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COLONIAL LEGISLATURE.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY, MONDAY, March 26. The Act to prevent the running at large of swine in Prince Town Bay, was read the third time and passed.

Bill to amend a Tax on Rent Rolls was read a second time.

Mr. COLES stated the Bill was to place a Tax on Proprietors about equal to the Land Tax paid by Tenants, in support of a Military Force, the balance to go to the support of Education.

Mr. PALMER did not think the Bill was introduced in good faith, the tax on wilderness lands was called a penal tax, and was for the purpose of making the proprietors settle their lands, the present tax is because they are not settled. When Responsible Government was given to the Island, he understood a compact had been entered into, that no further burthens should be put on the land. In consequence of this compact, the Bill would not pass at the Colonial Office; he thought the persons bringing in this Bill did not wish to have an armed force, they could not manage one part of their constituents, by saying, proprietors prevented the Bill from getting the Royal Assent, and thus their having an armed force, and others by saying, if proprietors want an armed force, why do they not pay for it.

Mr. DODD thought it would be the greatest injury that has ever yet been inflicted on the Tenantry. Landlords who have hitherto been lenient to the Tenantry, will now be obliged to enforce their rents to meet this tax, even to their last coat on their backs, to be used. He did not think an armed force would be necessary, beyond a few police.

Mr. MOOREY. The persons who have property should be imposed a force to protect it. Proprietors had the most property here.

Mr. COLES. The Bill was introduced in the faith of Government carrying the Bill through to the present Bill, if so, he had better write to Earl Stirling to give up the Land to Mr. Cooper, as a contribution to the exchequer fund. Small proprietors are already heavily taxed, the tax will not bear on land unless it is leased.

Mr. LOEB did wonder at opposition being given to the Bill, but he did not agree with his friends about the amount of the tax, he wanted 5 per cent put on resident proprietors and 7 1/2 on absentees.

Mr. COOPER would agree with the last speaker, and he would wish a clause introduced to support the Bill.

Mr. WHELAN concurred in making two separate taxes, but he would advocate 5 per cent on absentees and 4 per cent on residents. He thought it would be a much greater exorbitant than residents. Agents spend a good deal of their money for them. He would move that the absent Proprietors be taxed 1s. 3d. on the Pound, but afterwards withdrawn it.

Mr. WARBURTON thought, if the amount spent on the money here, he would be more just; some proprietors spent the whole amount received on their estates.

His. the SPEAKER. The tax is not on the receipt of the amount of the money. He thought that as an encouragement to resident proprietors, a difference should be made in the tax.

Mr. LOEB did not think so small a difference as 1s. on the Pound was wanted, and moved that it be filled up with 1s. 6d. being a difference of 6d. on the Pound over the resident proprietor.

Mr. CLARK stated, that the whole of the money due for the proprietors, the agents get a share which was spent on the Island.

Mr. M-YSTON would go for the largest tax on non-resident proprietors.

Mr. COOPER would vote with Mr. Lord, and he did not think it would endanger the Bill.

Mr. PALMER would vote for a discriminating tax, but he would vote for a larger difference, if he thought it would be a benefit to the Tenantry. The motion being put, it was carried without a division, to tax resident proprietors, one shilling on the pound, and non residents 1s. 6d.

TUESDAY, March 27.

Report of Commissioners on Breakwater at Cape Traverse was read and laid on the table.

HOUSE IN COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY.

The following sums were voted to the following gentlemen, for the relief of poverty: £1000 to John Nichol, £1000 to J. M. H. Swaley, £8; H. Money, £3410; Rev. D. McDonald, £22; J. P. Nicholson, £9; S. M. Kimion, £1210; Rev. Alex. Munroe, £9; O. John McGill, £38; John Moore, £9; John Nichol, £2; Hugh McDonald, £18; Rev. John Aitch, £15; J. Martha Long, £10; J. Mairfield, £9; W. W. Lord, £10; Rev. Pias M. Pho, £2215; J. Dingwall, £44.

The following sums were appropriated: £14 for assessment on Pove in St. Paul's Church.

£19 to James Easton, teacher of Infant School.

£20 to Martin Byrne, Georgetown, additional sum as Postmaster.

After a discussion of some length on special amounts for paupers, Mr. PALMER suggested that instead of special grants, a sum should be voted for each county to be distributed by the Grand Jury, or a Committee appointed by the Government.

Mr. LOEB agreed with the Hon. Member, and suggested, that the Clergyman should have the disposal of the money.

Mr. PALMER stated the old plan was the best, he would never allow the money to be disposed of by the Grand Jury. A Committee would have to travel many miles, before they could meet.

£20 to Patrick Power, an additional allowance as Postmaster.

£20 for Mechanic's Institute.

Mr. COLES stated that in 1852, £900 was voted for the discovery of Coal, but it has never been claimed. Parties living between the Georgetown and who were acquainted with the workings of mines, had informed him of the probability of coal being in that quarter, he proposed that a pound be placed at the disposal of the Government, for the purpose of boring for coal.

Mr. M-YSTON. £200 have already been spent, and all we have had is a few specimens of Rock on the Mantlepiece of the Library.

Mr. COLES stated, that it would be quite different from getting a person to look over the surface of the country. Mr. Hobbs told him that apparatus could be made here for about £1000, and that there are persons here who understood the way to work it.

Mr. COOPER thought if coal was likely to be found, joint stock Companies with the inducement of a bonus from the Government offer, would have tried the experiment.

