

Tight Binding

POO

the Legislative Council and Assembly to the Queen, praying the enforcement of restrictions against the ships of foreign nations who refused to accord to British vessels the same privileges of trade, which had been given to their ships by the Act repealing the Navigation Laws.

A discussion of some length took place, chiefly upon the manner in which the House should proceed in the matter, and the real meaning of Mr. Mitchell's resolution. Several members objected to asking the Queen's Government to take retaliatory measures, believing that the effect would eventually be disastrous to New Brunswick. The resolution was withdrawn, with the understanding that it should be again brought forward.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY.
At thirty-five minutes past eleven the House went into committee of supply. Mr. Steadman in the chair. The question before the committee was the motion of Mr. Lawrence to fill the blank in the resolution of appropriation for Public Works with £30,000.

Mr. End hoped that the amendment would not pass, for it would cut off a portion of the Bye Road money, which was the very life-blood of the country. He thought that no fault could be found with Mr. Tomlinson or the Board of Works for the falling of the Grand Falls bridge. Mr. End went on at some length to argue that the cause of the fall was the unforeseen action of the frost, in depriving the iron in the chains of its wonted toughness, so that it could not support its own weight. He thought it a good thing that the bridge had fallen, for it proved the unfitness of chain bridges for this cold country, before the Province had embarked largely in their construction. He really thought that there was nobody to blame. It was unnecessary to express an opinion about the validity of the bond.

Mr. McPhelim could not see who was to blame, or what all this about the bridge had to do with the question before the committee. He should like to have the amounts for the different services more particularized than they were in the resolution, and the House should have before it detailed statements of the expenditure of the appropriations of last year.

Mr. M'P. said that if the Chief Commissioner of the Public Works had had a seat on the floor of that House, this accident would never have happened, for he would not have dared to face the representatives of the people and tell them that there was no supervision over the construction of the bridge.

Mr. Hannington thought that public works should be let by public tender, and that contractors should be kept up to their time. He argued at some length in favor of steam communication with the North.

We did not hear the speech of Mr. Tibbits, who followed Mr. Hannington; but learn that he spoke deprecatingly of Mr. Smith, as an engineer.

The Postmaster General defended the Government and Mr. Tomlinson. He thought that the feeling in the country was such towards Mr. Tomlinson, that he would not be allowed to be a pecuniary sufferer by the accident.

Mr. Lewis spoke in favor of the grant. Mr. Williston said that the Government must be looked upon as the agent of the Legislature, and the House should be satisfied with their conduct during the past year before renewing confidence in them. A detailed account of the expenditure of the Board of Works had been asked for by address, and it should be before the House before it was asked to pass this appropriation. It also appeared from the statement of Mr. Kerr that there was a discrepancy in the railway accounts of £29,000.

The Provincial Secretary interrupting Mr. Williston, said that he did not want an unfair impression to go abroad. The explanation of this discrepancy was this: the whole amount expended was the same in both reports; but in the statement which appeared in the Railway Report a sum of £29,000 had been taken out of the undistributed sum and distributed over the different services.

Mr. Williston said that he wanted the accounts in a position in which the people could understand them. He should feel it his duty to resist any further appropriation until proper information was before the House.

Mr. Smith said that the hon. member then intended his opposition to this appropriation as a vote of want of confidence.

Mr. Williston said that no member could say a word which in the slightest degree reflected upon the Government, without Mr. Smith's characterizing it as a vote of want of confidence. (Hear, hear.) He should endeavor to do his duty to the people, and if his doing what he considered his duty resulted in a vote of want of confidence he could not help it, (hear, hear.) The Government might be right; but he wanted the information, so that the truth could be ascertained. The grant for steam communication was only giving the north its rights. After careful consideration of the bond given by the sureties of Mr. Tomlinson he had come to the conclusion that it was of no value.

Mr. Mitchell said that the question had resolved itself into this: shall or shall not the Government be sustained? The opposition to this appropriation was in fact a vote of confidence vote. Mr. Mitchell went on at great length to show that the

detailed information concerning the expenditures of last year by the Board of Works, was all given in the Report of the Board, which had been before the House for weeks. Respecting the information as to the proposed distribution of the appropriation before them, the Provincial Secretary had the information on his table, and any member could go and examine it. Mr. Mitchell censured severely the conduct of the opposition; and asked Mr. Kerr why, when complaining of the imperfect manner in which the public accounts were presented by the Auditor General, he did not at once meet the difficulty by proposing his removal.

Mr. Mitchell's speech brought several members to their feet simultaneously. Mr. Kerr got the floor.

