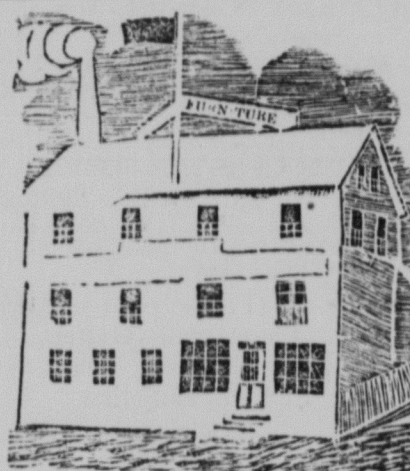


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its tendencies and the character of its programme it could not stir, nor descend into the arena, without having for its improvised auxiliaries all sorts of malefactors, liberated convicts associated with political men, might add to the market of the insurgent the poison of the assassin, without having before them the fear of the penalty of death. All would be excused in the name of politics. It is quite enough to have the exemption mentioned in the 5th Article of the Constitution, (of the penalty of death for political crimes); but for the honor of the law itself, let us not extend it further."

This, your honors, is one proof that upright men in all countries and in all ages, have expressed their detestation of this abominable crime of assassination.

Hon. Mr. PALMER: I must express my concurrence in the Resolution which has been placed before your honors, more particularly as I was personally acquainted with the unfortunate gentleman to whom it relates. I must say that he was a gentleman who for many reasons I could not but admire as a public man, for I looked upon him as not only possessing high intellectual attainments, but as a gentleman of thorough loyal feelings towards his Sovereign and Country. I am sure there can be but one feeling amongst us—that of abhorrence and detestation—at the cold-blooded act which has deprived the Honorable Mr. McGee so suddenly of his life, and the Dominion of Canada of such a valuable and influential Statesman. I am the more willing to record my sympathy as I do not view the fate of Mr. McGee simply as a loss to the Canadian Ministry. If that were the case I do not know that there would be any special reason to call forth such an utterance of sympathy from Prince Edward Island, as that proposed in the Resolution, for I think I express the opinion of ninety-nine hundredths of the people of this Colony, when I say the Canadian Ministry, in their political capacity, are not our friends but our enemies. I do not think there is anything out of place in saying this, for I can discriminate between the many estimable qualities which Mr. McGee possessed in his private capacity, and those which he has exhibited as a Canadian Minister; but none of us can withhold our opinion of strong detestation of the bloody deed, and our regret that at this advanced stage of the Nineteenth Century there should be found, in the centre of high civilization, such cold-blooded assassins as he who fired that fatal bullet. There can be little doubt but the deed was done by the hand of one of those connected with the detestable Fenian Brotherhood, and the misguided miscreant has deprived his country of one of her best sons—one who had freedom and prosperity at heart, and had ten thousand times more ability to advance them, than all that Brotherhood put together. They have deprived the world of a gentleman whose vast influence and splendid ability were always exerted—though once in early life misguided—in the cause of universal freedom. Therefore, I cannot but concur in the expression of opinion now proposed to be passed by this House.

The question of concurrence was then put upon the Resolution and it passed unanimously in the affirmative. Adjourned till eleven o'clock to-morrow. (To be continued.)

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McGee as a poet, historian or politician, or in the elegant department of belles lettres, we always find in him much to admire and remember. He was equally at home in delivering an address to the Highland Society, on the anniversary of Scotland's patron saint, on the genius and poetry of Burns, or in addressing the Irish Society on the anniversary of St. Patrick's Day. I have always been a great admirer of Mr. McGee. Indeed, I do not know but he had as many admirers among the English, Scotch, or Americans, as among his own countrymen, perhaps more. But it is not only as a scholar, but as a statesman and patriot that we must admire him. His political career since he landed on British American soil, has been such as to merit the admiration of all true lovers of the country, and, as a real statesman, I believe he stood pre-eminent. But when we reflect that a man of such talents, and of such integrity, has been cut off in the flower of his manhood, by the hand of a cowardly and treacherous assassin, we can scarcely find words to express our sorrow at his untimely end, our abhorrence for the perpetrators of the horrid crime, or our sympathy for the bereaved ones he leaves behind. With a view of giving expression to our feelings, which, I dare say, are shared by all classes in the Colony, I submit the following resolution:—

