

THE WEEKLY REVIEW

A Weekly Journal of Politics, Literature, and News.

"This is true Liberty, when Freeborn Men, having to advise the Public, may speak free."—Euripides.

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Provincial Parliament.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

WEDNESDAY, 22nd Feb., 1860.

PRESENTATION OF THE ADDRESS, AND HIS EXCELLENCY'S REPLY.

The Address, which, as has been previously stated, was according to parliamentary usage, a mere echo of the Speech, was, on this day, at twenty minutes before two o'clock, presented to His Excellency, in the Library, by the whole House in a body. His Excellency was pleased to make the following reply:

REPLY:

Mr. President and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:

I beg to express to you my sincere thanks for the hearty co-operation in your Address, to me in such a measure, in obedience to your notice, and which, I trust, may conduce to the welfare of this Colony.

For the generous sentiments of good will and welcome that your Address conveys, I entertain a deep sense of gratification, and a less firm confidence in your just exertions and well directed efforts.

THURSDAY, 23rd Feb., 1860.

DESPATCHES.

His Honor the President.—As His Honor Mr. Palmer is in his place, I should like to be informed, by him, when we may expect to have laid before us such Despatches as it is proper should be communicated to us.

His Honor the President.—I believe, will be sent down to this House to-day; but, I think those with which it concerns the Legislature to be made acquainted forthwith, and such especially as it concerns this Council to have immediate knowledge of, will be sent down early next week, probably on Monday.

FRIDAY, 24th Feb., 1860.

PETITION FROM THE TRUSTEES OF BRACKLEY POINT SCHOOL.

Hon. Mr. JOHNSON, by leave, presented a Petition of the Teacher and Trustees of the Brackley Point School, Township Number Thirty-three, praying that the Legislative Council will concur with the House of Assembly, in granting the sum of £11 17s. 6d., being the balance due the Teacher, for his services, in the year 1859, the same having been withheld in consequence of the average number of Scholars in attendance having, owing to the prevalence of an epidemic in the district, fallen below the average required by Law.

Ordered, That the said Petition be referred to the Special Committee appointed to report on all Petitions relating to Education.

TUESDAY, 28th Feb., 1860.

PETITION FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SAILING PACKET BETWEEN THE HARBORS OF CASSEMPIC AND MIRAMICHI RIVER.

Hon. Col. SWABBY, by leave presented a Petition of several Inhabitants of Cassempic, Kildare, and neighbouring settlements, in Prince County, praying that the House will concur with the House of Assembly, in granting a sum towards the establishment of a Sailing Packet, for the conveyance of goods and passengers between the Harbours of Cassempic and Miramichi River, New Brunswick.

Ordered, That the said Petition be referred to the Special Committee appointed to report on all Petitions relating to miscellaneous subjects.

WEDNESDAY, 29th Feb., 1860.

BILL FOR SEPARATING THE OFFICES OF CLERK OF THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS.

Hon. Mr. HAVILAND, at the Bar of the Council, presented a Bill for separating the office of Clerk of the Executive Council from that of Clerk of the Legislative Council; which, he stated, had passed the House of Assembly; and, on behalf of the Body, desired the concurrence of the Legislative Council in the measure.

The said Bill was read the first time.

VOLUNTEER FORCES.

