

assessment to the people for a long period. Looking back at the earliest legislation on the subject, we find that it was allowed that any school that was supported either by assessment or subscription should receive a very considerable grant, and the power was afforded to the inhabitants to assess themselves just as it is in this bill. To give the power to the people to assess themselves if they think proper will never work well; the result will be just as in the case of the Municipal Incorporation measure.

There is one feature of this bill to which I feel bound to give my warm approbation—that part which provides for county inspection.—Anybody who is acquainted with the common schools of this country knows that that interest which should be taken is by no means general. The teacher does not get the support and encouragement to which he is entitled. The proposed inspection will give a stimulus to the teachers and to the scholars, and in my own mind will have more effect in promoting the cause of education than any other clause in the bill.

Hon. Solicitor General.—The hon. gentleman has expressed his regret that the government have not gone further in the direction of assessment. Now, compulsory taxation is a subject of great importance, which has been before the country for years, but I believe since 1849 there has not been a vote taken in the Legislature which would warrant any Government introducing a bill adopting the principle in its entirety. Looking, however, at the position of the hon. gentleman, we could not expect him to express less than he has done. He very naturally has reasons to desire that the Government should go further than they have done. But the honorable gentleman also remarked that this measure differs but little from the bill which is now to be found on our statute book. But on this point, I feel, he cannot find many to agree with him. The present measure proposes many useful improvements, whilst in the bill now in force there is no system at all. The hon. gentleman also conveniently forgets that the late Government, during all the time they were in power, made no attempt to alter the law at all. They went to the country last year without attempting to touch the question, notwithstanding the large revenue they had.

The hon. gentleman refers to the time when the present grant was first made, and argues that it has not been increased in proportion to the augmentation of the revenue. But he forgets that then we had no railways, to bring a heavy expense upon the exchequer. Under these circumstances, then, I think that the addition to the grant is a very great step in advance. As to the provisions of the proposed bill, I think they only require careful consideration to commend themselves to the commendation of every intelligent man in the house and in the country. Any one who is at all acquainted with the working of the present system must feel that it is eminently unsatisfactory.

After some remarks from Mr. Archibald and the hon. Solicitor General, the house adjourned.

TUESDAY, Feb. 16th, (Morning.)

The House met at 11 o'clock, a. m., and resumed the consideration of the Revised Statutes.

On Chapter 23 "of Public Works" being taken up, the Attorney General suggested an alteration so as to invest in the Board of Works the management of the contemplated Provincial Building, as well as other Province property that may be placed under the care of that department, also the control of public property on Sable, Seal, St. Paul's, and Mud Islands, which was adopted.

The Atty. Gen. moved that there be a clause inserted, providing for a Clerk of Works.

After an explanation from the Hon. Attorney General, Hon. Mr. McFarlane, and Hon. Prov. Sec. the clause and chapter were agreed to.

Afternoon.

Petitions were presented by Mr. Cowie, Mr. Whitman, and Mr. Bill. Also, by Mr. King, from the inhabitants of Kempt, by Hon. Atty. Gen., one from Beaver River, one from Digby, one from Colchester, and one from inhabitants of Ragged Islands all for alteration in the Dalhousie College Act.

The House went into committee on the Revised Statutes.

Sheriffs.—On reading of the clause of the bill "of county officers" relating to the appointment of sheriffs—which vests the power in the hands of a joint committee composed of two of the Executive Council and the Chief Justice and another Judge of the Supreme Court; and in the case of a disagreement, in a majority of the Judges.

Dr. Hamilton moved that the appointment of these officers be vested in the Governor in Council,—as is usual with officers of a similar character.

Mr. Pryor would be sorry to see any such alteration made.

Hon. Prov. Sec. admitted that the mode of appointing sheriffs was somewhat anomalous, as compared with other appointments of a similar character. Formerly the Judges had practically the power of nomination, and it was then proposed by gentlemen opposite to transfer this power into the hands of the executive.

Mr. Archibald would be sorry to have any alteration in the law. The Sheriff was a judicial officer, and it was of the utmost importance that he should possess the confidence of the Judges, and should be removed from the operation of political influences.

