



THE LEGISLATURE

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY, FEB. 18. EXCLUSIVE PUBLIC OFFICERS FROM THE HOUSE.

Mr. BOWEN in introducing this bill, said he had long been of opinion that officers holding subordinate positions of emolument under Government should not hold seats in the House of Assembly. The bill before the House was only to exclude Deputy Treasurers, and other officers connected with the Customs and Excise; he would willingly go further if it met with the approbation of the House, and exclude all officers holding subordinate positions of emolument, excepting those holding offices deemed political. The practice of excluding from the Legislature officers of the Customs, was adopted in England no long ago as Queen Anne's reign; and why? because, if they sat in the House of Commons they might, from interested motives, support a high scale of duties, thereby increasing their incomes. For the same reason they might support an extravagant expenditure, thereby raising heavy duties necessary. In the reign of William III. the officers of the Excise were excluded from Parliament for the same reason; and not only so, but the law then passed in the year 1700 upon one of them who should not be elected with elections. Holding the views he had set forth, and liking the English practice of excluding from the House all officers holding subordinate positions of emolument, he thought it would be a good thing to do so in this colony. His object in doing so was general; he had no reference to any one member in the present House, but he thought it would be a good thing to do so in the future. The bill, if it should pass, would come into operation on the dissolution of the present House. He would not trespass on the time of the House any longer at present, but would reserve any thing he might have to say for his general reply.

Mr. TAYLOR thought the hon. member had better introduce a Bill to have no revenue, and consequently no collectors. This was one of the many measures called for under the so-called Responsible Government. Probably the officers doing duty in this bill would have fixed salaries, and they would be above any imputation of receiving high duties that they might increase their fees; although they might stand a better chance of being peacefully paid when the revenue was large. There were only two or three officers in the House who would be excluded by this bill, and he did not think they could influence the House much upon the revenue question, even if they would. He would like to see all officers excluded, and if the hon. member would attach an additional section, to exclude all, he would support the bill.

Mr. HANCOCK said he believed he was the only officer in the House connected with the Customs or Excise, and he hoped his members would not deem it indelicate in him to express his opinion upon the subject. He would not object that when he was not a collector, he would not be a collector. He would not object that when he was not a collector, he would not be a collector. He would not object that when he was not a collector, he would not be a collector.

Mr. NEEDHAM liked the principles of the bill, but there were certain points in it from which he differed. If the principles of the bill would be correct four years later they are correct now, and he should take immediate effect. He would also have the Provincial Treasurer attached by the bill, because his office should be made political and dependent upon the incumbent holding a seat in the House. Then he would go further than the bill contemplated, and exclude from the House every person who holds an office of emolument under the Government, so long as subordinate officers sit in the House, independent of the salary attributed to them, whichever way they might vote. Government could exercise an influence over public officers, and he thought it would be prudent of their side in this House. He would move that the provisions of the Bill be extended to all office-holders, with the exception of those who held political offices.

Mr. GALEY would go further still; he would exclude all Doctors of Law and Physic; (laughter). Yes, he would exclude them all, and he would support the bill. He would support the bill, but he hoped it would be amended to suit his views.

Mr. STEVES liked the bill, but hoped it would be amended so as to include all inferior officers holding positions of emolument. Mr. COTTELL spoke to the same effect. He thought it was a great mistake, as it would be a Government had an influence over office-holders that was human nature. Mr. WILSON moved an amendment to the effect that every subordinate office holding a position of emolument should be excluded from holding a seat in the House of Assembly. Mr. WILSON said they should be excluded. He did not like heavy legislation, and in this instance, members had not had any time for consideration. This was a great mistake, as it would be carried, after the constitution of the country. It might do very well in England for the members of Government to sit in the House of Commons, and for the inferior officers to be excluded, but there they had an hereditary peerage—a branch to which it was impossible to admit any Legislative Council. In the United States the Executive members were excluded from the Chambers, and that practice he considered best adapted to our circumstances.

