

POOR DOCUMENT

It. The Company had got a subsidy from the Provincial Government in the same manner that any other railway company had, the Kent Northern or the Grand Southern; and he believed that Clark, Puchard & Co. received a large amount of money. The country had better know all the facts now, and he wanted to know how the Government had negotiated in this matter. In the remarks made by the Chief Commissioner there was a foundation for the claim of Clark, Puchard & Co. upon any money that may hereafter be paid by the Dominion Government. The Chief Commissioner tells us that the claim was made upon the Dominion Government upon the basis of a valuation or cost which that Government was to pay for the rest of the road, which was some \$24,000 a mile, but which had proved to be too small an amount, and had cost more. He could not express any opinion on the matter of undervaluation as set forth by the Chief Commissioner. His enquiries were for the purpose of getting information, and he thought that a ventilation of the matter would do good.

Hon. Mr. Hanington said the Leader of the Opposition had wished to place the Government in a position they would not occupy, and in addition undertook to advise them. He discussed the matter at further length, reviewing the points raised by Mr. Blair, and said he would like to see the matter in the Dominion estimates. It was true that the estimates for the current year had been made up, but the hon. gentleman should remember that there was such a thing as supplementary estimates, and that before the House closed such estimates were usually brought down. He would like to see it then, and if he did not see it before the Dominion Parliament rose, the time was not far distant when it would be placed in the Dominion estimates. He contended that if Clark, Puchard & Co. had a valid claim against the road as builders, they would have heard something of it long before this, since the intercolonial has been running so long, but the question was, have Clark, Puchard & Co. this claim or not?

The Provincial Secretary said that all papers and correspondence in regard to the matter would be laid before the House with pleasure. The resolution and Mr. Willis' amendment were adopted. Mr. Willis asked as follows:—
Had any charges been preferred against Robert E. Vall, former Sheriff of Gloucester County, in consequence of which he was not re-appointed; or by whom were these charges preferred? Were the charges, if any, in writing, and was Mr. Vall informed as to their character, and was opportunity given him of being heard with respect thereto, before the appointment of his successor?

Hon. Provincial Secretary, in replying to this enquiry, said that no charges had been made. Mr. Willis enquired as follows:—
Did not the Government cause portions of the public lands to be advertised for sale in the year 1881 which were bought by license to cut lumber? Were not lands to the extent of several thousand acres advertised for sale in the year 1880 as applied for by bona fide applicants, when, in fact, the persons whose names were there were not applicants? Were not public lands to the extent of several thousand acres put up for sale in 1880 and bids received as against bona fide bidders over and above the advertised price for sale in 1880? Were not several thousand acres of public land in 1880 for sale in 1880 knocked down to agents of the Government on a price less than at a price in advance of the advertised price, and immediately thereafter sold by private arrangements to persons who had bid at such pretended sale?

The Hon. Surveyor General made the following statement in reply:—
1. Yes.
2. The Government believing that the upset price of eighty cents per acre for our lumber lands was less than the real value of same, determined by order of Council to bring to sale by public auction certain portions of the public land in view of ascertaining the value thereof, and bona fide applications were made as at the instance of the Government according to the then existing regulations to carry out that object, and which lands were brought to sale and sold to bona fide purchasers for prices ranging from \$1.00 to \$2.96 per acre or an average price of \$1.54.
3. At the sale the Department having been informed and believing that a combination had been formed between intending purchasers before or at the sale to prevent the establishment of an increase in the upset price of lumber lands, and to secure the object contemplated by the Government in bringing the land to sale, did authorize reasonable bids to be made for the Government.
4. The Government neither authorized nor held any pretended sale.

Mr. Elder made the following enquiry:—
1st. Whether it is the intention of the Government to hold an exhibition in the city of St. John in the centenary year, 1883.
2nd. If the Local Government decide to do so, have they any information as to whether the Dominion Government will agree that such exhibition shall be made a Dominion exhibition, and receive proportionate financial aid under the contemplated by an early day endeavor to procure information on that subject?

