PUBLIC ARCHIVES OF NOVA SCOTIA

The Sun and Colchester County General Intelligencer and Advertiser, Truro, Wednesday, April 21, 1875.

(Continued from Fourth Page.)

House had only limited information before it, and could not at present form an exact estimate of the actual condition of that important public work. He hoped that in the few remarks he had to make on this subject, it would not be assumed he supposed that he was in any way actuated by a spirit of hostility to that great work. He had always given it his hearty support, and had assisted in placing on the statute book the legislation under which it had been commenced. He admired the public spirit of the people of Yarmouth in taking the matter into their own hands, and he felt it to be a pleasant duty to do his part to assist the undertaking. The resolution he had introduced was not calculated to injure that work. If he had thought it was he would not have introduced it. On the contrary it was with the view of aiding and promoting the success of that railway and other railways in the province that he had brought to the notice of the House the manner in which the subsidies voted to assist such railways should be applied. For if the system pursued by the Government in regard to that railway were adopted in regard to all, in a very few years the Government would find themselves involved in difficulties that would put a stop to all railroad advancement for years to come. He had some doubt whether it was better that railroads should be constructed by government or by companies. The province had had experience of both systems. The Government railroads had proved very expensive and the experience of company railways was not much better. There was only one of the latter class in the province, and every session the House was pestered and pressed on its behalf with a request for more assistance, with the alternative of its being thrown upon the province. Looking at the history of the past, it became the duty of the house to move with very great caution in the prosecution of such undertakings. About 250 miles of road had been built by the province, exclusive of the Intercolonial, at a cost of about $8,000,000. The Government now proposed, with a capital of $1,040,000, to build 200 miles of road. If they succeeded the county might consider itself very fortunate, but if they were going on with the other roads, as they had with the Yarmouth road, it would be a long time before they would be built. He did not propose to review the legal aspects of the case now, as he had explained them as he thought satisfactorily when giving notice of the resolution. The condition of the road now was that about two fifths of the whole subsidy had been paid, whereas only a sixth of the work was done. The road was in the most incomplete state, and was of no use whatever. At the present time it was a huge failure, because it was admitted on all sides that, unless the subsidy was increased the work would stop. If such a style of matters should be brought about it would be due to the independent manner in which the work had been undertaken. There was no guarantee whatever except the bond of a number of private gentlemen whom he believed to be wealthy. But if the completion of the road depended upon these gentlemen being forced to finish it out of their own private funds, it would not be built till the day of Judgment. He did not mean to impugn their ability, as he only proposed, and contrary to all experience, to suppose that they would ever be compelled to provide for the work from their own private means. If the Government pretended to say that the fact of their having that bond warranted them in paying out the subsidy, in violation of law, they might as well say that it authorized them to pay out the whole amount at once without a dollar's worth of work being done, or a pound of earth removed by the company. The Government were therefore guilty of violating the spirit of the Legislature, and paying out the public funds without the authority of the House, which was one of the most unjustifiable acts that a Government could commit. No matter however meritorious the expenditure might be, it was unsafe for the house to allow the Government any power over money. But in the present case the house had no means of knowing that this money had not been advanced for improper purposes. It was well known that at the time when this money was expended there were elections coming on by which this Government was endeavoring to sustain itself in power. The Government was at first time undergoing reconstruction, and a gentlemen who had held a seat in this Government was making arrangements to transfer his labors to another arena. This money was spent in the county that that gentleman represented, and at the time when he was securing his election. He should say that the money had been spent in such a way as to secure his election but there was no guarantee that such was not the case. With regard to another railway in another part of the Province, the Government had authoritatively stated that an arrangement had been made for its construction, and that the work was about to be commenced. That statement, which the government knew to be false, had been continued in their papers day after day, although it was known that the arrangement under which the statement had been originally made had been withdrawn. If the government dealt in this manner with the Eastern road there was no guarantee that they had not used for political purposes the subsidy payable to the Western road. And if the subsidy for that road had been applied for such purposes, what assurance had the house that the same corrupt practices would not be adopted in the future. If the loose system that had been pursued with regard to the Western road was to be applied to all the other roads that it was proposed to construct, the province might expect to be libelled at most unmerciful rate; and it was the duty of the house, in inaugurating a system of railways built with provincial subsidies, to see that there was no departure from the principles of prudence, economy and common sense.