Mr. M-YSTON was satisfied, that there was no coal on the Island.

Mr. COOPER would rather give a company a charter, and make them sell the coal at a fair rate, than grant a sum to bore. He never went further in the ground than 6 feet, and could not see what might be in it.

Mr. LOEB said it was a waste of money to appropriate £200 to bore for coal. He was satisfied Mr. Hobbs had not the materials to make a boring machine, and he would not vote for a sum of money to be thrown away in that way. Let a proper machine be procured from Britain and let the work be done economically.

Mr. COLES would supply the parties and pay them by the foot, he believed that 200 fathoms was the deepest that would be required to go.

Mr. CLARK was surprised that Mr. Lord spoke so much against the enterprise, at the same time that he would vote for a larger sum. The people of the North would be benefited by the want of wood; he would be induced to sell his farm, because fuel was so difficult to be obtained where he lived. Coal could seldom be procured from the North.

Mr. PALMER would support the resolution, he knew that farmers were cutting all the wood of their farms, and would be in great want of fuel.

He would rather vote for a sufficient sum and have the work done properly, the government being held responsible for the manner in which they may carry out the plan.

Mr. LOEB thought, that the time had come when we should ascertain whether we had coal, and he would leave it in the hands of the government; the apparatus for boring might be had cheaply in New Brunswick, where it had been used.

Mr. SPEAKER would vote that a sufficient sum be placed at the disposal of the government; it could not well be limited to a certain sum. The idea that our Bore might be turned to account was once broached, but we believe that it was satisfactorily ascertained, that any thing resembling fuel could not be procured on the Island, the people must therefore turn their attention to coal.

Mr. HEVLAND. Very much to be regretted at the mercy of Nova Scotia, Act. for our fuel. He did not think it likely that persons would make a deal of digging for coal, it would not be theirs, after they found it, the coal was reserved to the government, and it was more their interest to find it; he would vote for a sum sufficient to sink a shaft.

Mr. M-DONALD would support a sum sufficient to bore for coal, he had spoken to persons acquainted with mines, who stated that at about 70 feet, they could get either steam or substances of coal or iron. An Irish gentleman had applied for a Lease of one mine, being satisfied he had no doubt, that we had coal in the Island.

Mr. COLES stated a resolution that a sufficient sum be placed at the disposal of the Government to enable them to bore for coal, was carried with a small majority.

Mr. MOOREY moved that £100, be paid for keeping the Pump at South Point in repair.

Mr. COLES and others said the Infants School was in need of repairs, and they would like to see the sum applied to that.

Mr. SPEAKER said the sum should be paid out of the contingent fund by the Executive.

Mr. LOEB, as Chairman of the Committee to whom were referred the Petitions of William Howatt for the balance due on two contracts, and of Robert Wright for balance of contract for repairs to Dock River Bridge, reported that the amount due had been already provided for in the Road Scale.

Mr. MURPHY as Chairman, to whom was referred the Petition of inhabitants of Lot 19, praying for the establishment of a Small Debts Court, reported, that as the Session was so near its termination, and as the Small Debts Act required amendment, they recommended that no action be taken until the next Session.

Mr. CLARK thought, that this report held out an inducement, that a Court would be established, and he would oppose it, as there were Courts already very near.

HOUSE IN COMMITTEE ON TAXING PROPRIETORS.

The following clauses were agreed to: The Treasurer may appoint as many deputies as he may see fit, and they may keep open their books, until the 31st December.

Deputies to receive 5 per cent commission. Mr. MURPHY and Mr. LAIRD thought that 2 per cent was sufficient.

Mr. LOEB and Mr. M-YSTON thought that 5 per cent would be a fair rate.

Mr. PALMER. Nothing less than 500 acres of land would be worth the time, and consequently it will not be so tedious as the land assessment. In good old times persons had only two or three offices, in these times persons had 10 or 15, and they may well afford to collect the tax for 21 per cent.

Mr. SPEAKER. They will have many papers to look over and returns to make up, 5 per cent would be a fair rate.

Mr. LOEB hoped that they would be able to cut out some new offices for their friends.

Mr. WARBURTON said he would be obliged to the Government to allow him to collect the land assessment tax, or else it would cause an immense deal of trouble.

Mr. MURPHY would support the clause as the same as the present one. The Land Tax will collect this, 21 per cent. would pay them well.

Mr. COOPER voted for 5 per cent. Tenants and occupiers shall make a return to Treasurer's deputies of the amount of rent paid, and show their leases or any other documents if required. Penalty for refusing to make return 40s, or to be imprisoned not less than 10 and not over 30 days, half of the penalty to go to the deputy and the other half to the crown.

No Tenant or lessee shall be liable to pay the tax.

Several other clauses passed without discussion, principally bearing on the enforcement of the tax, they were made to agree as much as possible with the Land assessment Act. The Bill has a suspending clause.

Mr. MURPHY moved that the clause making absentee proprietors pay 1s 6d on the pound be reconsidered, and that instead of 1s 6d, it be reduced to 1s, which after some discussion, was agreed to.

The views of the Hon. Mr. Lawson and Mr. MURPHY, who were not present at the previous debate are now given.

Mr. Lawson hoped that the higher sum would be agreed to, the home of contention has always been the absentee proprietors and why now make so little difference, he would rather that residents should be free from the tax altogether.

Mr. MURPHY would always be found voting to tax absentee proprietors, he did not see why persons holding large properties in Charlottetown should not be taxed, if it was to be reduced to 1s, which after some discussion, was agreed to.

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