Mr. Kerr denied the charge of factiousness made by Mr. Mitchell; and said that in 1856 he had supported the men at present in power when they were in as dangerous a position as any Government could be on the floor of the House. If they now happened to be in a position which laid them open to censure that was not his fault. He had complained of the public accounts for the last five years; and had brought forward resolutions upon resolution. The fault did not lie with the Auditor General, but with the system upon which the accounts were kept. The Auditor General classified them according to that system, and was not responsible for its imperfections. He denied that it was his duty to take the initiative in a reform of the system; it was the duty of the Government to do so; and he referred to the neglect of the request of Mr. Mitchell's own resolution, passed at last session, for the Government to prepare an Insolvent Bill, to show how little it availed calling upon them. The system of keeping accounts was unjust to the Government as well as to the country, for many things appeared wrong which were really not so.

Mr. Mitchell said that this was a vote of want of confidence. He (Mr. Kerr) said it was no such thing. But it was just as well that they should understand the state of the country. Mr. Kerr then went into an elaborate statement to show that the Provincial Secretary had underestimated the sum which would be required to pay interest on the debt this year.

To this statement the Provincial Secretary made a lengthy and elaborate reply; but both the gentlemen used such showers of figures, that we did not attempt to report them.

Mr. Lawrence here withdrew his amendments, as he did not wish to interfere with the Bye-Road money.

Mr. McPhelim replied to some remarks which Mr. Mitchell had made respecting the members for Kent. This led to a little skirmish between the two members, during which Mr. Mitchell laid down the principle that when the members from a country were in opposition, the Government should not take advice from them as to appointments in their country.

Mr. Wilmot said that if such a principle was put in practice the country would be torn in pieces under it.

Mr. McIntosh contended that the advantage to Mr. Tomlinson, from time to time 80 per cent. of the value of the work performed was an implied approval of the work. There had been but one engineer attached to the Board of Works, and seventeen to the Railway department; but the Government had taken away Mr. Smith from the Board, and added him to the seventeen, leaving the bridge without scientific supervision. Notwithstanding this, ever since the fall of the bridge there had been an effort to throw the whole odium upon Mr. Smith. When the Government threw the responsibility on him, why did they not publish his report on the bridge? Why did they suppress it? In that report Mr. Smith stated exactly what he did do, and exactly what he did not do; and in justice to him it should have been published in the Report of the Board of Works. Mr. McIntosh referred to the insignificance of the grant to the River St. John—£300. It was supposed that when a member from York went into the Government, it was for the purpose of looking after the interests of this section of the country; but after the present Government was formed, operations on the branch railroad between Fredericton and Woodstock were discontinued; and then the usual grant of £1,500 or £2,000 for the improvement of the river navigation was reduced to £390. He must suppose that the Attorney General approved of this condition of things.

Mr. C. Perley said that he—as anxious as any one to have the navigation of the river improved; but he did not want to see the money squandered, as had been done by the late Commissioner, by employing favorites and trying to get rid of the money in any way. His method was to knock off work in the middle of the afternoon; and very little work was done. The man who was lately Commissioner was utterly incompetent; the present Commissioner had done more with £100 than Colonel McLauchlan had with £300. In the building of the Grand Falls Bridge the Government had done everything that was and foresight could accomplish, and were in no degree blameable for the accident. The men in power were much more capable than their predecessors.

Mr. Allen said that the incompetent of an Commissioner was no reason for the discontinuance of the grant. He presumed

that there were rocks to remove and improvements to make whether Col. McLauchlan was or was not Commissioner. Mr. Allen from his own knowledge of the Colonel's character could affirm that he was not the man to shirk his work, nor to allow his men to do it. He had been in public employment with him and could testify to this much. A more honorable man than Col. McLauchlan did not exist. With respect to the resolution before the Committee, his objections to it were these: they were left in the dark as to the intended distribution of the money for Roads and Bridges. It would not do to say that members could go to the Secretary and get the table of the House, and that on that the Secretary. But his main objection was, that justice was not done to the river—£300 for its improvement was a paltry sum. He thought that the sureties of Mr. Tomlinson were discharged.

Mr. Perley said that he could prove that Col. McLauchlan, when the river was too high to work in the channel, pointed out certain rocks on the shore for his men to blast, and that the men, when he had left, took one of these up into the bushes and drilled and blasted it there.

The Attorney General said that the grant of £2,000 a year for this river was a measure of his. He would say nothing about waste of money, nor make any charges involving immorality of conduct, but he would say that he had never been satisfied with the expenditure of the money. He had inquired how much money would be required to make the improvements to the Falls, and had been told that £500 would be required. To his informant he said that as the work could only be done when the water was more than commonly low, if an opportunity occurred this year, he should endeavor to get the Government to allow £200, in addition to the £300 in the budget. Mr. Allen seemed very careful about the interests of York, but the other day he voted against the Grand Road's Bill, an object of which was to place the By-Road on the east side of the river throughout the country on the Grand Road establishment.

