

to the Cemetery. The line of the procession could have been little less than a quarter of a mile in length. The walk must have been most trying to the children and females, as the wind was blowing and snow drifting bitterly the whole time. Arrived at the Cemetery, the Rev. Mr. Wood read the Sentences "while the body was made ready to be laid into the earth;" the Rev. Mr. Mountain the committal of the body to the ground; and the Bishop the concluding Prayers and Collects. The crowd of people tho' so large, was very orderly and attentive; and a request was conveyed to the parties conducting the funeral, that the grave might be left open for a time, to give the numerous friends an opportunity of looking upon the coffin, which contained all that remained on earth of one so long known, so highly revered, and so dearly beloved.

O Death, all eloquent thou only prove
What dust we dole on, when 'tis man we love.

Provincial Legislature.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY, FRIDAY, March 14.

Bill to facilitate the investment of trust and other funds.

Mr. Johnston considered that the Bill might affect the interests of others. He would look into the Bill.

The Attorney General explained that if Provincial Debentures were issued, creating a new stock, it would be such as might warrant an Executor or Trustee in investing money to his care.

Mr. Wilkins would like to know whether the provisions of the Bill authorized Executors or Trustees to speculate, because, if it were so, he (Mr. Wilkins) would object to the Bill. British legislation had never gone that length, and we should not do so now.

Mr. Johnston.—The reasons assigned by the Attorney General could be condensed within a small field. The honorable gentleman then proceeded to assign the reason why he objected to the Legislature giving, by Bill, to Executors and Trustees, power not at present possessed by them—powers which might be abused in several possible ways, which he explained. He (Mr. Johnston) would like to know whether it were probable that the proposed stock would be likely to keep up its character,—much would depend upon the state of public works and other very possible contingencies. He (Mr. Johnston) would approach the bill with some caution. The very facility given up by the Bill to Executors and Trustees to divest themselves of responsibility was a grave objection.

Mr. Wilkins thought it possible at least that the Debentures of Nova Scotia, like certain United States paper, might become depreciated.

Mr. McLellan thought that no better security for money invested could be had than Debentures of the Province offered.

Mr. Johnston would ask to what amount capitalists of Nova Scotia had taken Nova Scotia Debentures?

Mr. Wier made a remark the exact purport of which was not caught by Reporter. He thought that on the face of the world there was at this time no safer investment than the securities of Nova Scotia presented. He would not tie up Trustees and Executors. As the Law was at present, a large amount of money was yearly invested in foreign securities. He was satisfied that Bonds issued by the Provincial Treasury of Nova Scotia would offer as safe a means of investment as could be found here or in England.

The Attorney General regretted to hear honorable gentlemen depreciate the credit of Nova Scotia. Before such doubts had been thrown out by the hon. member for Pictou were enunciated, honorable gentlemen should pause. The scope of the proposed Act was to enable Trustees, &c., having control over funds held in trust to invest the amount in Provincial Securities. As for the idea thrown out that the time might come when the Provincial Treasury would be depleted and the Province bankrupt, it was all worse than idle speculation. He could see no hazard in enabling Trustees, &c., to invest monies entrusted to their care in such securities as the Province could offer. If Debentures to a greater extent had not been taken in Nova Scotia, it was because of the rate of interest, viz., per cent.

Mr. Johnston depreciated the idea of any attempt on his part to depreciate the public credit of the Province—but would remark upon the lax manner in which bills of this nature were sometimes passed through Parliament. He (Mr. Johnston) would be glad to learn of the hon. member for Halifax, how monies willed were tied up except by the act of the man's desiring it? He (Mr. Johnston) would propose an amendment to the bill, restricting the executor or trustee from investing funds of the widow or the fatherless in securities in which he would not invest his own money. He (Mr. Johnston) was opposed to borrowing money from the Savings' Bank for Railway purposes. Let the whole people bear the burden imposed, but spare the poor.

Mr. Wier would like to know whether, in England no trust monies were invested in the funds? Investment of monies was matter of choice. The Province had borrowed, only the other day, a large sum of Baring and Brothers;—would the hon. member for Annapolis say that he did not believe that the money of the widow and orphan had been so borrowed?

