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The resignation of Mr. Cauchon is not likely to lead to any immediate results, save that of shortening the duration of the House of Assembly by one Session; for Mr. McDonald has said, so Mr. Cauchon asserts, that no further Legislation will take place by the present Parliament after the passing of the Grand Trunk Bill. This, however, cannot be depended upon, though exceedingly probable. The Ministry are popular; the quarrel with Mr. Cauchon is not likely to render them unpopular; and Mr. McDonald, with the policy of a Palmerston, doubtless thinks that the proper time to secure a good working House of Assembly, of his way of thinking, is take time by the forelock, and strike while the iron is hot. Our country friends had therefore better be on the look out.

MINISTERIAL.

(From the Leader.)

We do not learn that any steps have been taken to fill up the vacancy occasioned by Mr. Cauchon's retirement from the Government. In the meantime it is understood that Mr. Vankoughnet will discharge the Departmental duties which devolved upon the late Crown Lands Commissioner. The resignation in this view of the case does not assume the character of a crisis. Mr. Cauchon's explanations delayed, for a period of two hours, the Railway debate last evening. And although this may not be the sum of the difficulty, we do not think it will extend much further. It is true the trouble always remains of satisfying different localities when questions of subsidizing public enterprises comes before Parliament. But we think the Government will not suffer in the judgment of the majority of the House from having set a limit to the extent to which they are prepared to accommodate localities. And they have assumed strong ground in deciding that neither North Shore Railway nor any other public work shall be tacked to the Grand Trunk scheme of Relief. The time to deal with other enterprises will come anon. And the Government, we predict, will deal with them promptly and liberally at the proper time.

We heard yesterday evening from Toronto that new arrangements, in consequence of Mr. Cauchon's retirement from the Government, had not been settled. Rumor says, and our correspondent believes part of it is well founded, that Mr. Spence will take the Crown Lands Department, and Mr. Terrill the Post Office Department. Messrs. Drummond and Loranger are both spoken of to fill the remaining vacancy, but this last our correspondent says is the merest gossip.—[Montreal Gazette.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.—APRIL 29.

Resignation of the Crown Lands Commissioner.

Mr. Cauchon then rose and read the following correspondence, first in French, and then in English:—

CROWN LANDS OFFICE,
April 26, 1857.

MY DEAR COLONEL,—After the discussion of yesterday in the Council, and before that of to-morrow, I thought that I should acquaint you with my views on the subject of these two discussions—a special grant of lands to the North Shore Railway Company.

I acknowledge frankly to you that my position has become insupportable, and I must have peace at any sacrifice whatever. Not only am I resolved not to sacrifice the interests of those who have made me what I am, but I am even upwilling that they should accuse me, though unjustly, of betraying them from any consideration whatever.

I do not question their judgment, when their confidence gave me a portfolio, and I have no right to do so now when they have changed their minds.

Then I really see no grave impropriety in a special grant of a million and a half acres of land in the valley of the St. Maurice, and especially if the North Shore Company were compelled to construct a branch road to the Grand les Piles.

(Signed) JOS. CAUCHON.

Col Tache.

Mr. Cauchon—Yesterday, I wrote the following letter, the one I have just read having been written on Sunday—

Mr Larwill—When you ought to have been at Church. (Laughter.)

Mr. Cauchon admitted his was not so pious as the hon. member, and proceeded to read the rest of the correspondence, as follows:—

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,
April 28, 1857.

MY DEAR COLONEL,—I have to state to you that I cannot consent to allow the vote on the question of the Grand Trunk to pass without having the assurance of a special aid in lands for the North Shore Railroad during the present session, or at all events of a scheme similar to that suggested yesterday in Council by Mr. Vankoughnet.

You will be pleased to communicate this to your colleagues, and believe me,

Your devoted servant and friend,
JOS. CAUCHON.

Col. Tache.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL,
Wednesday, 29th April, 1857.

MY DEAR SIR,—I placed last night without loss of time, in Mr. Macdonald's hands, the letter you had placed in my hands a few minutes before, begging him to communicate it to the rest of our colleagues during the sit ing.

I shall call a meeting of the Council this morning for the purpose of submitting to its consideration the unpleasant subject contained in your note, and I will communicate to you without delay, or as soon as I am in a position to do so, the result of the deliberations of the Council

(Signed) E. P. TACHE.

Hon. Joseph Cauchon.

COUNCIL CHAMBER,
29th April, 1857.

MY DEAR SIR,—I have laid your note of yesterday before my colleagues. We have considered it, and with pain have come to the conclusion that but one course of action is left for you and for us.

I must express the astonishment with which we learn that for any consideration whatever you would be disposed to force us to abandon the measure of relief for the Grand Trunk Railway Company, a measure which you so deliberately adopted in conjunction with your colleagues. We understand you still approve of that measure of relief, but you no longer intend to support it with your vote unless we submit to a condition totally distinct, and which you yourself, up to the last hour of our deliberations, agreed ought in no way to be associated with it. We are the more surprised at your course because you know, as your note admits, that the Government is now anxiously considering how far they can effectually promote the enterprise contemplated by the Act of last session, for the construction of a Railway from Quebec to Lake Huron, and that the decision on it was postponed until to-day.

