

Board of Works

W<sup>HOLE</sup> No. 593.

the

RECEIPTS.	
Warrants issued,	2,000 00
Balance due Province,	\$19 19

FREDERICTON, March 10.

The proceedings to-day were enlivened by the very interesting debate which took place over the bill committed by Mr. Lynnot, of Charlotte, to provide Liens in certain cases. Mr. Hutchison in the chair.

The mover said there seemed to be an opinion abroad that such a bill would not be approved, as generally speaking lien laws were defeated in this or in the Upper House. He entertained the idea that the bill would pass.

things which the Liberal party in this Parliament had failed to legislate upon, and one of these was a measure which would give to the workingmen the same protection at least as was thrown around the capitalist. He did not believe in much of the buncombe which did trap some-times indulged in about the workingmen's cause, and he closed his eyes to the fact that in the past legislation had been somewhat one-sided, and too much in favor of the capitalist. He did not attempt to protect the workingman by legislation, far from it, his only desire was to protect the capitalist and labor should be legally protected—labor was the poor man's capital, and this was the only way to protect him from the workingmen, as well as those who were poor men, in the erection of public buildings and in furthering the industries of the country. He was not in favor of cases where the working men had given rise to the

and house building, &c., some had also furnished material, wages and material were left unpaid, and as soon as the work was completed, the contractors found it convenient to fail or leave town, and the men were left without their earnings, which was a great hardship. Mr. L. instanced several cases in Charlotte in connection with the Granite Works there, where the stone cutters were left unpaid, the men struck and went to work for the State. He then assured the Company that their pay would be taken for (the men having consented to take fifty cents on the dollar) they performed work to the amount of several thousands of dollars, the Company got into trouble, and the men were left unpaid. He then referred to the same incident done in lumbering and showed how deeply the laborers and masters

men had suffered in St. John during the rebuilding of that city when in the haste to build strange contractors undertook much of the work to be done. The same thing might be said with reference to mining interests. He would give an instance. A number of American gentlemen purchased Silver Island, near St. George. They took out a quantity of ore, but soon the Company got into difficulty, and were unable to pay their men. The result was that there was a very great amount of dissatisfaction, the most of which was that the heads of the barrels containing the ore were broken in, the ore was dumped back into the mine, and a quantity of water pumped in. Such a course was undesirable, but men would do many things during hard times, and men would do the same things they would seem to perform, and

02 he ventured the opinion that with a good lien  
law upon the statute book such scenes would  
be exceedingly rare. In this instance how-  
ever, the men did finally get their pay. After  
referring to the bill as the bill also protect-  
00 ed the unlicensed hotel keepers, he could  
under its provisions retain the personal prop-  
erty of his guest until board bills were paid,  
Mr. Llynott said he would not at the present  
enter more fully into the matter, as he was  
00 unaware of what objections might be advanced  
to the debate, but even at the outset  
he could not conceive of any reasonable  
men could reasonably object to the measure  
now before the House, which sought to give  
legal protection to the working classes.

Mr. Lynott made an excellent speech, which created a most favorable impression. In reply to Mr. Davidson, who asked if this bill had not been referred to the special committee, Mr. L. said the committee to whom this bill among others had been referred, had reported in favor of the principle which it involved, but had left the details to the wisdom of the House.

Mr. Cottleter, member for Charlotte, said that he had not been able to attend after the speech made by his colleague, therefore he left for him to say. A similar bill had worked well in Maine, and he hoped that the one now before the House would receive its best consideration, and that it would also be ap-

The Attorney General had always been in favor of the principle covered by this bill, but while admitting this, he felt it to be a matter of difficulty to carry out the details. The hon. member had made an eloquent plea for the laboring classes. While the laboring class were themselves the best advocates of their own cause, they would not vote. He could not now say whether he would vote for the details of the bill, but was certainly in favor of, and would vote for the principle.

Mr. Lynott said if hon. members would endorse the principle, he would be willing

Mr. Hill (Charlotte) believed it was a strange principle, and yet always managed to defeat any effort to carry it out by opposing the details. The bill was a necessary one. The man who worked in a quarry, and whose labor gave value to the stone, had an equal right to protect himself from the laborer on the land gave him the ownership. He hoped the House would deal fairly in the matter, and endeavor to improve the bill by changing details if considered necessary, rather than to throw out the bill should some of the details be deemed objectionable.

The City, Georgia, was his friend. He had evidently misunderstood him. He did

not say that he would oppose the details, nor would he do so unless they were found to be inconsistent with the principle of the bill. He believed in the principle, and could not pass judgment upon the details until he knew more about the measure.

Hon. Mr. Hainington said he should feel called upon to act as he had done before when he had the honor of holding a seat in this honorable House—to oppose all such bills. The discussions in the part had proved that the representatives were as a rule in opposition to the alien law, but the details of bills introduced were generally objectionable. He assured the mover, however, that if the lawyers in the House were

anxious to increase their personal emoluments, they would aid in carrying the bill, which would have the effect of increasing the wages of the men. Had the remedy in his own hand, for he was a contractor, he would not have worked unless he was paid. It was his opinion that under such a bill gentlemen who join together in carrying on public enterprises would have no protection, and unless they were encouraged to invest their means in public enterprises, the Government would meet injurious to the working classes.

Mr. Willis said the want of such a law was deeply felt during the rebuilding of St. John. He knew many cases where the laborers and mechanics man suffered by the dishonesty of

contractors, and there was no redress. The  
00 the result of this bill would be to increase  
00 litigation, but he challenged him to show that  
00 litigation had increased in Maine, where the  
00 lien law had worked very successfully.

Mr. Ritchie was in favor of the bill. He  
failed to see how hon. members who repre-  
sented the classes of people who were in the  
bill which protected the labor of the country.  
There were four such bills before the House,  
and he thought that these bills might be sim-  
mered down, and one good law framed and  
passed, which could be so guarded in its pro-  
visions as to prevent the increase of litigation.  
It seemed to him that the bill before him was  
legislation that would do injury to whom now

the wealthy man and the capitalist. The question was a very important one; it should be approached with care, and approached in such a way as to do no injustice either to the rich or the poor.

Mr. White favored the bill. Indeed, he had been solicited before leaving home, by parties who had suffered through the dishonesty of sub-contractors in lumbering operations, to support such a bill if one were introduced. There were thirteen lawyers in the House, and if it were possible for legal gentlemen to frame a bill which they could not quarrel with in pieces, he hoped that they would assist in carrying such a law as would do justice to all.

22 The Chief Commissioner believed that  
59 good would result from such a discussion.  
00 He had not yet read the bill, and perhaps  
81 should have waited until it again came up  
for discussion. This Legislature should be  
(Continued on second page.)