Mr. JONSON expressed similar opinions. Mr. BOWEN said he would support the bill, and would go further, and exclude Judges of the Superior Court of Common Pleas. It was his desire to place every member of the House above suspicion. Mr. HANCOCK was not aware that the office of Judge of the Superior Court of Common Pleas was one either of profit or emolument; if it were so, they would be excluded by the amendment as it was. However, the phraseology was found not to cover, and on motion of Mr. Needham, the question was reconsidered, in order that the draft of the bill might be corrected. Mr. JONSON objected to the wording of the amendment; it might be construed so as to include Magistrates among those who were ineligible to sit in the House. He thought all those included should be specified by name in the bill. He would move that they report progress, in order to prevent the possibility of insubordination.

His Honor the Speaker did not object to reporting progress if the Committee wished it, but he would not be bound to do so. The hon. member would not be bound to do so. The hon. member would not be bound to do so. The hon. member would not be bound to do so.

Mr. HANCOCK said he could give instances of other members in this Province similar to that quoted about the Member General of the Ordinance. An hon. gentleman had been compelled to resign his situation in 1832, because he could not consistently support Municipal Institutions.

Mr. BOWEN said he was very glad the Bill received the general approbation of hon. members. He thought it much better to specify the officers that it would exclude, and for that reason he was quite willing progress should be reported. The Committee then arose and reported progress.

(Continuation of Thursday's Debate.) Mr. TAYLOR moved an amendment to the effect that every person who holds an office of emolument under the Government, so long as subordinate officers sit in the House, independent of the salary attributed to them, whichever way they might vote. Government could exercise an influence over public officers, and he thought it would be prudent of their side in this House. He would move that the provisions of the Bill be extended to all office-holders, with the exception of those who held political offices.

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Members who frequently expressed themselves anxious to afford instruction to the people; and he was still more astonished to hear the advocates of economy object to paying one Reporter, but would the whole. The press of St. John might be able to do together and send a Reporter to the House, but the local press could not do it, and the people in the rural districts wanted to see the reports as well as the people of St. John. It was no argument to say that because Reporters were here they would expect no pay; they had already been paid upon former occasions, and the conclusion to be drawn was, that they expected pay as usual. If the amendment should now pass, the Reporters would continue their labors, having a right to expect that, according to former practice they would get paid at the close of the Session. If the Committee did not wish to make a distinction by paying but one Reporter, and would rather pay them all £200 each, perhaps he might say for it; but at all events he wished to see one or more Reporters paid for the benefit of the people—his own constituents especially.

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On motion of Mr. D'Arnell involving the principles of Free Trade, the Ministry were all defeated, in a very full house—they carried their point by a majority of only 14. The Chancellor of the Exchequer was expected to bring down his budget on the 17th. The Trade and Revenue returns are reported to be even more satisfactory than heretofore reported, and it is confidently expected that many obnoxious taxes will be repealed.

A motion named GILL was brought up at one of the Police Offices in London on Friday, charged with attempting to assassinate Lord John Russell. The Government measure, the President's donation bill, was rejected by a majority of 102 votes in a house of 600. The speeches on both sides were very exciting, and the breach between the President and the Assembly still becoming wider. A proposal has been made to raise a National Subscription to relieve the President from his embarrassment, but he has publicly stated that he will not accept of anything proffered in this way, although it is quite certain he is involved to a great extent; the latest accounts state that his horses were about to be sold. In speaking of the efforts making for his relief the President says, he thanks all those who have entertained this thought, which is an imposing manifestation of sympathy and approbation of his conduct; but he deems it his duty to sacrifice a personal satisfaction to the repose of the country. He knows that the people render him justice and that is sufficient for him. The financial condition of the country is bad—excess of expenditure over receipts the present year 155,514,000 francs.