Hon. Col. SWABBY.—Mr. President, I rise, pursuant to notice, to ask leave to introduce a Bill for the regulation of the Volunteer Companies in the colony of being raised in the Island. This has become necessary from the absence of any legal obligations, so far as now we are attaching to that service, and is desired by the officers of these Corps. And, although certain regulations are in the Royal Gazette, as approved of by His Excellency, the Commissioner-in-Chief; yet, as to those regulations, which are intended to be introduced, and an enactment is required. That which I have prepared is in conformity with the instructions of Her Majesty's Secretary for the War Department, and the Act of the 13th Geo. 3, to which he refers, and, on which I have acted for several years in England, in the capacity of a Yeomanry Officer. I do not now enter the question of the raising of Volunteer Companies, my business is to regulate them. The extraordinary and subsiding spirit of a nation rising as one man in defence of its home, and in defiance of threats of foreign aggression, cannot fail to extend its spirit to its dependencies; and, if we are to have Volunteers, they should be made manageable. What was called the "war fever" in England, had, indeed, not long ago, greatly abated; but in England, we have again changed our aspect; and no one in England now sees safety in neglecting or abating our defensive preparations. This is evidenced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer's moving for the means of supplying naval forces to the amount of 85,000 men and marines, whilst 500,000 British troops are embarked on board the fleet; and I have from no less authority than that of the General Officer in Charge of the Army, that the double department, that will hit, at 5 miles, any vessel, three times out of four; and each gun is fitted with a telescope to command the sight of that distance; whilst the light artillery on land never fail to hit a single board at a mile; and Sir William Armstrong has undertaken to increase the range, from 5 to 6 1/2 miles. There are now, in an effective state, 85,000 armed volunteers, and in progress of arms, are some 100,000 more. It is, therefore, not surprising that we may be termed the immediate military discipline of the Volunteer Corps, there are many subsidiary arrangements to be made. In the Bill, all such regulations are, upon British precedents, duly provided for. Amongst these, I may now particularize—for the purpose of giving your Honors some idea of the general character of these useful subsidiary regulations,—most providing for the proper distribution, preservation, and recovery of the arms provided for our use, by the Home Government, and another empowering His Excellency the Lieut. Governor to dismiss or dissolve any corps, when it shall appear to him to be expedient to do so. In having taken upon me to introduce this Bill, I say, perhaps, he said I have invaded the province of the Government; but, even if I have done so, I trust, in my professional experience, which ought to have fully qualified me to prepare such a measure, there will be found a sufficient apology for my seeming officiousness. The necessity—the absolute necessity—which, at present exists for the adoption of such a measure, by the Legislature, will, I presume, be denied by any of your Honors; and I, at the least, hope for a concurrence in my opinion with myself, as respects the people of this Colony, from His Honor the Leader of the Government. I think there never was a period, in the history of the empire of Great Britain, when so strong, so urgent a necessity existed, for the putting of the country in an imposing attitude of defence, not only at home, but in all her dependencies. Hence the great impetus of the volunteer military movement in this Island; and the necessity for providing for the means of its maintenance, by the Legislature and the Government. As I have already observed, the "war fever" in England, was represented a short time ago as having almost altogether subsided; but recent accounts show that it now prevails to a greater extent and with a deeper intensity of feeling than ever. The late concession which, in the Commercial Treaty, lately concluded between the Emperor of France and the Government of Great Britain, has been made by the British Ministry to France, giving immediately, at once, to that country, all the advantages which free trade intercourse, with Great Britain, can bestow upon it, whilst the concessions which, on the basis of reciprocal free trade, should, on the part of France, have, at the same time, been conceded to Great Britain, are to be withheld from Great Britain, for three years, in consequence of an engagement of the Emperor of France, with the manufacturers of that country, to continue for a certain period of years the imposition of protective duties upon imports from Great Britain—to be withheld from Great Britain for three years. The unequal terms upon which this Treaty has been concluded, and the British Government's generosity therein displayed towards France, by the British Government, is by no means, in the taste, either of the people of Great Britain at large, or of their representatives in Parliament; and the majority of the House of Commons have actually ignored the principle upon which the unequal Treaty was concluded, and the general discontent which it has caused, and the outcry which has been raised against it, throughout

Great Britain, are daily and rapidly increasing. This being the case, the British Government, in compliance, in obedience to the voice of the people, to recede from their over-indulgent and unequal engagement with the Emperor of France; and such a retrocession on the part of the British Ministry—and such a retrocession appears inevitable—seems to be justly calculated, cannot fail to excite the indignation and arouse the warlike spirit of the French people. Should things so fall out, with too much reason it is expected in Great Britain, there will be a rupture of the good understanding which has now subsisted between Great Britain and France for some years; and war between the two countries will, in all probability, directly ensue. Such, with respect to the unequal Treaty of which I have spoken, and its seemingly ineffectual infraction by the British Government, are the sentiments and anticipations of the people of Great Britain; and, in reference to the immense, the unparalleled military and naval preparations which are now being made in England for the defence of the country, of which I have already spoken. These vast warlike preparations on the part of the Government, and the people of Great Britain, most clearly indicate what they apprehend. There is no relaxation of the volunteer system; but, on the contrary, it is only extending and gaining ground through the patriotic feelings of all classes of the people, and their well-grounded apprehensions of a war with France; and, as it is quite possible that circumstances may arise here, which will render it imperative upon us to turn out for the defence of our liberty, properties and lives, the sooner we take steps to put ourselves in a posture of defence the better. At any rate, the organizing of Volunteer Corps, without a system by which they are to be regulated and controlled, is quite ridiculous. I have often been told by your farmers, who were about to join my Yeomanry Corps, that they would readily serve, provided discipline were kept up, and I am convinced such is the desire amongst the volunteers here. With these observations I beg to leave to introduce a Bill for the regulation of Volunteer Forces in this Island. The Hon. Mr. HUTCHINSON, the question thereon was put by His Honor the President, and the motion having been unanimously approved by His Honor Colonel Swabby, by permission, read the Bill in his place.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

WEDNESDAY, February 22.