We can give but one interpretation to your note, and that is an offer of your resignation of office, and it has pained his Excellency, after due deliberation, to accept the same.

(Signed) E. P. TACHE.

Hon. Jos. Cauchon.

Crown Lands Office,
April 29, 1857.

My Dear Sir,—I have just received your letter of this date, and hasten to reply thereto. I, as you should have done, you had submitted my letter of Sunday to your colleagues, it is more than probable that we should not now have arrived at the painful conclusion of which you speak.

Yesterday, when after an active discussion of several days, on the demand of the members for the district of Quebec, I prayed you to obtain a decision from the Council, you did not do so. It seems to me that after two months session, with a little good will, we might have decided upon something.

I have never voted against any one of the projects of aid to the Grand Trunk, but I never thought that all possible interests should be sacrificed to it, especially after having done so much for that enterprise. I have suffered long, and I have even allowed my friends to accuse me of being wanting to them in good faith, in order that I might not be charged with having failed in using all other means before resorting to extreme measures.

I have submitted to drink the bitter draught which have been presented to me from all sides, until the cup has overflowed. I have thought at last it was enough. Perhaps I was mistaken; the future will tell. In any case, be it favorable or otherwise, I accept the verdict of those whose confidence raised me to power. That is the true and only principle on which I act to-day.

Could I without suspecting ill will, understand why, when the project of the Grand Trunk was received with open arms, I was made to answer to the members of the District of Quebec that their project was not acceptable, without telling them what it was intended to give? And why also, after several sittings passed in active discussion, the Council were still refusing every project which in the opinion of the interested parties could have some chance of success?

Under one form or other, we have given aid to all the small railroads, under the pretext, it is true, that they were all feeders to the Grand Trunk, and without doubt also because in order to obtain a majority for the latter, it was necessary to conciliate all the local influences.

After that, is not one forced to admit with chagrin, that this Grand Trunk Company exercises upon the Ministry an influence which is strange and fatal to the general interest of the country? You have been to the last moment opposed only to a special grant in favour of the North Shore railway, but also to the project of Mr. Vankoughnet, which proposed to give five and a half millions of acres of land to the Quebec and Lake Huron Road, one-third of which to help immediately that part of the roads comprised between the cities of Ottawa and Quebec, leaving the other two-thirds for the rest of the line. I have more than once regretted that your support which would have enabled me to obtain justice for Lower Canada was wanting.

If I have stated the alternative of which you accuse complaint, it is because I understood from words which fell from Attorney General Macdonald yesterday, that the Bill of the Grand Trunk once passed, there would be a general election without further legislation, and because I thought there were interests to guard other than that one.

To-day after two months of session, and the most formal refusal to approach the project submitted to the Government by certain members of which I have spoken, it is easy to say that "the Government is at present seriously considering to what extent it is possible effectually to aid the enterprise contemplated by the Act of last Session, for the construction of a Railroad from Quebec to Lake Huron."

It is not exact either to say that "deliberation on this subject was postponed till to-day," for there was no order to that effect.

(Signed) JOS. CAUCHON.

Col. Tache having read the above correspondence, the gentleman said he considered his ideas sufficiently expressed by this last letter, and he would add nothing to it, unless in reply to questions which might be put for a further explanation of facts.

Atty. Gen. Macdonald—It is rather unfortunate that the member had not before communicated to his colleagues that letter which he had just read. Colonel Tache, who happens to be in the gallery just now, received that letter, while the member was reading it. It was handed to him only a moment ago, so that we had no opportunity of knowing anything about it, until the member had read a part of it. Following the member in the transaction he gave us, I heard my own name mentioned, and a statement that certain expressions fell from the lips of Attorney General Macdonald—that I said yesterday in the Council—

Mr Cauchon—I did not say in Council, I said in conversation.

Atty Gen. Macdonald—Well, he says he put in his letter what fell from my lips in conversation. I leave it to the House to attach what weight they please to the statement of the gentleman who takes that course. I will, shortly, however, state the facts which have been alluded to by the gentleman, and I know what I say will be corroborated by all the members of the Council, including the gentleman himself. This subject of special relief to the North Shore Railway, in addition the four millions of acres granted to that great road from Quebec to lake Huron, was brought up by the gentleman and discussed by the Council, with an anxious desire to see whether we could not with a due regard to the interests of the whole Province, forward the interests of one very important section of it. That was the subject of our anxious discussion time and again. We often had it discussed when that gentleman was not present. In fact, he never was in his place at the meetings of the Council till two o'clock, when he came merely to ask what he had done, so that we had not the advantage of his advice and counsel in the matter. The first I know of this business was from a conversation I had with Colonel Tache a day or two ago, when Colonel Tache informed me he had received a note from Mr. Cauchon, which he translated to mean to the effect that his situation was becoming exceedingly uncomfortable, and that he did not see why there should not be a special grant to this North Shore Road out of the lands of the St. Maurice.

