

required for Railway purposes. Also, touching salaries to retired Custom House Officers.

Hon. Provincial Secretary laid upon the table accounts of the Electric Telegraph Company. Also, report of the Postmaster General.

Mr. Chambers moved for a Committee on the subject of the present law regulating Statute Labour; prefacing his motion by a brief speech. Committee:—Messrs Chambers, McLellan, Webster, Robinson, Morrison, Geldert, Campbell.

Petitions were presented by Mr. Campbell for establishment of Way Office at Port Jolly. By Mr. McLellan for way office in Colchester. By Mr. Johnston, from inhabitants of Wilnot, praying a Light House at Margaretville.

Mr. Annand asked leave to introduce a Bill to amend the present Law regulating appointment of Sheriffs. Read a first time.

House adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 6.

Dr. Webster moved for a committee to revise the law in reference to Coroner's juries.

Dr. Tupper suggested that the duties of the committee should extend to the consideration of the whole jury law.

Mr. Moses presented a Petition from the Western Baptist Association, in favour of the prohibitory liquor law.

Mr. Robertson, from inhabitants of Barrington, for aid to the erection of a light house on the western side of the entrance to their harbour.

Hon. Sol. General from Robert Potter, for aid to a Woolen manufactory.

Hon. J. W. Johnston intimated his intention of again bringing in his bill in reference to the Legislative Council.

Mr. Rinhard asked leave to introduce a Bill to change the time for holding the Sessions in the County of Lunenburg.

Mr. A. Archibald moved in the matter of fees paid for Commissions taken out by Militia Officers.

Mr. McFarlane, seeing the leader of the Government in his place, would put the question—what has been done in the matter of filling up the Financial Secretary, understood to be vacant?

The Hon. Att. General explained that the former incumbent having lost his election, the office was vacated, and would be filled up in a few days.

Mr. Annand gave notice that, at an early day, he would bring under consideration of the House the state of the representation of the Province.

THURSDAY, Feb. 7.

The hon. member for Truro (Mr. Hyde) attended at the table, and, in presence of the hon. Hugh Bell as Commissioner, took the usual oath, and his seat in the house.

Petitions were presented by the hon. Solicitor General, Mr. Ryder, Mr. C. Campbell, Mr. Whitman from Clements, for alteration of the township line; Mr. Tobin, Mr. Davidson, Mr. John Campbell, from Peter Kolp, for payment of £10, expended by him in the building of a bridge, under the authority of the representative of the county of Queen's.

Mr. Campbell explained how the difficulty had arisen. The hon. Mr. Johnston questioned the constitutional right of the Government to change the Road and Bridge Commissioners as arranged by the County and Township members, respectively, argued that the acts of the Representative indicated the well understood wishes of the constituency represented by him.

The hon. Attorney General could not accept this as sound doctrine. It was natural that the Government should seek to strengthen its own hands; but, while insisting that circumstances may arise in which it would be imperative upon the Government to alter and amend a Road Commission, he denied that, in the present or preceding year, at least, this power had been resorted to. The Government is responsible to the whole people for the discretion with which it exercises its powers—if ministers overstep the bounds of prescription they might expect to be, as they should be, rebuked. He did not recognize as a "Constitutional right," the privilege claimed for members of that House, by the hon. member for Annapolis.

Petitions were presented by several honorable members one of which was by Mr. Geldert from the Rev. Henry DeBlois, praying (as the reporter understood) repayment of a sum of money, of the School monies of the County of Lunenburg, accidentally lost by him.

FRIDAY, Feb. 8.

Petitions were presented by Mr. McDonald, from R. and A. Fraser, East River, for aid to Felling Mill. Referred to Committee on Trade and Manufactures; Mr. Davidson, from inhabitants of Mills Village, for an act to remove obstructions from Rivers.

Mr. M. I. Wilkins would call the attention of the Government to the case of the murderer of Rebecca Langley, tried, and acquitted on the ground of insanity, and now "in safe keeping in the Penitentiary." He, Mr. Wilkins, was sure the Government would not be guilty of an act of cruelty. This miserable man had friends in the country who might be willing to take charge of him and keep him out of harm's way, or provide a more comfortable asylum for him.

The hon. the Attorney General said, the Jury found that he was not in a state of mind warranting the Government to permit him to be at large for a single hour. There are twenty-eight prisoners in the Penitentiary, and these men say, "Don't permit this lunatic to be at large, or we shall not think our lives safe for a single moment."—What was to be done? You must protect the lives of the other prisoners.

