

The Railway.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

On Thursday, Mr. Fulton justified himself in signing the Report, not intending thereby to reject the Delegates' proposal; and stated that he was prepared to adopt the proposition made although not so advantageous to Nova Scotia as the original one.

Mr. B. Smith, after some calculations, said that if Nova Scotia was to own the portion she made beyond Cumberland, it might have a material influence on the decision of the Committee.

Mr. Wier said he could set that point right at once. He knew that the understanding of the Delegates was that if we took a fourth of the stock, we should enjoy one fourth of the profits in all time to come.

Mr. Killam spoke against the work being undertaken by the Government.

Mr. Wade said he would now vote for the proposition before the House.

Mr. Fraser had hoped that the Hon. member for Yarmouth would have given some arguments against the Railway in the new phase in which it presented itself, instead of merely reiterating his arguments against the work being undertaken by the Government.

On Friday, Mr. Fraser submitted two resolutions, by way of amendment to Mr. Howe's, declaring that the road should be owned forever in the proportions each Province should build, and that in case of failure of the scheme, from any cause, the Government should at once proceed to build roads East and West.

On Monday, Feb. 9th, the Railway question was again taken up. Hon. Mr. Johnston moved an amendment, that the further consideration of the subject be suspended until it was known whether New Brunswick would agree to the proposition, and until she had an opportunity of considering the proposals received by the last steamer from capitalists in England, for the construction of her railways. The Hon. gentleman read some extracts from a letter from a party in London, to a gentleman in this city, showing that Mr. Archibald has been eminently successful in the negotiations which he has undertaken on behalf and for the benefit of his country—and thought that until New Brunswick had decided whether she should accept these offers, and to what extent, any further legislation on the part of Nova Scotia would be premature.

Messrs. Killam, Marshall, Wilkins, and others concurred in this opinion. Mr. Stewart Campbell, as we understood him, was in favour of the measure, but opposed to any hasty action.

On Tuesday, Feb. 10th, the House was engaged in bringing the Railway debate to a close. Messrs. McLellan, Archibald, Marshall, the Hon. Speaker, Hall, Fraser, and Holmes, took part in the discussion.

The Committee then divided upon the following amendment proposed by Mr. Johnston:

Resolved—In the opinion of this House that it is premature for this Legislature to adopt any decision on the proposals made by the Delegates from Canada and New Brunswick in the present condition of the Railroad Negotiation, and until the Legislature of New Brunswick shall have indicated its policy on the subject, and particularly as regards the Portland line within the bounds of that Province and the proposals understood to have been made to New Brunswick by Mr. Archibald and his associates.

For the Amendment—Messrs. Marshall, Brown, Johnston, Thorne, Burnett, Ryer, Wilkins, Whitman, Jost, J. Collins, Shaw, Killam, Comeau, and Creighton.—11.

Against—Messrs. Archibald, J. Campbell, McKinnon, Moore, Bent, Wade, James Campbell, Holmes, Wier, Young, Esson, Martell, S. Campbell, Cowie, Mosher, Locke, Chipman, P. Smith, Fraser, Fulton, McLellan, Annand, Howe, Uniceke, B. Smith, T. Collins, Dimock, Hall, Creelman, Freeman, Zwicker, McKinnon, McLeod, and Doyle.—34.

The question was then taken on the first Resolution, proposed by Mr. Fraser, sanctioning the proposition, which was affirmed—the names standing as on the previous division, with the exception of Mr. Hall, who declined voting.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

On Tuesday, Feb. 2, Hon. Mr. McCully laid upon the table of the House a series of Resolutions which were prefaced with extracts from and references to the various Railway Despatches, and are as follows:—

Whereas, It has been proposed by Delegates, recently arrived in this city from Canada and New Brunswick, as a final effort to secure a continuous line of Railroad to Quebec, to be constructed on joint account, and upon a route by the way of the valley of the St. John—that Canada shall contribute one-third, New Brunswick five-twelfths, and Nova Scotia one-fourth of the expense of the whole line, the funds to be obtained as contemplated in Mr. Hawes' despatch:

Resolved, therefore, as the opinion of this House, that rather than that the whole scheme should be frustrated, this proposition should be accepted.

