

March 21,

requirements of the Public service; and whereas in the present state of financial affairs, occasioned by the prosecution of the public works, and taking into consideration the existing Tariff and population, it becomes necessary that every legitimate means should be adopted to curtail such expenses, and bring the same within the capabilities of the Province; whereupon—

Resolved.—That a humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, praying that His Excellency will be pleased during the recess to take such steps and adopt such measures, by and with the advice of the Executive Council, as will cause an investigation of the Public Departments and administration of affairs, with a view to greater economy, commensurate with the position of the Province, and an exigency of the Public service, and cause the same to be laid before the Legislature at its next meeting.

In consequence of this Resolution, as head of the department, I considered it my duty to make a statement of the expenditure with a view to see if I could recommend any decrease in it. The Surveyor General's salary was, £600
Lead Draughtsman, 300
Accountant, 250
Assistant Draughtsman, 150
and Assistant, whose duty it was to make copies, &c., and write description of ground, 200
Mr. Lockwood, 150
Timothy O'Connor holds the salary of £200 now; the £180 salary is vacant. The Copyist had £170; the messenger had £50; the stationary and binding cost £91; postage £156; printing £630; sundry contingencies, £64; in all, £2,201, including advertising. I then proposed to reduce the salary of the Surveyor General to £500, and the cost of printing to £450 instead of £680, which would make a reduction, in that year, of £380. I brought this before the Government, but was not concurred in; and I now give it in evidence. The Government thought it was not expedient. I thought I could do just as well with £500 as £600 a year, and make as much money the year, for they get it all away from me, any way.

I mentioned then, that it was the duty of the Lead Draughtsman to prepare the schedule to lay before the Council.
I am generally in the Office at nine in the morning, and from that until ten at night. I attend to the business of the Office first, and write my own letters afterwards. I used to make up my own notes to lay before the Executive Council. This did not take up any of Mr. Inches' time, as I always did it myself. Mr. Inches said his predecessor used to make the schedule itself.

I will now allude to a case of John Stirling, at Grand Falls. It was a very complicated case, but got it all settled at last. The case came before the Council. We used then to settle as many as we could, and the rest had to "stand over." In reference to the Government, I have salary as member of the Board of Works, except my travelling expenses. My duties as member of the Board of Works, interfere with my duties as Surveyor General.

I wish to show the difference between the two Governments. I took two years transactions of the late Government, and two years of the present one.
I find that from 27th Nov. 1851, for two years there were forty-three cases that came before the Council; from this date to the end of two years, forty-three cases for enquiry, twenty-eight other cases referred to the Law Officers, fifty-one orders to "stand over," and three hundred and forty-one decided, refused, or adopted. They were disposed of.

Within the last two years there have been thirty-one for enquiry, twenty-three to Law Officers, sixty to stand over, two hundred and twenty decided. Of the first two years, there appears to have been 122 cases set aside for the time being or afterwards disposed of. In the last two years there are 114 similar cases. You will see by this analysis that the result of the two Governments does not differ so materially. This is the best criterion that I could institute to shew the workings of the two Governments.

About surveying of the Lands, you will see looking into Journals of last year, a paragraph in Governor's Speech, which reads thus: "It cannot be doubted that intending settlers on wild lands, derive much advantage from combining together, in their applications for wild lands, tracts of land suited for settlements of this description will be surveyed in different parts of the Province, and roads will be laid out."
The Address contained a paragraph precisely responding to this.

These proposals were discussed in the House, and adopted by all sides. There is no minute Council made with respect to it; but the whole grows out of these two paragraphs in the speech and Reply. There was an Association called "Working Men's Association," got up by St. John, they sent up an agent; his name was Jones. He represented to Gov't that they were anxious to settle a number of these working men on lots of land in the country, and the Government agreed on the application of any considerable number of these men, to issue a warrant for the survey of a block of 10,000 acres. The applications came in to us from this Association to a very great extent. They wanted Warrants for Survey different parts of the Province.