AFTERNOON SITTING.

BILL TO SEPARATE THE OFFICES OF CLERK OF THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS.

Hon. Mr. HAVILAND in moving the first reading of this Bill, explained its provisions, and the necessity which existed for the changes it was designed to effect. The present Clerk of the Executive and Legislative Councils, Chas. Desbrisay, Esq., was greatly overworked. In the year 1851, the Hon. member, the leader of the Government of the day, in the desire of acquiring a more efficient Secretary, had a Bill passed uniting in one person the two offices, and fixing the salary at £125 a year. When it was found that the work was entirely too much to be performed by any one man, another Act was passed combining the offices of Assistant Clerk of the Councils and Road Correspondent, the duties of the latter office having been previously attached to the Colonial Secretary's department. The salary of the office was fixed at £100 per annum. But those salaries were increased by a side wind. The late Government had not the manliness to admit that the public officers had not sufficient remuneration; that £125 a year was an inadequate sum for the Clerk of both Councils, and that the responsibility of the Executive Council was increased by amending the Bill, but the Legislative Council was induced to come to their relief, and accordingly voted to Mr. Desbrisay £150 a year for preparing an index to their Journals—thus giving that gentleman, for a work which he could perform in an hour or two, more than his year's stipend as a Clerk of the Executive and Legislative Councils. Such conduct was perfectly ridiculous; the reason for it was, however, obvious enough. Besides, their newly appointed Assistant Clerk whose salary as such and as Road Correspondent had been fixed by Act at £100 a year, received from the Council £50 for assisting Mr. Desbrisay to prepare the Index—so that the Journals show that the stipend of a year or two of Index to the Journals of the Legislative Council was paid for at the rate of £200 a year. The truth was, the late Government lacked the moral courage which would have induced them to act openly and above board in this matter. What difference did this covert voting of his money make to the pocket of the tax payer? He would rather that the amount should be paid by the State. In that case he would know what amounts these officers were receiving, and he would no longer be humiliated as he had been. The Bill provided for a separate Clerk for the Legislative Council, and a Clerk and Assistant Clerk for the Executive Council, the duties of which office had of late become so onerous that two efficient persons were necessary to the proper discharge of them. It would be necessary that, in case a vacancy should occur in the office held by Mr. Desbrisay, to whose efficiency, zeal and devotion to his duties, the Hon. member bore most willing testimony, there should be some one to assume his post, conversant with the business of the office, the introduction to which of any person unacquainted with the routine and details would lead to inextricable confusion. That was another reason, besides the amount of work to be performed, which rendered the second office necessary.

Hon. Mr. COLES might, perhaps, give the measure a helping hand, notwithstanding the references which had been made to the late Government. As to the "side wind" by which the Hon. member had said that the salaries had been increased, the same system had been in practice for the last twenty years. Under the late Government two officers did the work of both Councils and that of the Road Correspondent's Office besides; but now the Government had taken the Assistant Clerk to work in the Secretary's Office. He had been informed by Mr. Desbrisay that Mr. Morrison had not been at his seat in the Council Chamber this Session. As to the Assistant Clerk of the Executive Council, the Government dismissed the former incumbent of that office, and when the Legislative Council employed him, as they had a perfect right to do, to perform certain necessary work, the Government refused to pay him the sum voted to him. There was a great deal of work to be done, and the Government would not allow the British Council Journals of last Session, which were not yet completed, and consequently not published. The House voted a sum sufficient to pay the contingent expenses of the Legislative Council, which was the sole judge of the amount of such expenses. The refusal of the Government to pay the amount was but a petty exhibition of political spite, and was without a precedent in the annals of our legislation. The Executive had paid the two other Clerks who had done comparatively little work. As to the proposed increase in the number of officers, he would ask, why, if, under the late Government, two were found sufficient to perform the duties specified in the Bill, now increase the number? The idea of the late Government was to have an Assistant Clerk, who should become conversant with all the business of the Councils, and thus be enabled to assist Mr. Desbrisay, who certainly was thoroughly conversant with the details of his office, and an able and worthy officer, but who was miserably overworked, and confined to his desk not only during office hours, but almost from daylight till he retired to bed. If the Colonial Secretary required an assistant, let him have one. There was work enough for an assistant in the Secretary's Office, without interfering with the business of the Road Correspondent. The Secretary had to communicate frequently with the Lieut. Governor, and with private individuals, on matters of business connected with his department, and there must be some one to attend to the work of the office—the issuing of licences, commissions, &c. The principal difficulty he saw was, that even if the Bill became Law, there would be nothing to prevent the Legislative Council voting their own contingent expenses.