By Mr. Locke, from a Mr. Harding for repayment of expenses incurred on a charge of being accessory to a murder committed in the former County, of which charge he was acquitted.

Mr. Locke, at some length, enforced the claim of the petitioner, whose case, he insisted, was one of extreme hardship.

Mr. Johnston thought it ought to be more satisfactory to petitioners under the circumstances which had been stated to the House, if the matter stood over, as has been suggested, to the next Session.

3 o'clock.

Hon. Attorney General, by command, laid upon the table of the House, papers connected with the Railway, the purport of which he proceeded to comment upon briefly in detail, taking in all the leading items of the Engineer's report for the past year. Also, report of Commissioners Other important papers touching the same subject, (it was added) would be immediately laid before Parliament.—Commissioners' Report assigns as the reasons why the route on this side of the Ardoise Hill, had been adopted,—that "it is shorter, easier of construction, and cheaper."

Mr. Annand would be glad to learn whether it was the intention of Commissioners to survey the route by the way of the Stewiacke Valley. Also, why the Folly route had been abandoned and one more indirect, by the way of Salmon River, selected.

The hon. the Attorney General requested that the questions might be reduced to writing, when the Government would take an opportunity to reply to them.

Mr. Munro introduced a bill to incorporate the College and Academy Board of the Free Church. Leave granted.

SATURDAY, Feb. 9th.

A number of Petitions were presented in so low a tone that the purport of them could not be made out by the Reporters.

Several hours were occupied in "suggestions" respecting the rules of the House, Administration of Criminal Law &c.

Mr. McLennan gave notice that on Thursday next, he would move that the House go into Committee, to consider the question of introducing a vote by Ballot into this Province.

Mr. Whitman stated that he had been informed that several Editors of papers were desirous of having accommodation in the Gallery for the purpose of taking their own reports—he hoped such accommodation would be afforded.

Hon. Mr. Johnston supposed there could be no objection.

The Hon. Att. Gen. intimated that the House had appointed Special Reporters so that it might have control over them.

A conversation ensued about arranging the Records and original papers of the Province, and obtaining possession of the Supreme Court-Room for a Provincial Library.

By Mr. Bill from Central Baptist Association.

MONDAY, Feb. 11.

Petitions were presented by Mr. M. I. Wilkins, Mr. Locke, Dr. Webster, Mr. Geldert, Mr. Wier, Mr. McLennan, for aid to a bridge—the inhabitants having subscribed £200. The petitions were from the inhabitants of Milton. Also by Mr. Wade.

Mr. Wade would also ask leave to bring in an Act in the spirit of these petitions.

After conversation leave was given to introduce a Bill.

Also by Mr. Morrison, Hon Mr. Johnston, from Trustees of Bridgetown Academy respecting the conduct of School Commissioners relative to the case of a Mr. Shelpely.

Also by Mr. Churchill, from Falmouth, for passing of Liquor Law.

Also by Mr. Archibald, Mr. Dimock, Mr. Esson.

Mr. McLellan asked some questions with reference to the Halifax Corporation Act, as applicable to the Municipal Corporation Act.

Hon Mr. Johnston—How much money would Halifax give to surrender their charter?

Mr. Esson—A good deal of money would be required to buy up our charter.

Also by Mr. John Campbell, Hon Attorney General, Mr. C. Campbell, Mr. McDonald, Mr. Fuller, and Mr. Whitman.

Mr. Whitman asked leave to introduce a bill to divide the county of Annapolis into two school districts.

Also by Mr. Rinhard, and Mr. Bourneuf.

Mr. Esson introduced a bill to continue and amend the Act for the Incorporation of the Bank of Nova Scotia.

The Hon. Mr. Johnston's Bill to amend the Municipal Corporation Bill was read a second time, without division.

European Intelligence.

THE CAMP IN 1855 AND 1856.

[From the Daily News.]

