

Legislature of Newfoundland.

COUNCIL CHAMBER.

Thursday, March 21.

The "St. John's Pilots' Regulation Bill" was sent down by the Clerk to the Assembly, for the concurrence of that House to the amendments made therein by the Council.

The Clerk of the Assembly brought up a Bill, entitled "An Act to regulate the Streets of the Town of Harbour Grace," which, on the motion of the Colonial Secretary, was read a first time.

Adjourned to Saturday.

Saturday, March 23.

The "St. John's Pilots' Regulation Bill" was brought up from the House of Assembly by the Clerk, who stated that that House concurred in all the amendments which had been made therein by the Council. He also brought up a Bill, entitled "An Act to establish and regulate Fire Companies in the Town of Harbour Grace," which, on the motion of the Collector of the Customs, was read a first time.

The order of the day for going into Committee on the "St. John's Fire Companies' Bill," was then moved, and the House accordingly resolved itself into a Committee—Mr. Secretary Crowdy in the chair.

The House having resumed, the Chairman reported that several amendments had been made in the Bill.

Two petitions, one from Messrs. Baine, Johnston & Co., and the other from J. Stewart & Co., on the subject of the Bill, were presented to the Council, read, and ordered to lie on the table; and the Bill was ordered to be read a third time on Wednesday next—to which day the Council then adjourned.

Wednesday, March 27.

The Council met to day, the Attorney-General in the chair.

A communication from his Excellency the Governor, on the subject of establishing an adequate constabulary force for the maintenance of peace and tranquillity in the Outports, or the organization of a militia for that purpose, was received and read.

The Attorney-General then stated that the Governor had issued a Commission for declaring his assent to the "Quarantine Regulation Bill," and the "St. John's Gunpowder Bill," and that he (the Attorney-General) was named therein as the commissioner for that purpose.

The Usher of the Black Rod was thereupon directed to summon the attendance of the House of Assembly; and the Speaker, accompanied by most of the members, having accordingly appeared at the Bar, the Commission was read by the Clerk, and the assent of his Excellency to the aforesaid Bills pronounced in due form by his Commissioner.

The order of the day was then moved for the third reading of the "St. John's Fire Companies' Bill." The Bill was read a third time, passed, and sent down to the Assembly for their concurrence in the amendments made therein.

The "Harbour Grace Fire Companies' Bill" was then read a second time, on the motion of the Collector of the Customs; and having had the same amendments introduced as those of the Bill for St. John's, was also read a third time and passed.

The Clerk of the Assembly brought up a Bill to repeal the law now in force concerning the celebration of marriages, and to regulate the future celebration of marriages in this Island, and requested the concurrence of the Council therein. The Bill was read a first time, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. Secretary Crowdy then presented a petition from the Minister and Congregation forming the body of *Non-conformists*, relative to the Marriage Act, which was read, and ordered to lie on the table, as were two other petitions presented by Mr. Collector Spearman, one from Briggs, and the other from the Wesleyan Methodists of St. John's on the same subject.

Adjourned till to-morrow.

Thursday, March 28.

The "Harbour Grace Fire Companies' Bill" passed yesterday, was, on motion of Mr. Secretary Crowdy, sent down to the Assembly for their concurrence in the amendments it had undergone.

That part of the Governor's message (delivered at the commencement of the session) relative to Savings Banks, having been read, Mr. Collector Spearman, having already obtained leave so to do, brought in a Bill for the establishment of an institution of that nature in this Colony, which was read a first time.

The "Harbour Grace Streets' Regulation Bill" having been read a second time, the Council adjourned till Tuesday next.

Wednesday, March 30.

The "St. John's Pilots' Regulation Bill" was, on the motion of the Attorney-General, read a second time.

The House then, on the motion of the Collector of the Customs, resolved itself into a Committee on the Bill—Colonel Haly in the chair.

The House having resumed, the Chairman reported that several amendments had been made in the Bill; which was there-

upon, on motion of Collector, read a third time, passed, and sent down to the Assembly for the concurrence of that House in the amendments.

The "St. John's Fire Companies' Regulation Bill" was read a second time, and ordered to be committed on Saturday next.

Adjourned till to-morrow.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,

Monday, March 18.

The House resolved itself into a Committee on the Bill for the establishment and regulation of the Police of the district of Conception Bay—Mr. Kough in the chair.

Mr. P. Brown moved that the first blank be filled up with £250 Sterling, as a salary for the Chief Magistrate, and £175 Sterling, for each of the two Assistant Magistrates.

After some discussion on the above proposition, the following amendment was proposed:—

Resolved,—That under the present embarrassed circumstances of the Colony, owing to the loss of the Revenue Bill, and considering that there are no adequate means under the controul of the Legislature, this Committee deem it inexpedient to agree to any Bill during the present session, having for its object the payment of a salary to a public officer.

The amendment having been carried by a large majority, the Chairman reported progress, and the House resumed, when the resolution was also agreed to by the House.—The Bill is therefore, for the present, wholly owing to the want of funds, a "dead letter."

