

had and exercised the right? If it was ascertained that the House had the right to increase any amount of salary named by the Government, he would then join issue with the proposer of that doctrine. If the House was not willing to adopt any measure introduced by the Government, the correct mode was to reject it in toto, but not attempt to add to it, or, at any rate, he would say a sum of money named by the Government as a salary could not be increased by the House. They might have the right to reduce it, but not to increase it. The House had the privilege of recommending measures to the Government, but the rule was not to originate items of supply.

Mr. DeCosmos could not agree with the hon. Speaker in regard to the rule. The practice in other colonies, before they had responsible government, was to initiate money grants. New Brunswick had done so, and the despatches from the Colonial Office in regard to Vancouver Island, which he (Mr. DeCosmos) quoted, clearly established the right of the House to initiate money grants until such time as the Legislature of the colony might surrender the right to the Governor by special enactment. He (Mr. DeC.) admitted that under such a system a dead lock might occur, and responsible government was the only remedy.

Dr. Helmcken said supplies did not come under the general head of money bills, as was intended by the authorities quoted. The House could introduce and pass money bills, but could not introduce or originate such grants as was embraced in what is called the Estimates, and quoted from May to support his views.

Mr. DeCosmos thought no injury could accrue by the House adopting the resolution, for if the Government did not like the measures of the House, they were not compelled to sanction them.

Dr. Helmcken feared it might lead to a bad system; there would be conniving and managing to get grants passed, and persons into office; and it would be, "you tickle me and I'll tickle you."

Mr. McClure repelled the insinuations of the hon. speaker, the honesty of the House should not be impeached in such a manner; he (Mr. McClure) said this House could do what the House of Commons could not do; each member here could introduce a taxing bill; there was a Ministry in the House, and that Ministry was the working party; and if they did not introduce and carry such measures as the majority approved of they could soon be removed; here, in the absence of a Ministry, the members generally had to do the work, but if the House could only act down, and could not amalgamate the offices if it considered it necessary for the well-being of the colony, the honors of the session would be lost. The authority, however, was very clear on the point—the House had the power.

Dr. Dickson thought the hon. Speaker had a peculiar faculty of applying authority to suit his views; he (Dr. Dickson) thought it important that the House should possess the power to regulate the salaries of officials, in order that no favoritism should be shown by the paying of one officer, and underpaying another who might be worthy and entitled to better pay.

The motion was put and carried; Dr. Helmcken dissenting.

HAREWOOD RAILWAY.

Mr. Cunningham presented a petition from the Vancouver Coal Mining Company praying that the bill to extend the time for the completion of the Harewood Railway do not pass, and set forth that the Harewood Company had encroached on the lands of the Vancouver Coal Mining Company.

Dr. Dickson moved that the petition be referred to a special committee to consider and report upon.

Mr. DeCosmos would not take any notice of the petition; he thought the object sought was to injure the Harewood Company and to retard the development of the resources of the colony; he looked upon this question of the encroachment upon the land as a mere quibble; there was a general and a constitutional right in regard to access to and passage across lands; he (Mr. DeCosmos) had no doubt but the Vancouver Company would be pecuniarily affected; if the Harewood Company should come into operation there would be an immediate reduction of \$10 per ton on coal, and it would probably decrease the value of land in Nanaimo, as a new town would spring up at Departure Bay; the manager of the Vancouver Company once waived his objections to the encroachment, and he (Mr. DeCosmos) thought it unfair to raise objections now.

Mr. Cunningham said a great injury would accrue to the Vancouver Coal Company if this bill passed. They had expended a very large amount of money in developing the resources of the colony, and ought to be protected in their just rights. He hoped the House would not act hastily in the matter, and that the petition would be referred to a committee to enquire into all the facts relative to the case, and, as a mere matter of courtesy, he (Mr. Cunningham) thought the petition ought to be referred.

