

the work referred to could be performed in connection with the other history of the province.

ACT OF INCORPORATION.

Mr. BLANCHARD introduced a bill to incorporate the Royal Sussex Lodge of Free Masons of Halifax. In answer to an enquiry it was stated that this bill was not liable to the usual fee of \$20 since it asked for the incorporation of a charitable association—religious and charitable bodies being excepted by a resolution of the house.

THE SCHOOL BILL.

Mr. COLIN CAMPBELL presented a petition from a number of the inhabitants of Digby, in reference to the school bill.

THE CITY BILLS.

Mr. TOBIN called attention to the inconvenience that resulted last session from the hurried manner in which bills were passed through both branches of the legislature, and read a resolution, moved in the Legislative Council by Mr. Dickey, in connection with the subject. He especially referred to the Halifax bills, respecting which a great many complaints were made by the citizens. The representatives of the Western division of Halifax had been even called to account for many of the grievances that were found in these bills,—all arising from the want of consideration in the house. He trusted that the same difficulties would not occur again, but that the house would be placed in a position to deal with every bill as it ought to be dealt with.

Mr. ARCHIBALD agreed with the remarks of the hon. gentleman who had just spoken. A great many important alterations were made in the Halifax Bills that ought to have received more consideration than it was found possible to give them last session. He hoped the hon. gentleman would bring in a resolution limiting the time for the introduction of private bills.

Hon. Mr. SHANNON said that a great deal of dissatisfaction had arisen in connection with the city bills. Only a short time since the Chief Justice pointed out a number of incongruities in one of those bills, and as far as his (Mr. Shannon's) memory served him, the clauses referred to were not in the bill when it came before the House. His impression was, that a number of these objectionable clauses were introduced into the bill by the Legislative Council, and were only brought down on the very last day of the session, and passed through without any one knowing any thing about them.

Mr. MILLER said that he coincided with the remarks of the hon. member for Halifax. He had been a member of the Committee of City Bills, and was confident that the Legislative Council was responsible for the radical amendments that had been made in the bills. These amendments came down on the last day of the session, and the members of the committee who were conversant with the features of the bill, had not an opportunity, from want of time, to scrutinize the alterations that had been made. He had been, indeed, assured that the alterations were of a trivial character, but he found now that features had been introduced which would never have been consented to by the committee. For instance, the jurisdiction of the Police Court had been entirely changed, and powers entrusted to it little inferior to those possessed by the Supreme Court.

Mr. PRYOR stated that the Committee of Halifax bills, of which he had been chairman, had paid great attention to the passing of their bills, and he could not but express his astonishment at many of the clauses that appeared in the bills when they were published, for he knew nothing whatever about them,—he did not remember that they were even read in the Lower House.

Hon. PROV. SECY. thought that it was most probable that the gentlemen who discharged the duties of the committee of city bills were not able, from the very voluminous character of the work of last year, and the large amount of labor necessarily involved, to discharge the duty as efficiently as it would have been possible under more favorable circumstances. From some cause or other there passed through the Legislature certain provisions which ought not to have passed without deliberate sanction; but that they emanated from the other end of the building when the bills went there, he had not the slightest idea whatever. These bills might have undergone some modification but that was all. He believed that the very power entrusted to the Police Court of sending persons on conviction to the Penitentiary, referred to by the hon. member for Richmond, was actually discussed in the House.

Mr. TOBIN said that he had not the most distinct recollection of these clauses being discussed in the house—if indeed they ever came before it. It would be remembered that these bills were hurried through on the last day of the Session in a most injudicious manner; and he had been inclined to give the whole up rather than allow them to pass without more deliberation.

Mr. MILLER repeated his statement that the obnoxious amendments originated with the Council, and stated that the Provincial Secretary evidently labored under a misapprehension when he stated that the power entrusted to the Police Court was discussed in the House. That hon. gentleman obviously alluded to a discussion in reference to the power of the Sessions of the County of Halifax—one not possessed by the Sessions of any other County—to send persons on conviction to the Penitentiary. He assured the House that the committee had not adopted any amendment without full deliberation.

Hon. PROVINCIAL SECRETARY did not think it fair to throw all the responsibility upon the Legislative Council, and stated that he held under his hand conclusive evidence of the soundness of his position in reference to this question. Gentlemen would find entered upon the journals every amendment that was made in the bills.

Mr. BLANCHARD, who had also been a member of the Committee, said that the Legislature had nothing to do with the most objectionable features of all these bills. They came before the House without any provision for an appeal from the decision of the City Court. On the contrary, appeals even in civil suits were expressly forbidden by the bills as they came up. He himself had introduced a clause providing for an appeal in civil suits. And more; at this moment the City Court had the power to send a man to the Penitentiary for any period less than fourteen years without a jury or an appeal.

Mr. MILLER, in connection with the subject of