As far as he was personally concerned, he did not care what ought be the result of the vote on the resolution he had moved, but he would like the house to manifest a desire to maintain the principles of integrity and right and not show that they were ready to condone corruption and violation of law. He should like to see the members of this house ready to do right though the heavens should fall. One hon. gentleman might feel that their constituents had seen fit to support the government, but he was sure that no constituency would find fault with its member for voting against the government if he was satisfied that they had been guilty of corruption and violation of law. On the contrary they would have the best reason to find fault if they found their representative ready to condone such offences.

He concluded by moving the resolution of want of confidence.

Whereas, by a resolution passed in this House a Committee was appointed to inquire into the subject of public printing, and it possible to ascertain the annual cost thereof; and

And Whereas, the said Committee has reported to this House that the public printing since the year 1867 has been almost wholly confined to the proprietors of three news papers supporting the Government, that thus far in their researches they find $26,582.50 has been paid out that year for the service, while the financial returns show only a total cost of $6,416 and further that the Committee express the opinion that from the evidence of the City Clerk, Messrs. Holmes & Sons and McKinlay, the cost of printing for the public service if put up to tender and contract would be lessened at least one-half without impairing the efficiency of the public service, and have concluded their report by stating that sufficient supervision has not been exercised over the expenditure of the public money for printing, and that the interests of the country require a thorough change in the method which has heretofore been followed in providing for the department of the public service.

And Whereas, by an Act passed by the Legislature of last session it was provided that the Government were authorized to advance certain sums of money from the provincial revenue by way of subsidy to the Western Counties Railway Company to aid in the construction of a railway from Yarmouth to Annapolis, under conditions and restrictions therein set forth.

And Whereas, the said Act provided that for every forty thousand dollars actually expended *bona fide* by the said company in the construction of the said railway twenty-thousand dollars should be paid out of the provincial treasury.

And Whereas, it was manifestly the intention of the said Act as expressed therein that the province should contribute six thousand dollars per mile towards the construction of such railway and no more.

And Whereas, it appears from returns laid on the table of this House that the amount expended by the said company in the construction of the said railway up to the 24th of March last past, was only $270,727.53.

And Whereas, it appears by said returns that the Government have advanced, up to the said 24th of March, to the said company, from the Provincial revenue, the sum of $213,844.45 being $78,455.68 in excess of the amount authorized by law.

And Whereas, it further appears that only 30 miles of the said railway have been graded on nine miles of which only have the lines been laid, but no portion of the road has yet been completed.

And Whereas, the length of the said road as appears by the usual return is 90 miles, and its estimated cost $2,070,000, the amount expended by the company to the said 24th of March exclusive of the provincial subsidy, is only about one-fifth of the sum necessary to complete the railway, while about two-fifths of the whole subsidy provided to be advanced by the province has already been paid.

Resolved, Therefore,—That in the opinion of this House the Government are censurable for thus illegally and corruptly applying the public moneys of the country and do not possess the confidence of this House.

Mr. J. J. McKinnon said he rose for the purpose of seconding the resolution. He did not intend to make a speech, but would do as the negro did who was too lazy to say his prayers, and had them written out and posted up, and said, "O lord, these are my sentiments." He would only say that the sentiments expressed by the leader of the Opposition were his sentiments, and he therefore seconded his resolution.

