

explained the leading features of the Bill on its introduction at its first reading, it was unnecessary for him to detain the Committee with any lengthened remarks at that stage of the proceedings. He hoped that both sides of the House would approach the question of a loan in the spirit of candor, and with that freedom from party bias so essential in deliberating on a measure having for its object the general relief and benefit of all classes of the community. That a financial crisis of more than ordinary depression would follow the withdrawal from the Colony of the large instalments yet due, and soon to be made payable for the purchase of the Cunard Estate, appeared to him inevitable. The subject was one of more than ordinary importance, requiring the serious consideration of the House.

H. N. Leader of the Opposition said that he was not aware that any proprietary lands were at present offered for sale. The Government had not informed that House of any negotiations pending relative to the purchase of any Estate or Estates. The case was different with the late Government last session, for when the extension of the Land Purchase Act was introduced, the purchase of the Cunard Estate was offered to that administration. The extended provisions of the Land Purchase Act left a large margin for the present Government—sufficient to purchase the Sullivan Estate should it be offered for sale. He could not, therefore, see the desirability of a loan on the principles contemplated by the Bill. Borrowing money in a foreign market, which could be procured from citizens of the State, was not a sound policy, and was contrary to every principle of political economy, unless it could be shown that it would be procured abroad at a cheaper rate than at home. If the Confederated Provinces of British America, with all their resources and their revenues pledged, backed too by the Imperial guarantee, could not obtain a loan for the building of the Inter-colonial Railway at a less rate of interest than 4 per cent., without which guarantee the money could hardly be got at 6 per cent., how, he would ask, could this small and isolated Colony expect to get a loan on more favorable conditions? He then alluded to the expenses that would be incurred in negotiating for a loan in England. The services of an agent would be required, which would cost an additional sum. In regard to the commercial aspect of the question, the Government should not attempt a remedy for any temporary depression resulting from over-trading. The balance of trade might one day be against a country, and the next the reverse. The Land Purchase Act, he said, contained all the machinery necessary for the further purchase of any remaining Estates that might be offered for sale. He could, therefore, see no reason for supporting the Bill under consideration.

Hons. McAulay, Duncan, Henderson, and Messrs. Brecken, Prowse, McLennan and Green also severally addressed the Committee in opposition to the Bill; contending that the further Purchase of Proprietary lands should be effected under the provisions of the Land Purchase Bill as formerly; that the obtaining of a foreign loan would involve the country deeply in debt, and though it might afford temporary relief to trade, the ultimate results would prove disastrous to the best interests of the Colony; that a loan, if procured, should be specially reserved for, and appropriated to, the purchase of lands only and not used to relieve any monetary difficulties arising from commercial panics; that it was impolitic and unsound in principle to borrow from a foreign market when the necessary funds could be procured at home; that though large quantities of lands were purchased by the late Government, the money was procured in the country without cashing Warrants at Discount. The same principle, if judiciously applied, would eventually succeed in effecting the purchase of any remaining Estates that might from time to time be offered to the Government. That the cause of the present depression of trade and scarcity of the circulating medium was not attributable to the purchase of the Cunard Estate, but to the fact that a larger quantity of goods were imported last year than was warranted by the circumstances of the Colony, and also to the fact that ships were sent to market, which were still lying in the English docks unsold. Hence the want of exchange to meet the bills of the merchants.

Hon. Leader of the Government defended the principle of the loan bill before the Committee, and said that he had hoped both sides of the House would have concurred in the necessity of adopting means whereby not only to effect the further purchase of lands, but also to relieve the embarrassed state of the Colony commercially. The principle of the bill though formerly opposed and petitioned against by the Conservative party generally, was now almost universally admitted to be not only sound, but also loudly called for, in proof of which he referred to the petition of many of the merchants and others of Charlotetown, now on the table of this House, relative to the embarrassed state of the country. However desirable it was to purchase proprietary estate, with the view of freeing the tenantry of the colony from the rent paying system, care should be taken that such purchases should not cripple trade and cause other classes of the community to suffer in consequence. The loan contemplated by the bill would enable the Government to negotiate for and purchase lands without paralyzing the general trade of the country. It was evident that the payment of the instalments due on the Cunard Estate, was the cause of the Banks refusing discount. The payment of which would absorb the greater portion of the Gold and Silver in their vaults. Under the provisions of the loan bill the Cunard Estate would have been purchased and paid for, without experiencing any such serious depression in the ordinary trade of the country, as resulted from the said purchase, in the absence of such a measure. The loan would doubtless prove a boon, and he hoped that no such misrepresentations as were made against a similar measure on a former occasion would again be resorted to, for the purpose of defeating it. He had hoped on the contrary that both sides of the House would have supported the question irrespective of party bias as the effect of such general support from all parties, would tend to secure its success.