There appears to be no Continental news worthy of notice. The Queen's Speech.—Her Majesty's Speech at the opening of the Imperial Parliament will be found in this impression. The general tone of which may be pronounced satisfactory, if we except that part which refers to the Agricultural Departments. In noticing which, Her Majesty laments the difficulties which are felt by the most important body of the Agriculturalists, yet she hopes their prosperity of other classes, (Meaning the Manufacturers) will have the effect of diminishing these difficulties. Vain hopes can be the advisers of Her Majesty after the rain they have brought on the sturdy Yeomanry of Old England, yet retains a shadow of a hope, that, under the influence of the weather, the Agriculture of the country will not fail, and so on and so forth. They cannot say they have put into the month of Her Majesty a lantern for the Agriculturalist, but will lament suffice it will feed the starving farmer? It will not. Then why pursue a course, the working of which has already proved ruinous not only to the most important Manufacture of the Realm, (the Manufacture of Bread stuffs) but has also had the most baneful effect upon her Colonies—an effect that has already produced dissatisfaction, and who will pretend to say that it may not eventually end in a revolution? We are pleased, however, to find that the Government intend the state of things they have brought about: we are pleased to see it made a feature in the Speech, and we are not yet without a hope that after Coercion, will come Restitution, and that Justice will yet be done to the injured. The experiment has been fairly tried, the problem is solved, foreign Nations will take all the advantages we have to give them, but will not reciprocate. Much solicitude is expressed in the Speech relative to the peace of the petty German principalities, which are alien to Great Britain and possess no feeling in common, either Politically or Commercially with the British people. But what is said of the Colonies, these North American Colonies that comprise an area equal to all Europe and taken sufficient to submerge the whole of the German States, about which there is so much solicitude, and rapidly growing into importance and people with the Children of the British Isles, a people whose National pride is England, whose feelings, interests, and sympathies are in perfect unison with those of the parent land? What says Her Majesty's Speech of us? Why not one word? The slightest notice taken of us or of our affairs. Such is the British policy, and such a policy that it staves the British people and puts a barrier to Emigration, will eventually deplete the British Manufacture of a customer to the amount of 4 or 5 millions annually, and bring into existence another Nation, and another Flax.

Is a Debate on the Contingent Bill, and in reply to some stories circulated by Mr. Needham relative to the charge of gold pencil cases, and an area equal to all Europe and taken sufficient to submerge the whole of the German States, about which there is so much solicitude, and rapidly growing into importance and people with the Children of the British Isles, a people whose National pride is England, whose feelings, interests, and sympathies are in perfect unison with those of the parent land? What says Her Majesty's Speech of us? Why not one word? The slightest notice taken of us or of our affairs. Such is the British policy, and such a policy that it staves the British people and puts a barrier to Emigration, will eventually deplete the British Manufacture of a customer to the amount of 4 or 5 millions annually, and bring into existence another Nation, and another Flax.

Business in Manchester was much depressed, owing to the state of the Cotton Market. Cotton is from 3 to 4d. lower than last week. The sales amounted to 24,700 bales, although no purchases were made except for immediate consumption. The great anxiety displayed by holders to sell, induced buyers to be very careful. The Cutch Market was unusually depressed.—Wheat was 1d. to 2d. lower, and Flour 6d. lower. Freights have been well supported. The Money Market was easy. Consols closed on Friday at 96 3/8 for Money and account. The weather throughout England has been very mild, and the Season very favourable for farming operations.

Private letters from Mr. Howe, received by the Europa, convey the cheering intelligence that there is no reason to doubt of the complete success of his mission on behalf of the European and North American Railway. He is expected to return by the next Steamer to New-York.

ENGLAND.—The attention of the public is almost entirely absorbed in the exciting debate now going on in Parliament relative to the Papal Aggression question.

By the Royal Mail Steamer Europa, which arrived at Halifax on Thursday evening at 8 o'clock, we are furnished with English news, (by Telegraph), down to the 15th inst. The feature of which is Her Majesty's Speech at the opening of Parliament; the speech will be found in the fourth page of this impression. The Papal aggression question, which has produced so much excitement throughout the Kingdom, was brought before Parliament on the 6th inst., by Lord John Russell, and dealt with in a most decisive manner, a most profound silence reigned in the House during its introduction. His Lordship proceeded to explain—

He contended that the bill recently introduced had totally ignored all authority in the country except that of the Pope. No doubt the authority could not be enforced, but it was enough for him that there had been such an avowal of the Pope's authority, as to give a certain religious approval to the system of paying Reporters by the House in a manner, as other people would say, that would deprive people of the privilege of reporting the proceedings of the House to their constituents. He denied that his English report was a mere copy of the French report, but that he had been besting his English report to his constituents.