CAMP, SEBASTOPOL, Dec. 31.—The first reflection which the close of the year 1855 forces on the mind of each person who has witnessed the progress of the last twelve months' campaign in the Crimea, is a comparison between the condition of the army as it now is, and as it was at the corresponding date of the year 1854. A stranger looking on the army now could no more form a notion of its appearance at the same date last winter, than a native who

had never quitted the torrid zone could form a notion of the snows and ice of a polar region. The troops appear no less cheerful and inspirited than they are conspicuous for sturdiness and health; their duties chiefly consist in perfecting their drill for future service, and the younger soldiers are rapidly advancing to a condition of frame and training which will put them on an equality with their more experienced comrades in fitness for campaigning.—Seeing the substantial quality of our roads, and of many of the dwellings and buildings which have been constructed by us, the French can hardly believe that we contemplate abandoning our present position in the spring. On the other hand, the fortifications which are still increasing around the ports of Kamiesch and Kasatch, and which have already rendered the position nearly as strong as was that of Sebastopol, together with the absence of similar works elsewhere, seem to indicate a removal of the great mass of the allied armies, a sufficient garrison being left for the defence and security of the harbours before mentioned, and their immediate neighbourhood.

The French are getting better off every day for warm clothing, and lately they have been served out with stockings to wear inside their sabots or wooden shoes, but they very naturally complain greatly at their living, in comparison to our privates.

FURTHER DESTRUCTION OF DOCKS AT SEBASTOPOL.

CAMP BEFORE SEBASTOPOL, JAN. 1.—It had been the intention of our engineers to blow in a portion of the English half of the docks last Saturday, but owing to the prevalence of water all could not be got ready for that purpose before yesterday afternoon. At head-quarters, at ten o'clock in the morning, it was not certainly known whether we should be able to fire more than the three charges in the left side of the basin; and although the French had arranged to blow up their east dock, the entrance pier of their west dock, and their half of the left side of the basin which joined us, still I know that the quartermaster-general of the army was not aware of the French intention, nor was he of ours till late in the afternoon. For this extreme secrecy I can see no reason. It was at six minutes to one that the drum was beaten by the French sapper for the 39 French and four English engineers to light their port-fires. At 5 1/2 minutes the drum beat two taps for all to be ready, and at 4 1/2 minutes to one the drum beat one more tap to fire; in 6 1/2 minutes afterwards the charges in the side and bottom of the French east dock exploded almost simultaneously. Shortly afterwards the large charges in the piers of the entrance and behind the steps leading down to the dock blew up.—These three charges shook the ground all round terribly, and propelled large stones, perpendicularly up in the air to the height of at least 900 feet. In 9 1/2 minutes the English charges exploded, causing a very neat demolition of half the side wall of the basin.—The quantity of powder expended in blowing up this dock alone was 10,000 lbs, with 33 charges in all. The 12 side charges were each 500 lb. Behind the steps leading to the bottom of the dock there were one charge of 1000 lb, and two of 500 lbs. of powder each. The remaining charges, I mean those under the docks and the floodgate, averaged about 110 lb. each.—There is every reason to expect that in another fortnight the whole of the Sebastopol docks will be totally worthless for any purpose whatever. The French appeared to be much pleased at our engineers being so successful under water. They will have nearly as great an obstacle to contend with in their centre entrance. As for the Russians, they took no notice either of the first or second explosions, not even jumping up on their parapets. The French and English have been taking down one of the large flood-gates complete, to send home as trophies; either half of a gate contains 12 iron hollow iron ribs, each weighing about 2 1/2 tons. The French took down their two halves bodily, and now that these are at the bottom of the dock, they have been obliged to take the ribs off and drag them across the basin at an immense cost of labor.

From the Times.

THE CAUCASUS.

ZIEWIE, Dec. 12.—It is with a feeling of no little regret that, after the lapse of a fortnight, I am compelled to date this letter from the same place as my last. The gleam of sunshine which then induced a hope of fine weather proved treacherous, and we have until within the last two days been deluged with rain. Rather than relinquish without an effort the object which he had hoped to attain when he undertook the campaign, Omar Pacha determined to attempt to force his way over a flooded country and across several mountain torrents, to Kutais. On the morning of the 2nd the army received orders to march in the middle of a tremendous storm, and succeeded on the following day in crossing the Ekoura, over which river Skender Pacha had constructed a foot bridge with considerable ingenuity, but which was nevertheless almost immediately afterwards carried away. We then pushed on over roads knee deep in mud, frequently delayed by rivulets, which had swollen into deep rivers and swept away the temporary bridges which had been put up to supply the places of those destroyed by the Russians, and ultimately camped upon plains watered by the Skenis-

