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"This is true Liberty, when Freeborn Men, having to advise the Public, may speak free."—Euripides.

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Colonial Parliament.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON, April 3.

Mr. CONROY, from the Committee to whom was referred the petition in reference to erecting a bridge three miles near to the mouth of the Kildare river than the present bridge, presented a report, which did not recommend a grant for that purpose this session, as the site of the proposed bridge had not been defined, there appeared to be no direct road to it, and the erection of the said bridge would require an outlay of over £1000.

Hon. Mr. HAVILAND moved two resolutions, the first being the usual vote to pay the salaries and allowances provided for by statute, and the other specifying the allowances for certain other branches of the public service. Education, he said, was set down at a sum sufficient, but he presumed that the amount required would come up to £17,000; and if so, this Colony would be appropriating about one-third of its revenue for education. He thought that any Colony which did so could not be that insignificant place which this Island was represented to be in a paper published in New Brunswick. He was sorry that such disparaging statements respecting this Colony should be made by the public press, as he had lately found their way into the *Colonial Empire*, a newspaper published in that Province, and one which he believed had been started to oppose the Hon. Mr. Tilley and his colleagues in the Government. All he could say was, that if this paper represented the views of the opposition party there, he was glad that Mr. Tilley and his friends had been successful at the last election. Certainly, as one of the items with which that paper taunted us was our public debt, it came with very bad grace from the people of a Colony that had added \$140,000 to its debt in one year. He could tell the people of that Colony also, that large as it was, we had set them an example in many things. Not only had we taken the lead of them in regard to an elective Legislative Council, but also with respect to quadrennial parliaments. In this latter particular they had been obliged to follow our example, and probably they would yet find it necessary to have an elective Council. We had also been in advance of them with respect to free trade with the United States. And in regard to the principle of allowing a person to be an evidence in his own case in law courts, we were in advance of all the other Colonies, even of Canada herself. When New Brunswick expended one-third of her revenue on education, then she might endeavour to make irrelevant comparisons.

Hon. Mr. COLES said there was one point to which he desired to call attention when the subject of Education was under consideration,—that was in regard to the expenses of the Prince of Wales College. We had been told at first that it would cost very little to the Government, as the fees would be paid into the Treasury; but he saw no return of fees in the public accounts. On the other hand, he observed a charge of house rent for the Professor. He could not say exactly what the Institution cost annually, but he thought that with house rent and all, it must be near £600. This was besides what had been expended in repairing the building. Now, the old Academy cost annually only somewhere about £500, and he had yet to learn that it did not suit the requirements of the country as well as the present Institution. With respect to the statements which appeared in the New Brunswick paper, alluded to by the hon. member for Georgetown, he used to quote a gentleman that it had become the press of that Province to speak slightly of this Island, as we had been in advance of them in many things; and he believed that even in respect to an elective Legislative Council—that at which they sneered—they would yet be glad to follow our example. In reference to Reciprocity with the United States, we had been far in advance of them.

Hon. Mr. HAVILAND remarked that the hon. leader of the Opposition was mistaken in regard to the fees of Prince of Wales College; they were not to be paid into the Treasury, but one third of them was to go to each of the Professors, and the other two thirds to keep the building in repair. With respect to the Professor's house rent, he admitted that it required some explanation. The Professor before he had accepted the appointment, had been informed that he would have no house rent to pay, as he would have the privilege of living in the College building; but when the Government commenced to repair the building, they found the repairs required so extensive that they thought it would be more advantageous to the Colony to pay house rent than to fit up apartments in the establishment for the Professor's family to occupy.

The two resolutions proposed by Mr. Haviland were then agreed to.

Hon. Mr. HAVILAND moved the second reading of the Bill to change the constitution of the Legislative Council, by rendering the same elective; and in doing so said its principal object had been so often discussed in this House, and its principal provisions at so great a length in a former part of the session, that he considered it unnecessary to enter into any explanations at present.

The motion having been agreed to, Hon. Mr. Haviland moved that the said Bill be now committed to a Committee of the whole House.

Hon. Mr. WHELAN said he had upon all occasions opposed this measure, and he took no action when a motion of this kind was made, he might be considered as acquiescing in the principle of the Bill. He did not deem it necessary to make a speech, but would simply move, in amendment to the motion, to leave out the word "now," and at the end of the question insert "this day three months."

On the question being put on the amendment, there appeared for it—Hons. Messrs. Whelan, Kelly and Mr. Cooper.