Mr. Cartier—It was a private note.

Atty. General Macdonald—At all events the subject was brought fairly up, and a number of gentlemen connected with that part of the country saw the Council, and we discussed the question at some length, in what mode assistance could be given to complete that great work. The day before yesterday, on Monday, we had a special meeting on the morning to discuss it. We viewed it as a very important question, involving a request for the appropriation of a million and a half of acres of land. It was a question of considerable magnitude, and we discussed it as such a question ought to be discussed. We considered it in every possible point of view. We every one, expressed our opinions and submitted various plans and projects for aiding the enterprise. Several members of the Council reduced to writing what their ideas were. At three o'clock we left the Council Chamber and came down to the House. Yesterday, we resumed the discussion, and continued it till nearly three o'clock. As the gentleman has stated, the President of the Council, Mr. Vankoughnet, suggested a measure of relief, which we discussed. We agreed to meet again this morning, and did meet. The gentleman says there was no agreement to meet. He is mistaken in saying so. We handed all the papers to Mr. Vankoughnet, saying—"here are the papers, look them up, and we will renew the discussion in the morning." At the close of our discussion yesterday, we came down to the House. The gentleman and myself walked down together. He knew the Grand Trunk Relief Bill was fixed as the first order of the day, and as we knew it would be opposed by the member for Lambton and other members, we anticipated a field day of it. The debate went on, and only half an hour before I spoke myself, Colonel Tache sent for me and said—"Mr Cauchon has been with me, and says he will vote against Mr. Brown's amendment, but if the main motion comes on to-night, he will be obliged to vote against it, unless the Government will agree to grant land to the North Shore Road." I said to Colonel Tache, "that must be reduced to writing; you had better send to Mr. Cauchon and ask him to do so." This was about ten o'clock, and you may fancy it was a very agreeable prelude to my addressing this House, that I was to have one of my colleagues voting against the measure. [Mr. Macdonald here read Mr. Cauchon's letter of the 28th, and Colonel Tache's reply written on the morning of the 29th.] When the Council met, Colonel Tache submitted the correspondence, excepting the private note of Sunday, which he did not think himself justified in producing, and then wrote again to Mr. Cauchon. Mr. Macdonald also read this letter, and proceeded—Since the gentleman commenced his explanation the long letter which he has just read, was delivered to Colonel Tache, who sent it across to me. The correspondence, I think, speaks for itself. And I will only further say this, We came down here knowing we had a hard battle to fight. We were so many generals or officers coming down to meet the enemy. Our plan had been arranged, our scheme had been prepared. But just at the moment when we were going into battle, in fact in the very middle of the battle, one of our generals, one of our colleagues, said, "I will desert to the enemy, unless you bribe me." That is the position of the case.

Mr. Cauchon—The facts stated in the correspondence have not been denied at all. The only thing complained of is that the letter has only just now been received. It was three o'clock when I got the letter from Colonel Tache, and after that I had to write my letter in answer and to copy it. I had several parties to do business with at the office, and it was six o'clock before I could get the letter sent off by the messenger. There is one thing in the statement of the Attorney General with which I must find fault and I do think it wrong on his part to try to run down any one who may be forced to disagree with him. He stated a moment ago that the question of the North Shore Road was always discussed at the meetings of Council before I came, and that I was never there. I am willing to leave it to the country to judge whether in my capacity as Commissioner of Crown Land I have not done my duty as well as any of them. When I had business to transact with 40 or 50 people from the country, who could not afford to remain hanging on in town, it was not to be wondered at that I could not be at the Country meetings before three o'clock. And the Attorney General who accuses me was not seen very often in this place more than some others.

Atty. Gen. Macdonald—I rather paid the gentleman a compliment. I took it for granted that, when absent from the Council, he was occupied at his office.

Mr Cauchon—Of course I accept the explanation, but he did not make the original statement in such a tone as could be pleasing to any man. I have no ill-feeling toward the Government. I am sorry to have left them. They may speak of a bribe but they cannot say I have ever asked a bribe for myself. And now when I have left them, I do not mean to give them any factious opposition, but they shall have my help whenever I think they are in the right. What is meant by a bribe? That is a large word. When they say they will help the Port Hope and Lindsay road, and the Three Rivers and Arthabaska branch, is that a bribe? (Hear, hear.) No. But when you bring up a great measure for the good of the country, you ought to try, within the measure of your ability, to soothe every locality, without, of course, sacrificing the public interest. Why, then, if aid is extended to these small roads—why not for so important a work as a road to extend from Quebec to Lake Huron? I go out of office with a quiet conscience, feeling confident that no one can accuse me of having betrayed those who placed confidence in me for the sake of position and £1,200 a year; and I go out of office a poorer man than I entered it, although I was not rich then. Some may be of opinion that this North Shore Railway ought not to be supported. The Grand Trunk has been opposed by many. It was opposed at one time by the Attorney General himself. I well recollect the time when I was fighting for the Grand Trunk, and he was fighting against it in every possible way. He has changed his mind since, and now admits that it will do good to the country. I am of that opinion too, but I am not prepared to sacrifice to it such measures other interests.

