

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

MONDAY, MARCH 1.—Mr. Wilton read the Petition of Charles H. Mansfield, setting forth important services rendered to a detachment of the British Troops in 1813; and praying for a sum of money to enable him to purchase a Grant of Land in consideration of the same. He also presented the Petition of the Rev. John Wood, Chairman of the New Brunswick District, praying for an extra Grant for the Wesleyan Academy, in consequence of several important additions recently made to that Institution. The Bill for dividing the Parish of Harvey, in Albert, into three distinct Parishes, was afterwards taken up and engrossed.

Dr. Eric brought in a similar Bill for the Road from Lake Lomond to Albert, and Hon. Mr. Hazen placed upon the Supply Book a notice for a Grant of £200 for the purchase of Books for the Legislative Library.

Mr. Barbicore read the Petition of Mr. Scovill, who has entered into arrangements for placing an Iron Steamer of 80 horse power, to be built between Miramichi, Prince Edward Island, and Pictou, praying for certain privileges, in connection with the same. After which Mr. Wilton presented the Petition of N. S. Donnell, President of the St. John Abstinence Society, praying to be reimbursed the sum of £127 spent by the Society in the cause of Temperance.

Mr. Carman said in allusion to an opinion given the other day by the Hon. Mr. Hazen, to the effect that he (Mr. C.) could not find another Lawyer in the Province to agree with him in his opinion concerning the duties of the Master of the Rolls, that he had since found one, and of high standing in that House, who held the same opinion. "In answer to it," by Mr. Hazen, Hon. Mr. Hazen explained: "Mr. Street said he thought there was no law compelling the Master of the Rolls to act, although there was one authorizing the Governor to appoint him.—"It is the same thing," by Mr. Partelow. He thought not; but said that was not the point, and that the Governor had no authority to appoint him. He said that the Governor had no authority to appoint him. He said that the Governor had no authority to appoint him.

Mr. Woodward rose in his place and read the Petition of the Hon. John Robertson, President of the Chamber of Commerce in St. John, and the other members of that Institution, praying for the abolition of the intercolonial duties upon which Mr. R. D. Wilton made some strong remarks to the effect that those gentlemen had in the act, betrayed the trust reposed in them at the time of their election as members of the Body, and further stating that the subscribers to the Petition, did not represent the opinion of the mercantile community in St. John. The honorable member displayed a good deal of warmth during the course of his observations.

The Honorable Mr. Hazen presented a Petition from the Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty of the City of Saint John, praying that an Act may be passed to repeal an Act of the Legislature, by which the means of supplying the City of Saint John with Water, and for the more effectual prevention and extinguishing of Fires within the said City.

Mr. Partelow presented a Petition from Joseph F. Allison, and fifty four others, Merchants and other Inhabitants of the County of Westmorland, setting forth, that the Export Duty imposed upon Timber and Lumber cut upon private property is injurious to the prosperity of the County, and of the Province, and praying to be relieved therefrom.

Mr. Botsford presented a Petition from Bill Chappell, Joseph Avar, Thomas C. Chapman, Esquires, and others, inhabitants of the County of Westmorland, praying that a Grant may be made, in aid of individual subscription, towards erecting a Breakwater at Bay de Verde, in that County.

Mr. R. D. Wilton presented a Petition from Thomas Harding, Edward L. Jarvis, Barnabas Tilton, N. S. Donnell, and others, praying that a specific protection duty may be imposed upon Foreign manufactured Boots and Shoes imported into this Province.

Mr. Partelow presented a Petition from Edward Allison, James Reynolds, James Travis, and forty five others, inhabitants of Portland and Saint John, praying that they may be incorporated under the name and style of the Portland and Lancaster Steam Ferry Company.

Mr. Partelow moved for leave to bring in a Bill to incorporate the Portland and Lancaster Steam Ferry Company, and the said Bill being brought in was read a first time.

The Honorable Mr. Hazen presented a Petition from Her Majesty's Justice of the Peace for the City and County of Saint John, in Sessions assembled, praying that the balance due on the Provincial Penitentiary may be paid by the Government.

Mr. Partelow presented a Petition from Blais Botsford, Esq., Peter M. Sweeney, and seven others, residents at the Bend of Petitcodiac, in the County of Westmorland, praying a grant of money, in aid of individual subscription, towards the purchase of a Fire Engine at that place.

Mr. Ritchie, from the Committee appointed to wait upon His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor with the Address of the House of Assembly, sixth day of February instant, and to furnish His Excellency with a copy of the Report of the Select Committee adopted by the House on the subject of the Court of Marriages and Divorces, reported.

That they had attended to that duty, and that His Excellency was pleased say, the Government would take care that the said Court should be duly organized at the next Term.

