

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS IN THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

WEDNESDAY, March 25.

On motion of Hon. Colonial Secretary, it was ordered that the returns of the several Road Commissioners, and also the various petitions praying aid for the service of Roads, Bridges and Wharfs, now on the table, be severally referred to the members of the different Districts.

The Bill to amend the Land Purchase Act was submitted to a Committee of the whole; and after some trifling amendments, was reported agreed to.

Mr. Reilly, Chairman of Committee on Supply, reported several Resolutions, which, having been read, were severally adopted by the House.

Mr. Brecken moved the second reading of the Bill to amend the Act relating to limits and rules of Jails.

The object of the bill, as introduced, was to enable a Creditor or his Attorney to serve upon a debtor, who may have obtained his liberty within the Jail limits, a written notice requiring such debtor to appear before one of the Judges of the Supreme Court, or before any of the Commissioners for the relief of Insolvent Debtors, at a time and place to be in such notice specified; and if on examination before said Judge or Commissioners it should appear to the satisfaction of such Judge or Commissioner that said debtor, so confined on the limits, had, in his possession or under his control, any personal property, debts, or effects, then it may be lawful to order such debtor to grant, convey, and pay over such lands, debts and moneys, or so much thereof as may reasonably appear sufficient to secure and satisfy the levy in respect of which such person was confined. And in case he should refuse to comply with such order, the said Judge or Commissioner shall, upon proof of such refusal, commit such debtor to close confinement in the Jail until he shall have complied with such order.

Mr. Brecken explained the nature and object of the Bill. It was intended to protect the just claims of a Creditor against the fraudulent conveyance of property on the part of a Debtor, with the view of evading the payment of his just debts. He referred to a case of peculiar hardship which occurred at the last term of the Supreme Court at Charlottetown, where, previously to the obtaining of judgment, a party conveyed his property to a friend, pocketed the proceeds, and, when execution was issued, placed his creditor at defiance by taking the limits. The bill contemplated protection against such fraudulent transactions.

Hon. Col. Secretary expressed his opposition to the Bill. The laws relating to Jails and Jail limits were already sufficiently stringent. The case alluded to by the hon. introducer of the bill (Mr. Brecken) might be one of peculiar hardship, but it was dangerous to establish a principle for the relief of a few solitary cases, to the great detriment of the general public. He would, therefore, move that the Bill be read a second time that day three months.

Hon. members on both sides addressed the House on the subject, some of whom supported the motion for the second reading of the bill with the view of hearing more fully its contents discussed and explained. After some debate on the subject the House divided as follows:

For the amendment—Hons. Col. Secretary, Kelly, Davies, Callbeck, Messrs. Cameron, McCormack, Green, Arsnauld, McNeill and Kickham—10.

Against it—Hons. McAulay, Haviland, Henderson, Howlan, Atty. General, Laird, Messrs. Brecken, Prowse, Reilly, P. Sinclair, Owen, G. Sinclair—12.

The Bill was accordingly read a second time; and on motion that it be committed to a Committee of the whole, a debate ensued, which, on motion, was adjourned until the afternoon.

AFTERNOON.

House in Committee on Supply.

Mr. Reilly in the Chair.

Hon. Atty. General, in submitting a Resolution relative to the special grants for macadamizing the roads in the vicinity of Charlottetown, Summerside and Georgetown, remarked that it was considered best to place the expenditure of said monies in the hands of the Road Commissioners, and not under the control of the members for the Towns, as heretofore.

Mr. McLennan expressed his regret at the small sum voted as above for Summerside. He remarked on the great traffic to Summerside, the soft nature of the soil, the inadequate vote of £100 towards performing a work so essential to the interests of the whole people of that part of the country, and said the late Government appropriated £250 for that work and the people expected, that a Liberal Government would not at all events diminish, if not increase the grant.

After some time spent in Committee, the Chairman reported several Resolutions agreed to.

The debate on the Bill relating to Jail Limits was resumed.

After considerable debate on the subject, during which hon members on both sides expressed their desire to see introduced a Bankruptcy Law, which would meet the object of the bill under consideration, and being general in its application, would tend to impart equal justice to all parties. After which the Hon. Col. Secretary moved, in amendment to Mr. Brecken's motion, that the bill be committed that day three months.

