

The Examiner.

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EDWARD WHELAN]

This is true Liberty, when Free-born Men, having to advise the Public, may speak free.—EURIPIDES.

[EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

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No. 39.

Colonial Legislature.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

WEDNESDAY, March 12.

Mr. Perry presented a Petition from certain inhabitants of Prince County, respecting the division of that County. Referred to the Special Committee appointed in reference thereto.

The Bill to consolidate and amend the Licence Laws was read a third time and passed.

The Hon. Col. Secretary presented a petition from the Clergy, Magistrates and others, of Princetown Royalty, praying aid for the support of a pauper child. Referred to the Special Committee on Pauper claims.

Mr. Laird presented a petition, together with a subscription list, from inhabitants of S. West River, New London, praying aid for the construction of a bridge across that river. Referred to a special Committee to report next Session.

House again in Committee on the Bill relating to summary actions before Justices of the Peace. Bill agreed to, with some amendments.

The Hon. Mr. Mooney, from the Committee appointed to report on the petition relating to the construction of a bridge over Pisiquid River, presented the following report, which was agreed to:—

Your Committee, to whom was referred the petition of sundry inhabitants of Pisiquid settlement, praying for the erection of a bridge across the Pisiquid river, at McDonald's wharf, have to report—That although such a bridge would afford increased accommodation to the travelling public in the immediate neighbourhood, yet as the present bridge on the said river is not more than two miles from the proposed new site, and the new bridge would cost a very large sum to build it, your Committee cannot recommend the prayer of the petition to the favourable consideration of the House."

The House then adjourned.

THURSDAY, March 13.

The House did not meet to-day, there not being a sufficient number of members in attendance to form a quorum, owing to the absence of several members at the Georgetown Court.

FRIDAY, March 14.

The Hon. the Speaker, having received a Letter from the Honorary Secretary of the Board of Trustees of the Lunatic Asylum and House of Industry, with respect to the affairs of that Institution, and also the annual report of the Visiting Physician of the Asylum, presented the same to the House, when they were read and laid on the table.

The Hon. Col. Secretary, by command, presented to the House several despatches and orders of Her Majesty in Council, confirming certain Acts passed in the last Session of the Legislature, and disallowing others. The Act relating to Stamped Instruments was one of those disallowed by Her Majesty, and the reason assigned for its disallowance was, that it was repugnant to a leading principle of the Imperial Stamp Act.

The Hon. Col. Secretary also presented a Message from His Excellency the Lieut. Governor, in reference to the Bank Act, enclosing an extract of a letter from Sir Charles Trevelyan to Sir Heran Merivale, of the Treasury Chambers, setting forth the objections entertained by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to that section of the Act which relates to mortgages being received as collateral securities for advances to be made by the projected Bank, and recommending that the local Legislature should amend the Act in this respect. On motion of the Hon. Col. Secretary, the extract of the letter above noticed, was referred to a special Committee to report thereon.

Hon. Mr. LONGWORTH made some observations respecting what he deemed to be a most extraordinary delay in the transmission of the Bank Act to the Imperial Government. That Act, he said, was passed by the Legislature of this Colony in April last, but it appeared from the correspondence just submitted, that it was not forwarded to England until the 7th August following. He was desirous of ascertaining from the Government the reasons for delaying its transmission so long.

The Hon. Col. SECRETARY replied, that as soon as the Bank Act was printed, which was shortly after the close of the last Session, it was forwarded to the Colonial Minister; and so anxious was the Lieut. Governor that a measure of so much importance should receive an early consideration at the hands of the Imperial Government, that His Excellency had written several despatches to the Colonial Minister on the subject. The date mentioned by the hon. member for Charlottetown had, no doubt, reference to one of these despatches, sent some months subsequent to the transmission of the Bill. There was no doubt that the delay in getting the royal assent to the Bank Act was of serious disadvantage to the community, for the want of such an institution was being felt more and more every day; but it was to be lamented that other Acts, as well as the Bank Act, were subjected to extraordinary delay before receiving the royal confirmation. He (the Col. Secretary) could not account for the tardiness of Her Majesty's Colonial Minister in reference to these matters, and he thought that if the Legislative Council and House of Assembly concurred in forwarding a joint address to Her Majesty on the subject, better attention might be given in future to the Acts emanating from the Legislature of this Colony.