Mr. Brown moved the third reading of the "Bill to regulate the Streets of Harbour Grace" which passed, and was sent up to the Council.

March 22.

Mr. Kough brought in a Bill to increase the number of Representatives of this Island to *Twenty-four*.—Read a first time, ordered to be printed, and to be read a second time on Wednesday.

March 23.

Mr. P. Brown moved the third reading of the Bill to regulate Fire Companies in the Town of Harbour Grace, which passed, and was sent up to the Council.

The Marriage Bill, (brought in by Mr. Thomas) was read a third time on Monday, and sent up to the Council.

March 30.

The Bill brought in by Mr. Kent, "to declare the qualification and character of Persons admitted to practice as Barristers and Attorneys of the Supreme Court of this Island," was read a third time, and ordered to be sent up to the Council.

Mr. Kough moved that the Bill for increasing the number of the Representatives of this Island be read a second time.

A lengthy debate took place on this motion, which was lost upon a division of the House. There appeared to be no difference of opinion amongst the members upon the general principles of the Bill—the wish of the majority, as far as we could gather, was to be allowed further time to consider its provisions, and to consult with their constituents.

The House then resolved itself into a committee of the whole House on the general state of the Colony—Mr. Power in the chair.

April 2.

Mr. Kent brought in a Bill to repeal that part of the Judicature Act which establishes a Court at Labrador, which was read a first and second time, and ordered to be committed to a Committee of the whole House.

The House resolved itself into a Committee of the whole House, on the general state of the Colony—Mr. Hoyles in the Chair—when the following resolution was agreed to:—

Resolved,—That an address be prepared and presented to his Excellency the Governor, stating the embarrassment under which the House labours, in consequence of the rejection of the Revenue Bill, and praying that his Excellency will be pleased to take upon himself the payment of the necessary expenses of the Colony, until an answer to the address of this House, recently forwarded to his Majesty, be received from his Majesty's Government.

Mr. Bennett, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Hoyles, Mr. Kough, Mr. Pack, and Mr. Kent, were appointed a Committee to prepare the address.

A Message was received from the Legislative Council stating, that the Council had agreed to the bill for establishing and regulating Fire Companies in the Town of St. John's, with certain amendments—also, to the Bill for establishing Fire Companies in Harbour Grace, with certain amendments—to which they desired the concurrence of the House.

The amendments were, accordingly, taken into consideration, and agreed to by the House, and the Clerk was ordered to acquaint the Council therewith.

Mr. Pack moved that a Committee be ap-

pointed to search into the Journals, of the Council to ascertain what proceedings had been made upon the Bill, for limiting the duration of the present and all future Assemblies of this Island to three years.

A Committee was accordingly appointed and having returned, Mr. Pack reported that they had searched the Journals of the Council, and found that the said bill had been read a first time on the 15th Feb. and ordered to lie on the table—and that they could find nothing further relating to it.

The House then went into Committee on Carter's Bill for extending the summary jurisdiction of the Supreme Court, in which some progress was made.

The following Financial statement has been put into our hands by a Gentleman of the House of Assembly. It professes to exhibit the probable pecuniary condition of the country at the termination of the current year, had the Revenue Bill proposed by the Lower House been permitted to pass into a law.

NEWFOUNDLAND, 1833.

Dr.

[The total expenditure for the year 1831, having been £23,264]
To three-fourths of a year's expenditure 17,448
Balance in favour of the Colony . . . 9,183

£26,631

Cr.

By Revenue estimated at that for 1831 15,623
Licence-money 1,008
New Duties, 1833 10,000

£26,631

To be deducted from the expenditure of 1831:—
Labrador Court £1,372
Admiralty Court 500
Surveyor-General 300
Colonial Agent 300
A reduction in the Collector's Salary 800
Ecclesiastical Grant and Pension 520

Savings.

£3,792

Thus, taking the amount of duties intended to have been levied on the importation of Wines and Spirits on the one hand, and the proposed retrenchment on the other, showing a balance of about £13,000 over and above the ordinary revenue to meet the expenses necessarily arising from the new order of things.—*Ledger*.

UNITED KINGDOM.

(From the Spectator, Feb. 18.)

CONFIDENCE IN THE MINISTRY.

