

The Examiner

EXTRA.

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Charlottetown, Monday, September 4, 1871.

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Parliamentary.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

THURSDAY, March 16th.

An Act relating to Physicians and Surgeons.

Hon. the Speaker in the Chair.

Dr. Robertson presented a Bill relating to Physicians and Surgeons, which was read a first time and ordered to be read a second time to-morrow.

Supply.

Nine Resolutions of Supply previously reported from committee were severally read and agreed to.

Decimal Currency.

Hon. D. Davies presented a petition from certain Merchants and others in Charlottetown, praying for the introduction of a Bill authorizing the adoption of the Decimal Currency system.

Postage.

Hon. D. Davies presented a petition from certain Merchants in Charlottetown, praying for a reduction of Postage on inland and foreign letters, which was received and ordered to be laid on the table; and was subsequently referred to a special committee having power to send for persons, papers and records, to report thereon by bill or otherwise.

Young Men's Christian Association.

Hon. Attorney General presented a petition from Joseph Hensley and others, praying for an Act of Incorporation for the Charlottetown Young Men's Christian Association and Literary Institution, which was received and ordered to lie upon the table.

Saint John's Church, Belfast.

Hon. Mr. Duncan presented a petition from the Trustees of the Presbyterian Congregation of St. John's Church, Belfast, praying for an alteration in their Act of Incorporation which was received and referred to the committee of Private Bills.

Odd Fellows.

Hon. Attorney General presented a petition from J. W. Falconer and others, praying for an Act of Incorporation. He did not know much about that organization but had no doubt although they styled themselves "Odd Fellows," but that they were pretty clever fellows.

Hon. Mr. Howlan said he thought they would soon have to endeavor to get one general bill passed by which those organizations praying for separate Acts of Incorporation might be provided with the legal protection necessary. With regard to those Odd Fellows he thought he learned Attorney General should give the House some explanation, and show what the benefits were which such an organization was intended to confer upon the community. They had Masonic Sons of Temperance, and other bodies who had made similar applications on former occasions, and the public were aware of the laudable designs of such societies, but those Odd Fellows they knew nothing about.

Hon. Mr. Wightman did not know but that the Government itself made up that Odd Fellows organization, and therefore thought it very desirable that the learned and hon. member who introduced the petition should inform the House what the objects of such associations were. The institution might have been got up for laudable purposes but for aught that hon. House knew to the contrary, it might have been a consideration, Annexation or some other injurious object in view. If those Odd Fellows were, as the hon. member seemed to suppose, very fine fellows, no harm would result from knowing more about them.

Hon. Mr. Perry fully concurred with the views expressed by his hon. colleague, and thought, if it could be done that it was time some general Act was passed. Those applications came chiefly from Queen's County, and every year took up considerable of the time of the House, besides putting the country to considerable cost in preparing and printing those acts. All which a general measure might perhaps render unnecessary. He too would like to know more about the objects of that organization.

Hon. Attorney General believed the society was something like that of Masonry, of which several hon. members knew something, the objects of which were those of benevolence and charity. The petition was referred to the Private Bill Committee to report thereon by bill or otherwise.

The Bills to amend the Act of Incorporation of the Trustees of St. John's Church, Belfast; for the establishment of the People's Bank, and the incorporation of the Odd Fellows Society, being severally received, in their order, were read a first time and ordered to be read a second time to-morrow.

House adjourned until to-morrow.

G.

FRIDAY, March 17th.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

According to previous notice, the roll of Members names were called, when Hon. Mr. Callbeck and Mr. Lefurgy were reported absent.

Hon. Mr. Wightman excused Hon. Mr. Callbeck's absence, on account of severe affliction in that hon. member's family. The apology was accepted by the House.

Hon. Mr. Perry said that his reason for moving for a call of the roll was that an important question was to be brought before the House, which, if carried, would necessitate an increase of taxes.

The Thirteenth rule of the House was suspended, in order to allow Mr. Howat to present a petition from Tryon and vicinity against the present construction of a railroad. Said petition was then presented, received, read, and laid on the table.

Hon. Mr. Owen, a member of the Government, presented the Accounts of the Lands Office, and also the Reports of the Visitors of Schools. Received and laid on the table.

Hon. B. Davies, according to previous notice placed upon the Order Book, asked whether it was the intention of the Government to place the Prothonotary's Office upon the same footing as the other Public Offices of the Colony.

Hon. Leader of the Government said it was not the intention of the Government to make any change in reference to that Office

this Session; but they intended to ask the House to authorize the appointment of a Commissioner to revise the whole practice of the Supreme Court, and that office would therefore be attended to next Session.