The Committee, moved for by the Hon. Col. Secretary, was then appointed, viz:—Hons. Messrs. Coles, Whelan and Longworth.

The Hon. Mr. Mooney presented a petition from inhabitants of Lots 34 and 35, which was read by the hon. member in his place, praying for a grant to extend the wharf at Appleton Farm, by adding two blocks thereto, which, it was stated, would cost about £90.

Hon. COL. SECRETARY remarked that the petition just presented had been in the possession of the hon. member for nearly a month, and it was perfectly useless then to bring it forward, when the money for the road service had been appropriated, and the scales agreed to. The hon. member's constituents, as well as many of his own (the Col. Secretary's), were interested in having a good wharf at the place mentioned, and he was certain they would not thank the hon. member for giving their application the go-by. He (the Secretary) thought that £30 or £40 might have been con-

veniently set apart by the hon. member, notwithstanding that the wharf in question would be of much advantage to his constituents, for on a former occasion he (the Secretary) appropriated £60 towards the completion of a work in the hon. member's district.

Hon. Mr. MONTGOMERY said that the hon. member for the second district of Queen's County was certainly very remiss in the performance of his duty in keeping the petition in his desk so long as he had done. What good could result from his presenting it at that time? It would be only in-cumbering the Journal of the House to no purpose, by recording its reception, for the prayer of it could not be granted, as there was no money left appropriated for that branch of the public service. It appeared from the statement made by the Hon. Col. Secretary, that not only was the hon. member (Mr. Mooney) remiss in his duty in not sooner presenting the petition, but that he had taken advantage of him, (the Secretary) in getting £60 out of him for the benefit of his own constituents. He (Mr. Montgomery) was, for these reasons, opposed to receiving the petition.

Mr. McINTOSH could not help admiring the manner in which the Hon. Col. Secretary and his friend, Mr. Mooney, appeared to have transacted business between them. One gives to the other a grant for this purpose, and the other a grant for that; it was a fine illustration of the good old policy, "scratch me and I'll scratch you;" but the best of the joke was, that when the hon. member (Mr. Mooney) got pretty well scratched himself, he did not show a disposition to scratch his friend the Col. Secretary, who was no doubt itching for that interesting operation.

Hon. Mr. MOONEY stated that he had offered the petition to the Col. Secretary to present, as it concerned the constituents of that hon. member more than it did his own; but he had refused to entertain the petition. He (Mr. Mooney) did not consider it was his duty to set apart any money for the wharf under consideration, as that wharf would afford more accommodation to the constituents of the Col. Secretary than to his (Mr. Mooney's). He supposed that Mr. Muirhead would next bring a charge against him for not building a wharf at Crapaud, to serve that hon. gentleman's constituents. He (Mr. Mooney) felt that, with so many hon. members about him, trying to deprive his constituents of their honest share of the road money, he was in a situation something like that of the poor pedlar who had been frozen to death in a bed between two other greedy pedlars, who kept pulling the clothes from off him. Mr. Douse, he said, drags him off to Lot 48 to do some work there, that would be a great benefit to that hon. member's constituents; Mr. Muirhead wanted to bring him off to the westward over Crapaud bridge, to do a snag job there, and the Hon. Col. Secretary complained that he (Mr. Mooney) would not perform a similar service for him. Those gentlemen were very kind in their intentions and in their professions of regard for the interests of his constituents, but he was sorry he could not feel grateful to them on that account. They had no proper sites for wharfs in many parts of their own districts, and when they managed to get them erected near the boundaries of his (Mr. Mooney's) district, they were modest enough to expect that he should keep them in repair; but he would not allow the interests of his constituents to be sacrificed in such a manner. If hon. members would deal fairly towards him, he would act in a similar spirit with respect to them.

