

ALLEGED BILLS—PETITION.

SATURDAY, April 11.

Mr. Bell in the chair. Hon. Attorney General said the object of the petitioners was that the fourth section of the 24th Vic. should be restored to the Act, which will make it lawful for the Government to appoint persons whose duty it shall be to prevent the setting of nets, at improper times, or in an improper way, at streams frequented by those fish.

Hon. LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT remarked, that in one part of the section of the country, which he had the honor to represent, over one hundred families depended upon getting some of those fish every year, and considered it to be the duty of the House, to see that every precaution was taken for to allow their free ingress into those harbors, or places which they frequent.

Mr. SPEAKER said that on the south side of the Island such protection was not required, as these fish do not frequent the harbors on that side of the Island as they formerly did.

Hon. Mr. HOWLAND said the fishermen were in the habit of taking these fish for bait, and parties would sometimes set nets across the streams which they enter, which, if persisted in, would eventually destroy them altogether, or drive them from our harbors.

Hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL concurred in the propriety of restoring the section of the Act; when a Committee was appointed to bring in a Bill in accordance with the prayer of the petition.

On motion of the Hon. the Attorney General, the fifth order of the day was read, when the hon. member moved that the House do now resolve itself into a Committee for the further consideration of the Bill to consolidate and amend the Education Laws.

Hon. Mr. DAY said—Mr. Speaker, I rise to second the motion of the Hon. Attorney General, and in doing so, shall make a few remarks upon the subject. When this question was before the House a few evenings ago, I considered, owing to the lateness of the hour, that I would defer expressing the opinions I entertain on this important question until the present opportunity.

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numerously signed, as I before observed, by Catholics as well as by Protestants, and in the preparation of the Act the best minds in the Island were engaged—Catholics as well as Protestants—but none who were engaged in the framing of the measure knew each other as Protestants or as Catholics. The Catholics were then represented by the late Hon. Mr. Whelan, who had a large and liberal mind; there were also in the House, at that time, the Hon. Mr. Beaton and Mr. Thornton, each of these gentlemen were Catholics, and ably assisted in framing the Free Education Act—an Act, Sir, which was framed by Roman Catholics, Wesleyan Church of England and Presbyterians, and which is indebted for much of its excellence and completeness to the talent of a Catholic gentleman. It is true my hon. friend, the Leader of the Government, introduced the measure, which is said to be one of the best Acts of the kind which was ever passed in the British Colonies, and stands higher than the Prussian Law, for in that country the law is compulsory; here it is not so. The law may require amending in some minor points, but the principle upon which it is based is higher and more comprehensive than can be found in the educational laws of Great Britain, or that of any other country. Go to England, France, or Prussia, and you will find no law, providing for the secular education of the whole people, equal to the Free Education Act of this Island.

Hon. LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION.—I never read that before. Hon. Mr. DAVIES.—But it is so, whether the hon. and learned Leader of the Opposition has read it or not, and I am surprised to hear him say he is not aware of it, after having given utterance a few days ago to such an extensive review of education in other countries, and, in the end, had to come back to the United States.

Hon. LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION.—That was not what I said. Hon. Mr. DAVIES.—The hon. member spoke of the system which had been introduced by the Pilgrim Fathers in the States. Hon. LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION.—I said, the best system of a non-sectarian education was established by those men.

Hon. Mr. DAVIES.—I say, Sir, that a sectarian system of education, is a wrong one. Hon. LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION.—The hon. member I hope will not misrepresent me; I said the best known system of a non-sectarian education, was that which the Pilgrim Fathers established, which is altogether different from saying that it is the best system established anywhere.

