

The New Brunswick Legislature.

(Continued from the page of paper.)

Mr. COVET was in favor of abolishing the qualification, but would extend it to the Legislature only. It was an easy matter for any man who wished to run to get a qualification. He thought this was a step towards universal suffrage. The people who owned the country were the people to govern. As regarded putting up \$50 he did not feel disposed to contribute towards the expense of the country. He did not think it would prevent men from running for the purpose of annoyance either, for the people behind them would pay it for them. He should oppose the Bill in its present shape.

Mr. WILLIS was opposed to the levying of a fine on candidates, but would like to see the qualification more liberalized. He thought that the qualification of a Voter should be regulated on the basis of taxation and intelligence, while that of the candidate should be no lower. Perhaps it was not right that Real Estate alone should be required as a candidate's qualification.

Mr. McLEOD said it was better to let well enough alone. There was no difficulty now in getting Candidates. If Candidates were to be required to pay a \$50 fee it would have a tendency to cause the House to increase the indemnity of members. The present qualification of Candidates was quite low enough, for men who were taxpayers themselves would be the more careful in taxing others.

Mr. JONES thought the two matters treated in the Bill ought to be separated, for he saw as well as others might be in favor of one but not of the other, and therefore desirous of voting on each separately.

HON. MR. FRASER said while the Election Law was fully discussed by the House two years ago, and while it might be well to bring it forward for discussion now, it would be best to report progress. Property qualification was not to his mind, an important consideration, although Candidates ought to have at least the qualification of a voter. He was not in favor of universal suffrage and thought the present franchise about right. Members could ventilate the matter on the hustings, and the next House could deal with it. He assumed that the Candidate's fee was not proposed as a matter of Revenue, but to protect constituencies from men of straw.

Mr. ELDER said the fee was in blank and might be settled to meet the views of the House. There was no presumption in favor of a Candidate's superior fitness as a Legislator because of his Real Estate qualification, but a Candidate should have some Property qualification. The tendency of Legislation in this respect for County Councils, Aldermen, etc., was to increase and maintain Property qualification, and it would hardly be consistent for members here to say they should depart from that principle in reference to their own body. If one who had to Legislate in reference to placing taxation on others was not himself to feel the result of his course the chances were that he would not act so prudently as if he were differently situated. He was not in favor of universal suffrage, and referred to the effect of that principle in the United States where the Democracy, especially in New York, had plundered the property owners. It was not a strong argument in favor of the Bill that its principle was adopted in the Dominion Elections. The experiment was not yet confirmed by time. Referring to the impetuosity by Legislatures, where members were elected without property qualification, of direct taxation on the people, he said it had been tried in Quebec recently with disastrous results to the Government. As this Legislature had to deal with taxation, and to give the power of taxing to local governing bodies, it ought to be composed of men who were experimentally acquainted with the effect of taxation, men having property and in sympathy with property owners. He did not think there were many Barkers, Grattans, or even "Miserable, inglorious Miltons" about the Country desiring to come to the Legislature, but prevented because of their want of qualification. Property was easily obtained in the country, and the talents of such men would soon lead them to secure it; and if a man could not secure it in this Province he could not, he was sure, in any other.

Mr. WOODS said there were ways to evade the present law respecting qualification, for some men were not particular in making their Declarations. He would be satisfied if a stop could be put to that. The people were the best judges of the men who should serve them, and they should have the free choice as possible.

Mr. O'LEARY said it was men of Property who robbed and plundered New York. Some members' arguments would almost lead to the supposition that they deemed it a crime for a man to be poor. He was not in favor of universal suffrage, but believed it was right to give Electors the fullest liberty in choosing their Representatives. He was glad the subject had been so fully discussed, and moved to report progress, which was done.

Mr. AUSTIN moved to refer the Saint John Railway Company Bill to a Special Committee.