We told him we would survey the land, and lay it out in 100 acre lots. I directed my Deputy

to lay the block out in the form of a parallelogram, and to run the outside lines all around the whole block first; then begin at one end, and lay out a good road, and not a straight line which may look better, but don't always answer so well for useful purposes; the road has a good many crooks, but was a good one. The consequence of this caused considerable trouble to the Surveyor, as he had to make all the lots to front on the road, and each to contain 100 acres, and have a common rear line. I want the "Colonial Empire" to take notes of this and put it beside his notes relative to the imbecility of the Surveyor General, if he is within hearing.

The "Colonial Empire" is greatly obliged to the Hon. James Brown, Surveyor General of New Brunswick, for this notice. The "Colonial Empire" does not believe that laying out lots of 100 acres on a crooked road, with the same rear line, needs a great amount of ability in anybody; and certainly is no proof of the efficiency of the Surveyor General, who merely ordered it to be done.

The "Colonial Empire" believes that firmness, decision of character, perfect independence, business talents, and a determination to dismiss all unworthy or incompetent persons, are absolute requisites for perfect fulfillment of the duties of the Surveyor General; and it is clear from the testimony of Mr. Brown himself, that he did not possess any of these requisites. When he found that unfit persons like Wilmot and Arnold were retained in office contrary to his expressed wish, he lost his position by losing all control, and should have retired instantly. His allowing other members of the Government, as well as Deputy Whitehead, to ride over him in the conduct of his Department, affords such a display of weakness, and incompetency, as ought to deprive him of office on the instant.

On these blocks there were conditions of actual settlement attached.
I cannot say that I did meet with great difficulty in getting the Government to dispose of my schedule but I certainly had a great deal of trouble in getting my schedule through on account of the pressure of other business.

Steps were taken by me to remove the Deputies who were in the habit of putting down lines on paper which they had not surveyed. I brought Deputy Wilmot's case and that also of Deputy Arnold before the Council. I was particularly anxious in the case of Arnold to procure his dismissal.

Mr. Arnold was in the habit of keeping people's money until they wrote for the grants, which would be the first we would know of them having paid for their lands. He was not dismissed for the reason that a majority of the Council voted for his retention. He was in the habit of making lines which he never run except on paper. I laid the matter fully before the Council. I cannot say that I considered this direct interference with my department as I think we are all responsible for the acts and direction of every department.

I do not think, in my capacity as the head of the Office, that I could exercise the same surveillance over an officer of this kind so retained contrary to my wishes, as he would not obey me like one who was retained with my consent, and whom I could dismiss.
I do not know of Deputies being dismissed upon political grounds purely. Deputy Wilmot was not in the habit of keeping people's money, but he used to make paper surveys. He represented a line between two settlements as a straight line, which was but a crooked road, and got us into a great deal of difficulty and confusion.

I have no confidence in him. This was some years ago; I brought the matter before the Council fully, but did not advocate his dismissal so strenuously as Arnolds; but the same difficulties arose against his dismissal as in Arnolds case.
I never made a formal complaint against Deputy Stiles, but it was brought up before Council by another member. I think his surveys were not reliable. I did not think much about this as an interference with my department. His case was not so glaring as either of the others. It was my opinion, that Deputy Stiles was properly dismissed.

My opinion is that the other two, Wilmot and Arnold were kept on the staff improperly. We were aware of Deputy Cutler being incompetent, and we never employed him in important matter. So with Deputy Colling in Quebec who was the same way.
My own opinion is, that no lands should be sold at all, except for settlement, and with conditions to that effect.

I remember receiving a letter from a member of the House, desiring that lands in a certain locality should not be sold except with conditions of settlement the same as Labor Act. That member was Mr. Tibbitts; I do not recollect the date of the letter.—no action was taken upon it. I did not know of any applications being made for speculation in that quarter. This was my opinion. The letter referred to a particular place and had no means of knowing whether these lands were applied for speculating purposes or not, except my knowledge that the land was not fit for lumber. They might have been bought up and held unsettled till their value was quadrupled by the labor of other settlers. This mode of taking up land has a most injurious effect on the growth of settlement. These lands were at Tobique in Victoria County.

I have taken no effective steps to prevent the interruption and breaking up of settlements with the Executive, though I entertained these opinions. I have always been opposed to having the land locked up this way, but never brought my

views directly before the Council. I have been earnest in my endeavor to attach the conditions of settlement to all surveyed lands in the Province.