Resolved, That under this entirely changed aspect of affairs, the City of Halifax should not be required to represent stock in any trunk line to traverse the valley of the St. John.

Resolved, That the Counties of Nova Scotia traversed by a trunk line hence to Quebec, to be continued through New Brunswick, by the valleys of the Kennebecasis and St. John, should not be required to contribute any other or greater amount of funds than Counties in New Brunswick and Canada similarly traversed.

Resolved, That the acceptance of the proposition made by the Delegates as above referred to, is based upon the clear understanding, that five miles of Crown Lands on each side of the line of road shall be conceded for its benefit, and that each Province shall own an interest in the road, in the proportions built by them respectively. (The latter clause of the last resolution being modified during the debate.)

On Friday, Feb. 6, the resolutions came up for discussion. Hon. Mr. Almon moved other resolutions, differing principally respecting the joint ownership of the line—and contemplated a separate proprietorship as to this Province and the other two.

As to the policy of accepting the Canadian proposition, we understand there was no difference of opinion whatever in that Body. The first resolution was unobjectionable to all parties, and WILL PASS UNANIMOUSLY. The debate was adjourned.

The debate was renewed again on Monday, Feb. 9, and several able speeches delivered.

Upon motion the first resolution passed unanimously, and the second with but one dissenting voice. The third and fourth resolutions were thereupon withdrawn by consent.

Provincial Parliament.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

(From City Papers.)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5.—Mr. Esson rose to present a petition from Jacob Marryott, and a number of Fishermen, for some privileges connected with the Seine Fishery. Also a petition from Cham Harbour—both of which were referred to the Fisheries.

Mr. Zwicker presented a petition from Jacob Deal of the township of Bridgewater for reimbursement of losses sustained by him as a commissioner in making a road from Mahone Bay to Bridgewater. Referred to a select Committee—Messrs. Fulton, Holmes and Wade.

Hon. J. W. Johnston rose to ask the Hon. members of Government for various papers connected with Sir Rupert George's salary.

Hon. Provincial Secretary explained that in preparing the revised statutes, several errors had crept in, in consequence of their being prepared so hastily. Among others, one of the two sums granted to Sir Rupert D. George as compensation for his retirement from office, was omitted, and the attention of the Government was called thereto by Sir Rupert. The Government had under the circumstances ordered the sum to be paid as usual, and the Hon. Attorney General was preparing a bill to rectify all of these errors.

Hon. Speaker, in justice to the Commissioners of the revised laws, explained that the revised statute referred to had been passed by the Commissioners before the bill giving the second pension to Sir Rupert had passed the house.

Other gentlemen spoke of the haste with which the revised laws were printed.

Hon. Provincial Secretary rose to introduce a bill for regulating the salaries of school teachers, and explained that it had been prepared principally by the Superintendent of Education.

Mr. Hall enquired whether the Government intended introducing a bill for establishing a Normal School.

Hon. Provincial Secretary explained that Mr. Dawson had raised two points—the establishment of two Normal Schools for the Province, and the assessment of each county for the support of schools to the same amount as the province contributed. These were two points which the committee could not decide, and they were the only two. If, therefore, the house would go into committee early and decide those points one way or the other, the Committee on Education could perfect the bill.

Mr. Fraser asked whether the bill was a Government measure.

Hon. Provincial Secretary said that we had generally kept education apart from politics; but perhaps it was desirable to continue so; but the Government had no objection to hold themselves responsible for the fate of the bill.

Mr. Marshall.—The only objection to that would be the danger of it being lost.—(Laughter.)

FRIDAY, FEB. 6.—Hon. Attorney General presented a petition from Frederick Passow, for remuneration for services performed in the Post Office.

Hon. Mr. Johnston spoke in favour of the application, and it was referred to the Post Office Committee.

Hon. Provincial Secretary by command laid on the Table of the House, a letter from Mr. Woodgate, P. M. G. to the Government which was referred to the same Committee.

Mr. Freeman presented a petition from William Bryden, Collector of Revenue, Liverpool, for a Revenue boat—referred to Committee on

Trade; and another from Dr. Farish, which was referred to Committee on Indian affairs.