Mr. MUIRHEAD said, that as the hon. member from Flinty Glen had been pleased to bring his name into the debate, he would state that that hon. member appeared to have a knack of getting money out of other districts in addition to his own; for example, he had managed to get part of the appropriations for Prince County laid out in building a wharf at Crapaud to promote the interests of his (Mr. Mooney's) constituents. He (Mr. Muirhead) had been informed that some time ago the hon. member from Flinty Glen promised his (Mr. Muirhead's) colleague to assist in building a wharf at the west side of Crapaud harbour in Queen's County. Last year he (Mr. M.) and his colleague set apart a large sum of money for that wharf, but there were £57 15s. expended in addition to the grant, and for the payment of that sum they were obliged to make provision out of their appropriation for this year; besides this, he (Mr. M.) had offered to Messrs. Mooney and McGill to lay out £100 more in making additional blocks and bridges to the wharf in question, if those hon. members would give £50 out of their proportion for the same purpose. But they refused to give one shilling, and in the absence of his (Mr. M's) colleague—Hon. Mr. Lord—he could not undertake to give a large grant this year for making blocks and bridges to the Crapaud wharf.

The Petition was then referred to the members of the district.

The Hon. Col. Secretary presented to the House the Blue Book for 1854.

SCHOOL VISITOR'S REPORT.

The Hon. COL. SECRETARY suggested that the School Visitor's Report, on the public schools, which had been presented to the House a few days ago, had better be read for the information of members, as it was not read at the time it was presented. [The report was then read.]

The Hon. COL. SECRETARY, alluding to statements in the report, said it was highly gratifying to that House and to the country to perceive that one-fifth of the whole population of the Island were now participating in the benefits arising from the Free Education System, there being 12,000 children in attendance at the public schools. In addition to this large number of scholars, there were 400 others, not taken into account by the Visitor of Schools, receiving the benefits of education at the Bog School in Charlottetown. That School had been in progress for several years, and had only received £10 a year from the Legislature, which was a mere nothing in comparison to the advantages conferred by the School; for had it not been in operation, there were very many children, especially those living in the direction in which the School was located, who would have received no education at all. He hoped that hon. members would remember these facts, and give to the Bog School a more liberal grant than that of former years, which was now rendered highly necessary, as the great number of scholars taught in that school required the services of an assistant teacher.

The House then adjourned.

SATURDAY, March 15.

Owing to the continued absence of several members, the House did not meet to-day.

MONDAY, March 17.

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON POST OFFICE PETITIONS.

Mr. Perry, from the Committee to whom were referred the several petitions, praying grants of money for unlicensed teachers, presented to the House the report of that Committee, which was ordered to be taken up to-morrow.

The Hon. Mr. Wightman, from the Committee to whom were referred all matters relating to the Post Office department, and petitions praying for the establishment of new Post Offices, presented to the House the report of that Committee, which was read and committed to a Committee of the whole House, where it underwent much discussion and alteration.

The Committee having reported adverse to the establishment of a post office at Wheatly River Bridge, chiefly on the grounds that the Postmaster General had expressed his opinion, that it would not pay the expenses, and that there was another office at Rustico within a short distance of the proposed site, Mr. Laird moved and the Hon. Col. Secretary seconded a re-consideration. The prayer of the petitioners was advocated by those gentlemen and Messrs. Longworth, Montgomery, Yeo, McIntosh, Perry, Mooney, and his Honor the Speaker, on the various grounds that the central situation from which no less than five roads diverged, and the shipbuilding and other business operations carried on there, justified the House in sanctioning the prayer of the petition—that it would be self-sustaining, and most probably produce a surplus revenue—that sooner than without the office, the people would pay for it themselves—that there was no direct road to the Rustico office, which might be only two or two and a half miles as the crow flies from the site of the one proposed, but practically by the road six or seven miles. The Committee decided on recommending the new office.

The application for a post office at Tracadie was refused. That for one at Skinner's Pond rejected by the special Committee, was, on motion of Mr. Perry, acceded to. On the report against the establishment of a post office on Lot 15 being read, on motion of Mr. Perry, it was resolved to establish one in such place as might be most convenient. The recommendation of the special Committee, that an express with the English Mails be forwarded to Belfast, at a probable expense of £40 per annum, was rejected.

The special Committee having rejected the application for a post office at East Point, it was, on motion of Mr. Cooper, resolved to establish one at or near James Beaton's, who had last year promised to take charge of it gratuitously. A post office having been recommended at or near Mr. John Ross's, Douse's Road, Mr. Munro moved in amendment that it be located at or near Donald McRae's, Murray Harbour Road, as more convenient. Amendment carried.