The Hon. Provincial Secretary said it was the intention of the Government to hold an exhibition in St. John in 1883. The matter of its being made a Dominion exhibition was under the consideration of the Government, and representations were being made to the Dominion Government.
Mr. Blair, in moving his motion in regard to the office of the Clerk of the Pleas, said he believed it was of some importance to bring before the house, and he would endeavor to make the details as explicit as possible. The leader of the Government had assumed that he (Blair) had made a personal attack on certain hon. gentlemen, while his remarks were entirely different, and their meaning had been misinterpreted. The hon. gentleman had affected to understand that he had said that the Clerk of the Pleas, through ill health, had failed to make collections which he should have made, while no such construction had been put on his remarks by the majority of the hon. gentlemen in the house, and if the hon. gentleman had heard aught he did not think his remarks could be susceptible to such a statement. He charged the Government that in the office of the Clerk of the Pleas large fees were collected which did not go into the funds, or were misappropriated in the expenditure. The charge entailed serious consequences, and he made it on evidence which would convince any honorable gentleman of its justness. He wanted a committee of enquiry and not a committee to gag enquiry, and said it should be constituted of members who would not let the matter pass without strict enquiry. He did not want a committee composed of gentlemen who were animated by a lively expectation of elevation to the Legislative Council at the expiration of their labors here. For many years past large sums of money have been received from this office which should be voted out in the usual way, and the country does not know what has become of them. He did not intimate that it had gone out into the pockets of members of the Government, but it may have gone out on some service which this House could not countenance. Mr. Blair then read from the Act which says that the Clerk of the Pleas shall receive \$1,200 a year for duties on the common law side of the Court, and this was a full compensation, and by this law the office was created and the salary fixed. The Act also provides the sum of \$400 for the salary of the clerk of the Clerk of the Pleas, and this money must be paid out of the public treasury. Provision is also made for the furnishing of bonds, and by law the Clerk of the Pleas has to furnish a statement of all moneys received by him, which are by law ordered to be passed over to the Receiver General to whom the Clerk of the Pleas shall render a statement on the last day of each quarter, and give a due account of the fees, and shall pay over such amount as appears on such statement. In his turn the Receiver General shall file an annual return of the moneys received from the Clerk of the Pleas in the office of the Provincial Secretary, who shall lay the accounts of this office on the table of the House. The House will then see from the fact of this Act being so particular that it was important that such matters should be looked after and a true and correct account of the moneys received in fees in this office shall be rendered, and that this House should be informed as to what purpose this money was applied. Never since this House has been in session has such a statement been laid on the table, and if Government have never instructed the Clerk of the Pleas to make such a statement. As one of these accounts are forthcoming which have we to show where the money went? The statement published in the public accounts of the money paid into this office are absolutely untrue, for the sums actually received are far in excess of those reported as being received. How far back this state of affairs went he could not say, but he could state that the country had been deceived in this respect. He was able to show that this is true. Whatever has been done with the money has been kept a profound secret, and the duties of the committee he asked for would be to enquire what had become of it. If this does not appear, the inference is fair that it was appropriated for purposes which the Government dare not ask this House for money for. Here are some of the yearly receipts in this office. In 1880 it amounted to the magnificent sum of \$600. In 1879 it was \$800, in 1878 it was \$1,000, in 1877, \$1,200, in 1876, \$1,800, in 1875 it amounted to a like sum, and in 1874 to \$2,100. Why, at this rate it only needs a couple of more years to make the Clerk of the Pleas a creditor of this Province! Look how the receipts have dwindled down from \$2,100 in 1874 to the insignificant sum of \$600 in 1880 in yearly jumps of \$300 or \$600. This matter requires investigation and the result of the enquiry would show the useless and untruthful nature of the information furnished in the Public Accounts. He would move the following resolution:—
That Mr. Blair, a member of this house having stated that he is credibly informed and believes that he can establish by evidence that the whole amount of the fees collected in the office of the Clerk of the Pleas in the Supreme Court during several years past, has not been accounted for by the Government; therefore

Resolved, That a committee of four members be appointed to enquire into all the facts and circumstances connected with the matter in question, and into the amount of the collections of fees made in the said office, and into the purposes to which the moneys not accounted for have been applied, with power to the committee to send for persons and papers, and examine witnesses on oath, and report the evidence taken before such committee, and the minutes of the proceedings thereon.

Mr. Ritchie seconded the motion. The Hon. Provincial Secretary said that the representation these counties had had and the men from them who had occupied prominent places in the executive and council of this Province in support of this. There was a bill now before the House filling the purpose of the motion and he thought that the hon. gentlemen should not withdraw his resolution but wait until the bill came up. The Hon. Mr. Landry said that before this motion came up he thought that an equalization of representation would be beneficial. He did not think the expense would be very great. He was in favor of the resolution.

House adjourned until 2.30.
AFTERNOON SESSION.
The House met again at 2.30.
Mr. Landry continued his remarks on the motion after dinner, and was followed by Mr. Blair, who thought that the House was not in a position just at present to deal with this question, and that the matter might just as well be withdrawn, leaving it to the Government to do anything they might see fit. He did not agree with Hon. Provincial Secretary that this was a matter which came peculiarly within the Province of Legislature being in utter variance with the principles of constitutional government.

