

COLONIAL LEGISLATURE.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY, Saturday, March 3.

Several petitions were presented. In supply, several resolutions for the public services were agreed to. The consideration of the amount to be assigned to the Controller of Customs and Navigation Laws and Registrar of Shipping, was deferred until the Governor's message shall have been discussed. Among other appropriations £1500 were voted for summer and winter mails, £500 for inland mails, and £1000 at the disposal of the Government for steamers; £60 for the keeper of the Colonial Building; £5 for public postage; £381 9s 7d for the gas fittings, painting, &c., of the Colonial Building; £100 for a packet to convey the mails between Georgetown and Pictou during the time the navigation is open; £30 for maintenance of Jails; £650 for two additional road commissioners. On the estimates for repairs and alterations at Government House, a desultory conversation took place, and a variety of opinions were expressed by the several members who addressed the House. Hon. Mr. Palmer suggested the propriety of Government receiving tenders for a lease of a house for the residence of the Lieutenant Governor, and the letting the present one for about ten years, or converting it to some public use, such as a Lunatic Asylum or a House of Industry, for that period, by which time it would have become so rotten and worn out that it might be pulled down and a new one erected with the amount saved by the adoption of his plan; and a suggestion thrown out by the Hon. Col. Secretary, as to the propriety of the Government purchasing a piece of ground near the Government House, from the heirs of the late Colonel Lane, was generally approved of. £300 were voted for expenses of Crown prosecutions; £60 for the three High Sheriffs.

The consideration of the Lieutenant Governor's message, and the despatch on the Bank Bill, were both made the orders of the day for Friday next.

MONDAY, March 5.

Several petitions were presented to the House. By Mr. McIntosh—Petition of R. Barry teacher.

By Mr. Wightman—for Wharf—Peter MacCallum for remission of duty on damaged goods.—Inhabitants of White Sands, Quincey Cove, &c., for building a Bridge.—David McLeod, Murray Harbour, for payment of a Bridge carried away.—Wm. Stewart.—Trustees of Rosemeath School, for aid to a new School House, site of which was altered by the new act.

By Mr. Wightman—Sundry Mill owners, asking House to impose a toll of 4d per ton on all logs, &c., floated through Mill Dams.

By do—Duncan Stewart for payment of contract money due. On motion of Mr. Coles this petition was withdrawn.

By do—for Wharf at South side, Murray Harbour also withdrawn, on motion Mr. Warburton.

By do—Hugh McDonald, Esq., controller of navigation Laws for an office or means to rent the same.

Hon. Mr. Longworth, Mr. Cooper, and Mr. McIntosh thought that the granting of this petition would be a precedent for other controllers to demand the same, some Hon. Member stated that although the salary was only £15 the commission was £160.

By Mr. Haviland—Inhabitants of Georgetown for an additional Block or T to their Wharf and for a Bonded Warehouse.

Hon. Members seemed agreed that they should have a Warehouse such as is kept in Charlottetown. But Hon. Mr. Coles did not think a Bonded Warehouse such as is in other places, would be as beneficial as the system of giving Bonds for duties.

By Mr. Haviland—Inhabitants of Georgetown for a Fire Engine, some Hon. Members said it would be a bad precedent, but Mr. Haviland stated that had a precedent already the first Fire Engine for Charlottetown was paid for by Government.

By do—Peter McPhee and Hepburn for payment for repairing Roads and Bridges.

Hon. Mr. Whelan moved for a call of the House on Tuesday fortnight the 20th instant to consider the paying of Legislative Councilors.

Hon. Mr. Whelan in moving that the Bill for regulating the proceedings in contested elections be read a second time, stated that it was principally a consolidation of the two Acts 7th and 11th Victoria, except that the time was intended to be extended, and there were a few verbal alterations.

The Bill for the establishment of a Normal School, and in amendment of the Free Education Act, was read a third time. Hon. Mr. Longworth and Hon. Mr. Palmer spoke of the necessity of some regulation being made to secure the payment of the fees to teachers. That, under the present system, parents frequently came to Charlottetown merely for the winter, and before the expiration of the time when the fees would become payable, removed from the place without paying. Others again, before the end of the quarter, would remove their children from one school to another, and thus evade their obligations, to the pecuniary loss of the teacher and the serious detriment of the pupils, who could not improve under such circumstances; and suggested that the Bill lie over till to-morrow, when some amendment could be adopted to obviate the evil.