On the recommendation that the postmaster at Summerside receive the same sum as he got last year, the Hon. the Speaker moved that the same sum be paid to the postmasters at Summerside and Georgetown as they respectively received last year. Georgetown post office produced the comparatively large amount of £66 to the revenue, which was the true criterion by which to judge of the amount of duties performed. This view was opposed by several members, on the ground, that although the amount of revenue derived from the Georgetown post office did not imply that the duties of the postmaster at that place exceeded those of the Summerside postmaster, who had to make up, despatch and receive a far greater number of mails—which duties occupied a very great deal of his time, &c. Finally a motion of Mr. Perry's, giving each officer £10, was agreed to.

GRAND RIVER POST OFFICE.

The special Committee having referred the different views of the parties interested in this matter to the decision of the House, this course of action was censured by the Hon. SPEAKER as being a neglect of duty on the part of the special Committee, who should have reported in one way or another. Hon. Mr. WHELAN considered that he too had cause to complain of the Committee. Their report should have recommended one definite course of procedure. He himself had received petitions against the prayer of the first petition which prayed for a removal of the post office from its present site—some 1200 parties had expressed themselves satisfied to have the office continued where it now is, and he had received a certificate that several had been induced to petition for its removal by misrepresentations. Mr. Whelan then read the petitions, praying that the office at Lot 56 may be continued where it is, and also the certificate from parties who had been deceived into signing the other petition.

The following is the Report, as agreed to in Committee of the whole House:—

Your Committee to whom were referred sundry petitions from inhabitants of different sections of this Island, praying for the establishment of Post Offices, as also the claims advanced for increased remuneration to several postmasters—submit—that they have examined the various petitions and claims referred to them, and having given their best attention thereto, have to report—

1. That they recommend the establishment of a Post Office at Wheatly River.
2. That they cannot recommend an increase of salary to the postmaster at Park Corner.
3. That as a post office is now established at the Nine Mile House, St. Peter's road, they cannot recommend a post office at Tracadie, the distance apart being three miles only, and there being little or no correspondence.
4. That they recommend a post office to be established at Simmonds's Road, as prayed for.
5. That a post office be established at the most convenient place on Lot 15.
6. That they recommend the establishment of a post office at Scarletown.
7. That they recommend the establishment of a post office at East Point, Lot 47, at or near James Beaton's.
8. That they recommend the establishment of a post office at Murray Harbor road, near the residence of Donald McRae, there being many letters addressed to that locality and vicinity.
9. That they cannot recommend the conveyance of a mail semi-weekly to Belfast and the southern district of Queen's County, as the additional expense of a courier would amount to at least £40.
10. That they recommend the sum of ten pounds each be granted to the postmasters at Summerside and at Georgetown for their services over and above their per centage.
11. That a post office be established at or near the Cross roads, Grand River, Lot 56, leading to the wharf, and that the post office at Mr. John C. Underhay's be discontinued.
12. That a post office be established at Nicholson's at the Cross roads, near the Grand River bridge—the present

mail carrier to Little River carrying the mail bags to the new post office near the wharf and also the Launching Place mail bag; and a carrier from the post office at Grand River bridge, cross roads, to bring the mail bag from Dingwell's mills, head of Bay Fortune, to that office.

13. That a post office be established at or near South River bridge, Murray Harbor, and that the post office now established at White Sands be continued, as a way office.

14. That they cannot recommend the prayer of the petition of N. J. Brown, postmaster at St. Eleanor's, for an increase of salary, as it would open a way for a general application from other postmasters.

15. That a post office be established at the most central and convenient place between Johnston's road, New Glasgow road, and the Scotch Settlement road, Lot 23.

16. That it is recommended that a sum be granted to John McIntosh, Lot 14, mail carrier, to recompense him for additional expense and labour incurred, in having to travel a distance of four miles to two new post offices established, one at Kildare and the other at Barlow's mills.

17. That the post office be continued on Lot 12, where most convenient to the mail carrier.

18. That it is recommended that the amount, the same as formerly granted to J. A. Chipman, Esqr., postmaster at Amherst, N. S., be continued this year.

19. Your Committee submit detailed statements, as furnished by the Postmaster General; first, of the amount of contracts for the conveyance of the Inland Mails for the year 1856, and the amount payable to country postmasters by statute. Secondly, of the amount of postage collected at the different Inland offices during the year 1855, and the amount of commission paid to the respective postmasters."