Mr. Evanturel—If the Attorney General has stated that as soon as the Grand Trunk measure was carried, a general election would succeed, I do not see how he can tell us that they are quite ready to give us something for the North Shore Railroad. We got nothing last year for the North Shore, for the Act that was passed amounted to nothing more than a sheet of blank paper. The Attorney General West has censured the late Commissioner of Crown Lands for leaving them just in the thick of the battle. I do not think he left them too much enough.

Mr. Cartier said—I have just stated in French that it is a matter of regret to myself and my colleagues to have to separate from their late worthy colleague the Commissioner of Crown Lands. So far as my knowledge extends of the manner in which he has discharged the duties of his department, he has not been excelled in zeal or ability by any of his predecessors in office. I do not rise to raise any discussion, which is not customary on occasions like the present; I merely rise to correct a statement made in the letter addressed by the late Commissioner of Crown Lands to Mr Tache, that from some words which fell, as he supposed, from my worthy colleague the Attorney General East, that as soon as the Grand Trunk measure passed the Legislature would be dissolved, and that we should go to the general election. In behalf of my colleague, I have to deny the correctness of that statement. There is another statement contained in that letter which I have to correct on behalf of our Premier, on behalf of my worthy colleague, and on my own behalf. And in that statement is the charge, that the members of the Government have been systematically opposed to the granting of any aid to the North Shore Railway, and that they have also determined to oppose the scheme submitted yesterday by the President of the Council. That statement was so far from being correct, that yesterday, on the rising of the Council, the discussion upon the scheme was postponed until to-day, when we expected to have with us our late worthy friend, and he would have been with us but for the course pursued by him during the discussion last evening. Even to-day, in the absence of the Commissioner of Crown Lands, a part of the deliberations of the Council was in respect to that scheme.

Mr. Cauchon—The Atty. General has spoken of me as his late worthy friend. I hope that I am still his friend.

Atty. Gen. Cartier—He is still my worthy friend, and I will respect him a friend, and an intelligent, able man. He has discharged with zeal and fidelity his duties. I should have used the expression, my late worthy colleague. I hope he will continue to cherish towards me the same amount of kind feeling that I have for him, and the amount will not be small.

Mr. Cauchon—We do not differ on the question of fact. If the matter had been put as it had been to night I would this evening still have been a member of the Government.

Mr. Brown—Perhaps we on this side should not interfere in the present discussion. It is entirely a family business belonging to gentlemen opposite. Perhaps we should content ourselves with looking on and admiring the scene. Yet there are one or two reflections which must have occurred to every member of this House while listening to what has passed. I think the first reflection must have been a deep feeling of regret that there never can be a break up of the Administration in this country without painful criminations and recriminations being handied from one member of the Government to another. (Hear, hear.) To night we have had a repetition of the same thing. A gentlemen leaves the Government, comes down here, and declares deliberately that on account of certain facts he resigned. And immediately his colleagues get up and say the facts are not so. I do think this a most lamentable exhibition, and still further the Atty General accuses his colleague of never being in his seat, attending to his duties, and then on being brought to task, he admits that his colleague was attending to his duties in another place. It might have been inadvertence, but he should have taken care, in making his first statement, to have done so in a manner that did not require so widely different an explanation. And her reflection must have occurred to every member who heard the charge brought by the Attorney General against his former colleague, that he was desirous of extorting a bribe from the Government. I am sure the gentleman, if he considered his charge against the ex-Commissioner of Crown Lands well founded, must have felt that he himself, ever since he took office in the Government, has been trying to bribe various sections of the House. (Hear, hear.) He has said that this is the first time he has heard of the North Shore and Grand Trunk being mixed up together. Is that true? Last session, were not the two Bills carried pari passu? Can any one forget how, while the Grand Trunk Bill was before the House, I asked the gentlemen in that corner, what would you do with this Bill if that of the North Shore was thrown out and their reply was—we would vote against it. (Hear, hear.) And is not this present Bill made up of bribes? Is not the Arthabasca branch, and all the other roads thrown in as bribes? (Hear, hear.) Again, during this discussion we have heard an announcement which must have taken many of us by surprise, that the President of the Council has a scheme at present before the Cabinet, by which five and a half millions of acres are to be given for the construction of the North Shore road. I think, sir, that the expression of public opinion last year on the grant of four millions might have been sufficient to have prevented the broaching of any such schemes. Another most important announcement has been made by the member for Montmorenci, that it is the intention of the gentleman who is the leader of the Government in this House on a very early day to dissolve Parliament. I believe, Sir, I am speaking the views of every member of the Opposition, when I say that it is the best news we have heard since Parliament assembled. (Cheers.) The Attorney General East (Mr. Cartier,) has contradicted this, but members on this side could not have received a greater gratification than to learn that the thought of a general election is even entertained by the Government. I am sure no news could be received with greater satisfaction by the country. (Hear, hear.)