Hons. Davies, Howlan, Laird, and Messrs. Jenkins, Reilly, Bell and McNeill, supported the bill on the grounds that it was desirable to provide means for the final purchase of proprietary claims, whereby the tenantry could be relieved without the infliction of any material injury to trade and other branches of industry. That the obtaining of a loan would not only effect that desirable object, but also give an impetus to the commercial transactions of the Colony. That the borrowing of money in England in accordance with the terms of the bill, would prevent the sudden withdrawal of the gold and silver of the country, and thereby enable the banks to keep up their circulation for the accommodation of the ordinary requirements of trade and commerce. That in proportion to the amount of exchange required to be drawn from the country, would be regulated the facilities given by the banks. That the mode adopted for the payment of the Cunard Estate, has had a depressing effect on the whole trade of the country, and that if a similar or even a smaller purchase than that was again attempted, without some such provisions as the bill contemplated, it would cripple all the banks in the Island, and entirely withdraw the circulating medium of the Colony from its ordinary and legitimate avenues. The banks having to provide exchange for heavy remittances required for the payment of the Cunard Estate, were crippled in their operations, and consequently curtailed, if not altogether refused discount on the very best security in this place. That had it not been for these heavy drains for the payments of lands, the quantity of goods imported last year would not have remained unsold, nor would that scarcity of money complained of be so general. When ships and other productions of the country were sold abroad, exchange in gold was obtained, and thereby the banks were relieved. Similar results would not follow the sale of lands. Loans of a similar nature had been obtained by other British Provinces, from the Mother Country; and as money was more plentiful, and consequently would be obtained cheaper, than in small communities, it was a sound and wise policy to obtain a loan, for the requirements of the Colony, from abroad. That until the whole tenantry secured the fee simple of their farms, agrarian grievances would exist, retarding the prosperity of the country; it was therefore desirable to adopt measures by which the whole question might be finally set at rest.

Mr. Prowse moved an amendment that the bill be read a second time that day three months, which amendment was negatived on the following division, viz:

Yeas—Hons. Haviland, McAulay, Henderson, Duncan, Messrs. Brecken, Prowse, McLennan, Green, Ramsay—9.

Nays—Hons. Attorney General, Col. Secretary, Howlan, Kelly, Laird, Davies, Callbeck, Messrs. McCormack, Kickham, Cameron, Jenkins, P. Sinclair, G. Sinclair, Arsenaux, McNeill, Bell, Howatt—17.

The bill was accordingly committed to a Committee of the whole House, Mr. Bell in the chair, reported progress.

House adjourned.

MONDAY, May 13.

House in Committee on the Report of the Committee appointed to examine and report on the Public Accounts for the past year.

Mr. Reilly in the chair.

Said Report shows that the revenue received during the Financial year, ended 31st January, 1867, amounted to £95,442 17s. 1d. The expenditure, £154,345 14s. 8d.—showing an excess of expenditure over the Revenue of £58,902 17s. 7d., which added to the balance against the Colony in the previous years, amounts to £135,542 17s. 8d. In that amount is included £82,344 paid by the Government for 220,469 acres of land purchased during the past year, from the sales of which there is included in the Revenue £10,742 19s. 7d. The above balance against the Colony also includes all Treasury Notes, Warrants and Debentures issued up to that date.

The Revenue of the past year shows an increase of £27,401 13s. 2d. over the previous year. The total receipts for and on account of Public and Crown Lands, during the past year, amounted to £16,148 10s. 6d. The expenses during the same period, including loss of Land Tax and Interest, amounted to £5,862 5s. 3d.—showing a surplus of £10,286 5s. 3d. over and above expenses.