Hon. Mr. DAVIES.—I was going to say that although the hon. Leader of the Opposition had gone over so much ground, he failed to show that any country had a better system of education than our own. One of the beauties of our system is, as I already said, that whenever it can be shown to the Government that a sufficient number of children can be found to form a school, and the requisite conditions complied with by the people, the Executive are bound to send them a teacher. I merely make these statements to show that His Lordship the K. C. Bishop was under a wrong impression when he laid down the principle that it was necessary for him to establish his schools. All that was required was to faithfully carry out the law as it was established. Had His Lordship's schools been in operation before the Free Education Act came into operation, then it might be our duty to support them; but the Act of 1852 rendered all such schools unnecessary, and less excuse can be offered for their establishment when it is borne in mind that there were as many Catholics as Protestants among the gentlemen who compiled this Act, and it was cordially supported, if not proposed by the former, and if I mistake not, was asked for and approved of by their clergy, and cannot be said to be an Act which favors any one sect more than another; and therefore, it is neither advisable nor expedient to grant sectarian endowments. One reason why I oppose such grants is, that however worthy the object His Lordship has in view, or however much we might wish to encourage schools of this nature, it will be admitted that the efforts of His Lordship in the cause of education are more with a view to the promotion of the interests of his own denomination, and by these very schools he will greatly advance those interests. Do we for a moment doubt that the Bishop made those efforts altogether for the benefit of his own people? If we endorse these schools, then we shall have to endorse similar ones for the Wesleyans, Episcopalian, Presbyterians, and all other denominations on the Island who may establish schools or colleges, for the late party called that a College which was formerly but an Academy. I would be glad to see any or all of the religious bodies on the Island establishing such institutions, but when they do so, I hope they will derive their support from their own people, and not apply to the House for aid. Were we once to commence supporting denominational institutions, we would find that we had entered upon a course of one continual annoyance. Happily we are free from this, and there is no necessity that we should ever enter upon such a course as our educational system is so well calculated to afford a good education to every child in the country. I stand here as a representative for Belfast, and cannot agree to any measure that would tend to break up our present system. I do not agree with the hon. member or Charlotte-town (Mr. Brock) that the Bishop had a right to what he asked for.

Hon. Mr. BROCKEN.—I did not say that. Hon. Mr. DAVIES.—I took down the words of the hon. member, and they are:—"What the Bishop asked for, he had a right to."

Mr. BROCKEN.—I said the 35,000 believed what the Bishop asked for was just, and what he had a right to. I did not say, I believed so. I expressed no opinion.

Hon. Mr. DAVIES.—Well, it may be so, but I understood the hon. member and the hon. Leader of the Opposition, to express themselves as I stated.

Hon. LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION.—The hon. member should not say the Leader of the Opposition.

Hon. Mr. DAVIES.—I wanted to show that our present system of education is entirely suited to the wants of the country, and that any measure embodying principles which might destroy it, ought to be rejected.

Hon. LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION.—I do not object to what the hon. member says, but he should not misrepresent hon. members on this side of the House.

Hon. Mr. DAVIES.—I have no wish to do so, but I will not endorse their opinions, for I look upon the Free Education Act as a bond of union which unites people together, uniting Catholics and Protestants upon a common basis; and it is quite obvious that hon. members in this hon. House, as well as those out of it, who advocate a principle so opposite to that embodied in the Free Education Act, have but one object in view, and that is to divide the Liberals, though in doing so they would destroy that excellent measure; but I am happy to know that they have not succeeded—they have made known intentions, but have not succeeded as they expected.

Hon. LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION.—Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask one question. Am I to understand that the hon. member as saying that the Opposition wish to break up the union existing between the Liberal Protestants and the Catholics?

Hon. Mr. DAVIES.—I believe that the Tories, by intriguing with the Catholics, wish to break up the present party. The Islander is their acknowledged organ, and the sentiments expressed by the Opposition in this House, are pretty much the same as those put forward by that paper. They, through their press, say that about £20,000 are spent on education, and propose an entire new method of appropriating it. To the Catholics they say, if you go with us, we will go with you, and give you £5,000 out of the appropriation for education. The Presbyterians, they say, shall also have a proportionate share, and so to the Wesleyans and other bodies. These, Sir, are the proposals the Tories are now making, which, Sir, in their spirit and meaning, would hold out to the ministers of religion of all the denominations throughout the Island. Yes, this is the scheme of the late Colonial Secretary of this Island; of a man who at that time received the support of the Opposition, and who, I believe, is still encouraged and supported by the same party. Sir, are the ministers of religion to be thus tampered with? Just imagine the Tory party striking out such a plan and stalking forth through the country with £20,000 a year to dispose of among the different religious bodies of this island. Why, Sir, such a proposal is degrading, and the very reverse of what we should expect.