TUESDAY, MARCH 2.—Mr. Woodward read a Petition from St. John, praying that means may be taken for the more speedy transmission of the English Mails from Halifax to that City. Mr. Brown presented a Petition from W. F. W. Owen, praying a return of duty on Wines imported for the only time in the Country which would be permitted to remain a long time on the Table of the House; that as if its endorsement were not altered, Mr. Fisher said: "No! let it go forth to destruction in all its absurdity. A great many new plans have been adopted, all strange enough; but this is the strangest of them all." The Speaker remarked that the claim amounted to £2 12s. 10d. Messrs. Tibbets and Boyd opposed its reception, and Mr. Brown observed that it was nothing more absurd in its claims, than those similar grants which his honorable Colleague, (Mr. Boyd) had been opposing in the House of Assembly for years past. The Petition was pressed to a division, and rejected.

Mr. Partelow read that on the 20th of April last, a Resolution had passed the House of Assembly, requesting His Excellency to call upon the High Sheriff of the respective Counties for the payment of fines imposed for public prosecutions. His Excellency had complied with the request, except the High Sheriff of York, who had refused to do so, and had retained about £122. He (Mr. P.) brought this Resolution to request the Governor to retract the demand.

Mr. Hamilton brought in a Bill to amend the Law relating to the Master of the Rolls.

Mr. Ritchie read the Petition of George Matthews, Esq., complaining that the Magistrates for St. John refuse to pay over the amount of the Lunatic Asylum. Afterwards, a pretty long conversation induced by some remarks made by Mr. Street, on the subject of Lunatic Asylums, followed; several members expressing their views in relation to the matter. The result of the discussion was, that the Lunatic Asylum, as well as securing their services in the settlement of the County, instead of the present system of shipping them off for the United States. Hon. Mr. Hazen said that there should be a grant of money placed in the hands of the Executive for the present purposes, and of the Emigrants, instead of leaving

them dependent upon a future grant, as has been the case hitherto, to the injury of the poor. Emigrants, he said, had to be collected. Government, in this instance, the incongruity arose from the fact that the money could not be drawn from the Treasury, until one year after it was actually expended. Other honorable members, among whom was Mr. Hamilton, thought that relief might be afforded to Emigrants in a far more beneficial way, by making other provision for their reception than that of granting them money. Here Mr. Street moved a Resolution expressing the necessity of adopting some method to meet the exigencies arising from the tide of Emigration expected here in the spring, and of the propriety of turning that tide to the mutual advantage of the Emigrants and the Province. Some difference of opinion here arose in relation to the best mode of discussing this subject; either by referring it to the Committee on Crown Lands, the Committee on Agriculture, or a select Committee appointed for the purpose. It was finally referred to a select Committee. One sentiment found general expression throughout the whole of this conversation—namely, that the recent statements of the Emigrants on their existence to the industry and unassisted perseverance of the poor classes of Irish labourers who arrived in this Province, and tried to win their own resources.

Mr. Brown from the Committee on Education submitted a report, to the effect that he had been instructed to prepare a Bill on the subject. Mr. Hamilton inquired if it was the Bill of last year, to which Mr. Brown answered that it was not, but somewhat similar. [Mr. Partelow:—"Does it include taxation?" Mr. Brown:—"No." Mr. Partelow:—"If it does not, it should." Mr. Brown continued: He was not willing to accept of the principle of taxation; on the contrary, he was in favour of it; but there were differences of opinion on that subject among the members of the Committee; and he had left the Bill in such a position, that it might be amended on either or both of the subjects, might suit the views of the House. His Honor the Speaker said he had ordered 100 copies of the Bill to be printed, and the conversation dropped.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3.—The House went into Committee of the whole on a Bill to facilitate the making a Railway from St. Andrews to Woodstock.

Mr. Partelow introduced the Bill by observing that the Committee had recommended that we maintain not—30,000 acres of land for the use of the Railway—that a sum of £5,000 per annum for ten years, had also been recommended; the first instalment not to be paid until the Line should be one year in operation. He then stated that the work would cause a general outflow of money in the Country; and that he felt anxious to see some Line of Railway established in the Province.

Dr. Wilson opposed the measure for several reasons—the value of the land proposed to be given away—the large amount of the Revenue which it would consume—the sectional character of the undertaking, and the probability of its diverting trade from St. John and usurping it in a border County.

Mr. Endicott, declaring his conviction that all that was proposed was a mere speculation, he said that as a member of the Committee he had entered on the investigation of the subject, with all his prejudices against him, but he had been convinced by reason and argument from the other side, and in his anxiety to see the public institutions and welfare of this Province elevated to the same standard with those of a neighbouring County, he was willing to adopt the measure, not including any special advantage to that part of the country where he himself resided. As one part of the body must sympathize with the other in the event of such a measure, he was not prepared to see the Province divided into two in any degree, and he was not prepared to see the Province divided into two in any degree, and he was not prepared to see the Province divided into two in any degree.

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the contrary be encouraged by its operations and expenditure, Mr. Partelow said, in the same address, that all local feeling should be put aside; for it was not the question whether a few Stockholders would be enriched, but whether the whole Province would be benefited. Knowing the result of Railway erections in other parts of the world, and that we stood an equal chance with others in this particular, he saw no reason to oppose the measure in his spirit of reason to make a beginning by the Royal Assent, as he did not view the matter solely confined to New Brunswick; it was a design with which the interests of all the British Colonies on this Continent, stood deeply identified.