Hon. Col. GRAY rose for the purpose of explaining the circumstances which induced the Executive to withhold the sum of £100 voted last Session by the Legislative Council to Mr. John Ball as second Assistant Clerk. He had, as a member of the Government, carefully examined the case, with all reference to individuality. There was work enough to be done in all cases do so. The Legislature had no power to vote anything to such an officer. The Statute virtually deprived them of any such authority, and if they could vote £100 in this manner, they might as well vote £200.

Hon. Mr. COLES asked, how it was that the Council voted extra pay to Mr. Desbrisay and Mr. Morrison? Hon. Mr. LONGWORTH.—Because they were recognized by Statute.

Hon. Mr. POPE said that the ire of the leader of the opposition was excited, as the matter concerned the pecuniary interests of his son-in-law. For that reason, imputations were thrown out against the Government. The Statute provided a Clerk and Assistant for the Legislative Council, but the latter officer did not suit them, although he was more efficient than the one they had appointed.

Hon. Mr. COLES declared that he was stating his views by any insinuations of the nature of that just heard. As to the comparative efficiency of the gentlemen referred to, the late assistant would not suffer by comparison with Mr. Morrison. The present Government had not found fault with him, as to the manner in which he had performed his duties. He had been employed and had performed as far as he was allowed, and was willing to complete, the duties of the situation to which he had been appointed. The labourer was worthy of his hire, and when the House voted the contingent expenses of the Council last Session, they were aware that Mr. Ball had been, and then was, employed as one of the Clerks. The duty of the Government was to have paid Mr. Ball, and notified him that in future they would recognize no vote in his favor. Had the House, last Session, intended to restrict the Council in its expenditure, they should have accompanied the vote with an express exception of the party referred to.

Hon. Mr. HAVILAND said that independently of the Statute, the right of appointment of Clerks to the Council was in the Government. Under the Statute passed in 1851, the Government appointed a Clerk to both Councils, and when it was found that one officer was not sufficient to perform the duties, an Act was passed in 1855, authorizing the appointment of an Assistant. Last Session the legally appointed Assistant was not called upon to do any work, and he was not, and could not be, constitutionally appointed. As had been said, the Government had acted in violation of law, the party aggrieved could appeal to the proper tribunal for redress, as had been done by Mr. Scott, a contractor under the late Government, who had made good his claim before a Court and Jury, and if Mr. Ball could prove that he was aggrieved, he should sue the Government. The usual and constitutional mode in such cases, was to vote a sum sufficient for the contingent expenses of the Council, and it would be most irregular and improper to make an exception against any individual.

Hon. Mr. COLES.—It was certainly very generous in the Hon. member of the Government to refer to a party who had performed his work, to a Court of Law, to get paid. He could only sue those who had employed him. In the year 1854 Mr. Morpeth was appointed Assistant Clerk to the Legislative Council, and when the Liberals returned to power, they paid him £100, although he was a political opponent. They did not on that occasion withhold his pay on the plea that there was no law authorizing his appointment.

Hon. Mr. HAVILAND.—The Government in power when Mr. Morpeth acted as Assistant Clerk made no special agreement with him, and they did not pay him, because there was no law which would justify them in doing so, but were bound to do so, in order to maintain the credit of the Government. He thought that Mr. Ball should have adopted a similar course; but as he had placed his claim on presumed legal rights, he should enforce it before the legal tribunals of the Country.

The Bill was then read the first time, and the House adjourned.

W. M. HOWE, Reporter.

THURSDAY, February 23.

BILL FOR SEPARATING THE OFFICES OF CLERK OF THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS.

Hon. Mr. HAVILAND moved the second order of the day, that the House go into Committee on the Bill for separating the office of Clerk of the Executive and Legislative Councils, and for other purposes therein mentioned.