Mr. McLEAN said that, in accordance with a notice which he had placed upon the Order Book a short time ago, he would now move a resolution in reference to what is generally termed the "School Question," and in doing so, acknowledged that he labored under no small degree of embarrassment. The question is one of the greatest importance, and he felt that, owing to his incapacity and want of parliamentary experience, he could not do it justice, according to its merits; but, finding that the matter had not been taken up by any person more capable, he felt that there was an imperative necessity for him to bring forward a measure which he was sure nine-tenths of his constituents would support. He asked nothing more for his coreligionists than he asked for every denomination in the Colony that choose to avail itself of the provisions of an amendment which he wished to see made in the Education Act. He hoped he would not be met by the miserable apology for a reply that while Catholic doctrines are taught in schools established by Catholics, those schools should be debarred from receiving any support from the public school funds, which are contributed equally by Catholics and Protestants. From what he knew of his Protestant fellow-subjects, he did not believe that, when the matter was set properly before them, they would express such an opinion. It appeared to him a great hardship that the Catholics of this Colony should be compelled to contribute towards the support of Prince of Wales College, for it was well known that they did not receive the least benefit from it. This matter had for a considerable time engaged the attention of the people of this Island, and had caused a great deal of dissatisfaction; he, therefore thought the Legislature, in its wisdom, would be justified in amending the Education Act, in order to remedy this grievance, and to give all denominations the justice to which they were entitled. The Catholics of this Island number nearly one-half its population, and are therefore entitled to receive the due consideration of the Government. He thought that the followers of a religion which had throughout the world two hundred millions of adherents, were entitled to the most serious consideration of the Government of any country in the world. He would, therefore, beg leave to submit the following:—

"Whereas the present system of Education taught in this Colony does not give general satisfaction, Resolved, therefore, that this House do now resolve itself into a Committee of the whole, to take into consideration the expediency of making, (if required) some alteration in the present Educational system."

Mr. Hooper seconded the Resolution. Hon. Leader of the Government rose to a point of order, for he thought it necessary that the hon. member for Souris should explain the nature of the alteration which he thought was necessary. He was glad to see the hon. member move his resolution; but it was contrary to the rule of the House to entertain any question which would involve the granting of money by a Committee. If, therefore, the hon. member moved his resolution having for his object the granting of money to Catholic schools, for the purpose of placing them on the same footing as in some other countries, it is entirely contrary to the rules of the House to entertain it. Surely the hon. member will explain what alterations he wants in the School Act. He can suggest what amendments he thinks are required.

Mr. McLEAN said the resolution was in perfect accordance with the rules of Parliament, and did not ask for a sum of money; all that it asked for was the consideration of the Education Act, for the purpose of amending it. He would not state what amendments he thought were required, till the House resolved itself into a Committee of the whole on the matter.

Mr. Hooper said that many hon. members of the House were of opinion that an amendment was required in our Education Act, for in many parts it was deficient. There were teachers who were not paid according to the work they performed, and it was but just that such a matter as that should be attended to. There were also other important amendments required, such as the grading of the City Schools, &c., all of which would be explained when the House resolved itself into a Committee of the whole to consider the matter. He did not think there was any occasion to point out what amendments were contemplated in submitting the resolution. The subject was a very important one, and affected the interests of the Colony to a very large extent; he therefore hoped it would be taken up.

Hon. Mr. Perry said an explanation was due the House in reference to the matter. The House should be informed why it should be resolved into a Committee of the whole on the Education Act. The hon. member who introduced the resolution, should state to the House what amendments he requires, whether it is to lessen the tax for Education, to increase the teachers' salaries, to pay the Acadian teachers better, or to increase the number of schools. Unless this or some such information were given, the House would not know how to proceed.

Hon. Mr. McEACHEN felt disappointed at the action of his hon. colleague in reference to this matter. Was the hon. member afraid of the subject he had introduced? If he considered it so very important, why did he not give a proper explanation of it? Why did he not state what change he wished brought about in reference to the Education question? If the hon. member wanted a grant for St. Dunstan's College, or any of the Catholic schools, why did he not clearly say so?

(His Honor the Speaker then stated that the House could not take up any subject which required the expenditure of money, unless it originated with the Executive).

Hon. B. DAVIES said he understood the resolution submitted by the hon. member for Souris did not require a grant of money. The hon. member thought there was something wrong in the working of the School Act, and therefore asked for a committee of the whole House to consider it, and to report upon it. The hon. member was not bound to give all the details of the amendments which he would like to see made in the Act. This was not the time for him to do so, it should be done after the House went into Committee. When the committee reports, the House will be in a position to say whether it is a report requiring a money vote or not. He thought the hon. member was entitled to have an opportunity to submit the matter to the House in committee of the whole. The Education Act was a very important one, and was one in which the people took a great deal of interest, and therefore if any hon. member had any objection to it, and thought it could be improved upon, he saw no legitimate reason to prevent him from endeavoring to attain his object.

Mr. Howat could not see any objections to the resolution submitted by the hon. member for Souris, for supposing he wished to diminish, instead of increase the expenses of our Education System, it would be unfair not to allow him to have an opportunity to express his wants in a committee of the whole House.

Hon. Mr. WIGHTMAN said that when an hon. member submitted a resolution of this kind he was bound to give a fair explanation of his intentions regarding the amendments which he proposed, so as to enable the House to de-

cide upon the matter. If those explanations were not satisfactory the resolution need not be accepted.

Hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL said it was the first time he had seen a member of an opposition fencing in such a question as that before the House. The resolution was so covertly worded that it asked for nothing. The hon. member would not do what was his duty, and state whether the alterations which he proposes in the Education Act involves an expenditure of money or not. He (Mr. MacLean) would not give the slightest intimation of the amendment which he wanted in the Act, but he (Hon. Attorney General) thought he knew the hon. members object. The rules of Parliament are based upon common sense, and their violation in the manner proposed by the hon. member could not be permitted under any circumstances. The House was asked to vote upon a matter which the introducer would not explain, they were left in the dark in reference to it. But if the hon. member would give the assurance that it would not involve a money vote, he (Hon. Attorney General) would vote for going into committee upon it, if on the contrary it involved the granting of money he would oppose it. It could not be expected that hon. members would vote favorably unless they knew what they were going to vote upon. Even supposing the resolution were carried and it were found after the House was in committee that a money vote was asked for, it would only have to be thrown to one side after all, for it could not be granted. It was not long since the hon. member for Belfast said that our Education System was complete in every respect, and the best in the world, and yet he now gives it as his opinion that there is something wrong about it, and that the House should go into committee to amend it. If the hon. member for Souris really wishes to see his resolution acted upon let him be manly enough to stand up and tell what is meant by it.

Hon. B. DAVIES did say on the hustings that our system of Education is nearly perfect, but at the same time he was perfectly agreed that other hon. gentlemen should have an opportunity of questioning and enquiring into the Act, and suggest amendments, if they thought they were required. If any hon. member could point out a defect in the Act, there was no one readier than himself to assist in remedying it. As the resolution did not ask for more than this, it was perfectly correct and should be supported.

Mr. McNEILL said that with all due deference to the opinion of the Hon. Attorney General, he could not see that there was a money grant involved in the resolution submitted by the hon. member for Souris. His hon. friend (Mr. McLean) might want religious instruction imparted in the schools, while he (Mr. McNeill) was opposed to it. This would not involve the voting of money. The probability was that the hon. member did not intend to ask for a money grant.

Hon. LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT said the question of order had been raised, and the House should therefore come to a point of order. If the hon. member for Souris would state that no question would arise in connexion with the resolution which would involve a money grant in any shape or form there would be no objection to the House going into committee.

Mr. KELLY was under the impression when the hon. member for Souris introduced the resolution that he was endeavoring to remedy the evils of which Catholics complained in reference to St. Dunstan's College, and to obtain a grant for the support of that institution. If that were really the case he should bring the matter properly before the House; but he (Mr. Kelly) was afraid the hon. member had made it a failure, owing to the manner in which he had introduced it. If the hon. member had come out and moved that Catholics should get a grant for their educational institutions, he would probably have got the support of the Catholic members, but his action in reference to the matter had all ended in clap-trap.

Hon. P. SINCLAIR said that there was nothing in the resolution, as far as he could see, that would involve a grant of the public money for any purpose, and he did not think the hon. member, in submitting it entertained such an idea. The Educational system of the Colony did not altogether give satisfaction, and it was rather hard to charge the hon. member with uttering clap-trap, for bringing in a resolution to make some change for the purpose of improving the Act. There are some portions of Education Act which he himself would like to see amended. As far as the hon. member for Souris had proceeded, he had acted in conformity with the rules of the House, and should not therefore be choked down in the way he had been.

Mr. ARSENAULT thought the hon. member for Souris should explain the object of the resolution more fully than he had yet done before he could expect hon. members to support it.

Hon. Leader of the Government moved the previous question, shall the question be now put.

The House then divided as follows:—

YEAS—Hons. P. Sinclair, B. Davies, Wightman, and Messrs. McLean, McNeill, Howat, Hooper—7.

NAYS—Hons. Pope, McEachen, Perry, Duncan, Owen, Attorney General, Howlan, and Messrs. Cameron, Moar, Reilly, J. A. McDonald, Lefurgy, Arsenault, Beer, Munro, Richards, A. C. McDonald, Dr. Robertson—18. I. O.

Hon. Mr. POPE, a member of Her Majesty's Government, presented to the House the Accounts of the Committee for holding the Industrial Exhibition for King's County, for 1870. Ordered to be laid on the table.

The Bill intitled "An Act to amend the law relating to Vaccination" was read a third time and passed.

Mr. McMillan appeared at the Bar of the House in custody, and having made his excuse, was discharged.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Pope, seconded by the Hon. Attorney General, the House resolved itself into a committee of the whole to consider the expediency of constructing a Railroad, and also the necessity of deepening the harbors by means of dredging.

Dr. Robertson in the Chair.

Hon. LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT.—In the answer made by this House, to the speech with which His Honor the Lieutenant Governor opened the Session, we expressed concurrence with His Honor in his suggestion that we should consider the expediency of deepening the waters in our harbors, and of constructing a railroad through the Island, and declared our intention to devote to those important subjects our earnest consideration. Last evening I intimated to the House that on this—the day of the Patron Saint of the Emerald Isle—I would submit a Resolution respecting the construction of a Railroad. I shall accordingly move a Resolution. It is not my intention to make a long speech, as I, on a former occasion, addressed the House on this subject. Our roads, it is admitted, are insufficient for the increased traffic, and the transport of our agricultural and other pro-