have the system broken up. I make these statements to show the intrigues of some of the Tory party. I do not say the hon. members opposite have done so, but I am well aware these are the schemes and plans of the party outside of this House, the sole and ostensible object of which is to divide and break up the present Liberal party; and the Opposition would like to have the matter brought forward for the purpose of dividing hon. members on this question, and thus destroy the Free Education Act; but knowing as they must, that the people throughout the country would spurn anything of the kind with abhorrence and indignation, they shrink from coming forward here openly with the proposal. I have shown you, Sir, that the Free Education Act came from all sections of the people, and was enacted in answer to the prayer of a petition from all classes in the country, and that I aim and intention was not that our children should be taught upon the principle of a common charity, but upon the broad and proper principle, that the State owe an education to all her children, and that our system is so large, there is neither necessity nor room for charity schools if every man will but do his duty to his children and to his country in this matter. We, Sir, do not wish it to be said that any man's child was taught by charity, but as a right which every child can claim as one which his country owes him. Our system rests upon a nobler base than a common charity, for not the slightest disgrace in this respect can ever attach to any who receive an education in our common schools. So far the system has been successful, fully carried out, and I hope it may never be broken up. The country will be glad to know that the object upon which the Tories have set their hearts for so many months has been defeated, and that notwithstanding the labored articles of their organ on this subject, their schemes have fallen to the ground.

Hon. LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION.—Mr. Speaker, I wish to offer a few remarks in reply to the hon. member for Belfast, but as it is now too late, I think we had better adjourn the debate.

Hon. Mr. DAVIES.—I would prefer ending the discussion now. Hon. LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION.—I dare say the hon. member would, but I prefer adjourning the debate until the afternoon.

House adjourned for one hour. R. GORDON, Reporter.

AFTERnoon SESSION. Hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL moved that the Bill for the better security of the Crown and Government of the United Kingdom within this Island, be read a second time, and remarked: It is a purely a verbal alteration which is required in the Act, the words "open and devised" speaking were omitted when the Act was passed, and the British Government wish to have the Act similar in all the Provinces. Although this Bill is brought forward, yet I do not think we have any apprehension of any unreasonable actions in our midst. I believe that in this Island there will be no necessity to put this Act in force. As this Bill refers to menaces and threats, I think it is a very appropriate time to speak of the tragic event which has occurred in the Dominion of Canada—the melancholy news which we have heard this morning concerning one who held a high position in their Legislature. He was a gentleman of high attainments, of polished manners, a genial, warm hearted man, whom all would respect, and I am sure all will feel horror and regret at the dreadful event, by which the world has been deprived of such a man.

Hon. LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION.—This Bill is for the security of the Crown in this Island, and the amendments in it proposed by the Attorney General have been suggested by the Secretary of State. It appears that a Bill on that subject was passed a few years ago, but it did not go to the same length as the Home authorities wished; they wish to have a similar law in all the Colonies. I am sure there would be no objections to having this Bill passed, for no person would wish to screen those who would be guilty of such conduct as this Bill is intended to prevent. The hon. Attorney General has referred to the assassination of the Hon. T. D'Arcy McGee, and however non-members might have differed from that distinguished statesman and scholar on the question of Confederation, I think there can be but one expression of opinion in this House, that in enacting this Bill, that question he did so freely, fearlessly and independently, and all his acts in reference to that matter proved him to be a true patriot, and that he had no selfish end in view. Nor did he court the changing breeze of popularity, for if he had wished to make himself popular he would have taken a different course. I believe his sole object was the welfare of British America, to see her thrive under a monarchical, constitutional Government. In his younger days he was captivated by the republican form of Government; but in his maturer years, when he studied the different systems of government, he came to the conclusion that there was more freedom to be enjoyed under a monarchical than a republican form of it. I consider that British America has lost one of her most able, brilliant and accomplished sons. What our late lamented Queen's Printer, Hon. Edward Whelan, was to Prince Edward Island, Thomas D'Arcy McGee was to British America.

