

much to be regretted, but that was not the only reason for the Bill. We may be subject to the same evil of having unfit persons in office, but the many regulations which are now mere dead letters on the Statute Book would be enforced, and they will not be put in operation while every body's business is no body's, as at present. There is no police in Charlottetown, and consequently the laws are not enforced. It was but a few weeks since that one of the principal truckmen was caught stealing wood and bringing it into Charlottetown with the audacity of a highwayman. Would such a man be allowed to act as a truckman if the City were incorporated? Must such characters as these be allowed to obtain the ascendancy, and become members of the City Government? If it is considered that the Bill is required, put it in a shape that may render it useful. Let men of standing in the town, who have an interest in its welfare, be sent to the City Council. Life, liberty and character are better off in the hands of well informed men than in those of reckless and unprincipled persons. The present franchise is but another name for universal suffrage—it is based on the payment of nine-pence a week. It would be an easy matter to cut up a hut into rooms which might pay that sum, and thus make votes. The time has certainly come for improvement in the management of the local affairs of Charlottetown. The laws on the subject are so numerous that it is difficult to enumerate them. He knew that most are but dead letters on the Statute Book—for instance, those relating to disorderly driving, cattle going at large, bathing, fuel, the sanitary condition of the town, and many others. The last has been so neglected that medical opinions have been given, to the effect that if the present state of things continues, the town will, in a few years, be in a most unhealthy state. In consequence of the level character of the surface, and the porous nature of the soil, the sewerage penetrates to the wells and is drunk by the inhabitants. Expenditure will be required for providing a proper system of sewerage. It is true, we have not as yet been severely tried by pestilence, but that gives no reason why we should consider ourselves as exempt for all time to come. It was useless to waste time: the Bill was doomed before it was brought in. I would be willing to support it, clause by clause, if the qualification was placed on a reasonable and safe basis. I would always advocate the propriety of raising money for public improvements, and parties would soon find that the additional values received by their properties from the improvements were money in their pockets. But I would not give the power to do so to those who may be here to-day and away to-morrow. I, for one, will never say that forty shillings a year should have the same influence in controlling property as £50.

Hon. COL. SECRETARY would like to ask, if lowering the franchise would prevent the cleansing of the streets and making other improvements in the town? If the franchise be not lowered from six to two pounds, the poor will derive no benefit. The rich would have the sole controul, and return owners of property; the poor would have no voice. The privileges, as the benefits, should extend to all classes. The story of the truckman has nothing to do with the question of the franchise; if it had, it would be only similar to the conduct of the proprietors on the subject of the fishery reserves. It is not likely that the poorer classes in Charlottetown would elect a person guilty of the conduct imputed to the truckman. As to the hon. member's remarks about magistrates, he would recall to his recollection the case of a member of the former Executive, a friend of the hon. member, who had pleaded guilty to an indictment for an assault. The party alluded to by the hon. member had resigned his commission, and he had only been charged with an attempt to rescue a prisoner, but

I believe he interfered only to take the man to jail; for that he was fined £30 or £35; had paid it—and I see no reason why he should not be restored. We will see how the hon. member's friend will be dealt with.

Mr. COOPER said that the hon. member (Mr. Palmer), spoke of the people as a mob. The only way to keep a mob is to give them rights. He approved of the amendment as sufficiently high. As to the qualification of Councillors, he would adopt any that would give a fair chance.

Hon. Mr. MOONEY thought the Act was uncalled for. The hon. member for Charlottetown had been weighed in the balance and found wanting, and now he would fain sit in judgment on those who had condemned him. He would never consent to allow a policeman to seize a man's horse which he might find standing in the street, when, if the man interfered, he would be taken to jail for laying hands on the policeman, would have to pay jailor's fees and provide hay for his horse, and all that he might say when he got home, "I've slept in jail." The other morning I stood by Crabb's corner, and could not see a man, woman or child between Government House and Mr. Beer's. I thought to myself that this was certainly a great place to require an Act of Incorporation. The Bill is nothing but a man-trap; before long the people of Charlottetown would be glad to open their gates to the country people. The country can do without the town, and the day might come when not a bushel of potatoes would be seen in the town. I am opposed to laying additional burdens on the people, for you will find on the next census one-fourth of the people of Charlottetown bordering on pauperism.

Hon. COL. SECRETARY denied that, and said no people in America were generally better off.

Hon. Mr. WHELAN said that though the principle of the Bill had received the concurrence of Members of both parties in the House; some country Members objected to it. He thought they should not resist, as it would be beneficial to their constituents, who would no longer be subjected to the annoyances they were at present subject to by cattle eating their hay, potatoes, &c. You may, at any market day, see on the square fifteen or sixteen cows attacking the carts of the country people, who would receive additional advantages in being provided with sheds to protect their meats from the influence of the weather. At present what prospect was there of selling their meat after it had been exposed to the heat of the sun during the whole of a warm day. He instanced the advantages of shelter to the fisherman bringing fresh fish from Rustico and Savage Harbour, and concluded by stating that if any class would benefit by the Act the country would reap equal advantages.

Hon. Mr. LORD would move that the Speaker take the Chair. His opinion was unchanged, and he would like to know the amount and mode of taxation. If he opposed the Bill, he would probably be told that he was going over to the opposition; now he would not like to do that. (Laughter.)

Hon. COL. SECRETARY and Hon. COL. TREASURER opposed, as it would be but a waste of time to have the discussion renewed, and the fate of the amendment had better be decided.

The question was then taken on the amendment, which was sustained on the following division:—

Ayes—Hons. the Speaker, Col. Secretary, Col. Treasurer, Mr. Mooney, Mr. Whelan, Messrs. McIntosh, Perry, Cooper, Laird, Muirhead.

Nays—Hons. Messrs. Palmer, Longworth, Montgomery, Haviland and Douse.

The Committee sat again on Monday, the 1st April, when Hon. Mr. Whelan was willing to base the franchise on the