Hon. Mr. COLES said that his principal objection to the Bill was, that it provided for four salaries instead of two; it contemplated an increase of officials to do less work than was done before, as he would show. Formerly a copy of the minutes and of every Act passed by the Government, was sent to the Government, but that was not required now; it had been done away with by the late Government. The business of the Executive Council was also less than before, because there were fewer Council members. The members of the Government could not be taken together on that notice, as several of them resided at a considerable distance in the country, which circumstance he considered a great inconvenience. He then instanced a case of a person coming to Town all the way from St. John's, on some business connected with the Council, and he had to wait for several days, as a meeting could not be called. Had the office of Deputy Colonial Secretary not been abolished, and the office of Road Correspondent not brought down to the Colonial Secretary's office, there would have been no necessity for the change contemplated by the Bill. He thought that the Government should be satisfied that they were in error when they changed the offices last Session. For example, to-day he believed the Colonial Secretary was unwell, and the door of the office was shut. A person should be appointed to the office as Assistant to do the business regularly. And if they had done so, the public accounts would be kept in order, the business of the departments, and the law Clerks.

Hon. Col. GRAY did not think the Hon. member was very happy in his line of argument. He had twitted them with the appointment of officers, and again with their non-appointment. They were here pledged to carry out the wishes of the country, and he thought that the Hon. member was not doing the people demanded that it should be done. At present, no doubt, the Colonial Secretary labored under many disadvantages; but they must do as the country required. With regard to the observation respecting the meetings of Council, he repudiated the Hon. member's charge, and he said that he had never seen a meeting of Council whenever a man came from the country. They had named the first and third Tuesdays of each month, which he considered sufficiently frequent. He contended that having a few more members of Council would be a great advantage, because the work did not then accumulate in his hands so much as when there was considerable delay. Mr. Desbrisay had frequently told him that he could not, unassisted, do the business of the office. And if they had done so, the public accounts would be kept in order, the business of the departments, and the law Clerks.

Hon. Mr. HOWAT said that if he contemplated change, by making more offices, and requiring more money, it would be objectionable. He thought the people did not care how many Clerks were appointed, provided the principals paid them out of their own pockets. There was no objection to the appointment of another officer and put him in the Colonial Secretary's office; but he contended if any addition was required, the principals should get assistants themselves.

Hon. Mr. COLES admitted that the Colonial Secretary had done without an assistant; but it was a great inconvenience in any other where papers had to be compared. The work was done, and he thought that the Government had committed an error when they departed from the departmental system, to which they would do well to return, and in Nova Scotia at the present time, the Hon. member of the Government had received the information that it was no advantage to have the Road Correspondent Assistant Clerk of the Executive Council, as the former office required his undivided attention. Respecting the offices in which a change was contemplated by the Bill, the expense would only be £35 more than under the Government of 1858.

Hon. Mr. HAVILAND said there had been considerable irregularity this Session, for hon. members should speak once when the Speaker was in the chair. With respect to the observation about going back to the departmental system, they had been very often from the Colonial Secretary's office, just as it was. It was well known that the country desired to see the present system. To the people of this Island it was immaterial what system the other Provinces might adopt; but even in Nova Scotia the Leader of the present Government held no office of confidence, and he thought that the Hon. member was not doing the people justice. He would say that the work in the Road Correspondent's Office altogether depended on the manner in which the books were kept. If every item was properly entered, the labor was great, and nearly the same whether the grants for the service were made by the Hon. member of the Government, or the information that it was no advantage to have the Road Correspondent Assistant Clerk of the Executive Council, as the former office required his undivided attention. Respecting the offices in which a change was contemplated by the Bill, the expense would only be £35 more than under the Government of 1858.

Hon. Mr. WIGHTMAN had no objection to the second reading of the Bill, because he believed that during the time he was in the government, no officer was more over-worked than Mr. Desbrisay. He was willing to take the public money to pay an assistant to that gentleman. Notwithstanding all that had been said at the last Session respecting assistants or deputies, he felt certain that the Government would have to go back to the old system. Were the Treasurer or Colonial Secretary to be paid at the same rate as common servants? He maintained that as the Treasurer had to take £150 out of his salary for his assistant, he was shamefully ungrateful; and so also was the Colonial Secretary. It was disgraceful that a Colony with a revenue of salaries of £30,000 could not afford to give more respectable salaries to its public officers.

