

*Ordered*, That the Bill be referred to Mr. Marshall, Mr. Haliburton, Mr. Ritchie, Mr. Blair and Mr. J. I. Chipman, and that they do make a report thereon on Saturday next.

Then the House adjourned until To-morrow, at One of the Clock.

*Friday, 21st February, 1823.*

PRAYERS.

A Bill to prevent disorderly riding, and to regulate the driving of Carriages on the Streets of Halifax, or on the Public Roads of this Province, and for repealing certain Acts, therein mentioned, was read a second time.

*Resolved*, That the Bill be committed to a Committee of the whole House, and thereupon,

On motion, the House resolved itself into a Committee of the whole House on the consideration of the said Bill.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair,

Mr. Wells took the Chair,

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

The Chairman reported from the Committee, that they had gone through the Bill to them referred, and had made several amendments thereunto, which they had directed him to report to the House : and he afterwards delivered the Bill, with the amendments, in at the Clerk's Table.

The amendments to the Bill were read throughout a first and second time, and, upon the question severally put thereupon, agreed to by the House.

*Ordered*, That the Bill, with the amendments, be engrossed.

Mr. Gaffie reported from the Committee, on the subject of the Fisheries, and he read the Report in his place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's Table, where it was read, and is as follows :

That the Committee which was appointed by a Resolve of this House, to take into consideration the state of the Fisheries, and to report the best mode of encouraging them, proceeded to investigate the causes which have led to their present depression, and to ascertain, if possible, what would be the most desirable means of giving the Fisheries that effectual encouragement, which would relieve them from their present embarrassed state.

Your Committee, to promote these important objects, has investigated all the documents which were laid before the House during its last Session, and has also examined many persons who are extensively concerned in the Fisheries, and interested in their advancement.

[Your Committee finds that the Fisheries of this Province still continue in a very depressed state, and appear annually to become more so, arising in a great measure from the very high price which the Fisherman is compelled to give for his Salt (which article is almost entirely imported into this Province by transient Vessels) and from the reduced price which he receives for his Fish when brought to the Market.

Your Committee, after considering the subject referred to them, and obtaining information, recommend that two moderate bounties should be given, the one for the encouragement of making Merchantable Fish, which is now in great demand in the European and South-American Markets, and as yet has claimed but little attention from our Fishermen in the mode of curing it; the other for the importation of Salt into the Province, which would ensure to the Fisherman that article at a reduced price, which your Committee consider as one of the most effectual means of advancing this branch of our Commerce.]

Your Committee are further of opinion that, under wise and judicious regulations, these bounties may be given, without incurring those heavy expenses on our Revenue which it may be supposed such arrangements would create.

From the information which your Committee have received they would recommend great care to be observed in the payment of whatever bounties the House may decide on, as the surest means of preventing