Hon. Prov. Secretary said that since the resolution of the hon member for Pictou was now properly before the House, there was now no objection to discussing it. A motion of want of confidence was usually based either on a want of harmony between the actions of the government and the sentiments of the country, or else upon some flagrant violation of public trust. He trusted that before he sat down he should be able to show that in both these particulars the hon. and learned member for Pictou had signally failed. It could not be argued that there was a difference of opinion between the Government and the people as to the necessity of honesty and integrity in every branch of the public service, printing or any other, nor could it be shewn as he should endeavor to prove, that in regard to the second branch of the resolution the Government had exceeded the powers given them, or done anything to warrant the house in the conclusion that they had forfeited the confidence of the country.

First, he might say, that the hon. member for Pictou, who had the right to select the points where he deemed the Government most assailable, instead of making general charges had discussed the discussion on particular items, and had given evidence on both points endeavored to establish the position that the Government was no longer entitled to the confidence of the House. In regard to the first of these branches he was afraid the Opposition had not complied with the maxim he was well acquainted with, that he that comes into court must come with clean hands. However, perhaps, this Government was no more responsible for it than any of the Governments of the past twenty years. He should shew that past Governments had been still more extravagant than the present, and that they therefore it was not fair nor generous to charge this Government with a system which had come down to them as an inheritance, which they could not help receiving.

Before going into this question he would meet that objection with respect to the report on the table. He had stated that when it was brought in that it ought to be printed, and be printed, and without pledging himself to any particular time, had stated that it would have to be printed as soon as possible. The next day, the report not having been got ready by the printers of the House, the printed paper was laid on the table, and the House was told that if the Government had been sincere they might have done what part of the act was as plain as sunlight to be understood, and meant that $20,000 was to be paid over when over $40,000 had been expended, no matter from what source obtained. The hon. gentleman objected that the Government money counted twice after the first instalment was paid, but that was the very object of the act, so as not to starve the enterprise. The people of Yarmouth had a right to ask this, and no matter how much their bond was smeared, it represented the whole amount of money for which it professed to be given. Supposing the whole subsidy of $540,000 to be paid away and nothing done for it, the bond was good for $360,000, and 840,000. Not only then did the spirit of the act, but its letter also, justified the Government. It should be remembered too that the Act applied the same language to every railway East and West, and the illiberal construction for the hon member for Pictou, if applied to this railway, must apply to all. Stress had been laid upon the words which said that the balance of the subsidy should be paid over on the completion of the road. Those words, which would be used in any contract, simply meant that every dollar was to be paid over if the company complied with the terms of the act, and it was only because the little words, "if any," had been omitted, that a question had been raised on this point. It should be remembered that only half this subsidy was but a mere auxiliary in building the road, and the company must raise $20 for every $5 of the subsidy. How could that be done unless the Company was unable so show so many miles graded and finished as a tangible security to the capitalists of New York or London? The policy of the hon leader of the Opposition was on this view obstruct every railway enterprise in this country, and he (P. S.) trusted the house would never sanction such a policy.

He would now move as an amendment to the resolution of the hon and learned member for Pictou the following resolution :—

Whereas, By a resolution of the House a committee was appointed to enquire into the subject of public printing, and it possible to ascertain the annual cost of the same.

And Whereas, The report of such committee shows that by its own terms afford evidence that the subject has received such a full and thorough investigation that the Government have in drawing the commission that the Government have in this respect legally and strictly applied the public monies.

And Whereas, By the act passed by the Legislature in 1874 the Government were authorized to advance certain monies from the Provincial revenue by way of subsidy, among others to the Western Counties Railway Company, to aid in the construction of a railway from Yarmouth to Annapolis, on certain conditions in such act contained.

And Whereas, By the terms of the act the Government were authorized to advance the sum of twenty thousand dollars on satisfactory proof being given of the *bona fide* expenditure of forty thousand dollars time to time *pro rata*.

And Whereas, It appears from the returns and engineers report now on the table of this House that the Government had paid less than one half of the whole amount of work shown to have been performed on the road up to the date of such report.

And Whereas, It has not been made to appear to this House that the Government have acted illegally or exceeded the powers entrusted to them by such act in the aid up to the time extended to the said Western Counties railway company in the prosecution of the said railway enterprise.