Hon. Mr. THORNTON concurred in the remarks of the Hon. member for Murray Harbour. For his own part he had no objection to the appointment of an assistant to the Clerk of the Executive Council, therefore it would have his support.

Hon. Mr. LONGWORTH had not much to say on this subject. The Bill had been introduced for the purpose of facilitating the public business, or enabling the officers to do it with more satisfaction to the country. The duties devolving upon the Clerk of the Executive were every day becoming more arduous. They were not only to be done in the office, and he was allowed in years. It was unsafe to have only one person to look to; should he be suddenly taken away, there would not be another qualified to step into his place, as it required a long training to render a person familiar with the peculiar nature of the duties to be performed. If Mr. Desbrisay was left without an assistant, he would soon be broken down with the increasing business of the Colony. It was, therefore, the duty of the House to provide a remedy.

Hon. Mr. COLES.—The remedy was there.

Hon. Mr. LONGWORTH.—The remedy was not there. True, the Road Correspondent had been nominally Assistant but he had very little more to do than to receive the money. The Committee on public accounts came to examine the books, they would be able to form an idea of the labour which the officers had to perform; and they would also see whether the accounts were not kept no more than they were under the late Government. A good deal of their object was to create offices. But it was well known that they had curtailed the expenditure to a very considerable extent. They had made a reduction of £100 a year in the salary of the principal officer of the Colony, and though by his Bill £55 additional was to be required, yet the expenditure would not be equal to that of last year. Mr. Desbrisay would only have to do with one office; but one which required his undivided attention, as the Clerk of the Executive Council must be acquainted with all the business of the Government, and he would have to receive £75, which would be quite sufficient. They had considered it necessary to fix the sum which that officer should receive, to prevent misapplication of the public money. £150 had been granted by the Legislature for the important purpose of drawing up a few sheets of paper, or indexing the Journals. That an irresponsible body should vote what money they pleased was not proper. The Bill was a wholesome one. It was the duty of the Representatives of the people to take the responsibility of appointing their own officers, and to regulate their own salaries. Mr. Coles' argument respecting Council days was unsound. It was better to have regular days; but extra meetings were sometimes necessary. The case which had been referred to of the person who came from a distant part of the country on business with the Government, did not militate in the argument in favour of regular days. He was acquainted with the case, and knew that the reason the individual had to return without accomplishing the object of his journey, was not as had been stated by the leader of the opposition, for all the members of the Government were not out of town; but because they desired to go home for the contract until the matter was laid before the House, which alone had the right of granting public money.

Hon. Mr. SINCLAIR wished to make a few remarks on the Bill. He thought if they on this side of the House desired to improve the Government, they should do so without interfering with the Government. He considered it to be his duty to oppose every increase of the expenditure of the public money. He was inclined to give the Government a bit of advice. The country was very sensitive on the point of money, and if they continued to increase the country year by year in Bills to increase the expenses of the Colony, they might know what to expect. It was well known that the people were opposed to deputies, because they thought these were doing the work while the principals were going about doing nothing. If Clerks were once appointed, they soon must have higher salaries; thus the grants gradually crept up. He thought if the present Government carried on in this manner, they would not stand as long as the last. He objected to the Bills it was only for increasing the number of Clerks.

Hon. Mr. DOUSE was surprised to hear the remarks of the gentleman who had just spoken. Mr. Desbrisay's duties were very arduous, and instead of giving him an assistant, he thought that he should now receive a pension. The most competent person in the Colony ought to be found to fill his place, and he should now have a case. To object to the Bill because it would require the public money of £50 additional—was he ashamed to hear it mentioned. He would vote for the Bill though the sum were four times as much. With regard to the Registrar of Deeds, he did not know the person who held the office at present; but he deserved the greatest praise for the manner in which he had discharged his duties. He thought that the Hon. member of the Government who had just spoken, was not doing the people justice, by a slight change or omission in a deed, hundreds of pounds might be lost. He thought there ought to be an assistant in the office.

Hon. Mr. DAVIES approved of the change contemplated by the Bill; indeed he considered it absolutely necessary. The Bank could as well do without a Cashier, as the Government without a Clerk without an assistant. Mr. Desbrisay had, no doubt, been overworked; and if he had received any little assistance from the late Road Correspondent, he thought he had rendered quite as much service. Mr. Sinclair seemed to be of opinion that as many Clerks were not required, but he was not satisfied that a slight change or omission in a deed, hundreds of pounds might be lost. He thought there ought to be an assistant in the office.

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