Some of our readers have been rating us for a want of due confidence in the Ministry. We, doubtless, repute the profligate maxim in politics, that all public men are alike. We know the value of consistency; and we appreciate the difficulties of preserving it through the various changes in our eventful times. Liberal principles are professed; anti-Reformers have turned completely round and have become the friends of improvement. There are not a few men, now high in power and office, who, as every one remembers, agreed with the Tories in sneering at Reform, and in upholding a rotten system of representation, though they were utterly opposed to them in every thing else. Among these men the present Premier is not to be classed. He was a Reformer forty years ago; he has been one, we believe, ever since. To say that such a man is no more deserving of public confidence than the late Lord Castlereigh, would be to assert what our honest convictions clearly contradict. But, as we belong to no party but that of the nation,—as we are not under the slightest obligation to extenuate the delinquencies of the Whigs, or to exaggerate the blunders and political profligacy of their opponents,—we claim to ourselves the right to examine the acts of Earl Grey's Ministry, and to applaud or stigmatise them according to their character and probable effect. Though we are by no means disposed—very far from it indeed—to view the policy and practice of the present Government with a suspicious temper and a jaundiced eye, still we dare not place a blind confidence in any Ministry; we cannot applaud measures which, had they emanated from a Tory Cabinet, would have been designated as arbitrary, because their promoters are members of a Whig and a Reforming Administration. With every disposition to think well of a body of men who have been in a great degree instrumental in carrying the Reform Act, we consider it absolutely necessary to watch them closely—to warn our readers of any symptoms of backsliding which appear in their policy and the practical working of their system of government. And we regret to say, that the manner in which they opened their Parliamentary campaign was such as to induce the

pregnant suspicion that some of them were lukewarm, if not treacherous, to the popular cause. It will not soon be forgotten, that their very first act was to place Mr. Manners Sutton in the Chair of the House of Commons. Was not that a suspicious circumstance? Did it not appear very like a truckling attempt to conciliate, by most paltry means, the virulent foes to popular rights? The mode in which it was managed too—the negotiation of the Ministry with their plausible candidate—was such as to create distrust in the minds of many of their well-wishers. The election of an Anti-Reforming Speaker was their first act; now for their second. For some time previous to the opening of Parliament, it was understood that overtures had been made to the leading Anti-Reformers. The regular organs of the Ministry in the Press had assumed an altered and most offensive tone on many of the popular questions of the day. With respect to the affairs of Ireland, it was given out that an "imposing attitude" was to be assumed; the standing army was to be strengthened; martial law was to supersede the Constitution; and the old Tory measures of coercion and violence were to be resorted to by the Reforming Ministry. But it appeared that doubts were entertained as to the concurrence of the Reformers in such measures as these; and the Ministry were therefore constrained to beg for assistance from their Conservative opponents, in the well-grounded confidence that it would be joyfully accorded. We maintain that these overtures afforded strong and just cause of suspicion against the Ministry. Why did they distrust their Reforming majority—that majority which represented the opinions of the great mass of the people of England? When the day arrived for the opening of Parliament, matters assumed a still darker aspect. Not one word of conciliation dropped from the lips of the Ministerial organ, the proposer of the address in the Commons. Every sentence breathed defiance and severity. The Members of the Cabinet, who spoke during the debate, said nothing to mitigate, or to neutralize the stern announcement of the coercive measures which they declared to be forthcoming. They did not deny that the Habeas Corpus Act was to be suspended, and the right of trial by a jury of their countrymen denied to the Irish criminals! They talked vaguely of the conciliatory measures which were to follow; but, contrary to all—even to Tory precedent—they maintained a stubborn silence as to the extent or nature of those measures. Were they fearful, that if they had proclaimed their scheme of Church Reform, they should have lost the votes of the Conservatives, when the division on the address came to be taken? If such was the case—if their object was to triumph over the Radical and Repeal minority—to show how great a superiority of force they could command, we can style their conduct as little better than a piece of desperate and dangerous bungling. An insurrection might have broken out in Ireland upon the receipt of the King's speech, coupled with the speeches of the Ministers and their partisans on the first night of the session. The risk of such a calamity was not trifling; especially when we consider, that the highly-wrought and inflammatory addresses of Mr. O'Connell and the Irish Members—full of fearful forebodings and fierce denunciation—were certain to accompany the announcement of the intentions of Government. It seemed to be the very aim and intent of Ministers at all risks to irritate the men who lead the Irish democracy.—We have heard of no one reason assigned for this inconceivably indiscreet conduct, except the fear, which we have above alluded to, that to divulge their schemes of Church Reform would have been to alarm their Conservative allies—who really seem to have been taken in on this occasion. Up to Tuesday night, therefore, when Lord Althorp proposed his extensive and politic measure of Church Reform, we maintain that the Ministry had not acted in such a manner as to deserve the confidence which has been demanded for them. It is difficult to imagine how they could consistently be supported both by Sir F. Burdett and Sir Robert Peel on Irish questions. The support of the Tories injured them more in public estimation than it benefited them on the division. The effects of the suspicion thus engendered in the public mind will not be easily or soon allayed. We have stated some of the reasons which have caused us to view with distrust, and to scrutinize with some severity the plans and apparent policy of a Cabinet whose measures we would gladly support and applaud. In carrying through every scheme of reform and retrenchment, which is worthy of the authors of the new Charter, we shall freely and zealously lend them our aid. During the struggle on the Reform Bill, we refrained from opposition, when there was no little ground for it—because we would not, in ever so slight a degree, endanger the successful termination of their great work. We refrained for the sake of the People of England, whose cause they were fighting; not for the love of the Ministry, whom we only know as the faithful or negligent and treacherous servants of the people. We are not bound to change sides with them.