Sir Allan MacNab suggested that the Attorney General West should himself say whether he had intimated to Mr. Cauchon that a general election was at hand, and not throw it upon the Attorney General East to contradict the statement.

Attorney General Macdonald asked Mr. Cauchon when the alleged conversation took place?

Mr. Cauchon—Yesterday, in walking down from the Council.

Attorney General Macdonald said he walked down from the Council along with Mr. Cauchon and the Receiver General, Mr. Morrison, but neither then nor at any other time had he ever made such a statement. The subject of a dissolution had never once been mooted in the Council since he became a member of the Government. He appealed to every one of his colleagues whether that was not so.

Mr. Mackenzie—I believe it. (Laughter.)

Attorney General Macdonald went on to make some further statements in reference to the correspondence with Mr. Cauchon, making the announcement that, notwithstanding the withdrawal of that gentleman, the Government were anxiously considering what would be the best mode of assisting the North Shore Railroad, and would soon be prepared with a substantial measure of aid.

Mr. Morrison corroborated the Attorney General's statement as to no conversation having taken place, in walking down from the Council, as to an approaching general election.

Mr. Cauchon said he might have been mistaken, but he certainly had the impression that such a statement was made.

The matter then dropped.

Toronto, May 1st.

To-day the following bills were read a third time:

To vest in W. F. Pym a road allowance in Haldimand.

To Consolidate the debt of St. Catherines.

For the construction of Water Works in the town of St. Catherines.

To amend the Acts relating to Agricultural Societies.

To confirm certain sales and assurances made by the executors and trustees of the will of the late Jas. Macauley, deceased.

To vest in John Mutrue a road allowance the township of Nichol.

To vest a road allowance in Brantford in F. T. Wilkes.

To authorize the Courts of Law and Equity in Upper Canada to admit H. E. Burrett to practice therein.

To provide for the encouragement and improvement of the harbor of Montreal.

To incorporate the town of Lindsay.

To amend the act relating to Savings Banks as regards the Casse de Economie Notre Dame de Quebec.

To amend the agricultural act, in the County of Lincoln.

To amend the act incorporating the Montreal Telegraph Company.

The Grand Trunk Railroad bill was read a second time, Mr Drummond having withdrawn some amendments which he had at first moved. These amendments tended to pledge the House to grants of Lands in favor of the North Shore Railroad and the Grand Junction Railroad from Peterboro' to Belleville. The division was, Yeas 57, nays 47.

Mr. J. H. Cameron did not vote, alleging that he had a pecuniary interest.

Mr. Crawford being challenged for having a personal interest, said he was a stockholder, but was not influenced by that. He would not like to declare that he had no personal interest in accordance with the rule.

Mr. McKenzie thereon moved that Mr. Crawford's vote should be disallowed and the debate was proceeding when the House rose.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.—APRIL 30.

Independence of Parliament.

Sol Gen Smith moved the concurrence of the House in the amendments made by the Legislative Council to the Bill to further secure the Independence of Parliament.

Mr. Mackenzie said that, in providing for the Independence of Parliament something should be said about the Independence of the Executive Council. They had had yesterday and to day that the subject of a Dissolution of Parliament had never once been mooted by a member of the Government. Had they not heard of the large meetings in Toronto, Hamilton, and elsewhere, unanimously demanding a Dissolution? And yet these gentlemen it appeared had never deigned even to open their lips on the subject.

The amendments were then concurred in.

REPRESENTATION BY POPULATION.

On the order of the day being read for resuming the debate upon Mr. Brown's proposed resolution, "That in the opinion of this House, the representation of the people in Parliament should be based upon population, without regard to a separating line between Upper and Lower Canada," and on Mr. Turcotte's motion for "The previous Question."

Mr. Brown said he desired to consult the feeling of the House, whether they should go on with this motion or proceed with private Bills. It was clear that at this late hour (nearly nine o'clock) the subject could not receive the attention it deserved, and a number of members were desirous of expressing their views on it. He hoped that when the matter again came up, Mr. Turcotte would withdraw his amendment for the previous question, so that the subject might be fairly discussed on its own merits.

MONTREAL TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

On motion of Mr. Holton,

The House went into Committee on the Bill to amend the Act incorporating the Montreal Telegraph Company, and to extend the powers of the said Company, and to authorize the establishment of a Trans-Atlantic Telegraph by the said Company.

Some objections were made to the Bill by Mr. Bellingham, but its provisions were adopted by the Committee without amendment, and the Bill was ordered to be read a third time to-morrow.

LAW OF SUBSTITUTIONS.

Mr Loranger moved the second reading of the Bill to amend the Law of Substitutions.

Mr. Cartier said he was opposed to the principle of the Bill, but should not object to its going to a special Committee.

