

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

The House of Assembly have unanimously granted to Mr. W. G. Lawton the sum of £358 15s. 7d., being the full amount of his claim for supplies furnished for the Alms House establishment at St. John, some time since, and the Grant has since passed the Council by a large majority—8 to 4.

The Legislative Council have passed the new Post Office bill, as sent up from the Assembly, without any amendment. They have also passed a bill to afford relief to the bona fide holders of negotiable Securities without notice that they were given for a usurious consideration.

THURSDAY, April 11.—After the journals were read this morning, the House went into Committee on the State of the Province. Mr. Wark made a lengthy and (in my opinion) a very able speech.

Mr. Brown followed at some length. After which his (Mr. Brown's) amendment to Mr. Wark's original resolutions was put. The yeas were three—Mr. Brown, Mr. McLeod and Mr. Woodward.

Mr. Wark's resolution was then put and lost. The yeas were Messrs. Wark, Porter, Dr. Earle, R. D. Wilmot, Connell, Ansley, Ritchie, Botsford, End, Steves and Smith.

Dr. Earle moved the following resolution, which was laid on the table:—

Whereas the right of self government in all matters connected with the local affairs of this Province has been conceded to us by Her Most Gracious Majesty, and as the further privilege of Electing the Legislative Council is intended to be granted by Her Majesty's Government to the Colonies in Australia and Southern Africa, as enunciated by Lord John Russell in his Speech in the House of Commons on the 8th day of February last; and whereas Her Majesty's subjects in this Province, from their intelligence, loyalty and attachment to the Mother Country, are justly entitled to the privilege thus generously bestowed by the Imperial Government, upon other Colonies, having a local Legislature—

Therefore Resolved, That it is the opinion of this House the Legislative Council of this Province ought to be elected by the people, under such restrictions as may be most conducive to the public welfare.

Mr. Wark then moved the following resolution, which was also laid on the table:—

Resolved, That the Salaries of Public Officers should at all times be subject to such revision by the Legislature as the exigencies of the Province may render necessary, irrespective of the tenure by which such Officers hold their appointments.

The House then adopted and passed a series of resolutions, seven in number, prepared by the Hon. Mr. Partelow, which point out very clearly the real causes of the commercial difficulties under which the Province now labours. Among other measures of relief, these resolutions propose the construction of the Halifax and Quebec railway, and an address to Her Majesty praying efficient aid toward this great national undertaking.

A very lengthy debate took place in the afternoon, on a Bill to provide for the inspection of Beef and Pork, put up for exportation in this Province, which bill was negatived on Monday, by a vote of 18 to 12.

FRIDAY, April 12.—Mr. Barberie introduced a Bill to amend and improve the law for granting licences for cutting timber in the Province. A lengthy discussion followed, when Hon. Mr. Baillie finally moved that the Bill be postponed for three months—carried.

Mr. Wark's resolution on the subject of salaries was next discussed. The object of the resolution was to test the principle whether we had the right or not, to reduce our salaries, according to the principle of self-government.

The Hon. Attorney General made an excellent speech in favour of retrenchment. He said according to a despatch sent out in 1845, he felt that that House had not the liberty of interfering with the established salaries of the Judges, during their lives; but since reading Lord John Russell's late famous speech, so often quoted, he considered the case to be quite different. If the doctrine enunciated in the speech of Lord John Russell meant that the local Legislature had got the control in one department, it must have the control of all.

He felt that by yielding up the control of their own affairs into the hands of the local Legislature, was the only means by which England could keep her Colonies; as they (the Colonies) seemed determined not to submit to the dictation of the Colonial Minister in local matters.

[Mr. Wilmot goes on to explain his scheme of reduction of the salaries. He proposes to place the Governor's salary at £1500; the Surveyor General (from £1384) to be reduced to £600, and his office to be a political one. The Hon. Attorney General moved two resolutions, which we subjoin.]

Moved by the Hon. Attorney General—

Resolved, As the opinion of this Committee, that the amount of Surplus of the Civil List, amounting on the 31st of December last to £12298 7s. 11d., ought to be transferred into the Provincial Treasury, and made at once available for the general purposes of the Province; and that all annual surpluses hereafter arising, ought to be paid over in a like manner from year to year.