Therefore Resolved, That this House would not be justified in condemning the Government upon the grounds set forth in the resolution moved by the hon. member for Pictou [sic].

Mr. Archibald seconded the amendment.

Mr. Patterson said that, as a member of the committee, he felt it due to his constituents that he should make a few remarks. He could not help being struck with the fact that while the Opposition speakers dealt with the question the supporters of the Government did not. The hon member for Halifax, particularly, had spoken as if the hon member for Annapolis was placed on the table for discussion rather than the resolution. In these days of great scandals this printing scandal must cast a small matter. In regard to the amount it was perhaps small in comparison with some others, but when members looked at the act that portion had been overpaid 200 per cent, it became a great scandal. How did the Government defend that? By telling the house that before 1867, Dr. Tupper's Government had paid extravagant prices. Even admitting that though not proved, he could not help expressing surprise that the Government should shield itself behind a Government it had denounced as most corrupt. Had not the house a right to expect something better from this Government, which had come here on a cry of reform, though it failed to see that in a solitary instance they had attempted to carry it out. They could not plead ignorance, because the late Prov. Secretary had said it existed in 1867, and he was secretary at that time, and yet had failed to check this extravagance. Again the house was told this was a reconsidered bill, but that fact could not be charged with the faults of the late Government. That had been forcibly answered by the hon member for Cumberland. He supposed if the late member for Cape Breton took a seat in the Government, he could then turn around and say it was a reconstructed Government. It had been said that the committee had shut out evidence as to years previous to 1867. As one member had had no desire to shut out any evidence, but the committee had the fact before them that in 1874 the printing cost $10,000 more than it ought, a sum that would give every county $500 more for its roads and bridges. The committee expected to find in the departments a thorough system of book keeping, but they were disappointed. The system was indeed pernicious. That the offices of the departments could not give an exact account of the cost of printing was shown by the fact that in 1875 Mr. Blanchard got 16,000 and odd and in 1874 Mr. Holmes got $18,000 and odd as the cost for the same year. With reference to the matter continued in the resolution he thought the Government had not violated the spirit of the act. The elaborate argument of the hon member for Cape Breton on this point he thought could be summed up in one word, a word he (Mr. P.) had not come here to use, "tinkering" with the railway. He (Mr. P.) had not come here to weigh the numerous claims of parties and see which way the scales tipped. He came here to represent the County of Colchester, and he felt he would not be doing so if he supported a Government that paid over $26,000 for public printing and only put $8,416 in the public accounts.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinion of our correspondents.]

Mr. Editor,

If the mind of "Juvenus" had not been so distressed, he would have observed that "Truronian" did not place Boston and "our little doggery for a seam side by side and say take your choice, &c., &c." But that they were only associated as to the relative influence of the exertions of our one "Dancing Day Boxer" with the magnificent proportions of our republican cousin, the arrival that we might be to the one, what Boston is to the other, should not detract from the grand proportions she holds nor intoxicate Truro with conceit. "Juvenus," however, helps on the chaos that "Truronian" was calling the only and respectability, by admitting that students come here to be trained, and thirdly, by conceiving that we are an exclusive and fastidious people, all of which also applies to the modern "Athens." Now as to the *real* grievance of "Juvenus," that there *is* a sinfulness of reserve among Truro people may be allowed, but which, no doubt, time and travel will soon obliterate, and there may also be a few ill-mannered persons at our Normal students; but, as a rule, the Truro community love learning too well, and those who strive to acquire it, to undervalue the one or the other. I would think that for years a large number of students from all parts of the Province have every six months been coming to Truro, avowedly to gain knowledge and not to make acquaintances; being independent of Truro themselves, and their numbers making them so as to stand aloof, it is hoped and expected they will continue to keep aloof from them of the tax it would be to people who appear to have little time or money to spare, it seems unattainable for "Juvenus" to wall because the Truro folk do not go in for exceptions to entertain them. "Juvenus" will see by a recent Halifax paper that a College student there complains more bitterly still about the not only unsocial, but unfriendly treatment his class receive. But it is not likely that the studious pupil would have much time any where to waste on festivities. At all events I do not imagine that the championship of "Juvenus" will be accepted by the students here, or that they will think they need the services of a Howard to alleviate their sufferings, as what are we any more short-comings in our treatment of *them* we have no complaints to makeon our side, and, as everybody knows, Howard's life work was reclaiming prisoners, and regulating prisons, and not proposing spelling matches.