Mr. John Campbell presented the petition of George M. Mack of Mills Village, for remuneration for the support of a transient pauper, which was referred to a Committee on that subject.

A message from the Council informed the House that Honourable Messrs. Fairbanks, Campbell, and Cutler, were appointed to join the Committee of the House on the Public accounts.

Mr. Campbell—petition of Dr. Willobyschi for remuneration for attendance on Indians—referred to Com. on Indian affairs.

Mr. Jost presented a petition from the Collector of Excise for the Port of Lunenburg, praying that a surcharge of £15 11s. 11d might be allowed him on the same principle that Mr. Jean of Arichat was allowed a similar claim last Session.—Com. on Trade.

Mr. Zwicker presented a petition from the Clerk of the Peace for the County of Lunenburg for reimbursement for services performed having reference to the elections.

Hon. Mr. Johnston proposed a Committee should be appointed to examine and revise the election law on the point touched by the above petition, and after a short conversation the motion was agreed to, and the above petition referred to it. Committee.—Messrs. Johnston, Doyle, Stewart Campbell, Killam, McLeod, Freeman, Hall, B. Smith, and Murray.

Hon. Provincial Secretary presented a petition from Thomas Rolison, praying the issue of letters patent to him for the invention of a horizontal Windmill.

The petition having been read Hon. P. Secretary introduced a Bill in accordance therewith, which was read a first time.

He also presented a petition from Alexander Munro, Wm. H. Buckfield, and others, praying an act of incorporation for themselves and others, to form a company to prosecute the fisheries in the Gulf of St. Lawrence to be called "the Northumberland Straits Fishing Company," and the petition having been read obtained leave to introduce a Bill in accordance therewith, which was read a first time.

Mr. Marshall moved that it be referred to Committee on the Fisheries, which passed in the affirmative.

Hon. Provincial Secretary presented a petition from Charles Lee, a resident of Halifax praying that he might be naturalized; and a Bill in accordance therewith, which was read a first time.

He also, by command of the Lt. Governor laid on the table of the house the annual return of the ACADEMY AT SACKVILLE showing that Institution to be in a flourishing condition.

Mr. Hall presented a petition from certain inhabitants of the North shore of Ayloford for aid to the French Cross breakwater. The petition was referred to Committee on Navigation securities.

Mr. Hall also held in his hand a petition of rather a novel character, in which the petitioners complained of parties who went through the woods distributing Fox Poison, by which means valuable dogs and swine were killed. The petition was referred to Messrs. Hall, Dimmock, and Annand, with leave to bring in a Bill.

Hon. Provincial Secretary presented a petition from Joseph Jenks and others; asking for the erection of a Beacon at Parrsborough referred to Com. on Navigation securities.

Also a petition from James Johnston, for compensation for injuries received in the public service.

Mr. J. Campbell—Petition of Styles Hart, Clerk of the Peace for Guysborough, for compensation for election and assessment returns. Referred to the Committee already appointed on the subject of the election laws.

Mr. Zwicker presented a petition from Mr. Slagenwhite and others residing on Tanook Island, in the County of Lunenburg, praying for aid towards the erection of a Breakwater. Referred to the Committee on Navigation Securities.

Mr. McLellan asked for returns of the number of letters which had passed through the Post Office at Parrsboro, by packet for the last two quarters.

Hon. Provincial Secretary thought that the House should take into consideration at an early day the propriety of improving our steam communications in the Bay of Fundy and in the St. Lawrence.

Mr. Whitman took the opportunity to ask the members of the Government to lay on the table a copy of the contract for carrying the Mails to Annapolis and across the Bay of Fundy.

Hon. Attorney General begged leave to introduce a Bill relating to the Salary of the Master of the Rolls, and a Bill to amend Chapter 34 of the revised Statutes.

These Bills, he said, were rendered necessary on account of some discrepancies which had been discovered in the revised laws—read a first time.

On Saturday, Feb. 7, the hon. member for Argyle, Mr. Ryder, presented petitions, amongst which was one from Kempt, asking aid in building a bridge, &c.

