

did not come to work, and it took them half the day to get sober. Some provision ought to be adopted to restrain this practice, and to exercise a rigid *surveillance* over such places. Another subject for consideration was the keeping open of tap-rooms on Sunday in this city, around which a dozen or two of boys could be seen congregated, smoking cigars, and indulging in manners offensive to passers-by. Another point was the bad liquor that was sold. Formerly our fathers only drank old Jamaica or Demerara rum, good Scotch whiskey, or other pure spirits, which, if in immoderate quantities were pernicious, were at least pure spirit, and not absolute poison; but the liquor now sold was little better, if not worse, than burning fluid, and he seriously proposed that any officers to be appointed under this bill should be duly authorized to go round, examine and taste the liquor, (laughter) and tell every licensed seller that he was authorized to vend liquors, but not poison, which burnt a man's insides out, and brought many to an untimely grave by *delirium tremens*.

The bill passed, was reported, ordered to be engrossed, and the house adjourned.

TUESDAY, February 13, 1855.

Petitions, &c.

Mr. Eason presented a petition from certain Justices of the Peace for the county of Halifax asking more direct postal communication between Halifax and Guysborough; received and referred to the Post Office Committee. Also a petition from H. A. Gladwin relating to a road; put on the road file. Also a petition from James Bowes & Son asking return of duties on paper imported for printing purposes in 1854; referred to the committee on trade and manufactures.

Mr. Creighton presented a petition from the inhabitants of Chester praying an establishment of a way office at Chester Basin; referred to the Post office committee.

Mr. Zwicker presented a petition from Frederick Pubnico of New Dublin asking the establishment of a mail route; referred to the Post office committee.

Mr. McQueen asked leave to introduce a bill to incorporate St. Andrew's Lodge at Sydney, C. B.; leave was granted and the bill read a first time.

Hon. Mr. Fulton presented a petition from Joshua Heustus and others of Wallace asking the establishment of a way office; referred to the Post office committee.

Mr. Ryder presented a petition from Michl. Babine, praying redress as respects a certain grant of land. The petition was received and referred to a select committee composed of Messrs. Howe, Comeau and Shaw.

Mr. Fuller presented a petition from the inhabitants of Lochsmond—praying the establishment of a way office; referred to the Post office committee. Also a petition from Andrew Madden praying remuneration for medical services bestowed by him on a transient pauper; referred to the committee on that subject.

The bill for amending the license law, passed yesterday, was taken up, and after some opposition finally passed to be sent to the Legislative Council.

Mr. M. I. Wilkins presented a petition from inhabitants of West River, Pictou, for a way office.

Dr. Brown—Petition of an overseer of the poor for the Township of Horton, for reimbursement of expenses in the support of a sick Indian.

Mr. Holmes rose to ask for information as to the delay of the printing of the Journals. We have been in session for over a fortnight and have not a single sheet yet; while the Legislature of New Brunswick has been in Session since the 1st of February and its Journals are being printed.

His Honor the Speaker replied that the copy had been sent to the printer.

Dr. Brown asked leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Act relating to Common Appeals; leave was granted and the bill was read a first time.

Mr. M. I. Wilkins asked the government if any steps had been taken with reference to Mr. Martin; whether he was to be brought up to Halifax or not?

Hon. Att. General would answer that question in the course of the afternoon.

Mr. S. Chipman presented a petition from J. F. Hutcheson, Postmaster at Kentville, asking increased remuneration; the petitioner had been in the office for upwards of twenty years—diligently performed his duty and he did not see why he should not receive a salary equal to that given to the lowest clerk in the office at Halifax; referred to the Post office committee.

Hon. Joseph Howe presented a petition from a number of Indians in Queen's county, praying some aid. He suggested that as the county of Queen's received a large amount of road money this petition should be handed over to the members for the county to make provision for these Indians.

Mr. Wade reported a number of Bills from Committee without amendment.

Militia Law.

Mr. B. Smith reported by Bill from the Committee on the Militia Law.

It provided that no further fees should be demanded at the Provincial Secretary's office for officers' commissions. He understood when he went away last session that these fees were not to be exacted—but he had been mistaken.

Hon. Attorney General—There is no doubt as to the legality of the execution; and the Government thought it right that a very moderate fee should be charged—and this was done: but it is for this House, the guardians of the public purse, to decide whether these fees shall or shall not be hereafter paid. As regards the other section the observation thrown out by the Colonial Secretary is not entirely undeserved. The final clause carries an inconsistency on its very face; it will be in the recollection of the House that after the passage of the Bill a clause was added by way of Ryder which defeated the whole object of the Bill—and prevented the Government from taking any action on it unless in case of an invasion. The Government therefore could do nothing but put the Militia in readiness for war.