On motion of Mr. Brecken, seconded by Dr. Jenkins, that the House go into Committee on the Bill in addition to, and amendment of, the Act to incorporate the Town of Charlotetown.

Hon. Mr. Howlan remarked upon the importance of the Bill just presented. It contemplated levying an additional tax on the citizens of Charlotetown, and several other matters of very grave importance. He was, therefore, of opinion that it would be premature at that late stage of the session to entertain the Bill. He observed that hon. members from different parts of the country manifested great anxiety to get through the business already before the House, in order that they may get to their homes and attend to their agricultural pursuits. He was, therefore, of opinion that it would be unwise to enter into a debate on the merits of the different clauses of a Bill of more than ordinary importance, and he would, therefore, move, in amendment, that said Bill be read that day three months, and that it be published in the *Foyal Gazette* for the information of the public.

Dr. Jenkins said that the hon. member, Mr. Howlan, need not feel any alarm at the Bill. It was not conferring powers on an irresponsible body. It was simply a Bill to enable the City Corporation to levy a tax on its own citizens, for the purpose of sustaining its requirements. That corporate body should have the same power to tax its citizens as that Legislature had to levy an assessment on the general public. It would not occupy much of the time of the House to put the Bill through a Committee.

Hon. Mr. McAulay—It appeared by the Bill, if enacted, taxes would be levied on goods, the property of certain parties, if landed at Charlotetown. With the hope that such a tax would induce importers to direct their attention to Georgetown, where no such tax existed, he would support the Bill.

Mr. Brecken said that though the Bill might contain some objectionable clauses, he hoped it would be allowed into Committee, and then some of the clauses alluded to might be struck out. One of the principal objects of the Bill was to raise funds for the Fire Department. He then alluded to the calamitous fires of last Summer, the spread of which might, to a great extent, have been prevented had the Fire Department been in that state of efficiency to which, since then, it has been raised. A Steam Fire Engine had been imported from England at a heavy expense. An Engineer was appointed, and a large and efficient Company of Firemen formed in connection with the Steam Engine, and now the citizens of Charlotetown only asked that hon. House to be allowed to tax themselves to keep up the Fire Department. Surely, therefore, that right would not be denied them.

Hon. Col. Secretary regretted that the bill was not presented at an earlier period of the Session. He agreed with the remarks of the hon. members for the City, relative to the great necessity of supporting the Fire department, and as much Government property, as well as that of citizens, was at the mercy of the devouring element, in the absence of an efficient Fire Department, he hoped some limited sum would be contributed from the public funds of the Colony towards sustaining, efficiently, that Department.

Hon. Mr. Davies—There were clauses in the bill which he would not support, but owing to the absolute necessity of sustaining the Fire Department, he would vote for the bill going into Committee, and then objectionable clauses could easily be struck out.

Mr. McLennan—Though it was late in the Session, he would support going into Committee on the bill. It was not fair to deny the citizens of Charlotetown, or any other place, the right to tax, through its representatives, its inhabitants.

Mr. Howatt—The principles of the bill were such, if adopted, as would lead indirectly to a tax on the whole community. He had not heard that any expression of opinion in favor of the bill had been given at public meetings or elsewhere, by the citizens of Charlotetown. He would not, therefore, at that late hour of the Session, support the bill. Though the City Council was an elective body, they might err in the discharge of their civic duties.

Hon. Leader of the Opposition hoped the citizens of Charlotetown would thank the hon. member (Mr. Howatt) for his active care of their rights, or which he assumed to be the representative in this matter. That hon. member appeared to act in the double capacity of Representative for Tryon and Charlotetown. It would require no great time to put the bill through Committee, where all its objectionable features could be removed.

Mr. Reilly—Under existing circumstances he could not see how the Corporation of the Capital of the Colony could be sustained if the hands of the City Council were to be thus tied up. Hon. members should not oppose the whole bill, because it had some objectionable points.

Mr. Bell—It was, indeed, too bad to ask that House, at so late a stage, to discuss the merits of the bill in question, which was admitted on all sides to be objectionable.