Mr. Holton was surprised that the Attorney-General, while opposed to the principle of a Bill which was to change the law of the country, should vote for its second reading.

Mr. Cartier.—To save discussion, I vote for its second reading, that it may go to a special Committee, in the hope that it may not come back to us.

Mr. Brown—This is a perfect burlesque. Surely the hon. gentleman cannot be in earnest. If he is against the principle, how can he vote for a Bill of this nature.

Mr. Cartier.—Well! I am ready to take the discussion now.

Mr. Loranger then proceeded at some length to explain the objects he desired to obtain by his Bill.

After some discussion, the further consideration of the Bill was postponed.

EXPUNGING PROCEEDINGS IN SUITS.

On motion of Mr. Loranger,

The Bill to expedite the proceedings in suits arising out of commercial matters in Lower Canada was read a second time, and referred to the select Committee on Bankruptcy and Insolvency.

EXEMPTION OF MECHANICS' TOOLS &c.

Mr. Mackenzie moved the second reading of the Bill to exempt from seizure under execution the tools, implements, &c., of a mechanic to the value of $150. He stated that this was the same Bill that had passed this House last year, but had been thrown out by the Legislative Council. He believed that in every State of the Union this Bill prevailed.

Attorney-General Macdonald said there were clauses in his Common Law Procedure Bill which provided for the object sought by the hon. member, though not perhaps to the same extent. The limit in his Bill was $40. However, he had no objection to the second reading of the Bill, but before it became law, the opinion of the House would be taken on the clauses of the Common Law Procedure Bill.

The Bill was read a second time, and referred to a Committee of the Whole to-morrow.

LOWER CANADA SCHOOL LAW.

Mr Somerville moved the second reading of the Bill to amend the Lower Canada School Act. He stated that his object was in some degree to assimilate the School Law of Lower Canada to that of Upper Canada. He proposed to leave the raising of School Monies to Municipal Councils, instead of having two treasurers, one for Municipal and the other for School Monies. He proposed to abolish the tax on children, Lower Canada being the only country in the British dominions where a tax was imposed on children between certain ages, whether attending School or not. The Bill also abolished the office of School Inspectors, which would be a saving of $20,000, which had much better be applied to increasing the emoluments of the ill paid class of school masters. He had no great hope of carrying this Bill, but he trusted that next session the Government would bring down a measure, and adopt at least some of its provisions. From a conversation which he had with the Superintendent of Education, he learned that an amendment which he (Mr. Somerville) had moved last year would be incorporated in a Bill of the Government next session.

Mr. J. B. E. Dorion supported the Bill.

Mr. Cartier and Dr. Masson opposed it, the latter moving in amendment that the Bill be read a second time this day six months.

Mr. Dufresne also opposed the Bill. He could not consent to destroy the School system of Lower Canada at the instance of a man of Anglo Saxon origin.

Mr Sanborn was in favor of the system proposed by the hon. member for Huntingdon for the collection of school taxes, but did not think the hon. member had displayed his usual practical good sense in the other amendments proposed.

Mr. Cartier suggested that an improvement in the mode of collecting the amounts due to the School Commissioners might be inserted in the Municipal Act.

The amendment was carried by 42 to 19.

The House rose at a quarter to eleven.

Toronto, May 2.

The second reading of the Grand Trunk Bill was carried by a narrower majority than had been generally anticipated. The vote stood 58 against 48; Messrs. Ralph, Sanborn, Dorion, of Montreal, and Galt, voting with the majority. It redounds much to the credit of these gentlemen that they preferred the interests and honor of the country to party considerations. The Government majority was reduced to the inconsiderable number of ten by the desertion of a section of their supporters from the district of Quebec. Mr Cauchon was not present when the question was put and did not vote. It might be considered as throwing on him an undue responsibility or giving him an importance which the facts do not allege, that he led this defection or is responsible for it. No doubt he would have voted against the measure had he been present, but we are inclined to acquit him of all responsibility for the desertion of their party by those members from Quebec, who threw the weight of their influence against the Government measure. Mr. Cauchon has himself succumbed to a local influence which at one time he did much to arouse, but which he can no longer control; he has found it necessary to choose between a local popularity and his seat in the Cabinet. The probability is that the action of the Quebec district members would have been the same if Mr. C. had still retained his seat at the Council Board. We see no reason to doubt it. And it is some consolation to know that a geographical faction in pursuit of purely local and selfish objects, has done its worst. Those gentlemen can hardly feel flattered by the reflection that, in spite of their opposition, the Government survived the blow, and was sustained by a sufficient though not large majority. The vote was on the direct question for a second reading of the Bill; Mr. Drummond having withdrawn his amendment, in order to move it, as an instruction to the Committee of the Whole, and Mr Dorion having abandoned the one of which he had given notice, and which differed little from that of Mr. Drummond. As both these gentlemen are in favor of an efficient measure of relief to the Company, they did well in not pushing their amendments on the occasion of the second reading, for the principal of the measure having been once affirmed, any modification of it in Committee, whether accepted by the Government or carried against them, would not be fatal to the scheme of relief.