"The Legislative Council of Prince Edward Island having learned by recent telegrams that the Honorable Thomas D'Arcy McGee, a member of the Parliament of the Dominion of Canada, was assassinated on the morning of the 7th April, when returning to his lodgings from the House of Commons:

"Therefore Resolved, That this Council takes the earliest opportunity of expressing its horror and detestation of the atrocious crime, which has thus suddenly deprived the people of Canada of an able and patriotic statesman, and a wife and family of their natural protection.

"To the Parliament and people of Canada, and the bereaved widow and children of the deceased, the Council desires to express its heartfelt sympathy on this melancholy occasion."

"Resolved, That the President communicate the Resolution of this House to the President of the Senate of the Dominion of Canada, and also to Mrs. McGee."

Hon. Mr. BEER: I rise, your honors, to second the resolution which has just been proposed. We must all feel very strongly in our minds in reference to the lamentable death of the Hon. Mr. McGee, by the hand of a cruel and treacherous assassin. The atrocious deed cannot be too strongly condemned. It is lamentable to think that such crimes are so frequently perpetrated at this advanced stage of civilization. There can be but one opinion with respect to the talents of the deceased gentleman, for he was a man of extraordinary ability. No doubt, his untimely death will be very deeply felt and deplored, not only by the Parliament, but by the people of the Dominion of Canada, and especially so by his widow and family. We cannot but sympathize with them all on this melancholy occasion, particularly as his death has been brought about in such an atrocious manner.

Hon. Mr. HAYTHORNE: I think it is quite necessary that the Council should mark its disapprobation of the atrocious murder of the Hon. Mr. McGee, more especially as such acts are not uncommon in connection with a certain organization. It is not long since I read an account of another public officer being deprived of his life in a similar manner, and when such things occur, legislative bodies should express their opinion most emphatically. I had not the honor of the deceased gentleman's acquaintance, but I have read his eloquent speeches, and I believe that if ever true patriotism flowed in a man's heart, it was in his. Of course, the loss must be great indeed to the Dominion of Canada, and especially to his bereaved relations. I met, this morning, with an address of a Judge of a French Tribunal, Mr. Berthelin, to the Jury on a trial for a similar murder, which is well worthy of attention. During the rebellion of 1848, a noble soldier lost his life in endeavoring to induce the people to listen to terms of peace. The Judge referred to the words of his predecessor, and his address must have a double significance from that fact. He closed his summing up to the Jury with the following observations on the theory of "political assassinations," discussed in the speeches of counsel on both sides:—

"We are going, gentlemen of the jury, to repeat to you the language of an eminent magistrate, whose words carry more authority than mine can have before you. Here is what he said when he demanded the rejection of the appeal, made by two of the condemned in the sad affair of the Brea murder." (General Brea, it may not be forgotten, was murdered by a party of the insurgents of June, 1848, during a parley at the barracks to induce them to lay down their arms). "It is not enough to exempt from the infliction of capital punishment the plots against the internal and external security of the State, those who may occasion civil war or foreign war, and who thus put in peril society at large! Must we also decorate with the name of political offences these shameful and atrocious crimes, the object of universal horror, which revolt human kind, because they are committed under the shadow of a seditious and rebellious flag? Let us guard ourselves against admitting such a doctrine as that the intermixture of a political character protects from the penalty of death those who commit crimes of another nature. Let us declare, on the contrary, that the very presence of those odious deeds which constitute crimes under the common law, takes away from political crimes their exceptional character. Think on the consequences that would otherwise follow; under cover of a political insurrection crimes of all sorts would be permitted! The flag of insurrection, which the flag that covers merchandise, would protect all sorts of atrocities, acts of private vengeance, the massacre of reasoners, murders, tortures, mutilation, &c. If a party had declared war on society—if by

the streets so fast as they wish. His honor from the First District of Queen's County, (Mr. Balderston), said this Bill was not asked for by the people, but he should remember that we have yearly elections in Town, and if the City Authorities ask for powers which they should not possess, it is easy for the people to put others in their place. I believe the people will be satisfied that what they are asking for by this Bill, is nothing but what is just and reasonable, and I do not see why their hands should be tied down in this way.