Mr. DeCosmos said the petition was not a matter of right, but a matter of courtesy. He thought the petition ought to be referred to a committee to enquire into all the facts relative to the case, and, as a mere matter of courtesy, he (Mr. Cunningham) thought the petition ought to be referred.

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MONEY GRANTS.

Dr. Dickson's resolution affirming the right of the House to initiate money grants, as passed by the Committee of the Whole, was adopted.

The order of the day was moved, and the House went into Committee on Supply, Dr. Trimble in the chair.

Sheriff \$1000.

Mr. DeCosmos moved that the Sheriff be Governor of the Gaol, the present management he thought was very bad.

Mr. DeCosmos said the gaol was badly managed. Many prisoners had escaped. He approved of the motion, and thought the gaoler ought to be Deputy Sheriff. Such was the custom in other places. The present system was bad, the Sheriff being made responsible for prisoners without holding the keys of the gaol.

Mr. DeCosmos supported the motion, as the present management was bad.

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REPRESENTATION EXTENSION ACT.

This bill was passed with the following additions moved by Mr. McClure: Provided that at the first general election the qualification of voters for members of the Assembly for the districts of Cowichan and Comox shall be: any registered male British subject of the age of twenty-one years and holding twenty acres or upwards of any real landed property. It was moved also by Mr. McClure that the first election created by this Act shall take place at the first general election of members to serve in the Legislative Assembly of Vancouver Island.

The Committee rose and reported progress. House adjourned to meet on Wednesday, at 1 p.m.

House met at 1.20 p.m.

The Speaker in the chair.

Members present: Messrs. DeCosmos, Powell, McClure, Trimble, Carswell, Ash, Cunningham.

COMMUNICATIONS.

The Speaker read a communication from His Excellency the Governor, acknowledging an address from the House in regard to the doings of H.M.S. Olio up North, and stating that he was unable to give any information in the matter as there were no papers relating to the subject of enquiry.

Also a communication acknowledging the address of the House asking for information to the Finance Committee. His Excellency had instructed the Colonial Secretary to furnish the committee with such verbal information as they might require.

The communications were laid on the table.

COURT AT NANAIMO.

Mr. Cunningham gave notice that he should move that His Excellency be requested to authorise the Chief Justice to hold an inferior Court of Civil Justice quarterly at Nanaimo.

Mr. DeCosmos gave notice that he would ask leave to bring in a bill to prevent unqualified persons from drawing conveyances.

RIGHTS OF WAY.

Mr. Duncan gave notice that at an early day he would ask leave to bring in a bill relating to rights of way and public reserves.

HAREWOOD RAILWAY.

This bill came up for a third reading.

Mr. Cunningham moved that the bill be referred to a select committee.

Mr. DeCosmos was opposed to such a course. He regarded the opposition to the bill as a piece of chicanery. The Harewood Company had expended \$30,000, and if they were not obstructed they would very materially reduce the price of coal—at least \$1 per ton. They had a much better seam of coal than the Vancouver Company. The talk about the ten acres of land was all bosh—a fallacy. There was plenty of land to be had at Departure Bay.

Mr. Duncan said the bill passed last year upon its merits and without the opposition which it now had, and there was no good reason for this attempt to obstruct it.

Mr. McClure would have no objection to referring the bill to a select committee if it would not delay its passage until after the departure of the first mail steamer to San Francisco. He would, therefore, move as an amendment that the bill be referred to a select committee to report to the House on Friday next.

Amendment carried.

Messrs. Cunningham, Dennes and Ash were appointed such committee, with power to hear counsel and take evidence.

REPRESENTATION EXTENSION ACT.

The bill to extend the representation to Cowichan and Comox was read a third time.

MONEY GRANTS.

Dr. Dickson's resolution affirming the right of the House to initiate money grants, as passed by the Committee of the Whole, was adopted.

ESTIMATES.

The order of the day was moved, and the House went into Committee on Supply, Dr. Trimble in the chair.

Sheriff \$1000.