The House of assembly was moved yesterday, by Mr. Galt, for Mr. Shanly's Report on the Ottawa and Lake Huron Railway. The Attorney General West said that part of Mr. Shanly's Report was ready; and that the whole would be laid before the House, as soon as possible. He said, among other things, that Mr. Shanly was instructed to examine the country, with a view both to a canal and a railroad or to both.

We may here remark, that it is a somewhat singular that no other place for a canal to Lake Huron should be mentioned, or surveyed, save the Ottawa Valley. Hamilton has mooted the feasibility of a canal from the head of Lake Ontario to Lake Huron. So has Toronto. And why should the Government devote the entire energies of a large engineering staff to one place? Why are other places not considered for a railroad or a canal, or both, to Lake Huron? As these questions are not very likely to be answered by the Government, we may as well say, that there are not quite so many purchasable members about Toronto and Hamilton as about the Ottawa; and that probably accounts for the neglect.

NEW CONSTITUTIONS.—The Bank of British North America's bills are being tampered with—the $1's altered to $2's—Counterfeits well executed are issued on the Kingston, Toronto, and London issues.

THE ASSIZES.

Last night the Court of Assize finished its business. Yesterday a fearful scene was exhibited that had a sad influence on the Court for several hours afterwards.—A young fellow named James Kain, was indicted for an infamous assault upon a child at Bath.—Several witnesses were examined, but the crime, owing to the tender age of the sufferer, seven years, could not be brought home legally to the prisoner. The Judge therefore directed the acquittal of the prisoner. After reading him a lecture, which he ought to remember till his dying day, the prisoner was about to leave the dock, when the mother of the child, seeing his escape from justice, sprang upon him and would have torn him to pieces, had he not fortunately for himself jumped out of the dock and herded with the bystanders. The screams of the poor woman, defrauded of her prey, rent the Court and enlisted the sympathies of all hearers. Her horrible screams continued, her shrieks for justice on the destroyer of her child rent the air, and a stop was put to the business before the Court, until at length she was carried out of the Hall and taken towards her home; but as she went along, her shrieks and cries of distress still continued and alarmed the whole city. It is scarcely possible for us to paint half the misery of the scene. The villain should have been lynched.

Last evening Mr. Justice Hagarty passed the following sentences:—

William Lemon, Horse Stealing, 3 years Provincial Penitentiary.

Joseph Duchesne, assaulting a Constable in the execution of his duty—2 years, in the Provincial Penitentiary.

John Hendecks, Forgery, 4 years Provincial Penitentiary.

Robert Stewart, Larceny, 2 months in Common Gaol.

TRIAL FOR RAPE.

James Cain was arraigned for committing a rape upon Matilda Ramsford, a child eight years of age, and pleaded not guilty. Mr. O'Reilly defended the prisoner.

Mr Kirkpatrick addressed the jury for the Crown, and stated the facts which would be proved.

Mr Durnsford was first called, who testified that he keeps a hotel in Bath; the prisoner was employed as a hostler; niece of witness resides with him, and is about 7 years old; noticed sometime in winter that the child was lame, which resulted in an examination, and the child was found to be injured in the private parts. An examination of the witness further in reference to the statements of the child, she being of too tender years to be examined herself, the Court decided could not be received.

Mrs Durnsford, wife of first witness, said the child was unwell from last October; the child's person was very much inflamed down to her knees, and the skin abraded; applied remedies; examined the child frequently; never thought she had been abused till she sent for the doctor; had an intimation that the child had been abused, which induced witness to send for the doctor.

Cross-examined.—The child always slept with her aunt, except on two occasions—one about ten days before the fair, when she slept alone; kept boarders; the child slept over the kitchen, where no one could get to her; the other occasion slept with witness' son, a lad 12 years of age.

A fred Durnsford.—Is son of last witness 12 years of age; saw the little girl in the stable, in the lower left side, sitting in the straw; James Cain was there, and the two other children; this was before the fair; Cain, as soon as he saw witness, seemed confused, and picked up a broom, and commenced sweeping; didn't see them together at any other time.

Cross examined.—It was an idle time; there were not many horses in the stable; there were three children; there was plenty of straw, which filled two mangers; called the children several times as he went to the stable; he went to fetch them to dinner; all three went to dinner; the other children were 4 and 2 years of age; didn't tell his mother that he saw anything particular; paid no more attention to it; something "dazzled" before witness' eyes that prisoner's trowsers were open, but would not swear it; Cain continued to remain at the house for months afterwards.

To the Court.—Heard no noise or sound as he went across the yard to call the children.

Dr. Kennedy, who seemed much affected while giving his evidence, called upon to examine the child at the request of Dr Ashton; found the external parts of generation inflamed and swollen; the inflammation was internal as well as external; the thighs were chafed; the injuries could not arise from any constitutional disease; had all the appearances of a person having connection; has no doubt of it.