In reference to Mr. Davidson's Bill to enable Councilors in the County of Northumberland to receive remuneration for their services, he said he did not propose to refer it to a Special Committee. He had no objection to the appointment of a Special Committee, but did not propose to refer for one.

Mr. COTTELL moved for a Special Committee thereon. Messrs. Cottrell, Ryan, Davidson, Jones and Willis were appointed on said Committee.

Mr. O'LEARY moved to refer the Bill relating to qualification of Candidates to a Special Committee. Carried. The Committee appointed were Messrs. O'Leary, Bess, Elder, Johnson and Phillips.

MIRAMICHI ADVANCE--EXTRA.

CHATHAM, THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 1878.

FRIDAY, MARCH 15.

After routine Mr. MARSHALL, from the Select Committee, reported favourably on the Mount Pleasant Hotel Company Bill, recommending that the last section be struck out. He also recommended a Bill to enable the Corporation of St. John to purchase improvements on City Lands.

HON. MR. McQUEEN introduced a Bill to amend the Moncton Incorporation Act in reference to taxes.

Mr. TWEEDIE committed a Bill to incorporate the Chatham Dutch Temperance Reformers Hall Co., Mr. Cottrell in the chair. Agreed to, after explanation by the mover.

Mr. RYAN (Albert) introduced a Bill to incorporate the Harvey Railway Co., with the petition of R. E. Steeves and others in favor thereof.

Mr. MARSHALL committed a Bill to amend the New Brunswick Odd Fellows' Hall Company's Act, Mr. Phillips in the chair. As explained by the mover the Bill was to confirm the Company in matters connected with which papers were lost in the late disastrous fire.

Agreed to. Mr. MARSHALL committed the Mount Pleasant Hotel Company Bill, Mr. Murchie in the chair. The mover explained that the Bill had been before the Select Committee, who recommended it, with the exception of the section which authorized the Company to keep a Bar for the sale of Spirituous Liquors upon being licensed by the local authorities to. He thought such a provision a most objectionable one, under the circumstances, as the House should not be asked to deal with the matter in that way.

The Bill was agreed to as amended.

MARRIAGE BILL. HON. MR. FRASER committed a Bill relating to marriages in certain cases, Mr. Marshall in the chair. The mover explained the object of the Bill, which was to remove doubts as to the validity of certain Marriages Solemnized by Rev. Mr. Stevens, of St. Stephen, arising from his being an alien. The first section of the Bill declared such Marriages valid, provided there was no other impediment, and the second section relieved Mr. Stevens from any penalty in consequence of having solemnized such marriages.

Mr. DAVIDSON did not think the exception went far enough and moved the insertion of the word "defect."

HON. MR. FRASER only wished to make the Bill perfect and agreed to the amendment. The Bill was agreed to as amended.

ALBERT SOUTHERN RAILROAD. Mr. ROGERS committed a Bill to incorporate the Albert Southern Railway, Mr. Ryan, of Gloucester, in the chair, and explained it was simply to authorize the extension of the present road to Herring's Cove. It was a line that had always been talked of in connection with the Albert Railway, and the parties were now desirous of incorporating it.

Mr. FRASER thought it was simply a Bill of incorporation. It was not a Subsidy Bill in any sense of the word. Mr. Fraser asked that the 13th section might stand over for the present, as there was a general Act passed some four or five years ago with reference to the taxation of Railways, and he thought the section should remain for the present.

Mr. ROGERS moved to report progress with leave to sit again. Carried.

RECESS.

BILLS AND PETITIONS. HON. MR. STEVENSON presented the petition of Charlotte County Council in favor of authorizing it to pay its members for their services, out of the County Funds.

Mr. ROGERS introduced a Bill to incorporate the Albert Southern Railway, with the Petition of R. Wright and 100 others in favor thereof.

Mr. JONES introduced a Bill to amend the law relating to Registry of Bills of Sale.

