

THURSDAY, May 23, 1865.

The House in a Committee of the Whole agreed to a Bill introduced by Col. Boyd, entitled "An Act to Incorporate the Digdeguash Lake and Stream Driving Company."

The Committee to whom was referred the following Bill:—"A Bill for the protection of Moose," also "A Bill to amend the law relating to the destruction of Moose," made the following report.

The Committee have examined the Bills very carefully, and have also examined the Laws of Canada and Nova Scotia, in regard to the preservation of Moose, and have given the question their best consideration. This subject is one which is very difficult in dealing with, and in bringing offenders to justice great difficulties arise, as the offences are committed in the forest by non-residents, far beyond the means of obtaining testimony and the reach of judicial tribunals; the offenders generally escape before they can be prosecuted; in this way the Moose are slaughtered by wholesale, and the offenders escape the punishment they so richly deserve. The Committee are fully impressed with the fact that unless legislation can be so made as to reach the offenders, and stop the wholesale slaughter, that within a few years these useful animals will become extinct. With these facts in view the Committee have prepared another Bill on this subject, entitled "A Bill for the protection of Moose"; having very stringent regulations, and which the Committee believe, if strictly enforced, will protect the Moose, and therefore recommend the Bill to the favorable consideration of the House.

EDWARD WILLISTON,

JOHN COSTIGAN,

GEO. OTTY,

W. NEEDHAM,

} Committee

The House then went into a Committee of the whole to take into consideration the foregoing Bill entitled—

A BILL FOR THE PROTECTION OF MOOSE.

Mr. CUDLIP.—I do not believe the Bill is worth the paper on which it is written; laws of this kind never did work in any country, and they will not work here.

Mr. COSTIGAN.—I do not agree to all the provisions of this Bill, for it will prevent the settler from killing any Moose at all, the winter season being the only time in which he can kill them, while a man who does not belong to the country can kill them by hundreds, leaving the meat to be destroyed; and by so doing be in no danger of incurring a fine at all. In my opinion we should either introduce a Bill to prevent any person from killing them during the next four or five years, or a Bill to prevent the trade in hides being the chief inducement to parties to kill them.

Mr. BERNARD.—If you allow men to kill them for nine months a great quantity will be destroyed. Parties can come from Quebec and the State of Maine to kill the moose and convey their hides through the woods to those countries. I have known parties who have killed 100 moose this winter and taken their hides to Canada. They should not be killed at all for several years, or until they increase and become plentiful. According to this Bill a man is allowed to kill two. I do not think this will be any protection, for if there is half a dozen in the family, each one will

have his two moose, perhaps all being killed by the same person.

Mr. NEEDHAM.—I would not oppose a Bill to prevent their being killed at all, provided the Indians are excepted.

Mr. WILLISTON.—We have examined the Laws of Upper and Lower Canada, and also the State of Maine, and find that the Indians are exempt from any Laws relating to the protection of moose. Under these circumstances the Committee thought that to deprive the Indians—who have no other means of subsistence except the animals caught in the woods—of the liberty of killing these moose would be doing them a great injustice.

Mr. OTTY.—The Indians will never kill any more moose than is requisite for their own subsistence. They have always spoken against the Traders and Frenchmen coming from Canada and the State of Maine in order to obtain these hides for exportation. They wish the moose protected for their own use and the natural subsistence of their families.

Mr. COSTIGAN.—The hon. member for King's has stated that the Indians never kill more than they can take care of, and don't allow the carcass to lie in the woods to be destroyed. I know the Indians do kill large quantities and leave their carcasses to be destroyed in the woods. Within a few miles of the camp where I was working, two Indians had killed seventy moose. I asked one of them if he did not think it was wrong to kill those moose and leave the meat to be destroyed. The Indian pointed to a large pine tree, and said, the white man will come and cut down that tree, take a certain portion and leave the rest to rot in the woods because it is no use to them; we do the same as the white man, we take the hides because we can turn them into money, but the rest we leave to rot on the ground. I would like to go for a Bill to prohibit killing them at all, others want the Indians excepted. It might be done in this way. The Bill could prohibit all persons from killing them for three years, except the Indians, and no traffic allowed in the hides. Then the Indians would have no inducement to kill more than they wanted for their own use, but if you simply prohibit killing, and except the Indians, you leave the traffic entirely in their hands.

This Bill was agreed to.

Hon. Mr. SMITH said that as the Legislature of Nova Scotia had passed a resolution to appoint delegates to confer with other delegates from the Maritime Provinces regarding a commercial or Legislative Union between the Provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward's Island, he had prepared a resolution authorizing the Government, in case the Government of Nova Scotia appoint these delegates, to appoint a delegation also; but he thought it was premature to discuss this question, as this delegation which they proposed to appoint would have no power to bind the House, but should be appointed as a matter of courtesy to Nova Scotia; he would therefore give notice of the following resolution:

Whereas, the Lieut. Governor of this Province has received from the Lieut. Governor of Nova Scotia copies of resolutions passed by the Legislative Council, and House of Assembly, of that Province, expressing a wish to renew the negotiation for a Union of the Maritime Provinces;

And whereas, it is desirable to ascertain whether a Legislative or Commercial Union of these Provinces, on terms advantageous to all, is practicable;

Therefore resolved, that an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Lieut. Governor, requesting him to appoint delegates, not to exceed five, to confer with a delegation to be appointed by the Governments of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward's Island, on the subject of such Union.

Mr. CONNELL.—I do not rise for the purpose of discussing this resolution, for I am not aware what the opinion of the House is in reference to it, but it is a most important matter, and they should express an opinion upon it. It is a question that should be fully discussed, and if we are going to have a Confederation on a small scale we should understand it, and the Government should be prepared to give some reasons why a delegation of this kind should be appointed, when a delegation which was appointed last year reported against the measure. I think the question had better stand over until this afternoon so that we will have time to consider the matter, and I shall give my reasons why I am opposed to it.

Hon. Mr. SMITH.—I cannot see any use in allowing this matter to stand over. I think it is due as a matter of courtesy to Nova Scotia that this delegation should be appointed. My hon. friend knows that when the last delegation met at Charlottetown their attention was absorbed by the grander union, that this union faded into insignificance, and they paid no attention to it at all. If this delegation which we propose to appoint meet and agree upon any union, whether legislative or commercial, then it would be submitted to the House, and the country could take time to consider it. Last year a resolution of this kind was moved by the Provincial Secretary, and we had little discussion upon it; now we propose to do the same thing without committing hon. members upon the question; but leave it until next session, when it will be for the House to determine whether to adopt or reject the report of the Committee.

Mr. LANSLEY.—The first thing necessary to be done is to ascertain whether the House desires this union or not; if it does not, it is unnecessary to appoint this delegation and put the country to this expense for no purpose, when the finances are so limited, and they are required for improvements in the country. Although I am in favor of the union of all the British North American Provinces, yet I am opposed to this union of the Maritime Provinces, and want to record my vote against it.

Mr. OTTY.—The hon. gentleman has misapprehended the question, which is merely a matter of courtesy to Nova Scotia; because Nova Scotia has passed a resolution of this kind, it is a matter of courtesy that we should do so too, and the discussion of the subject can come up hereafter.

Mr. McCLELLAN.—I suppose there can be no objection if it is a matter of courtesy; but I should like to see the members of the Government in their places, because the hon. Provincial Secretary made a remark when passing the supplies which made me suppose that no delegation would be required; but I see those pleasant little excursions will be provided for the same as usual.

Mr. CUDLIP.—I am not prepared to say