Mr. Prowse, would support the bill and leave those whom it affected to judge hereafter of its merits, that House might be saved other expenditures for city purposes, if the bill in question became law.

Mr. McNeill was in favor of the present of causing the bill to be published for the information of the country. It would expedient it could be entertained next session.

Hon. Mr. Henderson—There appeared to him to be a great discrepancy between the manifest necessities of the city and the conduct of its Civic Representatives in delaying to present their bill to the House until that late hour. There was an apparent want of harmony in their actions. The disastrous conflagration of last summer should have proved a warning to them, and they should have matured their measures at an earlier period; he would however, from the necessity there existed for an efficient Fire Department, support going into committee on the bill.

Hon. Mr. Callbeck—The House was not bound to adopt all the provisions of the bill. Why not therefore go into Committee? As to the objections relative to the lateness of the session, the same would be believed, he offered at an earlier period as well. He explained the condition of the Fire Department, and the necessity of sustaining it in an efficient manner. Had the officers and men of that Department the proper means at their disposal, the spread of the fire of last summer could, in his opinion, have been prevented, and now that a new Steam Fire Engine had been imported, and the whole department placed on a good footing, he sincerely hoped hon. members would consider the necessity that existed for the provisions made by that bill to raise funds in aid of that important Department. Government property in the city was subject to the same danger from fire with the property of private citizens, and was also protected equally with

bill asking the right only to tax the citizens and property owners of Charlotetown. The city was now almost bankrupt, and how he would ask could the Corporation afford to appropriate funds which they did not possess to the support or efficient management of the Fire Department. He therefore hoped hon. members would weigh well their objections to the bill.

Mr. McCormack was opposed to the Bill, but had it been introduced at an earlier period the case might be different. It was now high time that the session was drawn to a close.

The question was put on the amendment submitted by Hon. Mr. Howlan, as follows:—Yeas—Hons. Howlan, Laird; Messrs. P. Sinclair, Cameron, Kickham, Howatt, G. Sinclair, Arsenaux, Bell, McNeill, McCormack, Ramsay—12.

Nays—Messrs. Brecken, Jenkins, Rielly, Owen, Green, McLennan, Prowse; Hons. Coles, Callbeck, Haviland, Henderson, Davies—12.

The Committee being equally divided, his honor the Speaker gave his casting vote in favor of the amendment.

Hon. Mr. Howlan, Chairman of the Committee appointed to bring in a Bill in accordance with the Resolutions adopted on Friday last relative to the amendment of the Small Debt Act, presented to the House a Bill authorizing the establishment of additional Small Debt Courts at Somerset and Montague Bridge, and for other purposes named therein.

The Bill was received and read.

Hon. Atty. General, Chairman of Private Bills Committee, presented a Bill to enable George C. Stiles, of Westmorland, N. B., to obtain Letters Patent for the invention of a new and useful improvement in the construction of Spinning Wheels.

Said Bill was agreed to, and ordered to be engrossed.

Hon. Attorney General presented a Bill to appropriate the supplies granted to Her Majesty for the year 1867.

Received and read.

House in Committee of the whole on the Loan Bill.

The principles of that Bill having been fully explained and discussed at a previous stage of the proceedings, the debate, when in Committee, did not differ very materially from that already given relative to the principal features of that measure.

On motion of the Hon. Attorney General, the clause authorizing the Government to negotiate a loan was amended by the insertion of a provision limiting the total amount to be borrowed to £100,000 stg. said sum to be raised wholly, or in part, in this Island, or in Great Britain, or elsewhere, as might be ordered from time to time by His Excellency in Council.

That being the only alteration of any importance, the bill was reported agreed to, and ordered to be engrossed.

House adjourned.

TUESDAY, May 14.

The Appropriation Bill was read a second time and agreed to.

When in Committee on the Appropriation Bill, Mr. Brecken alluded to the remarks made by him on a previous occasion when the grant of £20 to St. Ann's School was before the House. He had then stated and would now repeat, that from a sense of justice he felt it his duty to support that grant; but as he had been charged with making use of assertions without proof, relative to the sentiments taught from books of a disloyal tendency in a certain School in this City, he would now read extracts from a book called *Graces' Outlines of History*, published at New York, and contended that the history in question was of a disloyal and anti-British character, and should not be tolerated in any British Colony.