Hon. Mr. MUIRHEAD: It appears to me that we should strike out all that relates to the way the money is to be expended, for it would put the City Authorities to a great deal of unnecessary trouble. They would have to keep a separate set of books and make out separate accounts, and if they can be trusted with a shilling on the pound rental, surely they can be trusted with three pence additional.

Hon. Mr. PALMER: If we strike out all that requires the City Authorities to account to the Governor in Council for the way the money is expended, perhaps the necessity for keeping a separate set of books, which would be a great deal of trouble, would be removed. I understand that they do not object to having it so that the money raised shall be applied to the improvement of the streets and side-walks.

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD: I agree with his honor from Summerside (Mr. Muirhead), that if we give the City Council power to lay on taxes, we are taking more upon ourselves than we should, when we say they must expend it for a particular purpose. If the Citizens have confidence in them to allow them to lay on taxes, surely they have also confidence to allow them to expend the money for any purpose they may think most desirable. While I admit that side-walks are necessary, and I would be glad to see the money expended for their improvement, yet I would leave it under their own control.

Hon. Mr. LORD: I would sooner see the money expended for six additional policemen, for we require one set for the night and another for the day. There is a set of people in this town now, who are just watching to see what they can get. The day is not far distant when we will have to keep a night watch, and then property will be somewhat safe, which is not the case now. I am prepared to support the amendment, but I would not care to see the whole clause struck out. I would not let the Governor in Council have anything to do with this matter. Surely we can put men into the City Council that we have confidence in, without being dictated to by any party. They should know what improvements are required, and they have a right to make such appropriation of the money as they think proper.

Hon. Mr. DINGWELL: I do not see why the City Authorities should be accountable to any but those who placed them in power. I think that is a sufficient check upon them, for if they do not act wisely, the people can displace them. I will support the amendment.

Hon. Mr. HAYTHORNE: I am also in favor of the amendment. To compel the City Authorities to submit their accounts to the Executive Council is quite unnecessary, and open to many objections. If the people have doubts of the advisability of increasing the taxes, they will have an opportunity of expressing their opinions at the City meetings. The tax is very light, and I think the authorities should be the best judges of how it is to be laid out. The great cry of the City is for good streets and side walks, and we should encourage their construction in every practicable way. I do not think the additional tax can injure any individual resident in the City.

Amendment agreed to. Adjourned till four o'clock, p. m. House resumed, and further progress reported.

Hon. Mr. PALMER presented to the House a bill to amend the act to consolidate and amend the laws relating to Grand and Petit Jurors. The said bill was read a first time, and ordered to be read a second time to-morrow.

AFTERNOON SESSION. A bill was brought up from the House of Assembly by the Hon. Attorney General, for the better security of the Crown and Government of the United Kingdom within this Island. The said bill was read a first time, and ordered to be read a second time to-morrow.

A bill to amend the Act to incorporate the town of Charlottetown, was again referred to a Committee of the whole House, and reported agreed to.

ASSASSINATION OF THE HON. MR. MCGEE. Hon. Mr. MACDONALD: A recent telegram has brought us the sad intelligence that the Honorable Thomas D'Arcy McGee has perished by the treacherous hands of the cowardly midnight assassin, as he was entering the door of his lodgings on the morning of the 7th of April, at 2 1/2 o'clock, when he was returning from the House of Commons, where he had just delivered one of his remarkable and memorable speeches. By his death, the Dominion of Canada has lost one of its brightest ornaments, British power one of its most able advocates and talented defenders. His countrymen have lost their truest friend and well wisher—their most faithful counsellor and guide. His constant aim was to bring all classes and creeds in his adopted country, to live together in harmony, for his own soul was above the petty squabbles and differences which too often divide and distract society. Whether we look at the career of Mr.

