

AZAAR.

Members of the Ladies' Hospital... Mrs. J. Longworth, Miss Hensley, Mrs. C. C. Gardiner, Mrs. Bagnall, Mrs. J. Peck, Mrs. R. Peck, Mrs. Strickland, Mrs. M. Palmer, Mrs. Macleod, Mrs. K. Wright, Mrs. Hughes.

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Provincial Legislature.

NEW SERIES. CHARLOTTETOWN, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18, 1883. VOL. XII—NO. 24

Provincial Legislature.

SUMMARY DEBATES.

THURSDAY, April 5.

The House met at 3.30 p.m.

Mr. BEER asked the Commissioner of Public Works for a return of the Inspectors of Public Works.

Mr. CAMPBELL replied that it would be laid on the table.

Mr. BEER asked what arrangements were being made for Steam Service on the Southport Ferry.

Mr. CAMPBELL said a difficulty had been found with the Southport, which had been remedied. She would now fit the docks.

Mr. BEER asked what provision was made for a waiting room on the Charlottetown side of the Ferry.

Mr. CAMPBELL replied that the question was under the consideration of the Government, who will give all possible facilities.

Mr. McLELLAN asked what action the Government had taken towards establishing a Steam Communication between Charlottetown, Orwell and Vernon River.

Mr. CAMPBELL said it is the intention to erect a waiting room on the Charlottetown side of the Ferry.

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duities under this Act are merely to take evidence. It does not entail the rights of the people, they still retain all they had. The present Superintendent had given satisfaction, and had settled many differences amicably.

Mr. FARQUHARSON said the Bill is not clearly expressed—does not say the Superintendent shall report to the Board, only that he shall collect evidence.

Mr. FERGUSON said of the printing of the Bill would lead members to a better understanding of the provisions, the cost thereof would be money well spent. This Bill would not authorize any such meaning as derived by some hon. members. It must be read in connection with the main Act. The Superintendent has no power to determine—the decision of the Board is final. If the Superintendent can prevail upon parties to settle, this is not dangerous.

Mr. FARQUHARSON asked the last speaker to point out where the Superintendent is required to report.

Mr. FERGUSON said this Act merely fills gaps in the main Act.

Mr. J. R. McLELLAN asked why it is not a clause inserted, providing that the enquiry take place in the District. The proposed place may be more convenient for the Superintendent, but a great hardship for the people.

Mr. SINCLAIR said by this Bill the whole enquiry is in the hands of the Superintendent. If the parties came before the Board, they might be examined far differently. Would not it be preferable if the Superintendent were read a second time, House in Committee, Mr. McLELLAN in the chair.

Mr. FERGUSON was astonished at the last member's line of argument. He seemed to contend that the Board should enquire into every little squabble. Why not go further and insist that the rules of evidence of the Supreme Court should be brought in force, and a lawyer appear on each side. This enquiry would not be conducted after the strict manner of a court of law.

Mr. YEO thought the clause would work differently. It put all the power in the Superintendent's hands, and made no provision for both sides being heard. The intention of the Act might be well, but it is not expressed.

Mr. FARQUHARSON said he was not satisfied, and unless the clause was amended as to compel the Superintendent to give sufficient notice to the parties, and to hold the enquiry in the District, he would vote against it. The effect of the Act will be unjust—there is no right of appeal. The judgment of the Superintendent will be final. Provision should be made for summoning witnesses on both sides.

Mr. PROWSE thought there was no cause for complaint. The special business of the Superintendent is to see that the law is being properly administered. This merely allows to examine witnesses on both sides, so as to elicit the whole truth. The actions of the Board and Superintendent are giving far more satisfaction than in the time of his predecessor.

Mr. JOHN McLELLAN said at present the parties aggrieved have to come before the Board under this Bill, and appoint a commissioner. There is nothing to prevent parties appearing before the Board, if not satisfied.

Mr. FARQUHARSON said if a clause were inserted it would be all right.

Mr. SINCLAIR said it would be optional with the Board to make this enquiry.