HON. MR. STEVENSON introduced a Bill respecting Library Associations and Mechanic's Institutes.

Mr. ROBINSON presented the Petition of J. W. Woodworth and others against the Bill to prevent the burning of wood in Locomotives at certain seasons.

HON. MR. PERLEY presented a similar Petition from Wm. E. Hoyt, J. P. Thomas, E. Smith, and 83 others.

ST. JOHN SCHOOL ASSESSMENT. Mr. MARSHALL committed a Bill to amend the School Act, Mr. Pickard in the chair. The Bill, as explained by the mover, was to secure a more equitable adjustment of assessment in the City and County of St. John, of the County School Rate of 30 cents per head. He said that, according to the Census of 1871, the population of the City and County of St. John was 52,190, divided as follows: City of St. John, 28,905; Town of Portland, 12,520; Parishes of Lancaster, Simonds, St. Martin and Musquash, 10,765. Thirty cents per head on this population of 52,190 would amount to \$17,190, which, if divided according to the Population of the different sections, would make the apportionment as follows: City of St. John, \$6,505.65; Town of Portland, \$4,131.60; Lancaster, Simonds, St. Martin and Musquash, \$6,552.75. The apportionment had, however, been made in an arbitrary way since 1872 and thereunder St. John had been taxed 74 per cent, or \$12,727.70. Portland only 12 per cent, or \$2,063.

95; and the outside Parishes 14 per cent, or \$2,497.95. This 74 per cent, arbitrarily imposed upon the Ratepayers of St. John City, imposed a burthen of \$12,727.70, whilst 30 cents per capita for each inhabitant, with 10 per cent. added for expenses for assessing and collecting, would amount to \$9,565, showing that St. John City was now obliged, by an arbitrary and unreasonable apportionment, to pay no less than \$3,222.05 more than she, in justice, ought to pay. St. John received but \$9,905 out of the county fund, while Portland received \$4,131, and the remaining parishes \$3,562. In other words, St. John paid \$3,222 more than she ought, in equity, to pay, while Portland got \$2,067.65, and the other parishes \$1,154.40 more than they were fairly entitled to. The Bill was so reasonable that he felt sure it would commend itself to the good judgment of the House.

If the sum thus unfairly taken from the citizens of St. John, especially when they so much needed all the funds to which they were entitled, were capitalized, it would represent no less than \$53,700, and members could easily understand how useful that would be in assisting to restore some of their destroyed institutions. It might be claimed that it was right that St. John City should contribute largely to the support of Schools outside, but he felt that the comparatively wealthy people of Portland, St. Martin, Simonds, etc., should not ask that such extra support should be continued now.

Mr. AUSTIN said the Bill was not an equitable one, inasmuch as it aimed to change the present apportionment and bring it down to a Population basis without reference to the comparative value of Property which had always, and very properly, been taken into account in fixing the percentages. The Justices had always considered the present percentage about fair, relatively, and the change should not be made simply for the reasons affirmed by the mover of the Bill.

Mr. ROGERS suggested that the title of the Bill should be changed, as it was at present misleading.

HON. ATTORNEY GENERAL said he remembered that Mr. Marshall had brought up this matter on the hustings in 1874, arguing from the figures just quoted by him, and advocating the principle which he now sought to enforce. It was intentionally arranged that under the Act the more wealthy districts should contribute according to their means to the County Fund, for it was believed that an impetus would thus be given to Education. It was not intended that each Parish, Town or City should necessarily take out of the County Fund the amount it contributed, but that the advantage of the fund should be enjoyed in proportion, as each District proved its interest in Education, by establishing Schools under the Act and furnishing the attendance of Pupils at them. Experience had proved that this principle secured what was expected of it. He would like to know whether the figures submitted by Mr. Marshall, as representing the sums received from the County Fund by the City, Portland, and outside Parishes, respectively, were theoretical, or taken from the School Returns.

