

WORDS

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

THE OPPOSITION QUESTION BOX AND THE ANSWERS.

Important Resolutions Regarding a New College Building and Cold Storage.

Friday, April 9.

House met at 3.30.

Hon. Mr. Peters presented a petition asking for a new Prince of Wales College building, which was received and read.

Hon. Mr. Gordon asked the Leader of the Government if it is the intention of the Government to place a steam ferry boat on Carleton Ferry during the coming summer.

Hon. Mr. Peters said the Government had not come to the conclusion that they would this summer place a steamer on that ferry.

Mr. Shaw asked the Leader of the Government to table a statement showing in detail the amount received by the Government for the years 1894, 1895 and 1896 respectively, for fines collected under the Canada Temperance Act, the names of the persons on whom such fines were imposed, and the amount of fines collected from each person respectively.

Hon. Mr. Peters said all information asked for regarding the last mentioned year would be given. As regards the previous years, he did not propose to give any information in addition to what had already been afforded.

Mr. Shaw claimed that although information had been asked for regarding this matter during the last session it had not been given.

Mr. Shaw asked the Commissioner of Public Lands to table a statement showing in detail how the item of \$990.58 for expenses in connection with the purchase of the Mrs. Sidney Smith Estate, shown by the Provincial Auditor's Report, has been incurred, the names of the persons to whom said amount has been paid, the number of days which each person was employed, the amount paid to each person so employed, and the nature of services rendered by each person respectively; also that he table a statement showing the number of acres of land purchased by the Government from the estate of Mrs. Sidney Smith, for which the sum of \$18,700 has been paid, as shown by the Provincial Auditor's Report, 1896, and the amount paid per acre for said estate.

Hon. Mr. McMillan said the information asked for would be given in a few days.

Mr. Blanchard asked the Leader of the Government if a petition had been received from the inhabitants of Howland Road and vicinity praying for the cutting down of Currie Hill, Howland Road, Lot 6, and if so what action does the Government intend taking in the matter.

Hon. Mr. Peters said such a petition had been received but no action regarding it had yet been taken.

Hon. Mr. Peters tabled the estimates for the year. They are as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Item and Amount. Includes Administration of Justice, County Stipendiary Magistrates, Courts, Boards of Health, Coroners' Inquests, Dairy associations bonus, Executive council, Education, Provincial Exhibition, Prince County, King's Co., Hospital for Insane, This includes 20,500 towards construction of new annex, Interest, Inspectors of licenses, Legislation, Legislative library for purchasing books, Miscellaneous grants, Miscellaneous expenditures, Paupers, Poor House, Postage and rent of P. O. Boxes, Public Lands Department, Prov. secy-treas, Prov. auditor's dept., Prov. Building, Registry office, Ch'town, Registry office, Summerside, Telegrams, Stenographers and typewriters dept., Public Works Dept., Ferries, Queen's Co., Prince Co., King's Co., Wharves for three countries, Packets, Rights of Way, Supervisor's salaries and commissions, Roads, Queen's, Prince and King's Counties, Road machines, 5 new ones, Road rollers, Bridges, Queen's, Prince and King's Counties, Bushing ice, Telephone repeaters, Debenture Sinking Fund, Boring for coal, a sum sufficient.

Hon. Mr. Peters gave notice that on Monday next he would move the House into committee of the whole to consider the matter of a supply to Her Majesty. Hon. Mr. Peters moved that the House resolve itself into committee of the whole to take into consideration the following resolution: "Resolved that the Government be authorized to construct a new building

for the Prince of Wales College and Normal School, and for the purpose of paying the cost thereof be authorized to issue debentures payable in thirty years, and that for the purpose of paying the principal and interest of said debentures, the fees heretofore to be collected from students at the Prince of Wales College and Normal School, be set aside as a sinking fund until sufficient is raised for the purpose."