Mr. Tobin looked upon money like bags of coffee, which were just worth in the market what they would bring. The time might come in Nova Scotia when Provincial bonds would be, at a certain rate, above and

again below par, according as the value of the money might fluctuate. Everybody knew that money, in Halifax, was even now invested at 5 per cent., still he thought that the Government was wrong in fixing the rate of interest on Provincial Debentures at 5 per cent. It had gone to some extent to depreciate the Provincial Securities.

The Hon. Provincial Secretary could not understand any valid objection to the investment of trust funds to be represented by Provincial Debentures. He believed the principle pursued in England was sound, and it could not be urged that our credit did not afford a sufficient guarantee for the re-payment of the principal money whenever it was required. He could not understand why Executors should be precluded from investing as their judgment might dictate.

Mr. Martin I. Wilkins explained at length how, in his view, the debentures of the Province might be depreciated, and the probable consequences thereof,—with their effects upon the interests involved by investments in Provincial Stocks.

Hon. Mr. Wier treated the present opposition to the Bill before the Committee, as worthy of being classed with other similar cries, such as these:—"Responsible Government will ruin the country;" "Reciprocity will ruin the country."—The arguments were the same we had heard repeated over and over again for the past ten years.

Mr. Marshall thought that while constituencies such as those of Pictou and Guysboro' choose to send to Parliament, it was only to be regretted that their style and manner of addressing the House did not suit the taste of the Government and its supporters.

Mr. Johnston would like to know how this Bill was to operate in the future, as to wills made in the future.

Mr. A. Archibald.—The principle is precisely analogous to that which governs investments in the three per cents. It may be said that our Debentures will fluctuate in value,—so do Consols. It may be urged that persons investing may require their funds before twenty years, and will be compelled to sell at a discount. Just as it is in England; and no hon. gentleman will say that trust funds are not represented in England by Consols. Immense sums are invested there in that way.

Mr. Morrison thought the question narrowed into this—Which is the better investment, a private or public fund?

Mr. Johnston—No; but simply are you going to alter the law as it has existed in England for a century.

Mr. Chambers.—The common sense view is this: the present opposition to the Bill originates in opposition to the Railway policy of the Government.

Bill passed.

SATURDAY, March 15.

House opened at three o'clock.

Bills read a third time:—

For improving Harbor of Port Hood.

[Mr. Morrison would like to have some explanation as to the imposition of 3d. per ton on vessels entering the harbor.]

[The Hon. Attorney General explained, but in a tone too low to enable Reporter to catch the purport of remarks.]

Act to incorporate Woodworth Pier Company.

Act for incorporating Union Meeting House at Mahono Bay.

Act to incorporate Low Point Pier Company at Cornwallis.

Act to make certain Records in Township of One- low receivable in evidence.

[Mr. Johnston hoped this bill had received attention from some person acquainted with its contents.]

Act to regulate holding Sessions in the Township of Arayle.

Mr. Whitman presented petitions in favor of Prohibitory Liquor Law.

Mr. Johnston.—On the subject from Grand Division of Sons of Temperance, and asked that petition be read.

Petition read accordingly.

Also, four petitions from inhabitants of Wilmot and Nictau, and others, in the same neighborhood—containing, in the aggregate, sixteen hundred names.

Also, five petitions from the County of Digby on the same subject.

Mr. Johnston thought it might be well if a Committee were appointed,—as is the usage, on such occasions in the House of Commons,—to verify and classify these petitions; and, as far as possible ascertaining, how far they may be supposed to express public opinion reliably.

Mr. Archibald reported, by Bill, from Committee on subject of Assessment.

Mr. Morrison moved that the order of the day for taking up the Liquor Law Bill be for Tuesday next. Agreed to.

Mr. Johnston moved for Committee to consider the propriety of making some alterations in the time of holding the Supreme Courts.

Mr. McFarlane said he had in preparation a Bill for altering the time of holding Court in Amherst.

At the suggestion of the Hon. Solicitor General, a special Committee was named to consider and report, generally, upon the whole subject of time for holding Supreme Court in the respective Counties.

House went into Committee of Supply on the Road Service.

Hon. Solicitor General was willing to go to the farthest extent which the state of the Provincial funds would permit, for that purpose,—and would move £30,000 for the ordinary service, and £12,000 for

great roads. The hon. gentleman, in reply to a question put by Mr. Johnston, admitted that, in certain sections of the Province, a large portion of the road grant was required upon main-post roads, and apportionment might be made accordingly.