His Honor the Speaker here said that he would like to see a part of the phraseology of the Bill altered; so that it could sustain no alteration in the Upper House, and it was right to make it as perfect as possible prior to its being sent home. There was no doubt but the Imperial Government would take into consideration the advantages which such a public work would confer on the Immigrants who are expected to arrive here in Spring; and would consequently afford all proper facilities in aid of employing these people and colonizing the country. The amendments to the Bill should therefore be prepared at an early day, so as to send it home by April, and get the Royal Assent as early as possible. (After some further observations from Mr. Wilson and Mr. Smith in opposition, and Mr. Botsford and Mr. Jordan in its support, the Speaker adjourned the House, with the view of bringing in amendments, and progress was reported.)

A short but animated debate followed, on a Bill brought in by Mr. Street, for the Incorporation of the Diocesan Church Society.

Mr. Taylor inquired something, which on account of some noise at the moment, we did not hear distinctly, but which owing to what followed by Mr. Partelow, and the mode of investigating the Society's property.

Hon. Mr. Hazen explained.

Mr. Ritchie brought in an amendment, having for its object the settlement of the temporalities in the hands of the Bishop of the Diocese.

Mr. Street argued that the Society itself, where every member is entitled to vote, would be the proper place to dispose of the question: the Bill which proposed that the Bishop should have the right to do so, and he did not feel himself at liberty to concur in the amendment, which he complained his learned friend had not shown him—although he should otherwise have been willing to concur in it. He said, he was whispering about for some time that the Bishop wished to get the Churches and Church Lands in his own name, than which he (Mr. S.) said, from his own knowledge, nothing could be more false. He made these observations because he disliked to raise a prejudice against the head of the Church, and because the amendment, if carried, would convey a reflection against the Bishop, which he would wish to avoid. He said, he had the power to lay members, who might at their annual meeting invest the property as they might judge prudent; and if the learned Member from St. John, resented such a resolution, he must have been foolishly and unwisely.

Mr. Ritchie solemnly disclaimed the most remote intention of slandering the Clergy, or personally offending the Bishop, whose name, he (Mr. S.) said, he had mentioned. The Church of England had confessedly vested its temporalities in the laity of its communion, and that was a salutary rule; and he would not wish to see the Church of St. John, in such a position as to be taken place in Supply in the House of Assembly? It was to prevent "whisperings" that he had brought this amendment; for although the Bishop, as he declared, out-voted the laity in the House of Assembly, he was more prudent to enact a Law which would at once place the Clergy beyond the reach of the contemplated trouble.

Mr. Endicott, taking the same view of the subject with Mr. Street. The people he said, had a right to vest Church property in the Bishop or Clergy, just as they pleased. The learned Member had said that the Clergy were not to be compared with the Church Society; but it did not hold good, for there were no Clergymen in the Community of Supply—not even a black gown was worn by any of the members of the Society. He said, he was not a member of the Church of England, and he was not a member of the Church of England, and he was not a member of the Church of England.

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He has reason to hope that the affairs of the River Plate will, before long, be settled conformably with the wishes of the Colonies, and in concert with that of the Queen of Great Britain, for the establishment of the security of our commercial relations in those countries.

It is a pity that the progress of Russia, a treaty of navigation, which guarantees to us, by a just reciprocity in our maritime relations with that empire, advantages which it was important for us to secure.

An unexpected event has impaired the state of things founded in Europe by the late treaty of Vienna. The republic of Cracow, an independent and neutral state, has been incorporated with the empire of Austria. I have protested against that infraction of the treaty.

At home the constant progress of the public revenue, despite the causes which might have checked it, proves that the activity and resources of the country continue to increase. The financial laws, and various laws relative to important improvements in the legislation and administration of the Kingdom, will be submitted to your deliberation. The great public works, which we have undertaken, shall be completed with the perseverance which the interests of the country command, and with the prudence indispensable to the maintenance of the public credit.

You will also have to direct your attention to measures calculated to second in our African (Algerian) possessions the progress of colonization and of its internal prosperity. Tranquillity, so happily secured in our African possessions, is a condition of our army, enables us to examine more fully that important question, respecting which a special vote will be presented to you.

Messieurs.—A common feeling animates us, as we are like you, desirous to see the progress and grandeur of our country; and already long experience has enlightened us as to the policy best suited to her moral and material interests, and to the best mode of securing her prosperity, and to the best mode of securing her prosperity, and to the best mode of securing her prosperity.

Letters from the city of Mexico on which we rely confidently say that Santa Ana's whole strength does not exceed 23,000 men.

There is too much reason to think that four companies of newly recruited Louisiana Volunteers, camped in the ship Ondaka, 30 miles south of Tampico, have been taken prisoners by a large force of General Alvarez's army.

The capture of 20 men of the Kentucky and Arkansas Cavalry, including Major Borland, and Captain G. M. Clay, while only about 30 or 40 miles beyond Saltillo, is confirmed. They were surprised by 500 Mexican cavalry under General Minon, and captured without firing a shot.

No authentic information of the capture of Chihuahua has come to hand. The capture of Paso del Norte by a part of