Thanking you, Mr. Editor, for your valuable space and trusting that by this time "Juvenus" will have swallowed his irate feelings, as well as the dictionaries and be prepared to assist and not retard the harmless mania of spelling matches.

I remain, yours truly,

Truro, April 19th, 1875. T.

THAT SICK NORMALITE.

Mr. Editor:

In your last appeared a communication over the signature of "Juvenus" (which we feel that means that I hope, one of those sneered at by that would-be quill-driver, you will afford me a little space, to once more bring the wonderful production before the eyes of the public. It is a matter of great importance to our citizens and the cause of the letter is of less, yet as one particularly interested in my school and school fellows I would crave your space to hurl back the insult that the High School pupils ever wished to be or would be the agency of bringing the Normal Scholars from the obscurity into which "Juvenus" begrudges they are thrown by the want of kindness and sociability of the people of Truro." We have something else to do besides placing such Normalites as "Juvenus" as gewgaws before an intelligent public. We never thought of a spelling match with them. Of all classes of the community the Normalites of the "Juvenus" calibre are the last we would have thought of attacking. Well, we want to fight, will search around for foemen worthy of our steel and perhaps to a successful issue might have to swallow less Websters, Johnsons, &c., than our friends of the Normal School. The "cramming" process weigheth not as long as this restless Normalite is in the business I would advise him to swallow an Ainsworth and perhaps he will learn that "Juvenis" not "Juvenus" is the Latin word for the name he attempted to write over.

About his *entree* into society I care not a whit. Truro Society is divided religiously and the members of the different congregations generally make the winter pleasant to the intelligent students that attend our Normal School. What a pity it is that the good people of Truro, known every where for their many acts of hospitality would not give "Juvenus" a *carte blanche* to their public amusements, Halls, Concerts, Lectures and their private socials and parlor entertainments! He would doubtless be a wonderful acquisition, judging from his "spread" in the last Sun. But why waste time on such a pigmy grubber? To this "Juvenus," who had better go down to Jericho until the rest of his beard grows, sneering at us by such expressions as "perhaps they can spell a few, who knows?" "let them swallow dictionaries" &c. I would say when again you are affected with the *cacoe thes scribendi* you had better go to M. A. Archibald, Esq., dealer in and manufacturer of "Pain Balsam," "Pain Eradicator," &c., and swallow the contents of a twenty-five cent bottle of any of his medicines and it may lessen your choler, so that you will not attempt to insult your peers, if not your superiors, and will not fall down on your marrow bones, praying the people of Truro to ask you to their little "tea-fights," "sewing-circles" and mat parties.

With Thanks,

Truro, April 19, 1875. High School Pupil.

THE NEW INSOLVENT ACT.

Mr. Editor:

It is reported here, that after first day of September (under the new Insolvency law which comes into effect on that day) a merchant cannot make an assignment unless a creditor for more than $500 should take certain proceedings necessary to force him into insolvency. If this is really the case we will certainly have no Insolvent Act. A creditor is not likely to attempt to force a debtor into bankruptcy when the debtor is powerless to prevent his obtaining a judgment against him and sacrificing his estate under execution. After the estate has thus been swept, his other creditors will not force him into insolvency simply because there would be no money in it; and the poor fellow will be liable to be continually harrassed while struggling to support his family and *for him there will be no relief*.

