people wish the old system to be done away with. They did not wish to be debarred the pleasure of meeting together once a year to display their loyalty; and their military trainings *did* in his opinion display a loyal feeling—he had remarked that those who had served for a few years either in the army or navy were always good subjects. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Jordan said he would not like to see the present Law done away with. He was opposed to any unnecessary expence, and hoped the trainings would be reduced to one day, which would be all-sufficient. As for the voluntary system he thought it nothing more than a bubble.

Hon. Mr. Wilmot read an extract from an act passed in the year 1828. He said he was not aware that the Governor had power to dispense with *all* the trainings, until the hon. Speaker had said so, and by reference to the act he found that it was the case. He would now propose they let the law stand as it was, but address the Lieutenant Governor to suspend the trainings for one year, and by that time they would be enabled to mature some plan.