Mr. MARSHALL said they were substantially correct, and their character in that respect had been verified.

HON. ATTORNEY GENERAL said he was much struck with the accurate proportions which the amounts quoted bore to the Population of the respective sections of St. John County, and he hoped, before the Bill went much further, that the mover would compare those figures with the School Returns, although it was probable they were not far astray. He complimented St. John on the willingness it had always displayed in forwarding education, and said the Great Fire might furnish a strong argument in favor of the City being relieved, as provided by the Bill. Were it not for that, he should oppose any attempt to make the exception sought for. He was strongly in favor of the general principle of the law in this respect. He was impressed with a statement which he read in the New York World recently, showing that that City, while it contained but 22 per cent. of the Population of the State, paid no less than 48 per cent. of all the State Taxes. The people of New York City submitted to this because they felt that they had great accumulations of wealth and property there, and it was so with St. John City in comparison with the outlying districts. But the Fire had made a difference in this respect, to a certain extent. Before the Fire she could bear the load and walk upright under it, but now it seemed a more serious burden, and there appeared to be justice in asking for some relief. The apportionment had been reduced by the County Council since the Fire, from 76 to 74 per cent. Possibly this was as much of a reduction as it ought to be, in view of the circumstances, and it might be well to wait and see whether the County Council would rectify what was wrong. He hoped the mover would go no further until he verified his figures by the School Returns, when the House would be in a better position to deal with the subject.

Mr. MARSHALL thanked the Attorney General for the moderate position he had taken in regard to the Bill, and said he would obtain the figures as suggested. He believed that the people of Portland and outside Parishes had no desire that the support for their Schools should be unduly drawn from the unfortunate Ratepayers of

the almost destroyed city. St. John would be a finer city in appearance than ever, by next November, and her rateable property would be as valuable as ever, but those who controlled it would be far less able than before to bear the taxation upon it. When he discussed this matter upon the hustings, he felt that a greater question overshadowed it; and that the Attorney General made a good point against me, when he argued to that effect. Now, however, the matter was in a different position and he felt it was the proper time to have it dealt with. He moved to report progress, with leave to sit again, which was done.

Mr. TWEEDIE introduced a Bill to incorporate the Chatham Dutch Temperance Reformers Hall Company, with the petition of Wm. Sinclair, Wm. Johnston, Duncan Davidson and others, in favor thereof.

BANK EXEMPTIONS. HON. MR. CRAWFORD committed a Bill to exempt certain Banking institutions in Sussex from taxation for a certain period, Mr. Tweedie in the chair. The mover, in explaining the object of the Bill, said that a similar one passed the House two years ago, but was rejected in the Upper House. Sussex had received a promise of the establishment of a Branch Bank, if its property would be exempted from taxation. He read a Petition in favor of the Bill, which, he said, merely exempted Bank property in King's County, referring only to the real estate and income of the Bank itself. He referred to similar legislation in Ontario, and left it to the House to consider the measure.

Mr. ROGERS was not in favor of exempting these institutions from taxation, because they were not institutions of an industrial character. True, Banks were useful institutions, but they were very useful to the men who established them. With regard to Ontario, he did not think they had gone to the extent mentioned by Mr. Crawford. He was not opposed to a permissive measure, and thought the Municipality should have the power to say whether any institutions should be exempted, and to that extent he was willing to go.

Mr. SMITH said if he had ever voted for this Bill he had since changed his mind. He should like to see a Petition from persons living in the county. Those persons had to pay the taxes, and if it was such a great benefit to certain persons let them put their hands in their pockets and pay the taxes, and so relieve the poor people.

Mr. McLEOD went over the objects of the Bill and said that some of the ablest and most enterprising men in the County had signed the petition, and he saw no reason for opposing the Bill.

Mr. MCKENZIE wished to know the amount of taxes the Bank would be exempted from by this Bill, because if it was only a small amount it was hardly worth talking about.