I do think it is inconsistent with the public interest that the head of the Land Department should go out with every Government. I wish to correct what I said about no action being taken by me upon Mr. Tibbitts' letter. I remember now that I brought it before the Council; it was referred to me, but I cannot tell with what results. I don't think I ever reported on that letter." Committee adjourned till 10 to-morrow.

THURSDAY, 7th March.

Mr. Brown desired to give place to the Attorney General, by his request—which Mr. Inches objected to, on the ground that the legal members of the Government evidently took a great deal of interest in the investigation, and that Mr. Brown was evidently acting under their advice.

Mr. Smith indignantly threw back the imputation of Mr. Inches, that he was there as an adviser of Mr. B., and stated, that he thought Mr. Inches had entirely forgotten his position.

Mr. Inches here said, that he would be willing to allow the Sur. Gen. to give place to the Atty Gen. provided he should be allowed to ask the Sur. Gen. one question first.

The Attorney General thought, as a matter of fairness, that he should have come after Mr. Inches. The matter had gone before the country, and he had not yet been heard. He thought as a vacancy had now occurred, and they had allowed the Sur. Gen. leave to conclude his statement in writing, that he should now be heard.

Mr. Wilmot thought the Atty General should be heard, but that Mr. Inches' question could occasion no great delay. Mr. Inches' question was then put as follows:—

"Do you remember conversing with me about the delay and the increase in Deputy Whitehead's survey? Did you not say to me, that the Atty Gen. came to you twice of his own accord, and told you, that he had nothing to do with Deputy Whitehead's delay, and did you not then tell me, that you did not believe him?"

Answer by the Surveyor General.—The truth of the matter is, I had a good deal of conversation with the Attorney General.

I had a great deal of trouble with Deputy Whitehead's delay; he delayed us all through the season; when we wrote to him several times, we found he had not completed the survey. We told him to make the survey forthwith. While this delay was going on, Mr. Inches told me it was occasioned by the interference of the Attorney General with my Deputy; from what I could gather I believed it. The Attorney General came to me on two different occasions, and without my asking him anything about it, said he had nothing to do with this delay; he came again and did the same thing after that, without my asking him anything about it.

Then from the conversation with Mr. Inches about this, believing as I did, that the Attorney General had interfered with my Deputy, I did not believe the Atty Gen. I believed what Mr. I told me, and from all I could gather, I thought strange of the Atty Gen. coming to me in this way. He first came and said this to me of his own accord, and I had other reasons beside what Mr. Inches told me. I know that the Atty Gen. was in the habit of interfering with my department, of my own knowledge. The advertising was an instance of this. He has been in the habit of interfering. I did not find any fault with him for it, but just let it pass on. I considered myself more responsible than any other member of the Government with respect to my department.

Mr. B. was here allowed to retire, and prepare the conclusion of his statement in writing for the Committee, as he had intended. He said it would take him two days to complete it verbally. The Attorney General was sworn by his own desire. He explained that he would answer any questions actually relating to the subject in hand, and had obtained leave for the purpose from his Excellency, but that he should use his discretion in deciding what were, and what were not, relative to the matter.

In the Attorney General's language.

The first statement is this.—Mr. Inches stated that I endeavoured to induce him not to come before this Court. I aver most positively, that neither by word, thought, or action, did I, in any way endeavour to induce him to stay away, and I state this, without any reservation or qualification whatever, and in the strongest terms which the English language enables me to employ.
My belief and desire, and the conclusion in my own mind was, from the beginning that Mr. Inches would, and should, give evidence before this committee. I took it for granted, that he would be the very first witness called. If anything had occurred, which I could not anticipate, to prevent his doing so, it would have been a calamity to the Government. It was the desire of myself and colleagues, that he should give evidence.

He has endeavored to impress the committee with the belief, that because I had bought some land, I was afraid of the disclosure. I knew the moment the enquiry was instituted, that every transaction would be exposed and revealed. I never considered nor do I now consider, that I had been guilty of any violation of law, or morality.

