

ber of gentlemen in New York and Boston who were buying up large quantities of all the articles that came into the Province duty free. He had understood that the Government did not intend to collect duties on those articles that before the Reciprocity Treaty were subjected to a duty of 3 per cent. St. John would soon be flooded with articles and not pay a cent of duty. But let it be supposed that the Government did impose duty on these articles, the Southern part of the Province would get them duty free. St. John being an open port, while the people of the North would have to pay duty. Such a policy would not be tolerated were the Northern Counties properly represented at the Council Board.

Mr. FRASER.—Did not flour come into the Province, duty free, before Reciprocity.

Mr. WILLISTON.—He would vote against putting a duty on flour, beef, &c. He would like to know what the Government intend to do.

ATTORNEY GENERAL.—The Government did not intend to put a duty on flour.

Mr. WILLISTON was glad to hear that, yet it would be necessary to put a protective duty on certain articles in order to checkmate the American Government, should they put a heavy duty on exports. He was not going further into the charges against the Government. He had already stated the grounds on which he stood against them. The moment he read their Minute of Council he made up his mind to oppose them. He was opposed to them also for the reason that the Government, as at present constituted, did not sufficiently represent the interests of the North. He regretted very much that he should have to vote against the Government. For individual members of it he felt great respect. He had always been on the most friendly terms and had received the greatest kindness from the Attorney General, the Surveyor General, and the Provincial Secretary. He felt very great reluctance to vote against them; but, conscientiously believing that Confederation would advance the interests of the country, and believing that the Government were not prepared to bring in a scheme, he should, therefore, vote for the amendment.

The House then adjourned over until Monday, at 10 o'clock.

MONDAY, MARCH 26.

The Bill to amend the Act to incorporate the Albert County Railway Company.

A Bill to authorize the Trustees of the St. Andrew's Church, St. John, to sell property in Sillbury;

And the Bill to change the name of the Parish of Palmerston, in Kent, to Saint Luke's, were agreed to.

A BILL TO ADD TO AN ACT RELATING TO THE MILITIA.

Mr. OTTY, in explaining the objects of the Bill, said that the militia law exempted volunteers from the payment of taxes to the extent of six dollars. This provision did not act fairly, because many of the volunteers who spent their time attending drill, paid but a small amount of taxes, the whole exemption amounting to but sixty-one cents per head for the volunteers in King's County. They thought being exempted from six dollars taxes, would exempt them from statute labour, and a case was brought to trial, when the Chief Justice gave his decision that it did not exempt them from statute labour. Therefore, it was unfair that the volunteers in the rural districts, who had to

travel some distance to attend drill, should be exempted from so small an amount; while the volunteers in the cities who had but a short distance to go to attend drill, are exempted from a larger amount in consequence of their taxes being higher.

Mr. NEEDHAM said he would have had another section prepared for the Bill, if he had known it was going to be introduced. The volunteers were exempted to the extent of six dollars, and if his taxes were rated under that amount, he was disfranchised, because by the terms of their charter, no man could vote unless he had a receipt for his taxes from the City Treasurer. He had serious doubts whether this exemption should be a local charge. If five or six hundred volunteers in Fredericton were ordered to the North Shore, they should share the burden. They should have six dollars paid them out of the militia treasury, and let it come in as a portion of the expenditure for the militia. He hoped the hon. member would allow progress to be reported, so that an additional section might be added to the Bill.

Mr. WILMOT thought they should do all they could to encourage the volunteer movement. There is a great complaint made in St. John about these exemptions. They want to raise a certain amount of money for a local purpose, and when the assessment is made they do not know the number of volunteers who are relieved from a portion of their taxes, which causes irregularity. If the volunteers were for the defence of the Province, their expenses should be provided out of the general revenue.

Mr. OTTY explained that the second section of the bill would provide a remedy for the irregularity complained of.

Col. BOYD fully concurred with the remarks made by his hon. friend from York, in thinking that the expense should be provided for by the Province at large.

Mr. ANGLIN thought that the volunteers of St. John did not want any exemptions from taxes, but they expected when they gave their time and services for the benefit of the Province, they should not have to put their hands in their pockets and be compelled to pay the expenses necessary to be incurred for the purpose. The least the public could do, would be to provide them with all things necessary for the purpose of enabling them to learn their drill. They should have a proper drill room, supplied with arms, and if they were required to wear uniform it should be provided. Everything should be provided from the Provincial revenues, or by the united action of the Province with the localities. In the City of St. John half the expense should be provided by the Province, and half by the City and County. It was not dealing fair with them, that it should be necessary that concerts should be got up for their benefit, or that they should beg from door to door to put a coat on their backs. He would protest against that, and he hoped their claims upon the country would be acknowledged.

Mr. LINDSAY said the present law did not work fairly, for it was not right that the poor man should be relieved of but one dollar while the rich man was relieved of six, for they both lost the same time. If they were going to keep up the volunteer system, the money should come from the Provincial revenues of the country. They did not get the right class of men to attend the Camp of In-

struction. They were men who were here to-day and away to-morrow, and merely went there to have a jolly time. If they could have got the young men of the country, it would have been some benefit.

Mr. McMILLAN remarked that they should all be put on an equal footing, and not allow one man to receive \$1 and another \$6 for the same service. In regard to their having a free passage on the railway, when attending militia duties, he thought the railway was Provincial property, and they should be allowed to travel on it for that purpose.

Mr. McLELLAN thought something should be done to aid and encourage them, but he objected to this Bill on account of the rich man being exempted from more taxes than the poor man. Then in regard to localities, a martial feeling may exist in one portion of the country, in consequence of encouragements held out, and that portion of the country would have to bear the burden of these taxes, while the whole Province would receive the benefit. It would also disfranchise these volunteers, from whom we want an expression of opinion, as they were likely to be men of thought, who took an interest in the affairs of the country. Their names would not go on the Revisor's list, unless they made application to the Revisors; many of them would not make this application, and, in consequence, would be unable to vote. The last section says, they shall pass over the railway free of expense. It is not fair that certain parties in the County of Kings should have a privilege which is denied to the rest of the Province. This whole system of free passage on the railroad was bad. It was a subject he intended to enquire into this session, to ascertain how many people are allowed to pass over the road free of expense. He was inclined to think there was a great many individuals went over that railroad free. The members of the Government pass over free, and he was not sure but their supporters passed over free too.

Hon. Mr. SMITH supposed he intended his observations to apply to the late Government, as the present Government had not been long in power, and has had the control of it only for a few months. It was very well for him to say he had suspicions of this, and that some enquiry ought to be made to see whether those suspicions were well grounded or not. He thought Mr. Lawrence deserved the greatest credit, as he had saved from fifteen to twenty thousand dollars in the expenses connected with that railroad. (Mr. Lindsay—I should like to see an account of it.) He was speaking of facts. Mr. Lawrence had paid a larger sum into the revenues than ever had been paid before, and that was good proof that there was not many free passages. He had reduced the running of the trains, and had reduced the staff. He only runs one through train per day, which afforded as much accommodation to the country as they wanted. When this House came to examine the matter they would see what Mr. Lawrence had done, and they would be disposed to give him every praise for the manner in which he had conducted the Railway. With regard to the Bill before the House, he would like to give every encouragement to the Volunteers; but there should be some provision to make the exemption more equal, and to prevent their