The question of concurrence being about to be put on the above report, the Hon. Mr. Mooney moved to amend it by inserting the following:—

"That a post office be established at or near Angus McDonald's, Grand Tracadie, Township 35."

The House divided—For the amendment—Hons. Messrs. Mooney and Whelan, Messrs. Laird, McGill, Perry, Munro—6.

Against it—Hons. Messrs. Longworth, Col. Secretary, Lord, Montgomery, Wightman, Messrs. Cooper, McDonald, Yeo, Clark, H. Haviland, McIntosh—11. Amendment therefore disagreed to.

The Hon. Mr. Whelan then moved that the said report be amended by striking out the eleventh and twelfth paragraphs thereof, and substituting the following:—

"That with respect to certain petitions from the inhabitants of Grand River and vicinity, praying for a post office at the head of Grand River—your Committee recommend that a post office be established at or near the Cross roads at Nicholson's—the mail carrier taking the mails from Dingwell's mills for Lot 56 and Launching Place, as well as the mail for the Cross roads, at the head of Grand River."

The House divided—For the amendment—Hons. Messrs. Whelan, Mooney, Lord, Messrs. Perry, McGill, McDonald—6.

Against it—Hons. Messrs. Longworth, Wightman, Montgomery, Col. Secretary, Messrs. Munro, Clark, McIntosh, Laird, Yeo, H. Haviland, Cooper—11.

The amendment was therefore negatived, and the report agreed to. The House then adjourned.

TUESDAY, March 18.

REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON TEACHERS' PETITIONS.

The House, according to order, went into Committee of the whole on the report relating to Teachers' petitions. After some little discussion on unimportant items, the Committee rose, and the report was agreed to as follows:—

Your Committee, to whom were referred the several petitions, praying aid to teachers who have not complied with all the provisions of the Education Law, having examined the said petitions, recommend that the several under-mentioned persons be allowed as follows, viz:—

Letitia Muirhead,	£10 0 0
To the Secretary of the Board of Education for	
James Gillanders, for four months,	10 0 0
Archibald Beckford,	25 0 0
Michael Dinn, for 12 months,	25 0 0
Henry Leekey, for 1 year ending July, 1856,	25 0 0
Matthew Reville, for 12 months,	25 0 0
Mary Ann Murphy, for 12 months,	12 0 0
Thomas Mausfield,	20 0 0
Laughlin McPhee, Lot 46, for 9 months,	15 0 0
Alfred A. McKenzie, for services performed previous to the passing of the Free Education Act,	18 0 0

Richard Barry, in full for past services,	5 0 0
Elizabeth Wilson, Bedeque,	7 0 0
James Condon, Lot 30,	10 0 0
Duncan McDonald, for six months, up to 6th March, 1856,	15 0 0
Murdoch McKenzie, Ross Settlement, for 12 months,	25 0 0

Your Committee having examined the petition of the inhabitants of St. Eleanor's, are of opinion from the little information received, that it is inexpedient to entertain the prayer of the petition.

Your Committee having also examined the petition of the Trustees of the Georgetown Grammar School, submit, that it is inexpedient to add to the salary of the teacher.

Your Committee would recommend that in future no petition, praying for an allowance to unlicensed teachers, be entertained by the House, unless it shall clearly appear that the inhabitants petitioning could not obtain a teacher qualified according to law.

Your Committee would also recommend that when the House is in Committee of Supply, a sum be appropriated for the purchase of French School Books, for the use of the Acadian Schools.

Your Committee recommend that when the House is in Committee of Supply a sum sufficient be appropriated and paid, agreeably to the foregoing.

Your Committee have had under their consideration the petition of the Trustees of the Brudenel District School, and others,—and from the statements made in said petition, recommend that when the House is in Supply, the sum of £29 3s. 4d. be granted to the Trustees of the above mentioned school, for seven months of Mr. R. B. Irving's services as teacher."

Mr. H. Haviland, from the special Committee appointed therefor, presented a Bill to alter and amend the Act to incorporate the Charlottetown Gas Light Company, which was read a first time, and referred to the Private Bill Committee to report thereon.