I will endeavor to give the Committee the substance of what passed between Mr. Inches and myself. And here I will observe, that I recollect

distinctly what I said, and what I did not say; and also all that took place substantially; but I shall not attempt to give the substance of it in the exact order it occurred. Mr. Inches and I had several interviews; and all I have to say about what transpired between us, took place at one or the other of these interviews, I will give it all in substance, but I cannot do so in the exact order in which it occurred.

I felt very anxious about Mr. Inches, when I heard of this investigation, on three grounds.—One was, because in all the past, politically and otherwise, I had found him a friend, and I looked upon his loss as very great, if not irreparable, on account of his extensive knowledge of the Department. I felt inclined if he could be safely and consistently with honor and duty retained in his office, it was desirable to do so. Another ground was, that I felt very keenly when I heard that Mr. Inches was getting into difficulty with Mr. Wilmot, who was one of the Committee. Two years ago an impression went abroad, placing me in a false position; and Mr. Inches came forward to my relief manfully, and told me the real state of the case, and vindicated my conduct.

The conversation that did take place between Mr. Inches and myself substantially with regard to those difficulties has not been stated fairly by him and as a whole it is untrue from its effects. The effect is, to misrepresent myself and the Government.

My desire was with regard to the land, to state it myself; first, because, without any desire on Mr. Inches' part to misstate the facts, he not knowing the whole of the facts, it might make a good deal of difference. I saw him several times during the day the Committee were appointed. During the whole of that day he was in a state of the most intense excitement, which may account for his misstatements. On another day, he called me out of the Secretary's office, when another conversation took place. He was then excited also. On another morning, we had a conversation. He appeared calm and collected; and I was pleased to see him so.

After the Committee were appointed, I went in to see him; very little took place between us then. He said that he had bought land, or did not deny it at least; but did not think he had been guilty of any moral wrong; he said there was no rule of office against it; and that if a rule was made he would not buy any more. The amount of it was, he did not think he had done wrong, and he was willing to go according to instructions of the Department, or his superiors. This was in the Crown Land Office. He said he looked to me to protect him, and it in a very strong language. He appeared desirous to throw himself upon me. It is very likely I told him that I would do everything I could, consistently, for him. He went before the Council after this; but it is of no consequence what was said there. The next conversation we had, I told him I would aid him all I could consistently. He complained of the composition of the Committee, and of the weakness of the Government. He spoke of Mr. Wilmot. I regretted Mr. W. was on the Committee, and told him I had objection to Mr. W., only on his account. Then he said he had regretted what occurred between him and Mr. Wilmot, with regard to my own transactions. I told him he had come forward himself, and of his own accord, and I had not forced it upon him. He said substantially, that he had been under some obligation to Mr. Wilmot before. I told him I would mention this to Mr. Wilmot; I think he said "Do as you please?" Then he said, "No, don't say I regretted it; but state I had regretted it." The inference he conveyed, to my mind, was not to put it on the precise terms I had mentioned, but as he stated it literally.

In one of these conversations, he said he would not reveal the names of two persons. I inferred, that the point he would not tell was, the names of the persons who were connected with him in these land transactions, and did not apply the remark to any other matters. I thought, from the way he put it, he was impelled by some high confidential sense not to do so.

I said in reply, I thought they could imprison him only during the Session if he did not answer but was not quite sure. This applied only to the divulgence of these two parties I thought. I did not think he wanted to withhold anything else.

He appeared to be particularly anxious on this point, and I think I said to him, in speaking to him of the Committee, that I would endeavor to ascertain the feelings of the House or something of that kind. I told him, I think, there would be a good feeling towards him; I thought there was.

After being away some time, I looked at the law; when I returned I told him just what the law was, that he could be imprisoned just during the sitting of the Legislature, by the House on the report of the Committee. He said he did not want to be made a martyr, or to that effect.

I supposed at the time the whole point was with regard to these two persons before mentioned, as connected with him in these land purchases.

In conversation about the Committee, I told him I was not in the House when the Committee was struck, and there was some thing said about his suspension. I was at his own house, and think it was there I had to impress upon him, that his suspension was not like dismissal and that the whole thing would have to abide the decision of the Committee at last.

