
bracing for that purpose *all* metals, *all* earths, and *all* alkalies, where by chemical action on each other decomposition single or double ensues. In expectation of hearing from you, we are Dear Sir,

Your most obed't. &c.

PAYNE & LODER,
per J. HUNTER.

R. PAYNE, Esq., St. John, N. B.

Portland, Saint John, N. B., 23rd January, 1846.

DEAR SIR,

I herewith hand you the Royal Gazette of the 1st Oct. a copy of which I enclosed to my friends Messrs. Payne & Loder, of London, and alluded to by them in their letter to me of the 31st Oct., with a copy of such part of said letter as I consider material; also copies of letters subsequently received to *this* date. I beg to say that being authorised by them to negotiate for the introduction of their Patent process for the preservation of wood, &c. into the *Colonies*, I shall be most happy to correspond with you on that subject, and in view of such will forward you copies of any information that I may receive by the Mail now due of the 4th inst. or that may subsequently arrive. In hopes that you will aid me in carrying out their wishes,

I remain, Dear Sir,
Yours very truly,

ROBERT PAYNE,

G. R. YOUNG, Esq., M. P. P., &c. &c. N. S.
St. John Hotel, City.

No. 53.

(See Page 453.)

The Committee appointed to enquire into the state of the Library belonging to this House, and to suggest such plan for its improvement, as to them should appear expedient, beg to Report as follows:

That they consider the thanks of the House are specially due to the Right Honorable Lord Stanley, late Secretary of State for the Colonies, for the gracious manner in which His Lordship complied with the respectful request contained in the Report of your Committee on the Library last Session, and conveyed through His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, in presenting to this House a complete set of the Journals of the Lords and Commons,—an accession to their Library which your Committee esteem to be of very high value.

They further find that the Honorable the Speaker during the recess has expended the sum voted for the purpose of obtaining Books, in the purchase of a complete Set of the Papers, Reports, &c., connected with the Provinces of British North America since the year 1826, and also a Set of Porter's Tables of Trade—both Sets being laid before the Imperial Parliament and printed. They regard these and the other books referred to in the List annexed—being also procured at the request of the Speaker—as important additions to the books already obtained for the use of the House.

As no application appears to have been made to the Colonial Office for a copy of the Blue Books referred to in the Report of the Committee last Session, they suggest that the attention of the Executive should be directed again to this subject, and means be adopted to have the wishes of the House complied with.

Your Committee feel satisfied, that, if the request were conveyed through the Executive to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, copies of *all* the papers, and documents, connected with the affairs of British North America laid before the Imperial Parliament and printed, would be readily presented for the use of the House, *free of charge*—so many spare copies are struck off that your Committee feel assured Her Majesty would be graciously pleased to accede to this request—if the wishes of the House were conveyed through the proper channels, and efficiently advocated.

In consequence of a set of Resolutions being laid on the Table of the House of Commons, at the close of last Session, by Sir Howard Douglas, relative to the trade of the Colonies, your Committee are informed that a valuable set of returns will be soon, if not already presented to Parliament, and printed. Your Committee beg to recommend, that application as above suggested, should also be made for a copy.

Your Committee beg further to state, that, on looking at the Letter from the Right Honble. the Duke of Wellington, contained in the Appendix No. 11 annexed to the Journals of 1836, accompanying a gift by His then Majesty of a set of Public Records referred to in such letter, they feel satisfied, that, although such Books have since been kept in the Library of the Council, they belong in fact to this House. They have no doubt that this right will readily be acknowledged by the other branch; and, although under present circumstances, when a union of the Libraries of both bodies is about to be suggested, your Committee do not advise their removal; they deem it their duty to refer to this right, that the House may be able to act on it, if they deem it expedient, now or at some future opportunity.

Your Committee are informed by Mr. Whidden, that shortly after the recess he wrote to the Clerks of the Assemblies in the neighbouring Provinces, to obtain the sets of their Journals, as referred to in the Report of the Committee on the Library last Session, and that he has received only the Journals from New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. To ensure regularity in this particular the Committee recommend, that a mercantile agent should be employed at Montreal, Fredericton, Charlotte Town, and St. John's, Newfoundland, to apply personally to the Clerks there, and to see the Journals of their respective Legislatures duly and early forwarded.