Hon. Col. Secretary had no objection to the Bill being deferred till to-morrow, and was of opinion that the trustees had the power to compel the payment of the fees. When the Bill was first introduced, it was his intention to have brought forward a measure for the establishment of schools on the principle of the ragged schools in operation in England. Such institutions were of very great benefit, but the Secretary of the Board of Education considered that there were difficulties in the way. If we cannot, however, have ragged schools, he thought that those children whose parents were too poor to pay the fees, or would not send their children to school, should be sent to some place of education, on the certificate of a clergyman or magistrate, and that on such certificate the teacher should receive the fees from the Treasury. By this means, the children would be removed from the streets, where at present they spend most of their time, to the annoyance of the public and their own great injury. The Bill was deferred till to-morrow.

The Bill regulating the proceedings on contested Elections was read a third time, and passed with some trifling amendments.

The following sums were voted in supply, viz:—

£20 to Messenger of Executive Council. £50 for Coroners' Inquests. £150 for Buys and Beacons. £100 for Boards of Health. £300 interest on Warrants. £1400 interest on Debentures. £— for contingent expenses of the Legislative Council and Assembly. £— for taking the Census. £35 for protection of the Fisheries. £60 to two Auditors of Public Accounts. £50 to Superintendent of Public Works. £5 to Market Clerk in Georgetown.

£400 contingent expenses of the Government. On the motion to appropriate sums on account of the public pews in the different churches—Mr. Muirhead wished to know why it was that £14 were demanded for the English Church, while other denominations were to receive but £7; while the members of that communion were in a very small minority. Mr. Haviland, and others, explained that far more accommodation was afforded by that church than any other, and that, as the Province owned the pews, the sum given was but the assessment on them. That the church would make more money from the pews if they were not the property of the Colony. Hon. Col. Secretary suggested that, as the Roman Catholic Church had set apart a separate pew for the accommodation of the Lieutenant Governor and family, in addition to the one for the members of the Legislature, the sum of £14 be granted instead of the usual £7. £50 for public surveys, independent of surveys under Land Purchase Act. £30 for destruction of Bears and Looper-crawlers, at the former rates, and under the old conditions. £25 to indigent Indians.

Hon. Col. Secretary proposed a vote of £100 to reimburse Sir Alexander Bannerman, that amount having been paid by him to Mr. Stark, the Visitor of Schools, for the purchase of a horse, wagon and sleigh. He stated that, from the tone of Sir Alexander's letter to Scotland, requesting that a competent person be sent out to the island, an impression was conveyed that Mr. Stark was to receive his travelling expenses in addition to his salary. Mr. Stark, on his arrival, discovered that such was not to be the case; and then Sir Alexander considered himself bound in honor to pay out of his own pocket the sum of £100 in lieu of travelling fees. And the (Hon. Col. Secretary) had no doubt that the House would not allow the late Lieutenant Governor to lose the amount. He (Hon. Col. Secretary) had received the amount, on Sir Alexander's order, from W. K. Watson, Esq., and paid it over to Mr. Stark, whose receipt he held.

In answer to a question of the Hon. Mr. Longworth, it appeared that Mr. Stark's salary commenced from the time of his engagement in Scotland, and that his passage out had been paid by the public.

Mr. Haviland was anxious to elicit the opinions of the members of the Government as it was a Government measure, and if so introduced, he was willing to support it.

Hon. Col. Secretary and the Hon. Mr. Wightman denied that it was a Government measure, and the Hon. Col. Secretary explained that the reason for the matter not having been brought to the notice of the House was that the money was paid just as Sir Alexander Bannerman was about leaving the island, and that the Elections had caused it to be overlooked.

Hon. Mr. Palmer thought that sufficient information was not produced to the House, and consequently he would suspend his opinion, and reserve his right to oppose the resolution, if more satisfactory information were not produced.

Hon. Mr. Montgomery was opposed to the vote. If Sir Alexander Bannerman chose to make a present to Mr. Stark, he might do so—but this application should have been made last session, and the correspondence should have been produced. Now we do not know whether the late Lieutenant Governor intended it as a present or not. The resolution passed.

TUESDAY, March 6.

Several petitions were presented to the House, among others was one by the Hon. Mr. Mooney, praying an alteration in the law regulating the measure of Agricultural produce. The Hon. member moved that it be referred to a special committee to report by Bill or otherwise, and stated that the present law operated to the disadvantage of the farmer, as the measure by which

he sold his produce was larger than in Canada, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. He mentioned that a captain of a vessel had told him, that one cargo of oats shipped from the island to Boston, measured there 103 bushels more than the quantity as put on board here. That with reference to heaped measure, the shorter staves, and used consequently greater width of the measure in the island, admitted a greater heap than formerly. His opinions were opposed by the Hon. Col. Secretary, Hons. Messrs. Lord, Wightman, and Longworth, who said that the old system was so defective, that masters of vessels formerly refused to sign Bills of lading, that grain was not affected by the present act, which experience had shown to work well. Under the old system masters of vessels had used whatever measures they pleased—that now the stamping by the assayer of soft-wood barrels, had given great accommodation and satisfaction to the people. That compliance with the petition would render useless the standard weights and measures, which had cost much money—that no change in the law was called for by the people.