Mr. Campbell (from Queens County) presented a petition from Samuel Sellon, keeper of the Liverpool Light House. Mr. Freeman enforced

the prayer of the petition at some length. Mr. Killam objected that the Light House keepers were men of all work; and as for the alleged services of the father of petitioner, &c., they had done their duty and no more. Referred to select committee.

Mr. Johnston would like to know of the Government whether any further communication touching the Railway had been received from the Colonial Government by the last steamer.

Mr. Esson presented a petition from the Pilot out of the Port of Halifax, setting forth that they are "shabbily" paid, &c.; and praying relief in the premises. On the suggestion of the Hon. the Attorney General, petition was sent to committee on "Navigation Securities."

He also, Attorney General asked leave to introduce a bill for the improvement of Criminal Justice.

Hon. Mr. Johnston—A bill for the Municipal Government of Counties. The act, as explained, is based upon the New Brunswick act.

Negatively, it is not contemplated to incorporate all the counties by a single act of legislation. The assent of the people is required previously to the act going into operation in any county affirmatively. The existing electoral districts, as denominated by "simultaneous Polling Bill," shall elect Councillors, &c. &c. One most beneficial provision of the bill is, that the Municipal Courts shall apportion the road money voted by the Legislature, and indicate the locality where it shall be expended. Another provision, and most acceptable, doubtless, to the country at large, authorises the Councils to appoint their own Sheriffs. The approval of by-laws to rest in the Legislature; by which will be made to appear what extent of uniformity has been obtained in the working of the bill.

Mr. Hall favoured the measure; more especially that which proposed to make the Magistracy elective. At the present moment a partisan magistracy was a curse to the country. He would give the people the power to correct this.

The Provincial Secretary would make the Magistracy elective. The Government would be glad to get rid of the patronage—it was distasteful in its exercise and unsound. He for one would be glad to get rid of the responsibility. As for the Magisterial Courts of the Country, they were not unfrequently held in some back kitchen or threshing floor. The application of the elective system presents a wholesome corrective check.

On Monday, Feb. 9th, the Provincial Secretary laid on the table despatches showing that the Government has been taking due precautions against the surrender of our Fisheries.

On Tuesday, Feb. 10th, the Railway was the great subject. See under Railway Notice.

On Wednesday, Feb. 11th, the house was engaged principally in presenting petitions and in other routine business. The Financial Secretary submitted his budget, reporting an increase in the Revenue for the past year. The whole amount collected he stated to be £108,000, and the expenditure £105,000.

Mr. Marshall expressed surprise at one circumstance,—while the statement gave an important decrease in the quantity of rum manufactured in the Province—there was a large increase in the Molasses imported. A fact for the excise department.

The Financial Secretary also laid on the table an abstract of the receipts and expenditures connected with the Electric Telegraph for the past year, showing a decrease in the revenue of that department. On motion of the Hon. Mr. Johnston, it was referred to a select Committee.

The eight duties collected for the Strait of Canso, amount to upwards of £1000. Some official correspondence respecting the office of Master of the Rolls, was read. The hon. Prov. Secretary explained with reference to the Gladwin Musquodoboit grievances.

THURSDAY, FEB. 12.—Mr. Howe, in answer to a question, stated that no final reply had been received from the Home Authorities relative to the application of the local Government for the transfer of the present Fuel Yard for the purposes of a Public Market.

Petitions were presented.

By Mr. Jost from Lunenburg, on the subject of the Fisheries:—

By Mr. Doyle, from Fishermen at Margaret's Bay, praying protection against the encroachments of the American Fishermen upon their fishing ground on the shores of the Province.—Mr. Wier, not objecting to the general principle of petition, thought that petitioners, in this instance, went rather far in their demands:—

By Mr. Wilkins, from certain parties asking for favourable consideration of the House, in the matter of Mr. B. H. Norton's petition, already on the table:—

By the Hon. Attorney General, from Dr. Jennings, for aid in sustaining an Eye Infirmary, which has already been some time in operation.

The Hon. Attorney General laid upon the table of the House returns connected with the Post Office Department.

Mr. Hall reported on the Londonderry Election, confirming Mr. Campbell in his seat.