Are voluntary assignments really to be abolished? If so there will be plenty of work for Interim Assignees, etc., between now and the first of September.

April 1875. Country Merchant.

The Sun.

"It shines for all."

TRURO WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, 1875.

THE EDUCATIONAL REPORT.

The Superintendent's Report says our Common Schools are decidedly more efficient than heretofore and that more value is being attached to the important subject of Education from year to year. Opposition and discontent are fast fading away and our school system is adapting itself to the wants of our people. We are glad to learn this, and, situated in the immediate vicinity of the Institution, that has done so much in giving a healthy tone to our educational affairs throughout the length and breadth of our Province, we are only too willing to add our voice in confirmation of the Superintendent's opinion that our Normal School is doing good work, and well deserving of the support and sympathy of the people, looking for efficient teachers almost invariably inquire for these with a Normal School Training. As long as the Government in no wise stints the annual grants to this Institution, but increases them in proportion as the number of students increase, demanding larger school accommodation and an increase of teachers, in a fourfold ratio may we expect to notice the increased efficiency in our common schools.

The leaves, branches and roptlets cannot vegetate when the parent trunk has been destroyed. The circulation of the blood ceases when the heart ceases to beat. Let the powers that be have a care then how the Institution, that sends vigor and life throughout almost every common school in the Province, is cared for.

The number of sections having schools was eighteen more than the previous year. During the winter term eighty-two teachers, and during the summer fifty-two, were employed more than in '73. The salaries of first class teachers are steadily increasing and the number leaving the profession is no greater than formerly. All holding the same grade irrespective of sex, should be paid alike. Mr. Hunt asks for this amendment. One of the most pleasing features of the school year is the increased attendance and regularity. For the winter term the increase in the average attendance of pupils daily present, is 3195.6 and for the summer term 2304.6. Of course there are many complaints still of the irregularity in attendance. Mr. Moore of Annapolis records "no improvement." Mr. Gunn of Inverness says 479 males and 427 females were registered during the winter term that did not attend at all during the summer term. Mr. Hartshorn of Guysboro tells us "the attendance is not what it should have been." Mr. Doane of Shelburne mournfully records that "it is sad to see children playing about the streets within sight of the school house, merely because 'they don't want to go to school, or because their parents are indifferent to their educational welfare." Dr. Andrews of Queens, "the inadequacy of the present law in securing a regular attendance is increasingly felt." Mr. McDonald of Pictou, one of the best inspectors in the Province writes "tell it not in Gath, publish it not in the streets of Askelon, that in the county of Pictou there are 2110 children of school age, growing up in ignorance within easy access to the schools, which are as free to them as the air they breathe." And worst of all in our intelligent Colchester Mr. Little says "in many sections having good teachers and ample accommodation, the number of children seen playing about the roads outnumber the pupils attending school." We surely require compulsory education of some kind to get these waifs within the school-room.

Drawing, Agricultural Chemistry, Navigation and Practical Mathematics the Superintendent urges with vigor upon the Government and considers that every inducement should be offered to teachers to fit themselves to teach these branches. We quite agree with this and consider that if our common schools have a common fault it is in the ordinary work being too theoretical, while such studies as the above are too often ignored.

Our contemplated School Buildings in Truro are referred to by Mr. Hunt, who considers that the noble structure will be "expressive of the intelligence and liberality of Truro, and the devotedness of its rate-payers to the educational necessity of that growing community. The erection of this new model school building is peculiarly gratifying and most opportune, for every Normal School needs a good Model School." Perfectly true, our new building is to be merely the workshop for students from all parts of the Province. We hope as it is for the use of the Province, Mr. Hunt will not fail to press our claims upon the Government for some tangible assistance, besides expressions of goodwill &c., to relieve us somewhat of the heavy burden, of necessity, thrown upon us. Five thousand dollars will make the kind expressions, "intelligence and liberality of Tuft" doubly dear.