Mr. J. R. McLELLAN asked what objection could there be to inserting a clause providing that the enquiry be conducted in the district.

It was moved that the whole clause be struck out, and amended as last on division, and the clause agreed to.

Upon the second clause being read, and to the power of the Superintendent to enforce the attendance of witnesses.

Mr. J. R. McLELLAN said that the Superintendent might summon parties from all parts, and render them liable to criminal prosecution if they did not attend. More evidence might be secured if made imperative that enquiry be conducted in the District.

Mr. SINCLAIR repeated that enquiry should take place in the District, and that the whole Bill would damage the Education Act.

Mr. PROWSE required of last speaker if he knew of any case where the Superintendent has not held enquiry in a suitable place. This is intended to afford greater convenience to witnesses to attend.

Mr. PROWSE remarked the Government were very ready to ask the Opposition for information, but unwilling to afford any to themselves. What necessity there for passing this Bill? Have there been any complaints, or petitions asking for this Bill? The member for Egmont Bay had complained when in opposition that the Act contained no provision for French education for the Acadia, and had introduced long resolutions on the subject. The member for Murray Harbor seemed also to have complained on this subject. An amendment were introduced providing for the proper examination of Acadia teachers, it would have his cordial support. But men of yesterday were not the men of today. The member for Egmont Bay had made this question his platform when in opposition, and he would join no party that would not enact such a measure. This Bill would do no benefit. The Government must not be surprised at the Opposition speaking for they have very little opportunity to speak to a Government measure this session.

Mr. ABERNETHY said that he and his constituents understood one another, and that there was more than the member for Tignish could say, for he had been defeated time and again. All books French schools require are now in the schools.

Mr. FARQUHARSON said that when the Education Act was being passed, the present leader of the Government and the member for Egmont Bay had opposed it. He quoted from the speech of the former where he said he could not vote no improvement. Amendment required in 1878 are still urgently needed.

A motion was made to strike out the clause which was lost on division, and the clause agreed to.

On the reading of the 3rd clause, as to the right of appeal.

Mr. PROWSE said this was the most iniquitous clause ever attempted to be introduced to deprive of right of appeal. The leader of the Government had changed his mind. He had stated that people should have the right to appeal to the County Court against unjust assessment. The Commissioner of Public Works had said he was opposed to the amendment, but he had changed his mind, for he had nine superior schools in his District.

Mr. SINCLAIR said the member for Tignish was not in a position to assume any remarkable example. When the Education Act was under consideration in 1877, some members thought there should be appeal from the County Court. The members from Port Hill and Southport voted in favour of the amendment. It empowers the Superintendent of Education

Court, presided over by a single judge. This is a reversal of the rights of appeal from a board of eleven members. There is no appeal now from the Board—great reason why there should be none. The law confers great powers upon the Board, a sort of legislative power. Wherever litigation commences, the benefit of Education is gone. If the Board have the power to settle disputes, it will be very beneficial.

SPEAKER took the Chair, Committee reported progress, and received leave to sit again.

Mr. PROWSE reported from Private Bills Committee, an Act to incorporate the Summerville Presbyterian Church, that a fee of \$14 be charged. Report adopted, and Bill ordered to be read a second time to-morrow.

House adjourned till 3 p.m., Friday, D.

FRIDAY, April 6.

Mr. SPEAKER took the Chair at 3.15 p.m.

Mr. CAMPBELL moved the third reading of the Bill entitled "An Act to further amend the Public Roads Act, 1877." Motion carried. The Bill was read a third time and passed.

Mr. LEFEBURE moved the second reading of the Bill entitled "An Act to Incorporate the Trustees of the Presbyterian Church at Summerville." Motion carried, and Bill ordered to be read a second time, House in Committee, Mr. McLELLAN in the chair.

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair, and proceeded to read the second reading of the Bill entitled "An Act to Incorporate the Trustees of the Presbyterian Church at Summerville." Motion carried, and Bill ordered to be read a second time, House in Committee, Mr. McLELLAN in the chair.

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