Reports of the Secretary of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, and of the Rev. Doctor Wadsworth, of the situation for a pamphlet bearing the title "From the Commission to the Receipts for Water, £2500; of Paying Publicans, the balance of last year, £38 10s. 6d. The Receipts are for Clothing, £20 2s. 4d.; Office, £207 6s. 4d.; Building and Improvements, £100 2s. 6d.; Miscellaneous, £15 8s. 1d.; £2198 12s. Balance in hand, £257 2s. 10d. Credit the amount paid by £215 5s. 8d., from the amount £2246 12s., leaves the net cost of maintenance for the past year, £231 6s. 10d. Doctor Wadsworth has 31st of December last, 35 males and 10 females, cases" 13 males and 3 females. We earnestly recommend of the admirable report who feel interested in the useful Institution, as it is facts, which lead to the efficient management has been safe and competent land, refection and control are full of the confidence and approval at large.

CALETON LECTURES.—The LECTURE last evening on the subject of the origin of the human race, upon the progress and the power of their extraordinary power, conducted by Mr. C. S. Lewis, who has been in the habit of conducting the operations of the Reformed religious eloquence, and a thousand other like lectures, at the request of the Rev. Professor, who has given the Philosophy of the question, it now remains for some other one to furnish the common sense portion of the Emigrant's tale—which is compiled, printed, and added to the present work, would furnish a book for distribution in the mother country, that while it proclaimed our capabilities, would also induce some hundreds of our British farmers, (Gentlemen) to see the value of the Colonies, and to cross the ocean, and settle down in this Province—thereby adding to our wealth, population and intelligence. We would urge on our Representatives, the absolute necessity of bringing this all important question fairly before the Legislature before the close of the present session.

THE LEGISLATURE.—The Hon. JOHN A. STREET'S speech not having yet arrived, we are unable to give an opinion as to the course he will pursue with the principles enunciated by that gentleman, relative to the intention of Government, (if we fairly understand him) we perfectly agree: whether or no, the detail will correspond with those principles, we are yet to learn.

On the question of paying Reporters coming up, a very great diversity of opinion appeared to exist among the members, which caused a good deal of debate. It will be seen by our Reports in this issue, that a little legislative maneuvering took place for the purpose of excluding our City Reporters from participating—Mr. Scoullar, in order to become our Committee, to which the question was referred, stated that Mr. Anglin's Reports were better and fuller than any of the others. Now for Mr. Scoullar's information, we will state that our City Reporters furnished by Mr. Hill, have been by far the most copious. For a proof of which we refer him to our columns during the last three weeks, where it will be seen that we have occupied nearly double our usual space for Legislative Reports, in order to make room for them—also to the other leading papers of the city. And so far as the ability of our Reporters is concerned, we will not limit against the whole body now at the House, to the amount that Mr. Scoullar and his friends intend to tuck into a sly corner of the Contingent Bill, for their services, in making speeches for those who cannot make them for themselves.

We learn that the Woodstock Iron Company feel greatly indignant at the speech of the United States, in the face of law, refusing to admit their iron at the invoice price, and valuing it themselves at as high a rate as to raise the actual duty of 20 per cent to 40, and finally over the invoice price to keep it out, gave them notice that 10 per cent more would be immediately charged. While we are admitting their products at mere nominal duties, this is the way they return the excesses made them. Will we never learn wisdom by experience?

We edit the above from the Canadian Watchman. The Editor of which has fought the good fight, in the cause not of Protection alone, but of self-defence, and has come off conqueror. He has been with untiring zeal, and so full share of intelligence, some scores of articles on Protection, many of which are unanswerable, yet like many others who do battle in the cause of the public, he has met from his opponents a most determined and not unfrequently unprovoked hostility, while from his friends he has not received the corresponding support. He has the greatest reason to be proud of, however, of knowing that those who are foremost in the opposition, are now the leaders of the loud for retaliation. His reflections on Canada, and the German States on the same subject published in his late, and to which we would call attention, his arguments are so conclusive on the subject, that none but the wilfully obtuse can hesitate to retain a second opinion on the long debated question. We now have stood with him shoulder to shoulder in the good cause, and feel now that we are entitled to a modicum of the congratulation we are so willingly award our Contemporary.

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