Shop favors. The Government were always desirous to establish post offices where there were no taverns, but they have found it very difficult in some cases to do so. The fees are so very small that it is considered a favor to take the office, but this clause will prevent the Government from establishing any post office in future where liquor is sold, and if a settlement does not provide a place other than a tavern, it will have to do without. The very idea of having a court of justice in a tavern is preposterous, and such an absurdity should not be allowed. I am not aware that there is any at present, but it is well that it should be provided against.

Hon. Mr. PALMER: This matter is well worthy of the consideration of the Legislature, for it is objectionable to have a post office in a public house, unless it can be made safe and kept apart from the ordinary business of the tavern, but that cannot always be done. Therefore, it becomes necessary for the Legislature to adopt some precaution like what the clause under consideration contains, and as it only extends to post offices to be created in future, there cannot be any objection to it. If it extended to offices already established I would be opposed to it, for there are some respectable ones kept where liquor is sold. I will, therefore, support the clause, and more particularly as it relates to courts of small debts. I think if there are two establishments incompatible with each other they are a tavern and small debt court in the same room. It shows a dreadful state of demoralization, for when a number of persons meet at a small debt court they are generally hostile to each other, and if they are supplied with liquor it is like adding fuel to the fire, to excite them still further. There should have been such a provision in the law long ago, but it is never too late to do good.

Further progress was then reported, and the House adjourned till eleven o'clock to-morrow.

TUESDAY, April 14. LIQUOR LICENSE BILL. Committee resumed.

Hon. Mr. BALDERSTON: I presume it is useless to expect anything more at present than what this bill contemplates, but it is very far from what is required. I am of opinion that the drinking custom and the evils which follow it, will not be done away with till those in high places show the example. I do not refer to any of your honors, but it is well known that here is drinking going on in some places under peculiarly objectionable circumstances, which give rise to a very bad feeling.

Hon. Mr. DINGWELL: I think it will be difficult to carry out the intention of this bill, for the course to be pursued is not defined with sufficient perspicuity. When a meeting is called to decide whether a license shall be granted, I do not see why any person in the district should not be allowed to vote as well as those who have a voice in the election of school trustees. All householders, at all events, should be allowed to vote.

Hon. Mr. PALMER: I do not see either why the privilege of voting should be confined to those who have the right to elect trustees. There may be resident householders who are good, sound, sensible men, and yet would be debarred from voting by this clause.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. PALMER the clause was amended by striking out the words "inhabitants qualified to vote for trustees," and inserting the words "resident householders."

The House was then resumed and further progress reported.

CHARLOTTETOWN INCORPORATION BILL. Committee resumed.

Hon. Mr. PALMER: When the House was previously in committee upon this bill, I think it was the opinion of your honors that the provision requiring the City Council to account to the Colonial Government for the expenditure of the money which it gives them power to raise, was unnecessary and uncalled for. I am also of that opinion, and therefore move that the bill be amended by striking out all that requires the City Council to account to the Government.

Hon. Mr. BALDERSTON: It appears rather arbitrary for the Legislature to dictate to the "City Fathers," as this bill proposes, when they have full control over the city taxes, license duty, parage, market house rent, &c., but if they are required to appropriate the money raised by this small additional tax in a certain way, I do not think it is a great stretch of authority. I think the inhabitants of the town would say to themselves, more particularly as the bill was not introduced at the request of the people but of the corporation, therefore I do not think there is any necessity for altering the bill.

Hon. Mr. BEER: I do not think the City Authorities should be restricted as to how they expend the money, for I am satisfied that a much larger amount will be laid out in the improvement of the streets and side-walks, than will be raised under this Bill. They are in the habit of laying out a considerable portion of their income for that purpose, but they do that they cannot go on improving