cal. These were partly flooded, and it was with some difficulty that spots were found upon which to pitch the tents where the water was not more than two inches deep. Here the troops remained, lying in mud and water, for four days, with nothing to live upon but a short supply of biscuit, and an earnest desire that the river before them might speedily subside. The position of the army under these circumstances was becoming in the last degree critical. Some of the regiments had altogether run out of provisions, and the unfortunate soldiers, who have not received pay for nearly a year, were buying biscuit from their more fortunate comrades at ten paras a piece. The fact that the troops in some of the brigades were not so well supplied with provisions as those in others is to be attributed to a want of proper arrangement on the part of the general commanding. The state of the weather, however, would have rendered a retreat necessary, even if such had not been the case, since the hardship and exposure which the men had been undergoing began seriously to affect their health, and it became apparent to Omar Pacha that to linger longer in so unsuitable a locality would seriously imperil his whole army. He, therefore, reluctantly gave the orders to retire three days ago, and with heavy hearts we turned our backs upon the Russians. In the course of our reconnaissance the enemy was seen upon the opposite bank; they fired across the river without effect. It is probable that they did not intend to dispute the passage of the river after the lesson they received upon the Ingour. The retreat was of the most laborious and harassing description, the continued rains and increased traffic having rendered the roads almost impassable. Such is the history of our return to Ziewie, where, however, the army is not to remain, but to proceed to winter quarters in a position further to the rear. While we were on the Skenisical the news arrived of the fall of Kars. It is scarcely possible, however, that this intelligence could have influenced Omar Pacha, as, in the first place, the natural objects which impeded his progress put any advance out of the question; and, in the second, the results of success, apart from the salvation of Kars, would have been such as to warrant his straining every nerve to achieve it.

DISTRIBUTION OF BRITISH CRIMEAN MEDALS TO THE FRENCH TROOPS.

PARIS, Tuesday, Jan. 15.—His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge, in the name of her Majesty Queen Victoria, distributed to-day British Crimean medals to 14,000 French troops who have returned from the seat of war. The troops were drawn up in the Place de Caroussel, and the scene was very imposing. The Emperor was much cheered.

RUSSIAN WAR COUNCILS.

ST. PETERSBURG, Jan. 3.—The great council of war is considered, and from what has transpired on the subject, it appears that the Russian tactics for the approaching campaign have undergone some important modifications. Various orders sent off from head quarters would seem to indicate the resolution of abandoning the Crimea altogether.

MARRIAGE OF THE REV. C. H. SPURGEON.

The neighbourhood of New Park Street Baptist Chapel was the scene of an unusual occurrence on Tuesday the 8th inst., on the occasion of the marriage of the pastor of the church, the Rev. C. H. Spurgeon.

The persons who evinced an interest in the proceedings, in point of numbers and enthusiasm, far outstripped any display which the West-end is in the habit of witnessing. Shortly after eight o'clock, although the morning was dark, damp, and cold, as many as 500 ladies, in light and gay attire, besieged the doors of the chapel, accompanied by many gentlemen, members of the congregation, and personal friends. From that hour the crowd increased so rapidly, that the thoroughfare was blocked up against vehicles and pedestrians and a body of the M. division of police had to be sent for to prevent accidents. When the chapel doors were opened there was a terrific rush, and in less than half an hour the doors were closed upon many of the eager visitors, who, like the earlier and more fortunate comers, were favoured with tickets of admission. The bride was Miss Susannah Thompson, only daughter of Mr. Thompson, of Falcon-square, London; and the ceremony was performed by the Rev. Dr. Alexander Fletcher, of Finsbury Chapel.

At the close of the ceremony, the congratulations of the congregation were tendered to the newly-married pair with the heartiest good-will. It is said that no fewer than 25,000 horses, belonging to the English army, are rationed daily in the Crimea. This number, of course, includes chargers, cavalry horses, bat horses, and the animals belonging to the transport establishments.

The reprint of the Times correspondent's letters from the Crimea, in one cheap volume, has been very successful. The sale is said to have already amounted to 24,000 on which Mr. Russell has one shilling each copy.

AN OFFICER SENTENCED TO DEATH FOR COWARDICE.

A letter from Kazatch Bay states that Mr. Deheny, second master of H. M. screw gun-boat Lynx, was tried by court-martial for cowardice exhibited during the attack on Kin-burn. He was found guilty, and sentenced to be hanged.