Mr. Allen replied that he voted to report progress on the Bill, and not against it. Mr. End warmly defended Col. McLauchlan against the implied censure of Mr. Perley. He referred to the numerous and respectfully signed petitions to the House from the County of Carleton for a continuance of the grant, to show that the public, any where most interested in and acquainted with the character of the work, were satisfied with it.

Mr. Wilmot said that he had never heard a single complaint against Col. McLauchlan as Commissioner.

Mr. McIntosh said that two boats carried from thirty to forty per cent. more now than they used to carry, which was sufficient proof of the improvement which had been effected. He had the opinion of Capt. Smith, of the steamer *Bonnie Doon* that £300 would not effect the improvement in the river desired. If Col. McLauchlan could not expend the money satisfactorily, surely there were plenty of Liberals in York who could. They could scarcely expect to get much done for the river navigation when they found the members for the river counties throwing cold water on the project.

Much more was said about this matter, and quite an excitement was got up.

Mr. Gilmor moved to deduct £1250 from the grant for steam communication to the north, which was lost.

The question was then taken upon the sum of £35,350, which was carried. Ayes 23, nays, 13.

TUESDAY, March 15.
RAILWAY COMMITTEE.
Mr. Tibbits asked that his name might be struck off the Railway Committee. He thought that after all the delay there had been it was impossible for the committee to do justice to the subject.

Messrs. Hannington and McPhelim opposed the withdrawal of Mr. Tibbits, and asked his reasons.

Mr. Tibbits said that it was impossible in the short time which the committee had to devote to the investigation, to do it justice. The information asked for by Mr. Gray should have been before the House long ago. He for one felt that there was not time left to do justice to himself, the House, or the country.

The Solicitor General said that Mr. Gray had asked for so much information that the only wonder was that it should have been prepared and brought in so soon.

Mr. Wilmot hoped that Mr. Tibbits would not retire from the committee. Mr. Tibbits, however, persisted, and the Speaker put the question whether he should be allowed to do so, which was negative, the only ye being Mr. Tibbits himself.

MORE RAILWAY PAPERS.
The Provincial Secretary laid before the House additional railway papers, asked for by Mr. Gray.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY.
The House went again into committee of supply, Mr. Steadman in the Chair.—The first resolution was £3,027 10s. for educational purposes. This drew forth various remarks unfavorable to the support from Provincial funds of denominational schools.

Mr. Tibbits complained grievously of the smallness of the grant (£50) to the

Madawaska Academy. He thought that his colleague, who was in the Government, should have secured a more liberal allowance for this school.

The Solicitor General replied that he was but one member of the Government, and could not have all that he desired. He certainly thought the amount granted for schools in Victoria was a trifle compared to that given to other countries. But this grant of £50 was merely an commencement; he trusted that next year it would be increased.

For Oat Mills £150, and for the protection of the Fisheries £80, were granted with scarcely any discussion. The next vote was £1500 for maintenance of the Provincial Penitentiary. About this no little talk took place. Complaints were expensive; that it was made a prison for the vagrants of the city of St. John; and could be made self sustaining, or nearly so. It was said that the Penitentiary was a sort of refuge for vagrants who were too lazy to support themselves, for the labor was light and the food better than that within the reach of many an honest laboring man. In short there was evinced a strong disposition to find fault with the management of the institution, and with the Government for not reforming it. The Provincial Secretary replied that although there was no increase of the inmates, the expense did not exceed that of former years. The Government had a Bill before the House for the purpose of placing the buildings under the charge of the Board of Works, which would probably lessen the expense of their maintenance for the future. It was also intended to put one or more members of the Govt. on the commission for the management of the Penitentiary and the Lunatic Asylum, which would give the Government more control of the management and of the expense of these institutions. Finally the grant passed, as also did the grant for the Lunatic Asylum, Public Health, Pensions, Relief of Indians.

On the resolution for £500 for the encouragement of immigration coming up, Mr. Wilmot drew attention to the fact, that there was nothing in the estimates towards making any preparation for the military defence of the Province. (Here the Provincial Secretary commenced laughing.)—Mr. Wilmot went on to say that after seeing the correspondence from the Colonial Office, respecting the propriety of the Colonies taking some initiatory steps towards providing a nucleus for a colonial corps, it should make not the slightest movement towards it.