The total amount paid for all branches of educational work amounts to $6719,-361.87. The cost of each registered pupil was $5.90. As a people we may well be proud of our educational *status* and we need have no fear of a comparison with the school privileges of any enlightened nation of the globe. The magnificent results we have achieved rebound with honour to the memory of the illustrious dead whose monumental stone rises before us in our public square, and to the indefatigable labors of the host of educationists who now are bearing the burden and heat of the day. Success in their noble work and may their efforts be continued until every child in our Province, that has reached school age, shall be found within our common schools, receiving that instruction, that makes the individual citizen a wiser and better man and the nation more glorious, more intelligent and more powerful.

The Reports of the Inspectors are valuable additions to our educational literature and should be carefully perused by all interested in this great work. The following extracts from Inspector Little's splendid Report in relation to our own County will be read with interest

Two new sections have been added by the subdivision of Pleasant Valley and Clarkville. During the year new school houses were built in Barnside, Central Economy, Princeport and Riversdale. New Buildings are in course of erection in Truro and Masstown. Some sections have buildings totally unfit for school purposes. Ventilation is generally very defective. Outhouses almost unknown. In 112 sections only 38 have out-buildings of any kind. This is simply disgraceful and should be remedied at once. Upper Rocklyd, Pleasant Valley, Kemptown, Beaver Meadow, Springmont and Point Brule have had no school during the year. During the winter term 100 teachers were employed in the county and 120 during the summer. In some schools Mr. Little says, and he is a most competent judge, "the teaching is decidedly bad, aimless and unproductive." The remedy, largely, is for the teacher to know something about the lesson himself before he attempts to instruct his pupils. Classification in some cases is bad. The trained teacher as a rule is vastly superior in this respect to those who have not undergone the Training School. Reading generally poor. Spelling is confined too much to the list given in the spelling book. *Wednesday, separate, forfeit, ballance*, &c., were missed by three-fourths of the advanced pupils. Penmanship: Is taught upon no system. Order from very good to very poor. Withal education is making progress in our County. Regular attendance must be secured, good teachers must be encouraged by liberal salaries and the Commissioners should receive some reward for their trouble, with these and other practical suggestions Mr. Little closes a Report that should be carefully studied by Teachers and Trustees to see how far they individually come under the legitimate castigations, inflicted in some cases with no sparing hand, by our late energetic School Inspector.

Legislative.—Instead of giving a Summary of the various speeches on the want of confidence resolutions before our Local Parliament, we have deemed it advisable to give some of the speeches in full on the subject and those of Mr. Holmes, Provincial Secretary and Mr. Patterson, will be found in another part of this paper, together with the resolutions and amendments. We have read carefully the whole debate and our feelings regarding it are those of wonder and amazement that twenty-three gentlemen could be found who were callous enough to support a government, whose only defence of the charges brought against them, was that their predecessors had been alike guilty. Nor was this flimsy excuse thoroughly substantiated. A more weak defence on the part of any government it is impossible to imagine. Two or three members of the government and eleven or twelve of their supporters sat like dumb dogs, listened to the debate and then voted apparently as they were told, while every member of the opposition—save one—spoke and gave a reason for the faith that was in him. Personally we care not a fig as to which party controls the government of this province, but as an independent journalist we feel constrained to say, that, after looking at the career of the present government for the last seven years, more particularly their dealings with the two questions embodied in the want of confidence resolutions, viz: the Public Printing and the Yarmouth Railway, it is high time we had a change of government. During the discussion every member of the house who spoke in favour of the government admitted that the system revealed regarding the public printing was "pernicious," but asked that a further lease of power be granted, to the end that the grievance might be remedied. The notorious New York Tammany ring made similar offers which were not accepted, but on the contrary were spurned by the indignant citizens of a city that is often quoted as the most corrupt on the face of the globe. The people of San Francisco, also, recently turned adrift a band of corrupt officials who were filching the public funds and who doubtless would be willing to make like promises. Look what way we will for an example, this one of twenty-three Nova Scotians condoning the action of a government who deliberately put their hands in the public chest and paid a venal press a monstrously extravagant price for public printing, stands, out prominently and alone. And were we called upon to say which part of this Nova Scotia ring was the most rotten, we would reply: that part of it which *lieth* toward the east even to Cape Breton, the native heath of the gallant Mosely who has now become famous for his Tiltin' qualities.