Mr. DeCosmos moved that the Sheriff be Governor of the Gaol, the present management he thought was very bad.

Mr. DeCosmos said the gaol was badly managed. Many prisoners had escaped. He approved of the motion, and thought the gaoler ought to be Deputy Sheriff. Such was the custom in other places. The present system was bad, the Sheriff being made responsible for prisoners without holding the keys of the gaol.

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raised and others cut down. His opinion in regard to the schools was that the boys should be in the District School and the girls in the city. Small boys could attend the girls' school.

Dr. Powell said the building in the District could not accommodate the scholars.

Dr. Helmcken considered the school, in Fort Street a nuisance. He would rather see one good school than two bad ones.

Mr. DeCosmos alluded to an indignation meeting on education last year; he thought the reserve the proper place, but the parents of the children seemed to think it too far. He would prefer leaving the matter in the hands of the Board of Education.

Mr. McClure perfectly agreed with the senior member for Metchoin (Dr. Helmcken) that one good school was better than two bad ones, but it was rather a unique way to have good schools by keeping teachers' salaries at \$720 a year. No man of any education could afford to work for such an amount. The hon. member had charged the Committee with unduly cutting down Government officials and raising the salaries of school teachers, but could the gentleman point out an official clerk whose salary was as low as \$720. The lowest was \$1000, and he thought an assistant teacher in so large a school as the Central should be placed on a par at least with the lowest paid Government clerk. (Hear, hear.)

The motion for \$1800 was carried.

Ayes—DeCosmos, Dickson, Powell, Cunningham, McClure, Carswell—6.

Noes—Helmcken, Ash, Dennes, Duncan—4.

Female Teacher for Victoria School, \$720.

Dr. Powell thought this salary ought to be increased as well as the other.

Item carried.

Victoria District School, \$1200.

Dr. Dickson moved that the item be struck out.

Dr. Helmcken opposed the motion. He thought there was a disposition to prefer persons in this matter.

Mr. DeCosmos said the House had nothing to do with individuals, it had only to deal with the sums.

Mr. McClure would protest against these personal allusions. The duty of the House was to deal with the Estimates regardless of persons. The House had asserted its right to regulate the amount of the salaries of officials, and he for one was disposed to carry the principle out regardless of who filled the offices.

Dr. Trimble said every member from the district should resist the attempt of the city members to abolish this school.

\$1200 for district School was carried by the casting vote of the Chairman.

Ayes—Helmcken, Powell, Ash, Dennes, Duncan, Trimble.

Noes—DeCosmos, McClure, Carswell, Dickson and Cunningham.

Teacher at Craigflower, \$1000. Carried.

Teacher at Nanaimo, \$1000. Carried.

Female Teacher at Nanaimo, \$600. Carried.

Teacher at Esquimalt, \$500. Carried.

Teacher at Cedar Hill, \$500.

Mr. Duncan moved that the salary be \$750.

Carried.

Teacher at Saanich, \$500; carried.

Teacher at Lake, \$500; carried.

Teacher at Cowichan, \$500; carried.

Mr. Dennes moved that \$575 be appropriated for a school at Salt Spring Island.

Carried.

Mr. Carswell moved that \$500 be granted for a school at Sooke.

Dr. Powell asked the hon. member for Sooke how many children there were in his district?

Mr. Carswell said he did not know exactly, but he found an increase each time he went down there (laughter).

Mr. DeCosmos thought there were about three children in a compass of three miles.

Motion carried.

On motion of Dr. Ash, \$500 was granted for a school at Metchoin.

VOLUNTEERS.

Drill Instruction, \$1000.

Dr. Helmcken thought the drill instructor should drill the scholars as well as the volunteers.

Mr. McClure moved that the sum be \$750.

Dr. Powell said the volunteer corps had very much increased, and the sum was no too large. There were now two companies and there would probably soon be three.

Mr. DeCosmos thought \$500 would be sufficient. He had talked with the treasurer regarding the matter, and he thought \$1000 would be sufficient for all the volunteer expenses.

