

make it pay four, we should go on at once. If it does not pay but two per cent, the wealth coming into the country will make it up by indirect means. It will come through the community at large, as well as if it came directly. I must support the resolution, because I consider that it will forward Western Extension, which will be a benefit to the whole community.

Adjourned to 9 a. m. Monday.

T. P. D.

MONDAY, May 1.

Mr. BOYD moved for leave to bring in a Bill for the preservation of Deer on the island of Grand Manan, and also presented a petition from certain parties, that an Act may pass providing for the same.

Hon. Mr. ALLEN moved for leave to bring in a Bill to authorize the erection of a Sorting Room near the lower bridge on the Nashuawk.

Mr. GILBERT moved for leave to bring in a Bill to provide for Simultaneous Elections throughout the Province.

Mr. SUTTON asked the Speaker if any provision had been made for the services of a Law Clerk.

The SPEAKER had no information on the subject.

Mr. KERR said, he understood that a gentleman was now engaged drafting Bills for the members of the House, and he would like to know whether he was engaged by the House, or by private members.

Mr. BOYD was in favor of the appointment of a Law Clerk. Although he had personally been very successful in drawing up Bills, yet he believed that the services of a competent Clerk would greatly facilitate the business of the Session.

Mr. GILBERT never thought a Law Clerk necessary, and did not think there had been one till the last House had created the office. The honorable members composing the present House were presumed to be wise and discreet, and he thought quite competent to draft their own Bills, and as he believed every unnecessary expense should be reduced, he would draw up a resolution that the services of a Law Clerk be dispensed with.

Mr. SUTTON thought it hardly necessary to bring in a motion to dispense with the office, for, so far as this House was concerned, no such office was in existence.

Mr. GILBERT said, it was very easy to ascertain the opinion of the House on the question, and he would, therefore, move that it is not desirable that the office of Law Clerk, created by the last House, be continued.

Hon. Mr. SMITH said, it would be absurd to pass such a resolution, as it was well understood that the offices created by the last House had nothing whatever to do with the present.

Mr. GILBERT said if the House so understood it, he would withdraw his motion.

Mr. BOYD then moved that a Law Clerk be employed to prepare Bills for this House.

Mr. CONNELL said, that in doing away with that office, the House would not be acting right towards many of the members. Those engaged in agricultural pursuits, and others, were not so able at legal forms as the honorable member for Westmorland. The argumentative talents, and legal knowledge of that gentleman were not shared by some others, and there were members who were young in the House, who would find it difficult to draft a Bill without the aid of a Law Clerk.

He should, therefore, vote for the resolution.

On division, the motion was negatived.

The House, on motion of Mr. OTTY, took up the order of the day, and the discussion on the Address in Reply.

FIFTH PARAGRAPH, AND MR. KERR'S AMENDMENT RESUMED.

Mr. WETMORE—I mentioned to the House on Saturday, that I thought there was nothing in the existing law on the Statute Book to prevent the Government taking action with regard to Railway Extension. On looking over the law, I cannot find anything that would directly prevent them. But then there is no law to prevent murder, but simply to punish those who commit that crime. Although there is nothing in the law to prevent the Government from carrying on Railway extension, yet there is such a thing as public faith, and if the late Government entered into any arrangement with parties to engage in the work, the credit so pledged ought to be maintained. On looking over the Facility Bill—sometimes called the Lobster Bill—I find in the fourth section, a certain bonus is given to any company who, by conforming to certain requirements, fulfil the terms of the act. Under this Bill, passed by the last House, a company was formed in St. John, who obtained an act of Incorporation, under the title of the European and North American Railway Western Extension Company. The Legislature held out certain inducements which should accrue to parties complying with certain acts. The company in St. John was formed, and a large amount of stock secured, and before Declaration day in St. John, it was said that a gentleman—Mr. Parks—had gone to England to get such stock taken up there as would enable the company to carry on the work. There is no doubt, but that Mr. Parks has gone for that purpose, and the talents and energy possessed by that gentleman leaves no room to suppose but that everything will be done to accomplish the object of his mission. If an individual makes a certain offer to another, and arranges to do certain things, if certain acts are complied with,—if that individual fails to fulfil the engagements entered into, there is a Court of Chancery through which the injured party can obtain redress for his grievances, but when engagements are entered into with a Government, and they fail to perform, there is no redress; there is nothing but the good faith of that Government to rely on as a guarantee of the fulfilment of the promises made. I feel assured that the present Government are embarrassed in their actions by the engagements entered into by the late Government, and that there are certain rights existing under the acts on the Statute Book which prevents further legislation. I am glad that the Government have, in as strong terms as they could, held out to the people of the country the promise of Western Extension, as soon as circumstances will permit. If it was not for existing laws, and engagements entered into under them, the want of means to carry on the work would not have been as great a barrier as some seem to imagine. My only regret is, that the Government could not proceed, but I am satisfied they will do so as soon as possible, and, therefore, under these circumstances, shall vote that the paragraph pass.

Mr. CONNELL.—The subject of Railways has been before this country for a long time. In 1837 the first move was made, and from the time the first grant

from the casual revenue was made down to the present, not a year has passed but the subject has been discussed in this House. It is much to be regretted that the statement has been put forth here that the legislation of last Session is not intended to be amended by the present Government. I think the country looks for this. I have always been in favor of measures which like these tend to open up and improve the country. True, at the first there were great difficulties about the St. John and Shediac Railway; but gradually these were overcome, and now we have that road. Still in consequence of having no connection at either end, it is of little value to the country, as it involves a large expenditure of money without any adequate return. It is satisfactory, however, to know that it is one of the best constructed roads in British North America. But it is not my purpose to go into the subject of that Railroad—I believe it is necessary for the prosperity of this country that the Government take some immediate action with regard to the extension Westward. I do not think the statement made by them in the paragraph under discussion is a very correct one. I should like to ask the Government if they have made any effort to ascertain the nature of the difficulties spoken of, and if they cannot be removed. I very much doubt if any difficulties really exist to prevent further legislation in this matter. Will the hon. member for St. John tell the House whether it is the intention of the people of the County of St. John, who have taken up stock, to raise obstacles to the carrying out of this work? Is not the course laid down meant rather to assist the Government to get rid of the responsibility resting upon them, which, I admit, is great? I believe the Treasury is nearly empty—then why do they speak of the improved state of the finances of the country? I am surprised that the Government should have laid the Speech of His Excellency on the table without propounding to the House the policy they intend to pursue. I believe it is customary for the mover of the Address to define the policy of the Government, and the course they intend to pursue. I should have been pleased to have heard the President of the Council state the policy and course of the Government. He has not seen fit to do so; but they come and lay the Speech before us, and the only statement they make in explanation of their intentions is the introduction of a Bill for the abolition of the office of Postmaster General. I do not now intend to speak on that subject; but when it comes up I shall state to the House the opinions I entertain as to the importance of that office to the commercial and financial interests of the country. I would, however, ask if we are to go back to the irresponsible mode of carrying on the public business which once existed here. If this Address pass, the office of Postmaster General goes back into the hands of parties who are totally irresponsible to the country; and I am prepared with facts and figures to show that such a course would be most destructive to the postal interests of the Province. It is an office second to no other. When I had the honor to hold that office I performed the duties it involved, and carried into effect decisions of the Council. I did not, however, on every little matter consult with them, nor should I if I held such an office again, for I believe that it detracts from the furtherance of the interests of public business. This is the only reform—but I call it de-