The other proceedings of the house are quite tame as compared with the *foregoing*, but we suppose it is necessary to allude to that which concerns this county. Mr. Patterson who indeed appears very industrious we must take care of. We have seen it stated in some of our Halifax exchanges that the most important question now-a-days was, not "Who struck Mosley?" but "Who did Mosely strike?" Well we hope that he, Mosely, did not strike "Billy Patterson," for if he did we will soon be the man "who struck Mosely." We consider it bad enough for this county to be *Dickged* in the way in which it was at the opening of the Legislature, but to have our other representatives approached by a Tilton, would be too much for our human nature to stand. O no E. Tilton Mosely must look for another man to *tilt* with him.

On Tuesday the 13th the Bill to incorporate the Town of Truro passed its third reading and was sent up to the Legislative Council. Also the bill relating to the Steel Company of Canada (limited). Mr. Patterson presented a petition for money for roads from Kennetcook McKay and others.—Also one from M. E. Smith and others of New Annan. A short discussion took place on the bill to incorporate the Orange Association. Mr. Patterson said he had introduced the bill, thinking, though he was not connected with the Orange organization, that it was but a simple act of justice. From his experience of that body in his own county, he could not see why they should not be incorporated as well as any other organization.

The bill was referred to a committee of the whole House.

On the 14th Mr. Patterson presented the petitions of Thos. Nelson and others from Isaac McCurdy and others for aid to roads. In the proceedings on the 15th we notice amongst the petitions presented by the Provincial Secretary for aid to Wharves and Piers, one from Colchester. On the 16th amongst a number of bills which passed was one to incorporate the Truro Gas Light Company.

Improvements.—By demolishing the Bar-room in connection with the Dining Saloon at the Truro R.R. Depot, our Railway authorities have made a very creditable baggage-room, which is decidedly convenient. We are also glad to notice that they have commenced to improve the grounds north of the Station House. This is decidedly a step in the right direction and we feel assured that when finished the grounds will present a good appearance.—In other parts of our town the people should follow the good example set by our railway officials and set their streets, side walks and premises in order. We have a great ambition that Truro may truly be called the cleanest and neatest town in the Dominion.

Sad Accident.—Yesterday, as No. 12 train, conductor Birmingham, was on its way to Halifax from Pictou, and while shunting at New Glasgow, James Madden, a breaksman, while adjusting the draw-bar of a box car, and misjudging the distance of the advancing car which he was about to couple, his back being toward it, he was caught between the buffers or draw-bars and so badly jammed about the hips and abdomen that he died in five hours after the accident. He was a son of the late Mr. Madden of Brookfield, who with his wife was burned to death by their house taking fire about a year ago.

"Youth's Anchor."—This youthful Temperance organization will give a Variety Entertainment on Friday evening next—April 23rd—at their Lodge Room, Presbyterian Hall. Admission 10 cents. Door open 7.45—to commence at 8.15.—By all means encourage the wee ones in their temperance efforts.

What about the grey cloth for suits for our Dominion Militia. Has Minister Vail forgotten that his native Province supplies a good article?

Cummings & Son are opening the balance of their large Spring Importations this week. Call and examine before purchasing elsewhere.

J. J. Snook has now on hand and ready for Sale a lot of Ladies & Gent's very superior Travelling Trunks and Valises.

Mr. Shenton's lecture last evening was a fine literary effort. We shall have more to say of it on a future occasion.

Cummings & Son have received and offer for Sale low 100 bushels Timothy Seed, 1500lbs. Clover Seed.

PUBLIC ARCHIVES OF NOVA SCOTIA