After a short conversational debate, (in course of which the Hon. Mr. Johnston, the Hon. the Attorney General, Mr. Morrison, Hon. Mr. Wier, Dr. Tupper, Mr. Whitman, and Mr. McLellan, expressed various opinions as to the apportionment of money for the Great Road Service.)

The grant passed as follows:—For ordinary service, £32,000; great road and bridges service, £10,000, the same as last year.

The Hon. Attorney General, before committee adjourned, would move the sum of £32 10s., reported by committee as due to Nicholas H. Martin, under particular circumstances.

Mr. Killam objected that this sum should be drawn out of the funds of the county of Cape Breton.

Mr. Tobin explained the circumstances under which this sum had been recommended by committee.

Grant passed.

Mr. Archibald, from committee on petition asking for alteration in the present law of trespass, reported that the committee could not recommend alteration.

Hon. Mr. Johnston, rising to move consideration of his resolution, respecting proposed Railway Company, said the time had gone by when collision or rivalry between the proposed undertaking and that in course of being carried out by the Government might be anticipated. The application was from parties in London for the purpose of enabling them to procure funds, and if the proposal proved successful, it would be the means of introducing a large amount of Capital into this country,—and thus the Province would receive indirectly, the benefit of private enterprise.

[The hon. gentleman then proceeded to explain, in detail, the precise nature of the application, and put it to the House, whether the expenditure of £600,000 or £600,000 by private individuals, on works of public utility, was likely to be compensatory to the Province for the aid, in the way of guarantee, sought? He (Mr. Johnston) thought it would, and hoped the House would give the matter that serious consideration which the importance of the subject seemed to demand.]

Mr. Morrison and Mr. Wier were opposed to the Resolution. The latter gentleman was wholly opposed to Company Railways, and affirmed that more robberies were committed upon the public by Railway Companies, in England and the United States, than in any other form.

Mr. Marshall thought the hon. gentleman had gone too far. Whose money were these companies spending?—

[Mr. Wier.—The public money.—]

Mr. Marshall.—The public money!—No! but their own subscribed capital. If they cheated anybody it was each other they cheated.

Mr. Wilkins would like to know of Mr. Wier which Government he thought the wisest. The Government in England, the Government of the United States, or the Government of Nova Scotia?

Mr. Wier.—The Government of Nova Scotia, of course.

Mr. Wilkins.—It is a Government fit only for Turks (Laughter.)

Mr. McLellan thought that the House had not sufficient information to warrant its proceedings in the matter. And, even if it had, this was not exactly the time, when money was dear; and the Province has already sufficient liability in the matter of borrowing for Railway purposes.—He recollected that some gentlemen had predicted that the rail, on the Railway from Halifax to Windsor, would have to be taken up and sold, because the road would not pay. It was hardly worth while then, for the people West to venture the experiment proposed. He thought we were feeling our way like prudent men, and going on pretty well, all things considered. Let well enough alone.

Mr. Churchill had this objection: that the proposed railway might fall into the hands of strangers. The line proposed is one very easily built—the sleepers could be cut along the very side of the road.—He thought, however, that if we were to try the value of a railway, it must pass through the great western counties—level country, intersecting the most fertile portions of Nova Scotia.

The Hon. Attorney General admitted the duty of government to extend our railway with all prudent speed; but pointed out objections to the proposed undertaking (at this time,) considering the financial prospect of the country, more especially if the Legislature pass the Prohibitory Liquor Law, which act would decrease the revenue by at least £20,000. The interest upon capital already borrowed, or to be borrowed, to complete the Railway in progress, must be made a first charge upon the revenue of the Province, or the Province will not be enabled to borrow one shilling, either in Nova Scotia or elsewhere. His opinion was that we should wait for two or three years, and see whether the road, which will then have been completed, will pay or not; he thought it would, but thought the passing of the proposed bill in the present session would be an act of great imprudence.

After further discussion, in which several gentlemen took part, the House adjourned, without coming to a division.

MONDAY, March 17.

Hon. Mr. Locke reported from Committee on Public Printing. Report recommends a number of reforms in the way of retrenchment in expenditure. Report received, adopted, and referred to Committee of Supply.