Hon. Mr. Peters said that this matter had not been approached without the most careful consideration. The matter had engaged their attention last session, and during recess it had been considered by the people, and they, to the number of about 2,000, had petitioned the Government for a new College building. The present building, the petitioners claimed, was altogether inadequate, and there were many reasons why a new one should be built. If there was one institution more than another that was deserving of credit that institution was Prince of Wales College. From it have gone forth many brilliant scholars, notable among whom was Professor Schurman, who was now President of Cornell University. Proceeding, he pointed out that the proposed building would not take a cent out of the pockets of the people. The Government had imposed fees upon students attending the College, and these fees, he added, were not objected to by the people. In round numbers \$1400 had been obtained in fees last year. It was proposed to take these fees and set them aside as a sinking fund out of which not only the interest on the cost of construction would come but the principal as well. Supposing that the building cost \$20,000, the interest on that sum at 4 p.c. will be \$800 a year. The sum of \$1400 is obtained from fees now, and after \$800 of this sum is taken for interest there will be \$600 left to set aside as a sinking fund out of which the principal will be paid. The College could thus be built without costing the country a single dollar except the students' fees, and it will be all paid for within thirty years.

Hon. Mr. Forbes seconded the motion. Hon. Mr. Gordon said it might be all right to proceed with the erection of the building if the finances of the country warranted such a large expenditure. He for one would willingly do so. But he failed to see that the province was in a position to undertake the work under present circumstances. Too many young men come from the country to the College instead of attending the high schools in their own sections. He took it that the College was putting the finishing touches upon one's education. All that the average student needs, he thought, could be obtained in the high schools. No doubt it would be very pleasing to the people of Charlottetown to see a new building put up, but he failed to see where the money was to come from. There was at the present time a debt of \$500,000 hanging over the province, and he could not see his way clear to add to this indebtedness.

The motion carried and Mr. Aiken took the chair in committee. Mr. Campbell thought it would be well to move cautiously in the matter in view of the deplorable condition of our finances. He had looked partly over the petition and had failed to find the name of any property holder on it. Few people in this section signed it, and he believed the petition emanated from a certain interested person in Charlottetown instead of from the people. But the interests of the taxpayers must be considered as well as the interests of the students. The principal occupied a good deal of the College building, and if this space were set apart for the students he thought sufficient accommodation could be provided. The Leader of the Government said there was no objection to the fees paid by the students but he (Mr. Campbell) knew that there was a good deal of objection. He strongly denounced the attempt to fasten a debt of \$20,000 upon the people, and condemned any further expenditures, the burden of which must eventually fall upon the shoulders of the farmers.

Hon. Mr. Peters said that there were the names of many property holders to the petition, and some of them were good Conservatives, too. He instanced the names of John McLean, Souris, and the Prowses, of Murray Harbor, as a proof that property holders had signed the petition. There was no underhand work about the petition and the students were not opposed to paying the college fees.

Mr. Campbell said he took the stand he did in the interests of the taxpayers, rather than in the interests of party. He was not pandering to any class, but he would always act in the best interests of the people. Mr. Rogers (Alberton) thought there should be a new building, and said its erection would not add anything to the burdens of the people. Many of the school buildings in the country districts were superior to the college. He believed the students had willingly paid the fees, believing that they would be set apart for a new college building.

Mr. Shaw said he believed the Government had used every effort to have the petition numerously signed in order to give them an excuse for going ahead with the work. The petition contained the names of men, women and children, and yet out of a population of 108,000 they had only been able to get about 2,000 signatures. Mr. Shaw read from the petition a number of names of young girls attending the College, and as he read name after name without coming to John McLean, the Prowses or John Hamilton, much amusement was created. He referred to the fees paid by the students, and claimed that every principle of responsible government had been violated when these fees were imposed by the present administration without the consent of the representatives of the people. He had heard many complaints against these fees. If the Government could levy a tax on students at their own sweet will. Why could they not levy taxes on property in the same way,

He was favourable to aiding education in every way, but he claimed that this could be done without putting a new burden upon the people. The rooms at present used by the principal could be utilized for students. Until this is done the principal will not be in a position to collect the fees. There was no need of a new building under these circumstances. We have no right to a 20,000 to our already large debt to satisfy the whim of the Government or any one else.

Mr. Warburton referred to the splendid work done by the College in the past, and spoke of the necessity there was for a new building. Even if the Principal were removed there would not be room in the present building. He pointed out that the fees paid by the students had always been imposed, but they had never been collected until the present Government came into power.