Mr. Carswell thought that as the House had cut down the police force the volunteers were all we had to fall back upon.

Mr. McClure said the volunteers could not be called upon to do police duty. Hon. members knew very little regarding the instructions from the Home Government regarding volunteers, or they would not suppose they could be called upon for any such service. Volunteers could only be called out in case of an invasion. So far as the amount proposed was concerned, he thought it ample. The volunteer force was made up of men who had as much interest in reinforcement as any members in the House, and he felt certain they would be willing to economise and go according to the times (hear, hear).

Motion for \$750 lost.

Ayes—Messrs. DeCosmos, Dickson, McClure and Cunningham.

Noes—Messrs. Carswell, Dennes, Powell, Ash, Duncan and Helmcken.

The item of \$1000 was carried, Messrs. DeCosmos, McClure, Dickson and Cunningham opposing.

Petty Expenses, \$500.

Mr. Carswell moved and Dr. Powell seconded, that the sum of \$250 be substituted. Carried.

PENSIONS.

To David Cameron, retired Chief Justice, \$2425; carried.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Extra Assistance, \$500; struck out.

Printing, \$1000.

Mr. DeCosmos moved that the sum be \$500; carried.

Expenses of Witnesses, \$100; struck out.

COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Stationery for Public Offices, \$1000.

Mr. DeCosmos moved that the sum be \$250; carried.

Furniture, \$200; struck out.

Fuel and Light, \$1000.

Mr. DeCosmos moved \$300; carried.

Printing Acts of Legislature, \$3000.

Mr. DeCosmos moved that the sum be \$1000.

Mr. McClure thought the Government should put all these contingent expenses out at public contract, and hoped the House by and by would pass a resolution to this effect (hear, hear). The present system of putting things out by contract by piecemeal, instead of by the lump was expensive, and the House were really unable to form a proper opinion of what the circumstances of the country demanded.

ASSASSINATOR.

Expenses attending revision and collection of real estate and other taxes, printing, &c. \$1500.

Mr. DeCosmos moved that the Clerk of Works be Secretary to the Court of Revision for real estate and trades' licenses.

Dr. Helmcken—it can not be done.

Mr. DeCosmos would ask if the House was going to be scared like children by the mysterious warning of the hon. Speaker's hand; the House had resolved upon its course, and if it was wrong why did not the hon. Speaker inform them, instead of trying to awe them like children.

Dr. Helmcken said if the party who have constituted themselves a Ministry had prepared their scheme, and presented it in a complete form, the minority might have been able to have met them with good arguments; he (Dr. Helmcken) however would take a review of the matter, and would give his views more fully in regard to it.

Mr. McClure defied the hon. member to point to a single instance where offices were proposed to be erased or amalgamated that proper explanations had not been given.

The motion was carried.

SURVEYOR GENERAL.

Difference between salary received by Acting Surveyor General for the year 1865, and the salary of the office, \$725—struck out.

Miscellaneous explorations and surveys, \$2,500—struck out.

Stores for the machinery of Dredger in order, \$1,500—postponed.

HARBOR MASTER.

For repairing and placing buoys in Victoria and Nanaimo Harbors, painting, &c., \$1,000.

Mr. DeCosmos moved that the sum be \$400—carried by casting vote of the Chairman.

Occasional Boatman at Nanaimo, \$250—struck out.

Occasional assistance in collection of dues and preventing infraction of Revenue Laws, \$500—struck out.

Mr. Cunningham moved that the sum of \$750 be paid to the Harbor Master at Nanaimo.

A motion to report progress was carried.

House adjourned to meet on Friday the 19th at 1 o'clock, p.m.

Mr. DeCosmos moved \$300; carried.

Mr. DeCosmos moved that the Clerk of Works be Secretary to the Court of Revision for real estate and trades' licenses.

Dr. Helmcken—it can not be done.

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