Against it—Hons. Messrs. Haviland, Longworth, Pope, Yeo, Laird, McAulay, Coles, Hensley, Wightman, Thornton, Perry, Messrs. McNeill, J. Yeo, Montgomery, Douse, Howat, Davies, Beer, Holm, Sutherland, Sinclair, Conroy, Owen—23.

The main motion was then put and carried, and the House accordingly resolved itself into said Committee, Mr. J. Yeo in the chair.

The Speaker having resumed the chair, the Bill was reported agreed to with several amendments.

Hon. Mr. Coles moved that the Bill be referred back to the Committee of the whole House, for the purpose of amending the same by reducing the value of the property qualification of every elector from £100 to £50.

The House divided on the question: YEA—Hons. Messrs. Coles, Whelan, Hensley, Kelly, Thornton, Perry, Wightman; Messrs. Cooper, Sinclair and Sutherland—10.

NAYS—Hons. Messrs. Haviland, Yeo, Pope, Longworth, Laird, McAulay, Messrs. Beer, J. Yeo, Montgomery, Ramsay, Howat, Holm, Davies, McNeill—14.

Hon. Mr. Coles then moved that the Bill be referred back to the Committee, for the purpose of amending the same by reducing the term of residence in Prince Edward Island, for persons eligible as Legislative Councillors, from 5 years to 3 years.

The House divided on the question: YEA—Hons. Messrs. Coles, Whelan, Thornton, Perry, Wightman, Kelly; Messrs. Davies, Cooper, Sinclair, Sutherland—10.

NAYS—Hons. Messrs. Haviland, Yeo, Pope, Longworth, Laird, McAulay, Hensley; Messrs. Beer, J. Yeo, Montgomery, Ramsay, Howat, Holm, McNeill—14.

So the Bill was agreed to as reported from Committee. House adjourned.

FRIDAY, April 4.

Hon. Mr. WIGHTMAN presented a petition of divers agriculturists, mechanics and others, of Lot 49, setting forth the conviction of the petitioners that the admission of American manufactured articles of every description, is evidently a manifest injury to the interest and prosperity of the Island population generally, and praying the House to impose an additional duty upon all descriptions of American manufactured articles imported into this Colony, or adopt such measures as it may deem necessary and sufficient to protect, encourage and secure native mechanics, and the transmission of a large amount of money, annually, for American importations. Laid on the table.

House again in Committee of Supply.

Hon. Mr. HAVILAND moved several resolutions appropriating certain sums for different branches of the public service, in one of which was £200 for the master in Prince of Wales College, £55 for house rent of Professor, a sum sufficient to improve the mode of collecting the Light and Anchorage dues, should the same be required, and a sum sufficient to improve the buoying of Hillsborough Bay. The hon. member said he had explained the matter of the Professor's house rent yesterday. The sum for buoys in Hillsborough Bay was to carry out the plan recommended in the letter of Commander Hancock. If this suggestion was not complied with we need not expect any of Her Majesty's ships to visit our harbor.

regard to the Light duties, it would be remembered that a sum was voted last year to defray the expenses of boats' crews to aid in collecting these duties, the beneficial result of which he was prepared to show. Hon. members must be aware that in 1860 there were 3 vessels in the gulf to last year, yet the Light duties collected at Richmond Bay in 1861 were £182 14s 11d, while in 1860 they were only £88 16s 9d; at Cas Camp in 1861, the amount collected was £52 4s 1d, while in 1860 it was only £15 0s 3d. The disbursements for the year were £115 6s 5d, leaving still a balance in favor of that year, of £123 3s 4d. This was the clear gain of the new system adopted. During the present year the expense would not be so great, as boats and suitable dress for the men would not require to be provided.

Mr. HOWAT did not understand about the sum set down for the Professor's house rent. He was of opinion the grant for the repair of the college was for all purposes. He thought the people of Charlottetown, as they were deriving the most benefit from the College, should put their hands in their pockets and pay for this house rent.

Hon. Mr. HAVILAND did not generally speak on behalf of the claims of Charlottetown; but the Prince of Wales College was not for the city, it was for the whole Island. He believed that the students now in the College were 3 from the country to 1 in town. He believed that the most talented there were from the country.

Hon. Mr. COLES said the Government should have seen that they had accommodation for the Professor before they sent for him. Here we had an institution now which was costing the Colony, house rent and all, nearly £1000; and notwithstanding this expense, it was very little better than the old Academy. This College might turn out good scholars, but the Academy turned out as good as were to be found almost anywhere.