Hon. Mr. Lord suggested, that if the hon. member wished to benefit all parties, he should introduce a Bill to provide for the selling of grain and roots by weight.

Mr. Haviland agreed with the Hon. Mr. Lord, and would support such a Bill. New Brunswick had adopted the principle.

Mr. McIntosh thought such a course impracticable. Masters of vessels would not be provided with the necessary weighing machines.

Mr. Cooper approved of the suggestion, and hoped that the committee would report in favour of it. Some slight inconveniences might be experienced at first, but apparatus for weighing would soon be found in the vicinity of the different shipping places. Hon. Mr. Mooney, Hon. Mr. Montgomery, Messrs. Haviland, Cooper and Laird were then named as the committee.

The Hon. Col. Secretary communicated a letter stating that a pew had been appropriated to the use of the Members of the Legislature in the Baptist Church in Charlottetown, and mentioned that the one-ninth Bill had received the Royal Assent.

Hon. Mr. Wightman presented the report of the Committee on the Lunatic Asylum, and also that of the Trustees and Keeper. The Committee recommended the siting up of those portions at present unfinished, and considered there was ample space for the comfortable and separate accommodation of both Lunatics and Paupers—which latter should be made to work on the grounds and in the building, which has space for two good working-rooms—one of which should be set apart for the males and the other for the females. They also recommended the enclosing of a portion of the grounds for the Lunatics to take exercise in; and the grant of a sum sufficient to carry their recommendations into effect. They further stated their opinion, that the Government should have a more efficient control over the details of the Institution, than at present. The report was adopted by the House.

The Hon. Col. Secretary gave notice of his intention to introduce a Bill to tax the Rent-Rolls of Proprietors.

In supply, £350 were voted for the Asylum and House of Industry, exclusive of the amount provided by Statute; and £10 to the Bog School.

(Reported for Haszard's Gazette.)

WEDNESDAY, March 7.

The following Petitions were presented and referred to committee or laid on the Table.

By the Hon. Mr. Whelan—A petition of the Morell Road settlers.

By Mr. Muirhead—Divers inhabitants in the vicinity of the County line between Queen's and Prince Counties.

By the Hon. Mr. Mooney—Inhabitants of New Wiltshire—all praying aid to improve their Road communications.

By the Hon. Mr. Palmer—Petition of the Church Wardens of St Paul's Church, praying for an alteration in the Act, relating to the appointment and incorporation of Church Wardens and Vestries connected with the Church of England.

By Mr. Montgomery—Inhabitants of Princetown Royalty, for a grant to repair Darnley Bridge.—For a small sum of money to complete the Institute building.—For an enactment to prevent the running at large of swine.—Inhabitants of do. setting forth the failure of the Light placed on Fish Island to answer the end designed, and alleging that it is calculated as at present constructed and managed, to deceive the mariner and praying a remedy.—Inhabitants of do. setting forth the demoralizing consequences resulting from the system of granting Licences for retailing spirituous liquors, and praying for the abolition of the same.

By Mr. Munro—Wm. Praught for balance due on contract for repairing Wharf at Pownal Bay.

By Mr. Wightman—Inhabitants of Lots 51, 52 and 59, praying for a Repeal of the enactment of last session relating to stamped measures, referred to Committee.

By Mr. Mooney—Inhabitants of Indian River for a Post Office.

By Mr. Coles—Inhabitants of Green Vale settlements Lot 23, for Post Office, referred to Committee.

Mr. Haviland from the Committee appointed to Report on private Bills and to whom was referred the Bill to naturalize James Searl Mann, reported that they recommend that the Bill be exempted from fees.

THURSDAY, March 8.

The following Petitions were presented: By Mr. Warburton—Inhabitants of Grand River praying that the House will not accede to a petition previously presented for altering a new line of Road—referred to Committee.

By Mr. Coles—from Brackley Point Road middle district, setting forth grievances that another party have obtained registration against them for a School District, and praying a remedy.