In one of these conversations, he alluded to the fictitious names as being the general rule, and

so having been for a long time. Some reference was made to mine. I remarked that there were no fictitious names about them. He said, there was in two of the lots, I supposed then he meant two lots, but now, I think he meant two of the Sales. It appears to me, I said, I would speak to Mr. McClellan. My object was to ease his mind, and not to influence by any means his conduct. It did not occur to me, that he might refer to any member of the Executive, when he alluded to the two persons whose names he could not divulge. I did not fix my mind on any particular persons. I did speak to Mr. McClellan but did not do so, trying to influence him. I do not think Mr. I. could have referred to any other parties except these; I thought he was bound in honor to keep the names of these two parties concealed.

I stated that I thought the report of this committee would influence the matter of the restoration to office. I am not sure there was any thing said about his restoration. I do not think Mr. Inches had any reason to infer that, from what I said, the matter would be allowed to blow over. Mr. Inches mentioned the names of but two persons. His observations might have alluded to any other persons, but there is no doubt on my mind that he meant those affairs. This was what I understood him to mean, in fact, what I am quite confident he meant; and the whole import of Mr. Inches' statement was, that it was the two persons who were connected with him in buying.

The conversation with regard to the restoration of Mr. Inches, arose in consequence of his complaining about his suspension. I think it emanated from him, but am not quite sure. He did not wish to be suspended till the investigation by the committee was over. I cannot say what took place in Council; though if I did, it would amount to nothing. It was mentioned, but I am not disposed to state it.

The next morning he came to the Secretary's office, and called me out; said if he was suspended, he would hold me answerable. I told him I could not avoid it, or to that effect; he insisted that I would, he said, "I will make you" (and I think he added) "your Government feel it, or regret it, before a year. You'll see!"

Whether before or after this I know not, he said, "I'll make a clean breast of it." I said it was hardly necessary to refer to me for the sake of that, unless it came up, or to that effect. I said I had done nothing of which I was ashamed. He said he would keep nothing back; and I said "tell the truth." I imagine he thought he would intimidate me; he spoke very strongly and decidedly upon the effect it would have upon me and the Government. I think it was then he spoke about the weakness of the Government as regarded the striking of this Committee.

The next time I saw him, was, as I before said, in front of my own house. I walked up and down with him; he appeared calm. We met by accident; he was walking up; I walked out and along with him. I told him I had seen Mr. Wilmot and talked to him; I said I had stated to Mr. W. what Mr. Inches and myself had talked about, to the effect, that I regretted he was on the Committee, and that Mr. Inches had regretted what had taken place.

Mr. Inches said he thought Mr. Wilmot would do him justice, I told him I had had conversations with Mr. McClellan and Mr. Hannington, and I think some others, and that they all felt well towards him.

I had not the slightest idea of trying to influence any of these gentlemen. My object in speaking to Mr. McClellan was, merely to talk the thing over. I happened to meet him. I recollect Mr. McClellan stating that he had always heretofore entertained confidence in Mr. Inches, as an efficient official; and as a member of the Committee should act justly, according to the evidence submitted.

I felt about the thing thus—we could not spare him out of the office, if he could consistently be retained. When I turned the thing over in my mind, I thought the difficulty between Inches and Wilmot would operate in favor of Inches, rather than against him, I think I stated this to Inches.

The next thing relates to the lands. Mr. Inches has described how the Grants pass through the different offices. They come to my office signed by the Surveyor General with the plans inside. It would be impossible for me to examine all these grants, because though my own time is not every hour devoted to the public, I give more than the full time of one man with the parties I have to assist me. When my brother was alive, he examined these grants, with one of the students; since his death, they are examined by two of my students, who mark on the back if anything is wrong, to call my attention to it, and if right, they fill up the fiat, all but my simple signature. When first Attorney General, there used to be a good many mistakes, but latterly, a very few, so much that Mr. Inches told Mr. Wilmot, the Copyist, he was astonished to find me so particular.

Here Mr. Hannington explained, that allusion had been made in the Colonial Empire about his interview with Mr. Fidler, and he wished to state, that what he said was, that he hoped upon investigation, things would not be found so bad as they appeared.

(To be continued.)

About \$75,000 of the fishing bounties is paid out in the Castine district, and \$38,000 in the Ellsworth district. One half of all the bounties come to Maine.