Hon. Mr. HAVILAND remarked that the hon. leader of the Opposition had said that the Government should have seen that they had accommodation for the Professor before they sent for him. He would remind him of the case of Mr. Stark, who was sent for by the late Governor, and they paid his passage, and voted £100 to pay for a horse and carriage furnished him, as Governor Bannerman had informed him that he would be supplied with these.

Hon. Mr. LONGWORTH also spoke in behalf of the claims of the Prince of Wales College. He generally acquiesced in the remarks of the hon. proposer of the resolution, and said that his institution was not very well off. He admitted that the staff of Professors was too weak, but trusted that it would soon be increased.

Mr. CONROY thought that this College was costing the country too much. The House should not be always voting money for institutions in the city. If he was sending his children to college, he would certainly not send them to the Prince of Wales College, but to one that was costing the country nothing.

When the question was put on the item of £35 for the Professor's house rent, there appeared for it—Hons. Messrs. Haviland, Gray, Longworth, Laird, Pope, Yeo, Speaker Wightman; Messrs. Beer, J. Yeo, Holm, Davies, Ramsay, Douse, Montgomery—15. Against it—Hons. Messrs. Coles, Thornton, Perry, Messrs. Cooper, Sinclair, Conroy, Howat, Sutherland—10.

The other resolutions after some little conversation were agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Perry from the Committee on the petitions relating to schools and education, presented their report.

Adjourned.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON, April 4.

The House in Committee of Supply.

After some small grants were discussed, Hon. Mr. Haviland proposed the sum of £400 for the volunteer service. We have a volunteer force which would do credit to any Colony. The number of companies in King's County was 6, in Prince of Wales 15—comprising 1643 men in all arms, averaging 5 to each company. The evidence of their efficiency was given in the late year in New Brunswick. The hon. leader of the Opposition and Hon. Mr. Pope could testify that better than myself, having been prevented from attending at Sussex Vale. It was not supposed that the competition which this Island could offer against Nova Scotia and New Brunswick would eventuate in success. But if the winner of the prize had been unsuccessful, there were others of the Island who would have carried off the trophy. A constituent of the hon. member, Mr. Laird, was next to the hon. Mr. Blatch, and there was still another, so that there were three Islanders who had asserted their superiority to Nova Scotia and New Brunswick marksmen. It should be borne in mind, to the credit of the Island competitors, that they had not had the benefit enjoyed by their rivals, of the presence of large bodies of troops among them. If we were to depend on them to compete for the Queen's prize, and that given by the Prince of Wales. I hope that the time is not far distant when this organization will receive the support of the people without distinction of party. If the hon. leader of the Opposition were to express his real sentiments, I believe that no one at Sussex Vale rejoiced at the success of the Island volunteers so much as himself.

Hon. Mr. THORNTON—I last year voted for £300 as an experiment, and after a lapse of twelve months I cannot discover the benefit. It appears that at Sussex Vale a few of the Island volunteers exceeded their competitors, but what benefit has accrued to the Colony generally from that circumstance? Will ask the hon. member from Georgetown what was the result of the experiment as if the Herrings or Montserratians pay us a visit? The success in New Brunswick was a casual thing, and the champion may lose his laurels at another trial. I have no objection to vote any sum necessary for the protection of the Colony, but I oppose this grant as not for the general benefit. I may mention that I have recently been elected upon, as a Captain in the Militia, to make returns of the statistics of the militia organization. I know not what it is. It appears to me somewhat strange, as a similar application has not been made to me for 5 years.

Hon. Col. GRAY—the hon. member surprises me when he says that he can see no benefit to be derived from the presence of a military force. He voted, I infer, last year in favour of the grant for the protection, it might be, of the lives and liberties of the inhabitants. As they have not yet been invaded, a similar obligation exists. The battle of Waterloo gave peace to Europe for many years after 1815, but will deny that the naval and military establishments of Great Britain were not efficient instruments in continuing the blessing of peace? In Nova Scotia, with a deficiency of \$35,000 in the last year's revenue, they had appropriated no less than the sum of \$20,000 to the volunteer organization. That province has, it is true, an extent of seaboard which would be liable to the incursions of an enemy, but the shores of this Island were far more defensible. Nova Scotia has forts and garrison and the protection of a large naval squadron, yet her people are sensible that the stalwart arms of her volunteers may be necessary to repel an invader from the shore, and they provide for the possible necessity. We have nothing to boast of for the protection of our wives and families. A sense of our own honor should induce us to let the parent state see that we appreciate her exertions, and are willing to aid them to the extent of our ability. The amount asked is small. I wish we could afford more; but we must take into consideration the limited amount of our disposal, and contrasting our resources with those of Nova Scotia, which we are unable to be unfavorable to us. That province has no volunteers more efficient than our own.