Mr. MCKAY thought twenty years was a very long time for which to exempt banking institutions in the County of Kings from taxation, and was opposed to the Bill.

Mr. PICKARD thought the House would require to see that this was not a contrivance of some wealthy people to hide their surplus funds in the Bank, and so exempt it from taxation.

Mr. CRAWFORD thought this was not the case, and that most of the people wanted all their money in their business. He pointed out that nothing would be lost to the County if this Bill became law. They at present received no taxes from any Bank, and if this Bill passed they would be in the same position. The Bill authorized capital to go in from outside and would not interfere with the present taxation. It had been suggested to make this a permissive Bill, but it was too late to do that to have anything done. The taxes exempted were only county and local taxes, and it would not interfere with the School or any other taxes.

Mr. SMITH pointed out that persons living in Sussex or anywhere else could take shares in this bank, and be relieved from taxation. He did not think the people of King's County wanted the Bank to come in and have all the privileges of residence there, with exemption from taxation.

Mr. MURCHIE said that it appeared to his mind that the Bill was a local one, and if the people of Kings were willing to take the responsibility of having it passed, it was right to let the Bill pass.

Mr. DAVIDSON did not believe in special legislation of this kind. If the parties in Sussex wanted a Bank, they knew on what terms they could get one. Either Sussex was able to offer too small an inducement to a Bank to go there, or it was not, without exempting them from the small amount of taxation. He moved that the Bill be read section by section this day three months.

Mr. CRAWFORD wished to say a few words in reply to the honorable members of Westmoreland, who said that persons could purchase shares in the Bank, and that this property would thereupon become exempt from taxation; but in reply to that he would say that if they purchased Bank Stock, they would become liable to be taxed for private property, and would not, consequently be exempt.

Mr. O'LEARY always opposed Bills of this kind, and he did so from principle. He thought that the wealth of the country ought to pay taxes, whether in Banks, Factories, or any other employment; for this reason he opposed the Bill.

Mr. BURNS was in favor of encouraging, by every legitimate means, the introduction of wealth and capital into a community and, to a certain extent, protecting new industries, but he did not think that the House should, by enactment, declare that a portion of Kings County should be at liberty to claim exemption. His idea was that the Municipal Corporation of the County was in a position to say whether the circumstances of the case required exemption. If this Bill was amended, giving authority to the Municipal Council to exempt property, he should certainly support it, but, as he understood the Bill, it made it compulsory to exempt institutions of this kind.

Mr. WILLIS was prepared to admit that advantages would result to the locality through the establishment of a Bank but did not think the position taken by the honorable member for Kings County was tenable. He thought that the exemption under the Bill was complete, and not only included the stock of the Bank, but all other property of the Bank. He suggested that the proper course to pursue was to refer this matter to the Municipal Council.

Mr. CRAWFORD was quite willing to take any suggestion of the House in a matter of this kind, and moved to report progress. Progress was reported.

BILLS PETITIONS, ETC. Mr. MARSHALL introduced a bill to incorporate Mount Pleasant Hotel Company. Mr. AUSTIN presented a petition of Charles Drury and others against the Portland Fifth Ward bill.

Mr. COVET presented a petition against the bill to prevent the burning of wood in locomotives.

PORTLAND 5TH WARD. [Mr. Austin's bill to erect a Fifth Ward in the town of Portland, St. John, was discussed at great length on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday but as only a small proportion of our readers are interested in it and they have, doubtless, informed themselves of the Debate, from the St. John dailies, we do not publish the Report of it.—EDITOR.]

HON. PROVINCIAL SECRETARY laid the Financial Statements and Estimates on the table, and after the usual motions Supply was made the Order of the Day for 12 o'clock Saturday.