The Provincial Secretary laughingly replied that Mr. Wilmot would acknowledge that if there was any excitement on the other side of the Atlantic it should be allayed; and therefore it would be wrong for the Government to take any steps which would tend to increase it.

Mr. Wilmot thought that the matter was not one to be laughed at, when they considered the preparations for an increase of the military defences which were making in Great Britain. As the Secretary, however, still continued to laugh, Mr. Wilmot laughed too, and nothing more was said on the subject.

Then followed a long conversation on immigration, the possibility of promoting it, the means which might be adopted for its promotion, the capabilities of the Province as a field for immigration, and other collateral topics. We shall not follow the several members, but shall give merely a few salient points which struck us as worthy of being noticed.

Mr. Wilmot thought the encouragement of immigration as at present attempted was a perfect absurdity. The only plan that could be successful was to encourage labor when it came within our borders.

The Provincial Secretary explained what the Government proposed to do. Their principal object was to disseminate information concerning N. Brunswick, whether by lectures or through the press, in the rural districts of Great Britain. It was a question whether, if they could get the right sort of a man, it would not be advisable to send him to lecture for five or six months throughout the three kingdoms.—On the Railway and other public works temporary employment could be given to a large number of immigrants until an opportunity was given them of learning something of the country, and of selecting a permanent occupation and residence. If the Government could get any considerable number to come out, it was their intention to open up some fertile portion of the country for them, and settle them down in a body in it.—Later in the discussion the Secretary said that he thought much had been lost to the Province by the wilderness of the spread of settlers; had they confined labor spent on roads would have done much more, and schools and churches would have been more easily sustained.—If any considerable body of immigrants came to the Province, it was the intention of the Government to settle them down together, that their efforts might be combined.

Mr. Hannington had little faith in these endeavors to bring out emigrants; if brought out not one in twenty of them would stay here.

Mr. Kerr thought that New Brunswick had never done as much as it ought to

promote immigration. There was a great ignorance in Great Britain respecting N. Brunswick, its climate and capabilities. There could not be a more judicious thing than the present to spread the information required. It was beginning to be discovered that Canada was not so very superior a country for immigrants as had been supposed. (Here Mr. Kerr read from an Upper Canadian paper an account of the most entire destitution of the agricultural class in a certain locality.) In the course of his speech he mentioned the fact as fine as any part of Canada. By the inducements of their friends in that country a number of persons from Great Britain had been brought out and settled there; they were now as fine, thriving, and prosperous a settlement as could be found. A properly qualified man could be found to go through the rural districts lecturing and familiarizing himself with the agricultural population, he might do much to bring New Brunswick into favor.

Before the discussion ended, Mr. Ross addressed the Committee, declaring that from his personal observation he was convinced that New Brunswick was an excellent country for the honest, industrious, persevering laborer. He defined as one to point out an instance in which a laborer, industrious immigrant had not bettered his situation in New Brunswick, he advanced himself beyond anything which he could have expected had he remained in the old country.

Mr. McPhelim expressed grave doubt of the value of any means which could be employed for the promotion of immigration. There was a time at which something might have been done, but it had passed away. After so much had been done, and so much had been attempted, very little had been done. Emigration had been directed in another direction. If the truth should be told about this country, emigrants would go elsewhere.

The Provincial Secretary took Mr. McPhelim to task for this expression, as Mr. Kerr.

Mr. McPhelim replied that, to please these gentlemen, he would say that New Brunswick was a land flowing with milk and honey.

Mr. Smith thought that it was impossible to turn a flood of emigration in the direction of the Province. The British peasantry was much improved, and it had not the same desire for emigration that they once had. At the same time thought that the Government should make every reasonable and legitimate effort to promote immigration.

Mr. Gilmor took Mr. McPhelim to task for something he had said, and called upon the Surveyor General for his opinion respecting the advantages of this Province for immigrants.

The Surveyor General gave an account of his own experience as a settler, and that were he not so old he should like to go home and tell the people of this Province. He could give them one case as the best example of the opportunities which New Brunswick afforded a laboring man, with a number of good children, and £10 a year wages; when he was now a member of Parliament, and Surveyor General of the Province, Mr. Brown went on to read from a paper which he held in his hand the *Manchester Guardian's* famous account of the Rev. Mr. Peck's parish in New Brunswick, and of mention on it, much to the amusement of the House.