[The above Resolution passed after Speeches from Messrs. Ritchie, Woodward, Hannington, Connell, Fisher, and Thompson.]

The second Resolution was as follows—

Resolved, As the opinion of this Committee, that it is expedient that the following reductions should

be made in the Salaries now charged upon the Civil List, and that one half of such reductions should take place on the 1st day of January, 1851, and the remainder on the 1st day of January, 1852—viz:

Chief Justice, present salary, £1096 3 0	
Proposed reduction, 396 3 0—£700	
3 Judges, joint salaries, 2250 0 0	
Proposed reduction, 450 0 0—1800	
Surveyor General, present sal. 1384 12 4	
Proposed reduction, 784 12 4—600	

Mr. Gilbert moved the following as an amendment to the last resolution.

Resolved, that in the opinion of this Committee, the following scale of salaries should be adopted:

Lieutenant Governor, £1000; Chief Justice, £600; 3 Puisne Judges, £500 each; Provincial Secretary, £400; Surveyor General, £400; Attorney General, £400; Solicitor General, £200; Auditor General, £200; Receiver General, abolished; Master of the Rolls, £500; Quarter Master General, abolished; Clerk of the Pleas, £250; Treasurer, £500; Governor's Private Secretary, £100.
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The Provincial grant to the College to be abolished. The above amendment and foregoing resolution stands over for discussion to-morrow.—M. News.

SATURDAY, April 13.—Mr. Carman moved the following Resolution, viz:

Resolved, That an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, praying that His Excellency will be pleased to cause the Bond of the Hon. Joseph Cunard and Benjamin Wolhaupter, bearing date the 22d day of July 1844, to be cancelled.

Hon. Mr. Partelow said there were a large number of Government Bonds which were under the consideration of the Executive. He thought the motion made by the Hon. member for Northumberland was rather a summary way of proceeding.—The Bond in question was not entitled to more especial consideration than others. The Government had these matters under consideration and would deal with them in a just and proper manner.

Mr. Carman at considerable length supported the resolution, but it was finally lost.

Mr. J. Earle said as the House seemed to have nothing to do, he would move that the further consideration of the Orange Bill be taken up.

Mr. Barberie said the Bill had already undergone a lengthy discussion. It was late in the Session, and he would therefore move that the further consideration of the Bill be postponed for three months.

Hon. Mr. Hannington seconded the motion, which was put, when the following division took place.—For the motion—His Hon. the Speaker, Hon. Mr. Partelow, Hon. Mr. Hannington, Messrs. Porter, End, Brown, Wark, McLeod, Gilbert, Dr. Earle, Carman, Ritchie, Woodward, Street, Jordan, Vail, Landry, Steves, Reed, Montgomery, and Dr. Thompson—21. Nays—Hon. Mr. Fisher, Messrs. Boyd, Connell, Miles, Hayward, Taylor, J. Earle, Ansley, R. D. Wilmot, Wilson, and Hon. Mr. Baillie—11. Absent—Hon. Attorney General, Cranby, Tibbitts, Rankin, Barberie, and Smith. Mr. Botsford was Chairman. The Committee then reported, and during the remainder of the afternoon the House was engaged in making entries on the Supply Book, this being the last day for that portion of the business.

Yesterday, Mr. Woodward moved the following Resolutions—

Resolved, As the opinion of this Committee, that the public expenditure of the Province should be in accordance with the means and resources of the Province; that an extravagant appropriation of money for public officers is not only injurious, as absorbing capital and lessening the amount that might otherwise be devoted to useful purposes; but leads to extravagant modes of living, sets an example injurious to economical and prudent habits, which ought to characterize the inhabitants of a young colony with limited means and resources; and further

Resolved, That the Salaries now borne on the Civil List of this Province are greater than are warranted by the means and resources, and as an example are injurious to the habits and manners of its people. That the following scale is ample and sufficient for the securing of fit and proper persons to fill the various offices with efficiency and to the satisfaction of the country; and that it is the undoubted right of the Legislature to alter the same from time to time as the exigency of the public service may require, viz:—Lieutenant Governor, £1500—Private Secretary, £150—Chief Justice, £700—Justices of Supreme Court, each, £600—Surveyor General, £500—Auditor General, £350—Receiver General (may be dispensed with)—Attorney General, £600—Solicitor General, £300—Provincial Secretary, £600.—New Brunswick.