Question put on amendment—Hons. Col. Secretary, Howlan, Kelly, Callbeck, Davies, Messrs. Reilly, Cameron, Kickham, Howatt, McLennan, Green, McCormack, P. Sinclair, Arsnauld, McNeill—15.

Against it—Hons. Laird, Atty. General, McAulay, Henderson, Haviland, Messrs. Yeo, Ramsay, Brecken, Prowse, Owen—10.

The bill to encourage the settlement and cultivation of Public Wilderness Lands was committed to a Committee of the whole House. Mr. P. Sinclair in the Chair.

Mr. Prowse submitted a Clause to the effect that whereas several persons had recently settled on the Wilderness lands known as the Cunard property, recently purchased by the Government, and such settlers being unable to pay the instalments required of them by the Land Purchase Act—

Resolved, therefore, that all who had settled on such lands within the last eight years, should have the same privileges and indulgences extended to them as were provided for settlers on wilderness lands under the bill under consideration; and that all such settlers should have credit for any amounts they have heretofore paid toward their instalments.

In submitting said Clause, Mr. Prowse stated that the Cunard property was purchased at a high price. His object was to place poor settlers on said property on a similar footing with those who might accept of locations on wilderness lands, as pointed out in the bill.

After some debate relative to the Resolution in question, during which hon. members on both sides expressed their desire to ameliorate, by every legitimate means, the condition of the poorer classes of settlers on all public lands, it was, at the same time, admitted, the adoption of said Clause, as part of the bill under consideration, would conflict with the principles of that bill, and thereby be contrary to the Royal instructions. It was, therefore, better to entertain the question relative to the alleviation of the peculiar circumstances of the settlers alluded to, by the introduction of a separate measure, which should be more general in its application, than that sought for by the Resolution before the Committee. It was, therefore, Resolved, on motion of the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, that the hon. member for Murray Harbor (Mr. Prowse) have leave to withdraw his Resolution, which motion was carried. The bill was then reported agreed to.

Hon. Col. Secretary presented Report of Committee of Executive Council on the subject of the Charlottetown Ferry.

House adjourned.

THURSDAY, March 26.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Laird, Bill to incorporate the Prince County Agricultural Society was submitted to a Committee of the whole, and reported agreed to.

Mr. McNeill introduced a Bill to prevent accidents to the traveling public on the ice. In explaining the object of the bill, he (Mr. McNeill) remarked on the dangerous state of the ice on Bays and Rivers, where holes were cut in all directions for mussel mud, and the necessity of causing parties so cutting up the ice to bush the same around such holes or openings, and thereby warn the traveller.

Said Bill was received and read.

Hon. Mr. Davies presented a petition from inhabitants of Murray Harbor Road, asking to change the holdings of Small Debt Court meetings from monthly to quarterly sittings.

Petition received and read.

Hon. Mr. Davies also presented a petition from William Jardine, of Crown Point, Lot 49, setting forth certain grievances touching a line of road, and asking to be allowed to perform his Statute Labor on the road leading from his place to the highway.

Petition received and read.

Mr. McLennan asked the Government if they intended to open a road from James Darby's, Lot 17, to Joseph B. Perry's, Mis-couche, in accordance with the report of the Commissioners appointed to investigate the advantages of said road. He also asked for the Report of Delegates appointed to investigate charges against late Keeper of the Light House at Sea Cow Head—observing that £13 was charged in the Public Accounts for that service. Also Report of Commissioners appointed to make enquiry concerning the extraction of money from Mail Bags, for which service he observed that £18 had been paid.

Hon. Mr. Laird replied that the documents asked for would be submitted at an early day, there being no desire on the part of the Government to withhold the information asked for.

Mr. Arsnauld presented a petition from inhabitants of Egmont Bay asking for the establishment of a Small Debt Court in that vicinity.

Hon. Mr. Callbeck presented a petition asking for a bill to incorporate the Baptist Church at Long Creek, Lot 65, all of which were laid on the table.

The bill relating to the Summerside Bank was received, read and referred to Committee.