Hon. Attorney General said that the history in question should have been reported to the proper authorities. The Visitor of Schools should have made the matter known to the Board of Education at the time when it was said that that book had been in the School alluded to, which was now some four years past. He disapproved of the sentiments contained in the history in question.

Hon. Leader of the Opposition concurred with the remarks made by the Hon. Attorney General. Objectionable books should not be tolerated in any School or College receiving Government patronage.

Hon. Mr. Howlan said that at the time when it was reported that the history alluded to by the hon. member, Mr. Brecken, was used in that School, the late Government were in power, and that he (Mr. Brecken) should have then, and not now, examined into the correctness of the report. It was the duty of the Visitor of Schools and the Board of Education to have investigated the matter at that time, now four years since, and not have the question now brought up.

Mr. Kickham said that people living in mixed communities should guard against the introduction of any principles that would lead to bickerings or disputes. He thought it was unnecessary to question the loyalty of any of Her Majesty's liege subjects in this Colony.

Mr. Reilly said, as the question was again resumed, he, too, would read, if necessary, extracts from another history, but one of an opposite character to that alluded to by the hon. member, Mr. Brecken, namely, *Collier's History*, which he held in his hand, and was prepared to show that the tendency of its sentiments, if not of a disloyal character, were at least objectionable in institutions supported by public money, as were the Normal School and Prince of Wales College.

Further remarks from several hon. members were then made, to the effect that it was highly necessary to exclude from all public Schools and Institutions of learning, all books of objectionable character, and not on the list of books sanctioned and recommended by the Board of Education.

On motion of the Hon. Attorney General that the Bill authorizing the establishment of additional Small Debt Courts, and for other purposes, be read a second time.

Hon. Leader of the Opposition moved, in amendment, that it be read that day three months, and opposed the principles of the Bill. The Judicial office should be free from political bias.

At the close of his address on the subject, he pointed out the tendency of appointments purely political. Changing the complexion of Small Debt Courts with every change of Government was highly reprehensible, when the object evidently was to appoint to office political partisans and supporters of the Government of the day, no matter whether Conservative or Liberal. It was high time to adopt a course more in accordance with that which obtained in other Colonies and in the Mother Country.

A debate followed, during which hon. members on both sides of the House concurred in the desirability of appointing to the office of Commissioner of Small Debts those in the community whose experience, impartiality and integrity commended them to that high and important position, irrespective of party bias.

At the close of the debate the House divided on the question, when the amendment of the Hon. Leader of the Opposition was negatived on the following division, viz:—

For the amendment—Hons. Haviland, Henderson, McAulay, Messrs. Brecken, McLennan, Prowse, Green, Owen—8.

Against it—Hons. Attorney General, Laird, Davies, Col. Secretary, Howlan, Callbeck, Messrs. Arsenaux, G. Sinclair, Reilly, Jenkins, Cameron, McNeill, P. Sinclair, Howatt, Kickham, McCormack, Bell—17.

The Bill was then read a second time, and reported agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Howlan presented a Bill to alter the Act relating to the Revenue.

The said amendment is to the effect that Canadian Flour, imported via Boston, New York, and other ports in the United States, would be exempt from duty on the production, on the part of the Importer, of the necessary certificates to show that said flour was the produce of Canada, and was not purchased in the United States or any country not reciprocating with this Colony.

Said Bill was then read a second time and agreed to.

On motion of the Hon. Attorney General that the Bill to amend the Militia Law of the Island be committed to a Committee of the whole House.

Mr. Howatt moved, in amendment, that it be read that day three months.

The question was put on said amendment, and negatived as follows, viz:

Yeas—Mr. Howatt, Hon. Mr. Laird, Mr. Reilly and Mr. McNeill—4.

Nays—Hons. Attorney General, Colonial Secretary, Callbeck, McAulay, Henderson, Haviland, Messrs. Bell, Kickham, Jenkins, McCormack, Owen, Prowse, Green—13.

The House accordingly went into Committee, and after some debate relative to the merits of the Bill, progress was reported thereon. House adjourned.