The House then went into Committee of Supply, and passed several grants, among which, was a grant of £50 to each of the four Reporters, which was moved by Dr. Wilson, and passed after some debate. We cannot, as one of the Reporters, omit this opportunity of publicly thanking Mr. Ritchie for defending the Reporters against the indiscriminate, violent, and, we think, unwarranted attacks made upon them by the hon. member for Queen's, Mr. Gilbert.

The House went into Committee of the whole, in further consideration of a Bill to Incorporate the New Brunswick Society, for the encouragement of Agriculture, Home Manufactures, and Commerce throughout the Province, which, after a short discussion was agreed to. This Society, under the Bill, will be entitled to get £200 from the Provincial Treasury, when its members have subscribed and paid £100 towards its funds.—Head Quarters.

MONDAY, April 15.

The House opened to-day a little after 9 o'clock, and after the journals of Saturday were read, the following Bills were read a third time, viz—A Bill in further amendment of the Law; a Bill to encourage the erection of a Suspension Bridge near the Falls of St. John; and a Bill to prevent the destruction of Moose in this Province.

Hon. Mr. Rankin presented a Petition from Joseph Cunard, praying the House to pass an Act to incorporate the Canada, N. B. and N. S. Railroad Company.

Hon. Mr. Partelow said he could not give his assent to the Bill. It was for the purpose of incorporating a private Company, and he thought the passing of the Bill would be inconsistent with the principle adopted a few days ago in passing the series of resolutions relative to the great trunk line. The whole matter would shortly be brought under the consideration of the Home Government. An Address was about to be presented to the British Government, asking for a loan of £1,000,000 for the purpose of carrying on the great trunk line of railroad. If that great public project was to be carried on, it could only be done as a government measure, and at the public expense.

Dr. Wilson hoped that no serious opposition would be offered to the Bill. He did not believe that the British Government would do any thing toward furthering railroads in this Province. He thought if the people of New Brunswick waited for the Home Government to take the initiative, the Province would be a long time without a railroad.

Hon. Mr. Baillie also supported the Bill, and condemned the principle of waiting for the British Government to take the lead. He thought if the people did not bestir themselves they might wait in vain for assistance.

Mr. Ritchie would ask the Hon. Secretary if any further information had been received by the Government relative to the subject under consideration?

Hon. Mr. Partelow—Not any.

Mr. Ritchie would then move that the further consideration of the Bill be postponed for three months.

Dr. Wilson hoped the motion would not be sustained; and after a lengthy discussion the Bill passed.

The House then went into Committee of Supply.

A motion was made in supply by Mr. Steves for a grant of £250 to enable the Justices of the Peace for the County of Albert to pay off the debt due for erecting the Court House and Jail in that county. He said that after the County of Albert was set off from the County of Westmoreland and erected into a separate County, a grant was made of £500, with the proviso that it should only be drawn from time to time as similar amounts were assessed and collected in the county. Very respectable buildings have been erected and the county is in debt to a considerable extent and when Hon. Members are reminded of the fact that these buildings were erected during the three years of the most unprecedented depression this Province ever experienced, and as no County in the Province has ever received a less sum than £750, the County of Albert is justly entitled to the additional grant of £250, and he hoped there would be no objection to it.

Mr. Partelow said, when in any County a sum not exceeding £2000 had been expended in the erection of public buildings one half the amount was invariably granted by Government, and as the County of Albert had erected very respectable buildings they were justly entitled to a further grant.

Mr. Brown said, he saw the public buildings in the County of Albert, and could assure the Committee that they were very creditable, he was therefore willing to go for the grant.

A grant of £250 was finally sustained.

A grant of £150 was passed to Alfred L. Street.

TUESDAY, April 16.