House adjourned.

FRIDAY, March 27.

On motion of Mr. Reilly, the bill to incorporate St. Peter's Bay Agricultural Society was submitted to a committee of the whole House, and reported by the Chairman, Mr. McCormack, agreed to.

The following bills were then read a third time and passed, viz:

The bill to amend and explain the Land Purchase Act.

The bill to encourage the settlement and cultivation of public Wilderness Lands

The bill to incorporate Prince County Agricultural Society.

Mr. McLennan presented a petition from James Campbell and others, inhabitants of Summerside, praying for the passing of an Act conferring proper municipal privileges, and containing regulations for the local Government of said town. Said petition sets forth that a public meeting was held at Summerside on the 14th March, inst., at which a series of resolutions were adopted, and recommends the enactment of a statute in accordance with said resolutions, a copy of which had been forwarded to the Legislature. Another petition from John R. Gardiner and others was also presented by Mr. McLennan, praying the House not to pass an act for the incorporation of Summerside, setting forth that the said town had hitherto progressed under the fostering care of Government. That salaries of officers and other expenses consequent upon the establishment of a Corporation, would inflict a heavy burden on the people of that town without corresponding benefits. Petitioners therefore pray that no such change as that contemplated by the Resolutions alluded to in former petition be entertained by the House, and requests that the present Act relating to Summerside, be amended and continued.

Ordered that both those petitions be referred to special Committee to examine the same and report. The following Committee was then appointed, viz: Mr. McLennan, Hon. Atty. General, Mr. Brecken, Hon. Mr. Laird, Mr. Arsnauld.

Mr. Reilly, from the Committee of the whole House on the further consideration of supply, reported three Resolutions.

The following are among the items granted in said Resolutions, viz:

Special Grant for macadamizing			
Post Road within Royalty of			
Charlottetown,	£250	0	0
Macadamizing Roads at George-			
town and Royalty, and Sum-			
merside & Royalty, £100 each	200	0	0
Keeper of Bonded Warehouse,			
Ch'town,	50	0	0
Deaf and Dumb Institution,			
Halifax,	50	0	0
Public surveys and disbursements			
in connection with the Land			
Office,	400	0	0
Interest on Public Debt,	9000	0	0
Public Printing and Stationery,	1000	0	0
Incidental expenses of Lunatic			
Asylum in addition to Lunatic			
Asylum by statute,	1000	0	0
Management of Savings Bank,	150	0	0
Public Lands Office,	330	0	0
Collector of Customs and Naviga-			
tion Laws, and Collectors			
of Impost and Excise for out-			
ports, (except Geo'town and			
Summerside,	300	0	0
Additional Clerk in Excise office	125	0	0
Third Clerk in Post Office,	100	0	0

Hon. Col. Secretary submitted a message from His Excellency the Lieut. Governor, transmitting certain papers and documents relating to the removal of detachment, and to the expenses in connection with Her Majesty's troops while stationed in Prince Edward Island.

Hon. Col. Secretary also presented to the House, copy of Correspondence of the Attorney General of this Island with the Colonial Office, relating to the demand made by the Imperial Parliament upon the Government of Prince Edward Island for the payment of £4,979 11s 7d, stg., for expenses in connection with the transport and maintenance of Her Majesty's troops lately stationed on this Island.

Ordered that said documents and papers be laid on the table.

Hon. Atty. General presented to the House a return of the number and names of pupils attending Prince of Wales College and Grammar School, also an account of fees received and disbursements made on account of said Institution.

Ordered that said paper be laid on the table. Said return shows the attendance of Scholars at that Institution during the past year, to be as follows:

Attendance at College exclusively	39
Attending College for Grammar School	53
Total attendance at College	78
Total attendance at Grammar School	88
Total attendance at the Establishment	117

Hon. Col. Secretary laid before the House the Supplemental estimates for the current year. Among which are the following sums, viz:

- To Martin McInnis for repairs to Beacon Light at St. Peter's Bay £7 10s.
- Committee of Hillsboro' Square for improving said Square £40.
- To Chas. E. Stanfield for drawback on Machinery for a Woollen Drawloom 2s 8d.