

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

FRIDAY, FEB. 22.

Mr. MURKIN presented a petition of divers inhabitants of Township 19, praying aid to construct a covered drain, at Barrett's, Cross Road, which was read and laid on the table.

Hon. Col. TREASURE presented a petition of divers inhabitants of Nova Scotia, Lot 1, praying a grant to complete the bridge over the River John's Mill, which was received and laid on the table.

Mr. MURKIN presented a petition of divers inhabitants of Middleton, Lot 27, praying for the purchase of a mill, which at or near William Wright's, in that settlement, referred to the Post office committee.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. MOONEY, it was resolved that a Committee be appointed, to whom shall be referred every petition praying for the opening of new lines of Roads, to examine the same and report thereon.

The following resolutions were proposed—Hon. Mr. MOONEY, Messrs. PERRY, McDONALD, MURKIN and McLEOD.

That the Hon. Mr. WRIGHTMAN present a petition of divers inhabitants of the Back Settlement, Lot 52, praying a grant towards opening a Road in front of the said settlement, which was referred to the last named Committee.

Hon. Col. TREASURE presented to the House a petition of Alex. Munro, of the province of New Brunswick, setting forth the publication by the petitioner, at much labour and expense, of a work entitled "New Brunswick, and the Province of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island," and outlining the House to take copies of the said work, to the value of Fifty Dollars, or any sum as may be determined by the House shall seem meet. The petition was read and laid on the table. He also presented a copy of the work referred to in the petition, which was laid on the table. He likewise presented to the House a petition of divers inhabitants of the County of Cumberland, Province of Nova Scotia, praying the House will adopt such measures in conjunction with the Legislature of the said Province, as may be necessary, as will encourage the placing of Fog Bells on Cape Traverse and Cape Tormentine, and the erection of Light-houses on Cape Tormentine. The petition was read, and referred to the Light-house Committee.

He also presented a petition of divers inhabitants of Minnesota, which was referred to a post office, which was referred to Post Office Committee.

Mr. CLARK, from the committee on expiring laws, presented to the House a Bill to continue and amend the Act relating to Light and Sounding Bells, which was read the first time, and ordered to be read a second time to-morrow.

Hon. Col. SECRETARY presented to the House a Petition of D. B. Stevens, Agent for the New York, Newfoundland, and London Telegraph Company, praying a grant of money to aid in the laying down of the Submarine Cable across Northern-Humboldt Strait, during the efficient working of the said Telegraph line. He remarks that a party in Halifax had offered to lay a Telegraph line, if this House would grant them a Charter; and he was in favour of encouraging that Company. The petition was laid on the table.

On motion of the Hon. Col. Secretary, the House resolved itself into a Committee of the whole, on the second reading of the Bill relating to Expiring Laws, &c.

Mr. McDONALD, in the Chair.

Hon. Col. SECRETARY, as some of the clauses were read, offered some observations respecting the same. He said the Bill had not been productive of all the advantages which had been expected from it, and that many had considered it as making provision for preventing proprietors from demanding more than six years' rent, but that by recent legal proceedings this had been discovered not to be the case, in consequence of the word "covenant" not having been inserted in the Act. He considered it expedient to amend the Act, in this particular, so that no more than six years' rent could legally be demanded.

After a few remarks by Mr. McLEOD, Hon. Mr. MOONEY, Mr. McDONALD, and Hon. Col. Secretary, the Speaker took the Chair, and the Chairman reported that the Committee had gone through the Bill without any amendment. It was then ordered to be engrossed.

Hon. Mr. WRIGHTMAN presented to the House a statement of the management of the Worrell Estate, embracing the proceeds thereof, and the manner in which the same were applied to February last, 1856, which was referred to the committee on public accounts.

The following is an extract of the above statement: Quantity of land sold, 39,000 acres; amount of deposit paid, £2,777 12s 10d; balance due, £5,616 10s 11d; quantity of lands unsold, including 12,254 acres of swamp, 67,000 acres; supposed value of lands occupied, £2,300 0s 0d; 38,910 acres wilderness at £2, 25s each, at £80, £22,490 10s 0d.

Hon. Col. SECRETARY presented to the House, Extracts from minutes of the Executive Council with reference to 40 Documents presented to the House on Wednesday last, which was then read and ordered to be referred to the Committee of the whole House to whom the aforesaid Documents were referred, and it was also ordered to be printed with these Documents.

The Bill relating to the Mackerel Fishery was read a third time and passed.

Hon. Col. SECRETARY then communicated information to the House with reference to the proposed extension of the Act, which was then read and ordered to be referred to the Committee of the whole House to whom the aforesaid Documents were referred, and it was also ordered to be printed with these Documents.

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that the Hon. Col. Secretary was under any obligation to furnish a copy of the contract before that body, that they would comply with the request. He had merely asked the question whether or not the House would dispense with the copy which had appeared objectionable, he would make a motion on the subject.

Hon. Col. SECRETARY explained that, if the Hon. member for any other individual should require to see copies of contracts, considerable expense would be incurred; but that the contracts might be seen in his office. He had heard no complaints respecting the copy of the winter maps, and believed that the service was well performed.

The House adjourned till the afternoon.

Mr. LAIRD presented to the House the following Petitions, which were read and laid on the table, viz.—

A Petition of divers Inhabitants of Township 21 and others, praying a grant to repair a Road and three Bridges.

A Petition of divers Inhabitants of settlement East side of Mill River, and others, praying a grant to extend the Road from Wilton Mackay's to Hugh Mackay's.

Hon. Col. SECRETARY introduced a Bill to protect Justices of the Peace in Prince Edward Island. He stated, among other things, that it was a Government measure, no notice had been given respecting its introduction.

Hon. Mr. PALMER inquired whether the right members of the Government had introduced Bills without notice, more than other members of the House, nor by what particular authority they were introduced. He was informed that the Hon. Col. Secretary explained that the rule applied to all Bills; but he presumed on one would give notice of a Message from His Excellency. The Government ought to be prepared to answer any question which they required to know the intentions of other members.

Hon. Mr. LONGWORTH thought that a change in the system of registering measures would be necessary, and that the Government might as well pass the Bill in co-clause themselves, as introduce it without any notice. They say the minority had introduced a measure without notice, but because they are the majority they claim that privilege.

Hon. Mr. MOONEY thought that the bringing forward of measures in such a manner was an extreme exercise of power.

Hon. Mr. PALMER had observed since the change of the system of Government in this Colony, that in the sister Provinces, particularly in Nova Scotia, the Members of the House had introduced measures *pro forma*, without any notice of their intentions.

Hon. Col. SECRETARY moved that the rule of the House be suspended on this occasion. There appeared to him no objection to the suspension of the rule, and he thought it would be prudent to call on no subject should not unexpectedly be called on to consider any objection. He thought that the course which he was pursuing, had introduced a measure without notice, but because they are the majority they claim that privilege.

Hon. Mr. MOONEY thought that it would be prudent to adhere to the rule contained in the Statute Book, as such a course of proceeding allowed the House to consider the subject, and could not injure the Government in any respect.

Hon. Col. SECRETARY could perceive a great difference in the two methods noticed, and thought that Government ought not to be allowed to consider any subject without notice.

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lay that Bill before the House. He trusted that as he had been entrusted with much respect for His Excellency as at present he thought that gentleman first introduced on Judgment, and respected His Excellency as highly as any member of the House; but when he saw such a dangerous innovation attempted in his own name and in that of his constituents, he had introduced a measure without notice, and protested against it. He had introduced a measure without notice, and protested against it. He had introduced a measure without notice, and protested against it. He had introduced a measure without notice, and protested against it.

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