Hon. Mr. Coles presented a petition of the Royal Agricultural Society praying that the House would impose a tax of 10s per head on each dog in Charlottetown and Royalty, such tax to be collected by the Society and go towards their funds. The Society state, that they have taken pains to improve the breed of sheep, which are kept on farms near Town, for the purpose when they are of the proper age, of dispersing them in the several settlements in the Country; that in consequence of the depredations of the dogs, their endeavours are in a great measure thrown away. They state that the present tax is in a great measure evaded, and recommend that all dogs be killed, who have not the name of their owners on the collar, or are not accompanied by their owners.

Mr. Coles would not go the whole length of the petition, but thought something might be done.

Mr. Mooney would rather see all the dogs in the country shot, than go for this Petition.

Mr. Palmer would wish to see more efficient means taken to prevent dogs running at large, he knew the present tax was not collected, and thought a higher tax ought to be imposed on dogs in Town, and rigidly enforced.—The Petition was laid on the Table.

Mr. McDonald moved that the Bill for amending the Statute Labor Act, and for the establishing new Road Districts, be recommitted to a Committee of whole House. The Hon. Member stated that the Bill allows Commissioners to be appointed out of the District, which he did not concur in.

Mr. Palmer spoke to the same effect.

Mr. Coles said that persons could not be found in the 12th District who understood the macadamising of Roads as well as those in town, and that was the reason, that the alteration was made. It was agreed that all Commissioners should reside in their districts except the 12th in Queen's County. Bill reported as amended.

The Normal School Bill was recommitted to a Committee of the whole.

Mr. Palmer suggested while the Bill was before the House, that as many children are orphans and otherwise unable to pay the fees, a school be established for orphans in Charlottetown.

Hon. the Speaker thought it would be better to pay the fees out of the Treasury than establish a new school in Charlottetown, but as the Education act would expire, in another year, he would give it a trial, as the expense would only be a trifle.

Mr. Mooney was of the same opinion.

Mr. Coles found from experience that many poor children could not pay the fees for the public Schools and besides would not attend, he would like to see power given to the Board of Education to compel children to go to school, particularly if such a school was established.

Mr. Haviland would like to know what amount was collected in Charlottetown.

Mr. Longworth felt assured, that the children of Charlottetown did not get their proportion of the assessment paid in Charlottetown and Royalty.

Mr. McIntosh—The poor ought to have a stimulus to compete with the children in the public schools.

Mr. Palmer thought the Hon. Member took an erroneous view, as the school was chiefly for orphans and those that really could not pay.

Mr. McIntosh said, there were not orphans enough to require a School.

Mr. Coles stated, that Charlottetown Royalty was assessed at twice the amount of the other Royalties, and the Charlottetown assessment amounted to £400.

Mr. Mooney strenuously opposed the opening of another school.

Mr. Longworth—The people of Charlottetown pay 18s for the support of their schools, while those in the country do not pay over 10s.

The following are the principal amendments to the Bill:

Board of Education to establish a School in a central place, and the teacher to have a salary of £40.

Teacher not required to qualify under 1st class but receive a certificate of fitness from the Board.

Orphan children to have the preference, from 4 to 10 being the ages, and to have a certificate from a Clergyman and a member of the Board of Education.

Board of Education to limit the Number and to decide the preference of children.

Fees for the other Charlottetown schools to be paid in advance.

Enables Inhabitants of Royalty to assess themselves Mr. Coles moved, that an House and given by an taken away, although i registered. Bill reported agreed to

FRIDAY, Ma

By Mr. Mooney—a p living on land claimed b Donald.

Mr. Mooney—said the tween the two proprietor either could get up a

Mr. Coles—It would precedent for the House t proprietors may petition established and the whol of those Townships.

Mr. Warburton thou done without a survey i proprietors would want.

Hon. Mr. Mooney mo referred to Committee 1 persons, papers and rec Committee—Mooney, Munro, Mr. Warburton

Some irregular discu gard to the appropriati for Roads and Bridge Prince and King's Co share. And the Membe ing a larger proportio Bridges were more num upon them greater.

The following Petiti A Petition asking th sons from hauling th was discussed.—John sion of duty and asking withdrawn.—Joseph A tion for House burnt withdrawn as the Hou

An Act to amend the of Statute Labor and new Road districts, w passed.

In the afternoon sitt the consideration of P them as under.

Peter McCallum Esq damaged goods—with Trustees of Rosemea Inhabitants of Princet an Act to prevent the referred to a Commi otherwise.

Do. for remedy witi After some discussion the matter in the ha John Ross Music tea him publish a Mus Laughlan McKinnon, lately been burned, deaf and dumb child enable him to obtain bers seemed agreed, case and the petition to supply.

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