After some observations from Hon. Col. Gray and Hon. Mr. Coles on the subject of relative military rank.

Hon. Mr. WHELAN—I will support the resolution if the sum be left in blank, but £400 was too large in the present state of the finances of the Colony. He would have no objection to a small sum to enable the enthusiastic advocates of the movement to find themselves in pipelay and enjoy themselves on gala days among the ladies.

The resolution was carried.

SATURDAY, April 5.

The Vaccination Bill sent down from the Legislative Council was referred to a Special Committee, composed of Hons. Messrs. Hensley, Longworth, Pope, Laird, and Thornton.

The Bill to confirm the Award of the Land Commissioners was read 2nd time and committed. The discussion which took place elicited nothing which has not been already published.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON, April 5.

Committee on the Bill to give effect to the report of the Commissioners on the Land Question, resumed.

Hon. Mr. COLES reiterated some of the statements he had made in the forenoon respecting the preamble of the Bill, and named Messrs. Wright, Rennie and Winslow's estates as being some that would not be affected by the Award. It had been said that this was no party question, but the late Government had been defeated principally upon this question. It was that of all others which principally agitated the country, and the Opposition were asked to agree to this Bill. They had been told this morning that the Liberal party had confirmed the proprietors' titles by purchasing the Worrell estate. But though the late Government purchased that estate without investigating the titles, did that say that all succeeding governments were not to interfere with this question? He then went into an explanation of the preamble of the Bill, and mentioned the names of the proprietors, and said that now when they were in a majority they considered that the titles could not be disturbed.

Hon. Col. GRAY—Any use of the arms except for purposes of drill or parade was improper. When they were first received some companies had been organized and got arms before the law was passed. It was but the other day that the Act came out for amendment, and until it became law the Commander-in-Chief cannot issue orders. His Excellency informed me a few days since that orders would be promulgated shortly. In fact they may now be in the hands of the printer.

Mr. CONROY was opposed to the grant of last year and was equally so to the present.

Hon. Mr. McAULAY—We have witnessed the disruption of the neighboring confederacy, one part of which is arrayed against the other, and deeds of cruelty are being mutually perpetrated. Is it to be supposed that they would manifest more mercy to us? In supporting this organization we are but following the example of England and the neighbouring Colonies. I am not aware that any class is excluded from the ranks of the volunteers. The object of the movement is the protection of the homes of all. The mother country protected us in our infancy, now it is whispered that we should begin to defend ourselves, and surely we will not hesitate to advance a small amount when England sends 30,000 men and a magnificent fleet to protect these Colonies. The very fact that we should be small Colonies is a mark of our weakness and exertions. The man who would not aid in preserving the inviolability of his home and the sanctity of his altars was a traitor.

Hon. Mr. THORNTON—the hon. member may appropriate the appellation to himself.

Mr. COLES was always in favor of encouraging this movement on the part of our young men, especially when it is considered that they are put to the expense of providing themselves with uniforms. I think, however, that the amount asked is excessive. It is folly to talk of the volunteers successfully defending the Island, for if an enemy's ship should elude the vigilance of a British cruiser what could we do?

Hon. Mr. HAVILAND—cannot see how a smaller amount could be so well spent for by the late Government, and they receive a sixpence; but they give their time and find their own uniforms. The least that the country can do is to provide the necessary instruction to render them efficient in the performance of their duties. The argument of the hon. member, Mr. Cooper, if applied to every Colony, would render their submission to an invader a matter of necessity. New Brunswick and Canada had extensive boundaries on the frontiers of the States, and the spirit involved in his views is humiliating. The manifestation of a disposition to defend a country has the effect of rendering an invading force cautious in their attempts upon it. Many points may be liable to the incursions of a hostile force, but the object of the volunteer organization is to prevent the permanent or protracted occupation by an enemy. We have a large number of the volunteers of the country ready and willing to defend the honor of our wives and daughters, and that number is but the nucleus of a self-reliant defensive force. A retired volunteer will constitute an efficient militia man. Wherever the British flag waves, the fostering care of the Government is extended to the volunteer movement, and as we in turn the only exception to the general rule is that the volunteers do not receive a feather. It might be excusable in 1860 to take no action in this direction, but now, after the outrage committed upon the steamer 'Trent,' we should be showing ourselves the willing slaves of anarchy if we did not prepare to defend ourselves. God forbid that we should prove ourselves recreant to the cause of our fathers. 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