Cross-examined.—Certain diseases would give rise to inflammatory appearances; children under years may exhibit such appearances internally; children may have discharges, but not seminal; no test was applied.

To the Court.—Observed the child's clothes, and saw some peculiar marks, but did not apply tests; they were sent to Kingston for the purpose.

To Mr O'Reilly.—Is not aware of any other test to discover the animalculæ than the microscope.

Dr Ashton gave similar testimony; examined the marks on the linen about a month afterwards with a microscope, and observed distinctly one animalculæ, but it was dead; has no doubt that the person of the child had been violated; children are not liable to diseases exhibiting symptons such as those described.

This closed the case.

His Lordship addressed the jury, stating that no matter how shocking to the feelings of the parents this abominable outrage was, it would not be safe to convict on such testimony, which amounted to but suspicion. There was no doubt but that a most barbarous outrage had been committed upon the child by some infernal fiend in the shape of a man; and by whomsoever committed, if he escaped punishment now, there would certainly be a just retribution hereafter. His lordship then told the prisoner in a stern tone that he was discharged.—News.

*** Then ensued the scene described in Saturday's British Whig.

The Seat of Government Question.

AN OPINION IN FAVOUR OF QUEBEC.

(From the London Morning Post April 10.)

The cities that contended for the birthplace of Homer are not more numerous than the towns of Canada which desire to become the permanent seat of Government. Quebec, Montreal, Toronto, Ottawa, Kingston, and Hamilton have all preferred their claim to this distinction. In the last session of the Provincial Legislature the House of Assembly decided in favour of Quebec, but the Upper House refused its assent to that proposal; and after a renewed discussion during the present session, the Canadian Parliament has very wisely resolved to leave the determination of this question to her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland. The arguments in favour of Quebec have been clearly and well stated in a paper recently published by Mr. Dunbar Ross, the Colonial Secretary for Lower Canada. A contemporary, who has only discovered the value and importance of Canada, has rather prematurely pronounced a verdict in favour of Montreal. We believe that the time is not far distant when the whole of North America, or at all events those provinces which will be under one sovereignty, and should an arrangement ever take place, Quebec would seem to be pointed out by nature as the most convenient seat of Government. Its climate is more healthy than that of Montreal, and it is the Gibraltar of North America. It is said, however, that the new Victoria bridge at Montreal will be the means of attracting a vast stream of commerce to that city, but we suspect that it will rather be the conduit through which that wealth will pass on its way to other places. It is probable also that the North-West territory will be attached to the Canadas, or improving on the Hudson's Bay Company, and in that case prosperity for Quebec would be a more convenient seat of government than either of the Lower Provinces, while half French and half English Montreal and Quebec. On the temporary recommendation of the selection of Montreal because there the population of the two races is equally balanced. It is well known that the late Lord Sydenham selected Kingston as the seat of government because he apprehended that evil consequences might result from that balance, so that, when in 1841 Lord Elgin was obliged to leave Montreal the French and English were in arms against each other, and that bloodshed was only prevented by the firmness and decision of Sir Benjamin D'Urban, the Commander-in-Chief in Canada. Montreal may have since condemned its tumultuous and disloyal conduct, but of all the cities which have been mentioned it has perhaps the least valid claim to the honour to which it aspires. The permanent seat of government of that empire which Wolfe won for his country on the Plains of Abraham must be determined upon a consideration of the permanent interests of Canada and of the whole of British North America, and with a view to that day when a scion of British royalty may be called upon to discharge the duties of Governor General of one united Anglo-American Empire. If the principle of responsible self government required any vindication, we have only to refer to the wise and loyal resolution of the people of Canada, who through their representatives in Parliament, have submitted to her Majesty the determination of a question which affects so intimately and so deeply not only their future prosperity but their future greatness and future national power.

London April 17, 1857.

THE BIRTH OF A PRINCESS!

The very day on which the new House of commons was complete Her Majesty, the Queen, presented the nation with a new pledge of her love, in the shape of a bouncing princess. This being the ninth time that the Queen has borne similar fruit, but very much less was made on the occurrence by her loving people, although rejoicing was every where heard. The royal circle was, of course, in great commotion a few hours before two o'clock, on Tuesday, anticipating and preparing for the birth. The official proclamation tells us that four persons were with the Queen, Mrs. Lilly the nurse, Dr. Locock, Dr. Snow, and Father Albert,—I beg his pardon, Prince Albert, the Court Circular said. In the adjoining apartments were all sorts of great people, including the Duke of Cambridge, the Lord Chancellor, Lord Palmerston, all the Secretaries of State, and the Bishop of London. All were careful, because no danger was apprehended in consequence of the birth, and wonderful spirit of the Queenly patient; who, may the deity believe, had presided at a considerable social party, and been as merry as the most sprightly of her guests. In these maternal matters our monarch sets a splendid example to her lady subjects; this does much to dispute the foolish notion that used to prevail among great folks that robust health at such