Your Committee beg to suggest the erection of suitable shelves for the reception of these Books, on the north side of the House; and also that the Library should be put under the charge of one of the officers, a place set apart for each book; and, to prevent confusion, and admit of easy reference, that the Library should be put in order by such officer, during Session, at least twice a day. At the present moment, such is the state of disorder in which the Books are placed, that they are rendered nearly useless for the purposes of reference. Upon this subject they refer to the second clause of the Report of last year.

Your Committee are further of opinion that the Library of this House is neither so extensive nor in such an efficient state, as is required for the use of Members, or as is essential for sound legislation. The Library of the Legislature of Canada, of which a catalogue has been submitted, amounts to several thousand volumes, and no less a sum than £500 a-year is appropriated for regular additions to it; such a sum is totally beyond our very limited means in this Province; but as it has become a general opinion in this House, that a more extensive Library is absolutely indispensable to a right conduct of the public business, they beg to submit the following suggestions for the favourable consideration of the House.

They recommend, in the first place, that a suitable room should be fitted up if possible, for a joint Library for the use of both Houses—the concurrence of the Legislative Council being first respectfully sought to such union. They see no room applicable for this purpose, and for the additional space *absolutely* required for the conduct of Committees, except the room in which the Supreme Court now hold their sittings; and your Committee submit that that room is inadequate for the uses of our Superior Courts—they do think that a more spacious and airy Court House should be provided in a City of
such

such extent and wealth as Halifax, and submit if some action should not be taken, either in this House or by the civic authorities, to provide a more suitable building, and to afford to the Assembly the additional space required, both for a Library and the despatch of the public business.

If such union and Library were established, it would then be for the House to take such measures as the moderate funds of the Province would justify, to add regularly to its contents.

The Committee beg to report further that, by the instrumentality of their Chairman, while lately in London, some valuable Minutes of the Committee of Council have been transmitted to the Honorable the Speaker, and the House will be pleased to learn that the subsequent volumes to be issued by that body, containing like those now sent, the best view of modern European education, will be regularly forwarded to the Speaker of this House for the use of its Members, free of charge.

The Committee in the sheet annexed add a list of the Books procured by the orders of the Honorable the Speaker, and recommend the balance due for these purchases to be voted in Supply.

All which is respectfully submitted.

GEO. R. YOUNG, *Chairman*.
J. C. HALL.
JOSEPH HOWE.

Halifax, Feb'y. 18, 1846.

LIST OF BOOKS.

Lyell's Travels in North America—describing the Coal Fields of Nova Scotia,	2 vols.
Pagan on Roads,	1 “
Standing Orders of the House of Lords,	1 “
Do. of House of Commons,	1 “
From 1685—1845.	

May's Parliamentary Practice, 1 “

Various Acts of Parliament, Returns and Papers laid before the House of Commons and printed, referring to several branches of Colonial Legislation, selected by the Chairman, G. R. Young, while lately in England—all of which the Committee regard as most valuable additions to the Library of the House.

Halifax, Feb'y 17, 1846.

No. 54.

(See Page 455.)

The Committee to whom was referred the Petition of Thomas Randall, stating certain particulars connected with the Building of a Bridge across the St. Croix River, and asking the interposition of this Honorable House respecting a difference which has arisen between him and Mr. Peter Dawson, the Commissioner, as to his claim for services, beg leave to Report—

That they do not think that Petitioner has made out such a case as to entitle him to a grant for the amount he claims. That if he has any claim unsatisfied he should enforce it against Mr. Dawson, the Commissioner, with whom the Contract was made—but this Committee would express a hope that the difference between them would be settled by a reference to indifferent parties, in preference to the more expensive course of an appeal to a Court of Law.

W. B. TAYLOR,
STEPHEN FULTON,
JOHN RYDER.

Committee Room, 24th Feb'y, 1846.

No.