Mr. Lawrence said that in Australia whole revenues derived from Crown lands was at one time set apart for the encouragement of immigration. So successful was this plan that the price of lands which at its adoption was five shillings advanced to twenty shillings. He held in his hand the Report of the Northumbrian Agricultural Society, which exhibited the fertility of soil in that portion of the Province of which he had no idea; he believed that the distribution of a thousand copies of that Report in Great Britain would itself have an excellent effect. In our own country we had an inexhaustible mine of wealth. The value of fish exported from Carleton was last year between thirty and forty thousand pounds. As yet our emigrants were but in their infancy. Mr. Lawrence went on to speak of the amount of money brought into countries by immigration; and of the commercial value of men and women. He had recently seen a letter in *Hunt's Magazine* that the cost of rearing up a man or woman was \$100. It followed that every man or woman introduced into this country was a direct addition to its wealth of \$1,500. He hoped that the Government would do down with some scheme for the settlement of men living idle in our towns, and strength and knowledge could be turned to account on the Crown lands, to the benefit of themselves and of the Province. He would suggest that fertile soil should be opened up by roads, and that every alternate lot be given away to settlers where thirty or forty families could be settled together. The remaining lots would be worth from ten to twenty shillings an acre.

After some more conversation on the subject was agreed to, and the bill passed with £500.

The next resolution was £1,500, for

foreseen expenses. On being called upon the Provincial Secretary made a statement of the expenditure of the similar made last year. The rewards for the apprehension of the murderers of the Kenzie family, and the other expenses connected with their apprehension, were a large item. The Commissioner of the Public Institutions—£295; £290 went to the survey of the boundary between Brunswick and Nova Scotia; £400 to the apprehension of David Lewis, in the "Copper snuff" in St. John; £10 for the apprehension of Davis, who attempted to murder his wife; the de- ture expenses were £300 each.

There was some conversation about delegation. At length the vote was taken, and the committee rose and reported the resolutions.

WEDNESDAY, March 16.
REVENUE BILL.
The Revenue Bill was again called upon. Dr. Vail in the chair. No opposition offered to any of the sections. The table of duties came up, the Provincial Secretary explained that "Old Tobacco" had been brought in as a certain duty of 1s. per gallon. He really a superior description of tobacco proposed to put its duty on it.

Mr. Williston complained of the 2s. per pound upon leather.

Mr. Gray objected to the addition of 10 per cent. on unenumerated articles. He drew attention to the custom of the Treasury, in carrying out duties on British goods, and one-ninth to the sterling cost, to convert it into currency, which was really the British sovereign being worth 4s. 10d. By instructing the Treasury one-fifth, instead of a ninth, the amount, with the present Revenue, would raise nearly £3,000 additional. The remainder of the £7,000 needed would be raised by railway management.

The Provincial Secretary replied that the change proposed by the Bill would in fact be an addition to the articles which should not be taxed than now—as ships—and that if £4,000 could be saved by management of the railway that was not going into the General Treasury.

A lengthy conversation followed and other topics, in connection with the Revenue Bill, but it was not interesting.

Mr. Gray's motion to fix the rated articles at ten per cent. was carried. Ayes 11, nays, 11. Ayes, Messrs. Gray, E. Liston, Allen, Bostford, Lawrence, Wilmot, McIntosh, Gilbert.

£12 10s was then carried, 23 to Bill was then reported agreed to.

The Attorney General moved following, which was carried. **Resolved.**—That this House, informed of the death of John M. Esq., the father of his Honor the do now unanimously express sympathy with the Speaker on this bereavement, and agree to adjourn day morning at 10 o'clock.

FRIDAY, March 18.
NAVIGATION LAWS.
Mr. Mitchell's resolution for to the Queen, respecting the Laws and Coasting Trade, was this morning. The principal opinion was as to the propriety for retaliatory measures upon nations who refused to concede of privileges. Mr. Mitchell modified his resolution so as to modify his resolution so as to modify his resolution, and it then passed.

GRAY'S CLAIMS ADJUDICATED.
This being the order of the day, Mr. Mitchell moved that the Bill be committed after dinner to the chair. Mr. Gray submitted a motion which would have the effect of the operation of the Bill. Some discussion followed to the details of the Bill, and legal gentlemen expressed an opinion that they were not such as to views of the mover. A brief of its principles took place, then was added to what had been former debate.

Mr. Smith opposed the Bill to the details.

Mr. End thought that there was an indecency in members of the House opposing this Bill. It was said to the people, don't trust to the common tribunals of the law; trust them to the decision of a Jury in an open court; but we in our star chamber, and by the justice. The members, most of all others, should support this Bill, and the selves of a burdensome responsibility. End objected to the details of the Bill, and the details of the position, and be subject of common carriers, which was broken in ten lines, would be to the amendment as well as to the Bill. He thought that there was a suspicion that the Government do justice to its subjects, prejudices and party feeling as well as in that House.

It would be tried in the court against the Government, and be taken up in the House, grounds of attack upon the