Hon. Mr. Hanington attacked the leader of the Opposition in a pretty lively style. Referring to the principle of the resolution he said that it was an important one. He expressed himself as in favor of the resolution. Mr. Willis thought the resolution should not receive the assent of the House. Mr. Ryan wished to say a few words in favor of the resolution as a representative of one of the counties named in it. He thought the time had now arrived when justice in the shape of equal representation should be done these counties.

Mr. Gillespie said he was opposed to the motion, and thought that what the people really wanted was a decrease of money instead of an increase, and thought that when they had only two members they should make up in quality what they lacked in quantity by sending extra good men. Mr. Lyonnatt reviewed the situation from the figures set down in the resolution and declared himself in favor of the resolution and would vote for it. Hon. Mr. Fraser said that if the House adopted this resolution they would do that representation, could be by population alone, while there were many other elements which entered into the consideration of the question. The resolution stated entirely with this view, and was the House willing to serve themselves to it by its adoption? The principle of population was a large element in the minds of the people on this question and was an important one. He was in favor of the hon. gentlemen who introduced the resolution to do what they thought "favorable" as suggested by the Hon. Provincial Secretary. Whatever change may be made in the representation to be adopted, it should be only a limited extent.

Mr. Black expressed himself as against the resolution, and was followed by Mr. Ritchie who thought that it was rather objectionable. Mr. Elder thought that this should have been a matter brought forward by the Government rather than by any member, as they had avenues and means of information within their reach that were not in the grasp of any individual member. He was in favor of amending the resolution further than had been suggested by the Provincial Secretary, the mere elimination of a word, and moved as follows in amendment:—
"To strike out all after the word 'whereas' in the first paragraph and insert in lieu thereof the following: 'There is a feeling in various parts of the Province that the representation of the people in General Assembly requires revision.'"
That a humble address be presented to His Honor the Lt. Governor praying that he will cause to be brought under the consideration of the Executive Council.

Mr. Hanington seconded Mr. Elder's amendment, and said he would vote for a readjustment of the representation without an increase. Mr. McEllan declared himself against the resolution. Mr. Morton said he would vote against both the resolution and amendment, and thought that the people would be a little bit better satisfied if they spent a little more money and less time in legislation. He thought a good deal of time was frittered away needlessly in the House. Mr. Killian said he would vote against an increase of representation, and would vote for the resolution and amendment, and thought that the people would be a little bit better satisfied if they spent a little more money and less time in legislation. He thought a good deal of time was frittered away needlessly in the House.

Mr. McManus said that his hon. friend had struck a note of economy, and he thought that such a consideration, although always a good thing to keep in view, should not be entered where a matter of justice was concerned. He was in favor of the amendment. Mr. Sayre declared that he had been opposed to increased representation, and denied that he had ever said that he held that population was the only criterion for an increase, yet he would vote for the resolution, because when the Counties largely represented would not be cut down to equalize the representation, he would have to vote for it to get a remedy. Mr. Butler said he was in favor of Mr. Elder's amendment. Mr. White (Carleton) supported the resolution. He promised the Government his continued support if they would only give these Counties the increased representation they asked for in the resolution.

Mr. Barberie thought that when a member offers himself for sale openly as the hon. gentleman for Carleton had done, it was time his constituents knew of it. He thought the country was pretty well governed and that they had representation and legislation enough. There was hardly enough to keep the House busy at present without bringing in more members. If this was done these Counties would want increased representation in the Legislative Council. He would vote against both resolution and amendment. Mr. Landry then rose, to explain and was followed by Mr. Blair and Mr. Fraser. The discussion waxed very warm and some severe things were said on both sides. Mr. Blair called upon Mr. Landry to deny if he could that he had stated that the suggestions

of the hon. member for Carleton were not entitled to that consideration which they would receive if he were a supporter of the Government, and he went on to instance a bridge over the Nashua, where his representations had been persistently disregarded by the Chief Commissioner. Mr. Fraser followed in a most violent attack upon Mr. Blair, whom he charged with not being willing to work harmoniously with him in County matters and with violating understandings made between them. Mr. Johnson, in closing, accepted the amendment of the hon. gentleman from St. John.

On motion to adopt the resolution as amended the House divided, 24 voting for and 14 against. On motion of Hon. Provincial Secretary, seconded by the Hon. Attorney General, Messrs Elder, Johnson and Perley were appointed a committee to prepare the address and report.

Mr. Johnson moved as follows:—
A detailed statement of all the school districts in the Province showing those wherein schools were not in operation during the term ending Oct. 31st, 1881; also indicating such teaching, with the names of the pupils attending French in each of such schools, also showing the class held by each such teacher, and whether he or she held general or local license, and if general, which was obtained from the preparatory and which from the superior department of the Normal School.