The Financial Statements and Estimates submitted were as follows:—

RECEIPTS FOR 1877. Subsidies from General Government, \$476,358 63; Casual and Territorial Revenue, 102,282 13; Fees Supreme Court, 1,300 00; Fees Provincial Secretary's Office, 6,081 50; Fees Lunatic Asylum, 8,185 41; Refund of County School Loans standing 31st October, 1876, 5,264 74; Interest on Loans to School Boards, 1,564 00; Miscellaneous Receipts, 8,728 28; Total, \$601,949 33.

WARRANT EXPENDITURE 1877. By Executive Government, \$23,584 00; Legislature, 35,094 00; University of New Brunswick, 8,244 48; Immigration, 1,178 52; Lunatic Asylum, 26,000 00; Public Health, 6,148 00; Penitentiary, 1,100 00; Agriculture, 1,100 00; Judicial, 13,115 52; Auditor General, 1,000 00; Education, 146,143 83; Elections, 587 25; Public Printing, 9,248 89; Contingencies, 11,960 69; Public Works, 23,451 12; Surveys and Government Inspections, 4,912 51; Registry Marriage Certificates, 824 50; Provincial Debentures, 32,178 00; Free Grants Act, 8,185 41; Mining Operations, 2,200 37; Centennial Exhibition, 387 87; Debates House Assembly, 1,100 00; Deaf and Dumb Asylum, Halifax, 750 00; Deaf and Dumb School, Saint John, 1,250 00; Blind Asylum, Halifax, 240 00; Saint John Public Hospital, 1,600 00; Publication Allen's Reports, 850 00; Law Commission, 2,000 00; Tibbits' claim, 399 95; Provincial Assayer and Laboratory, 1,200 00; School Houses Poor Districts, 1,047 30; Unforeseen Expenses, 5,628 25; Normal School Building, 50,000 00; County Fund School Loans, 21,877 24; Bear Bounty, 1,895 00; Printing Consolidated Statutes, 1,600 00; Old Appropriations, 5,701 70; Total, \$650,242 56; Balance 31st October, 1877, 99,757 00; Total, \$749,999 16.

ESTIMATED CURRENT RECEIPTS—1878. Subsidies from General Government, \$480,000 00; Casual and Territorial Revenue, 125,000 00; Fees Supreme Court, 2,000 00; Fees Provincial Secretary's Office, 6,000 00; Fees Lunatic Asylum, 1,000 00; Refund of School Loans, 30,000 00; Interest on Loans to School Boards, 2,000 00; Miscellaneous Receipts, 6,000 00; Total, \$652,000 00.

ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE—1878. Executive Government, \$24,200 00; Legislature, 35,000 00; Lunatic Asylum, 26,000 00; Public Health, 7,000 00; Penitentiary, 1,100 00; Agriculture, 1,100 00; Auditor General, 1,000 00; University of New Brunswick, 8,244 48; Education, 146,000 00; Elections, 587 25; Public Printing, 9,200 00; Contingencies, etc., 11,000 00; Public Works, 188,229 78; Surveys and Government Inspections, etc., 5,000 00; Marriage Certificates, 1,600 00; Provincial Debentures, 32,000 00; Free Grants Act, 7,000 00; Debates House Assembly, 1,200 00; Deaf and Dumb Asylum, Halifax, 600 00; Deaf and Dumb Institution, St. John, 1,250 00; Blind Asylum, Halifax, 240 00; St. John Public Hospital, 1,600 00; Publishing of unfinished portions of Allen's Reports (re-vote), 1,750 00; Bear Bounty, 2,000 00; School Houses, Poor Districts (re-vote), 2,452 70; Provincial Assayer, 500 00; Consolidated Statutes (Publishing), 6,000 00; Judge Chambers, St. John, 300 00; Normal School, 900 00; Unforeseen Expenses, 5,000 00; Total, \$661,827 86.

Special. Towards Relief of Sufferers by the St. John Fire, 25,000 00; Total, \$686,827 86. Estimated Receipts over Estimated Expenditure, \$66,177 84. Adjourned.