This morning Mr. Street presented a petition from the Master of the Rolls, complaining of the proposed reduction in his salary, and praying to be heard at the Bar of the House, for the purpose of stating reasons why his salary should not be meddled with. Mr. Street moved a resolution to the effect, that the petition be received, and that a day be appointed to hear that officer. After considerable discussion, the resolution passed (18 to 13) and Thursday was appointed in accordance therewith.

A Bill to incorporate the Canada, N. B. and N. S. Railroad Company was taken up for a third reading. The 2d section of the Bill gives to the Company all the ungranted lands on a

line with the railway, extending ten miles on each side; also authorises the Government to purchase all the granted lands on the line, and to give £20,000,000 Stg. yearly as the work progresses.

On motion of Mr. Barberie, the House went into Committee on a Bill to regulate, that all kinds of Grain hitherto sold by measure to be in future sold by weight.

The House next went into Committee of Supply. Hon. Mr. Partelow moved for £500 to be granted to the Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty of the City of St. John, to enable them to erect a Steamboat Wharf at Reed's Point. Hon. Mr. Partelow, Mr. Ritchie, Mr. Woodward, Mr. Ansley and Mr. Jordan supported the motion, but it was lost—the St. John members forming the minority.

Hon. Mr. Partelow moved for a grant of £50 for returned duty on a Fire Engine, which is being imported from New York to St. John. The Resolution passed.

Hon. Mr. Partelow moved for a grant of £20 to remunerate Mr. Blatch for expenses incurred in coming to Fredericton at the opening of the session, for the purpose of reporting the debates.

Dr. Wilson would like to get an explanation. He supposed it was "all right," but he would like to know who authorised Mr. Blatch to come to Fredericton to report for the House.

Hon. Mr. Partelow explained; when it was decided that £10 be allowed.

Hon. Mr. Partelow moved for a grant of £85 to Col. Shore for his services as Adjutant General of the Militia during the past year.—Here a scene followed as absurd as it was ridiculous.

Mr. Ritchie moved, as an amendment, that £10 be granted. He thought that sum was quite sufficient to pay for postage and other incidental expenses incurred in the Militia service during the year; and considering the large salary that officer enjoyed, he might well afford to perform a little extra service for the country.

The amendment was then put and lost.—The original motion was also lost by a large majority. Several other motions and amendments were then put and negatived, when the

Hon. Mr. Partelow said, as he had brought in the resolution, he would now move that it be withdrawn, and leave the next House to decide what the adjutant was entitled to for his services in that capacity.

Mr. Ritchie moved a reconsideration of the resolution, which was carried, 17 to 15. A fuss was then made as to how the resolution was to be disposed of. His Honor the Speaker explained, when Mr. End moved for £55.—Lost. Mr. Tibbitts moved for £40. Lost. Mr. J. Earle moved for £35. Also lost.

Hon. Mr. Partelow then moved for reporting progress, which motion was also lost. A pause.

Mr. Street then moved for £69. Lost.

Mr. Hayward said the most sensible motion the Committee could now make was, for an address to His Excellency to dissolve the Assembly forthwith. They were ruining the Country; and the course he recommended was the most equitable that could be adopted. Hon. Mr. Partelow would press his motion for reporting progress. It was absurd to get on in that manner, delaying the business of the Country. He was convinced the question could be settled in very few minutes to-morrow morning.

The Committee had been engaged nearly two hours on this subject. Progress was reported and the House adjourned.

Extracts from the Debate on the Army Bill in Parliament. Hints affecting the Colonies:—

Mr. Hume did not think the pay of the army, officers or men, too much; he believed it was scarcely adequate; his objection was to the number, and he proposed that the vote this year should be for 89,000 men, to be reduced next year to 80,000 by stopping the recruiting, no reason being assigned why we should not revert to that number, which was sufficient up to 1837.

Major Blackall opposed this amendment.

Sir W. Molesworth said, our colonies cost us, in military expenditure, at least £4,000,000 a-year; and the question was, whether this large amount was required. He contended that many more troops were maintained in the colonies than could be necessary for Imperial objects; and if we gave free institutions to our colonies, they should pay for the troops requisite for local purposes.

Mr. Macgregor, considering that the Go-