Mr. A. J. Macdonald thought that the Government were not justified in adding to the indebtedness of the Province at the present time when they were not able to pay their bills. He thought that there was room for improvement in our educational system, and claimed that under existing arrangements the children of poor people were under a disadvantage, and that it was the children of the rich who got the benefit of the College.

Hon. Mr. Sinclair referred to the importance of maintaining the efficiency of our educational system, which had given such good results in the past. The cost of constructing the proposed building would be all paid in thirty years out of the fees paid by the students. Mr. Campbell put in another plea for care in this matter. He said he could make the present building hold 300 students if he were given the opportunity. The present government had shown their feelings towards the farmers of this province by removing from the College the professors of agriculture. The College fitted men for the professions rather than for life on the farm, and was therefore of little benefit to the farmer.

Mr. McKinnon pointed out that the College afforded a good general education, and fitted one for any walk in life. The proposed new building would not cost anything except the students' fees.

Mr. Shaw pointed out that by imposing fees the Government had made it harder to attend college than it was in former years, and had the floor when recess was taken at six o'clock.

At the evening session Mr. Shaw resumed the debate. He referred to the dismissal from Prince of Wales College of the Professor of Agriculture, and claimed that under present conditions our boys and girls were taught to dislike rather than to like farming. He claimed that the Government were not justified in fastening a debt of \$20,000 upon the taxpayers of this province when it was quite possible to provide sufficient accommodation by the removal to other quarters of the principal who occupies about one fifth of the building. He pointed out also, that at the present time there was a new wing to the asylum under construction which would involve an expenditure of upwards of \$25,000. For these reasons amongst others he was opposed to the erection of a new college building at the present time.

The discussion was continued by Messrs. Farguharson, Bell and Wise, after which the resolution was put and carried.

Hon. Mr. Peters moved the House into committee of the whole, for the purpose of considering the following resolution:

Resolved, That it is advisable that a Bill be passed authorizing the Government to promote the introduction in the Province of a first-class Cold Storage System by some private company by granting aid thereto in the form of an annual grant or bonus or guarantee of a certain rate of interest or profit, or in such manner as may be deemed advisable—such assistance not to exceed \$800 in any one year and not to be given for more than three years.

This resolution was discussed by Hon. Mr. Peters, and Messrs. Bell, Campbell, Rogers, (Alberton). The discussion continued until about eleven o'clock, when the House adjourned until three this afternoon. A summary report of the discussion is unavoidably crowded out.

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None as Good as E. & D.

Answering a question in the British House of Commons a few days ago, Mr. Curzon said that the diplomatic relations between Great Britain and Venezuela have not yet been renewed, but Her Majesty's Government was ready to take into friendly consideration any proposals from Venezuela to renew diplomatic relations.

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New Boots and Shoes opening at R. K. Jost's.

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Hardly had his successor been appointed when the wires brought tidings of the death of William P. St. John, a New York banker, and remembered by everyone as the treasurer of the National Democratic party during the latest national campaign. Bright's Disease carried him off.

It has killed many better men than most of us. So has Diabetes, its twin curse. Yet there is one cure (and only one), that never failed in cases of Diabetes and Bright's Disease. Let these testimonials bear witness:

MR. FRED CARSTENS, Palmerston, Ont., says: "After many years suffering with Bright's Disease, I am a new man, cured by using three boxes of Dodd's Kidney Pills."

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DODD'S KIDNEY PILLS are for sale by druggists everywhere, and by the Dodd's Medicine Co., Toronto, Ont. Price 50 cents a box.

LIBERAL-CONSERVATIVE ELECTORS

OF WARD ONE

A meeting of the Liberal-Conservative Electors of Ward One East and West will be held in McEachern's Building, on Queen Street, Charlottetown, on Monday evening, the 12th day of April, inst., at 7.30 o'clock, for the purpose of selecting delegates to attend a convention of the Liberal-Conservative Electors of Charlottetown and Royalty, to be called shortly, to select candidates to represent the city at the forthcoming local election.

A full attendance of electors is requested. W. D. McKAY, Convener.

Ch'town, Ap 9—td

A TESTIMONIAL

To Manchester Catarrah Co, from Rev. John C. Berry, once stationed on the Island.

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It cleanses the head, relieves the eye, keeps the nostrils clear and aids the throat in an astonishing manner.

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