The Bill was then read, and the House resolved itself into a committee of the whole on it. Mr. P. Sinclair in the chair. After a short time the Committee rose and reported the Bill agreed to.

Advertisement for RING'S VEGETABLE AMBROSIA, described as 'THE MIRACLE OF THE AGE!' and 'Gray-Headed People have their locks restored by it to the dark, lustrous, silken tresses of youth, and are happy!' It lists various ailments it treats like baldness, dandruff, and itching scalp.

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Advertisement for PIANO-FORTE FOR SALE, a first-class 7 octave Boston made instrument, offered for sale by W. R. WATSON, General Agent for P. E. Island.

Advertisement for JOSEPH McKAY, BUTCHER, located at the corner of Pownall and Dorchester Streets, Charlottetown, P. E. I.

Advertisement for Bristol Line to New York, via Bristol, R. I. First class \$5, Second \$4. Cars leave the Depot of the Boston and Providence Railroad, Pleasant street daily, Sundays excepted.

Advertisement for MAILS, Summer Arrangement. The Mails for the United Kingdom, the neighboring Provinces, the United States, &c., will, until further notice, be closed at the General Post Office, Charlottetown, as follows, viz:—

Advertisement for MUSIC AND FRENCH! Terms per Quarter of TWENTY FOUR LESSONS—Music, £2; French, £1 10s. A selection of the best music for piano, violin, &c., is available for purchase.

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Advertisement for QUEEN VICTORIA'S JOURNAL, 'Our Life in the Highlands.' HARVIE'S BOOKSTORE, Queen Street, Sept. 7.

Advertisement for LAZARUS & MORRIS, Practical Opticians & Opticians, London, G. E. and Hartford, Conn. U. S.

Advertisement for W. R. WATSON, Chemist & Druggist, CHARLOTTETOWN. Sole Agent for the Sale of their CELEBRATED PERFECTED SPECTACLES.

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Advertisement for A. HERMANS, GUN-SMITH, Bell-Hanger and Tin-Smith. DEARS to inform his friends, and the public generally, that he has again commenced business on DORCHESTER STREET, next door to the Reading Room Building, where he is prepared to execute all orders in his line, with neatness and dispatch.

Advertisement for CRACKERS! CRACKERS! JUST RECEIVED, ex EDWIN & EVA, from HALIFAX—200 Boxes and 22 Barrels of CRACKERS and Fancy BREAD, from MOIR & CO'S Steam Factory, which are now on Sale.

Advertisement for FLOUR & CORNMEAL, FOR SALE, Cheap for CASH on delivery, at ROOM BUILDINGS. A. McNEILL'S Auction Rooms, Reading August 10, 1868.

Advertisement for W. E. DAWSON'S ENGLISH MALT VINEGAR AT W. E. DAWSON'S. Sept. 7, 1868. FLOUR & CORNMEAL, FOR SALE, Cheap for CASH on delivery, at ROOM BUILDINGS.

Advertisement for THE ROAD TO HEALTH AND LONG LIFE SECURED BY HOLLOWAY'S PILLS. Impurities of the Blood. In selecting the most appropriate medicine for a particular case, it is not easy to find one which will be found to purify, regulate, and improve the quality of the blood.

Advertisement for W. R. WATSON, Agent for the Island, July 27, 1868. JUST ARRIVED AND FOR SALE CHEAP FOR CASH. HEARTZ & SON HAVE JUST RECEIVED per Steamer from Britain, a LARGE ASSORTMENT OF Dry Goods, &c., &c.

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Advertisement for MRS. WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP, FOR CHILDREN TEETHING, which greatly facilitates the process of teething, by softening the gum, reducing all inflammation, and allaying all pain and spasmodic action.

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