The Provincial Secretary said in reply that he did not know that the Government had all the information desired, but what they had would be laid before the House. Messrs Willis and Blair gave notice of enquiries of the Government for Friday next. The House then went into committee on Mr. Lewis' bill to legalize the list of electors of Albert County, Mr. McEllan in the chair. After a brief sitting in which an amendment was submitted by the Hon. Attorney General, the committee reported progress with leave to sit again.

Rule 188 was suspended in order to allow Mr. Colter to introduce a bill to authorize the York County Court to erect the basement of the County Court House into a record office and other offices and rooms. The usual petition was also presented. Mr. Killian introduced a bill to amend an Act entitled "An Act to incorporate the Moncton Driving Park Association." The usual petition was also presented. House adjourned until 10 o'clock Wednesday morning.

WEDNESDAY, March 1.
The House met at 10 o'clock. After routine, by unanimous consent of the House, Mr. Vall was excused from serving on the special committee appointed to carry out Mr. Blair's resolution in regard to the office of the Clerk of the Pleas, and Mr. Willis appointed in his place. Mr. Lyonnatt introduced a bill entitled "An Act relating to the imprisonment in the lock-up house at the Parish of Grand Manan, in the County of Charlotte." Mr. Lyonnatt also presented the petition of the County of Charlotte, praying that the above bill may pass and become law.

The Speaker left the chair until 11.45.
The Estimates.
The following are the estimates of the sums required for the services of the Province, and not otherwise provided for, for the current year:—
Administration of Justice.
Clerk of the C. & S. Supreme Court, 400 00
Under and Messrs. S. Supreme, 200 00
Deputy Clerks, 100 00
Chambers, 100 00
500 00

Agriculture.
To pay balance importation of stock, 1881, 35,300 00
To pay expenses Halifax Exhibition, 1881, 624 44
To pay expenses Stock Farm, 3,000 00
8,924 44
Blind Asylum, Halifax, in aid of, 700 00
Postages, telegrams, stationery, etc., Executive, Legislative and public offices, 10,000 00
Public Printing, 1,500 00
School houses, poor districts, 1,500 00
Re-venue, 300 00
Judges' Chambers, St. John, in aid of, 300 00
12,800 00

Legislation.
Librarian, 500 00
Books for the Legislature, 1,000 00
1,500 00
Legislative Council.
Assistant Clerk, 500 00
Clerk, 100 00
Chaplain, 80 00
Doorkeeper, 25 00
Messengers, 25 00
Three do., 21.50 per diem, 180 00
Two pages, 21.50 per diem, 80 00
Messenger, 1.50 00
1,280 00

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Chaplain, 80 00
Doorkeeper, 25 00
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Two pages, 21.50 per diem, 80 00
Public Hospital, St. John, in aid of, 1,200 00
Printing, 500 00
2,885 00
Public Works.
Great Roads and Bridges, 255,000 00
By Roads, 70,000 00
Sewerage, 100,000 00
Public Buildings, 4,000 00
New Wing, Maritime Building, 15,000 00
Over Expenditure Oct. 1881, 2,856 07
288,256 07
Rife Association, in aid of, 300 00
Surveyors, Railway Importation, Crown Land Refunds, etc., 2,000 00
Unforeseen expenses, 2,000 00
292,556 07

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Chambers, 100 00
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Blind Asylum, Halifax, in aid of, 700 00
Postages, telegrams, stationery, etc., Executive, Legislative and public offices, 10,000 00
Public Printing, 1,500 00
School houses, poor districts, 1,500 00
Re-venue, 300 00
Judges' Chambers, St. John, in aid of, 300 00
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1,500 00
Legislative Council.
Assistant Clerk, 500 00
Clerk, 100 00
Chaplain, 80 00
Doorkeeper, 25 00
Messengers, 25 00
Three do., 21.50 per diem, 180 00
Two pages, 21.50 per diem, 80 00
Messenger, 1.50 00
1,280 00

House of Assembly.
Assistant Clerk, 500 00
Two Pages, 100 00
Chaplain, 80 00
Doorkeeper, 25 00
Messengers, 25 00
Three do., 21.50 per diem, 180 00
Two pages, 21.50 per diem, 80 00
Public Hospital, St. John, in aid of, 1,200 00
Printing, 500 00
2,885 00
Public Works.
Great Roads and Bridges, 255,000 00
By Roads, 70,000 00
Sewerage, 100,000 00
Public Buildings, 4,000 00
New Wing, Maritime Building, 15,000 00
Over Expenditure Oct. 1881, 2,856 07
288,256 07
Rife Association, in aid of, 300 00
Surveyors, Railway Importation, Crown Land Refunds, etc., 2,000 00
Unforeseen expenses, 2,000 00
292,556 07

(CONCLUSION ON LAST PAGE.)