Hon. Atty. Genl. said that he thought the law, as at present, required no amendment, and that it would be wise to allow it to remain unaltered.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 17th.

Mr. Kaulback presented two petitions from

certain electors of the South district of Colchester against the return of Messrs Archibald and Parker, the sitting members.

At two o'clock, the hour named for the drawing of a committee to consider the petition against the gentlemen named J. W. Ritchie, Esq., Q. C., appeared at the bar on behalf of the petitioner, J. D. Nash, Esq.

The committee was struck as follows: Colin Campbell, Blackwood, S. McDonnell, Hatfield, Coffin, Cowie, Moore.

Petitions were presented by Mr. Moore, from the inhabitants of Gasperaux, in reference to Dalhousie College, by hon. Atty. Gen., from Sable River, Shelburne, and by Mr. McKinnon from Antigonish, on the same subject.

Crown Lands.—Hon. Prov. Sec. laid on the table the report of the commissioner of Crown Lands.—The receipts at the Treasury from this source are considerably in excess of 1862; the net revenue being \$396 over that of 1862.

Coal Mines, etc.—Hon. Prov. Sec. laid on the table the report on mines and minerals. It states that in consequence of the increased activity in the new mines, the total quantity of coal exported in 1863 was 37,000 tons in excess of 1862. As one evidence of the attention that our coal mines are attracting, it mentions that 115 new applications for rights of search have been made, upon which \$2690 have been paid. The shipments, however, of large coal from Albion and Sydney mines are less than in 1862, chiefly on account of the competition of the new mines.

Remarks were made by several gentlemen with regard to the inspection of mines, and the privileges granted to persons who take out rights of search.

Petitions were presented by Messrs Killam, S. Campbell, C. J. Campbell, Hon. Prov. Sec., Pryor, Lawrence, Whitman and Slocomb on various local and personal matters.

The Chesapeake.—Mr. Bourinot said he was desirous to bring to the notice of the House a matter of considerable importance. He alluded to the capture of the Chesapeake, and moved a resolution requesting the government to lay upon the table all papers and correspondence connected with the capture of that vessel.

Hon. Atty. Gen. said this matter had been under the consideration of a Court of competent authority which had pronounced upon it, and he could not see how the question could again be brought up. He would merely mention that in the view taken by the learned judge it mattered little whether the original capture was legal or illegal, inasmuch as the subsequent conduct of the captors was such as to preclude them from having any standing in the Court. Under the circumstances it was useless to detain the vessel any longer, and the time limited by the rules of the Court for putting in claims had expired.

Hon. Prov. Sec. said it would be quite competent for any member of the House of Commons to move for all the papers to be brought before Parliament. If that was done, no objection could apply to bringing them before this House.

Revised Statutes.—Mr. Archibald, in course of some observations, expressed his opinion that the Statutes were being passed through the Committee too hastily, which was calculated to lead to confusion in the laws.

Hon. Prov. Sec. did not expect the volume would be found perfect in all respects when published. In his opinion, if any fundamental changes were required the present was the proper time to make them as he believed they would receive just as much attention as if specially introduced by Bill.

Mr. Archibald observed that he felt it due to the house and the country to direct attention to the fact that material and very important amendments and additions were being made in the laws of the land with but apparently little deliberation.

Hon. Atty. General considered that it was appropriate to the subject to proceed in the manner they were now progressing. And he was not apprehensive that any danger was involved in such a course. It might be that minor alterations would pass without necessary consideration, but changes involving subjects of moment would, he had no doubt, receive due attention.

Hon. Sol. General said the amendments and alterations under consideration passed through every stage that ordinary bills did. No clause passed without being read in the usual manner, and nothing of a wrong nature could possibly pass, if hon. members would only pay attention to the subject.

THURSDAY, Feb. 18th, (Morning.)

Several Chapters of the Revised Statutes passed in committee were read a third time and ordered to be engrossed.

Petitions were presented by Mr. Heffernan from Guysborough, on the subject of Dalhousie College, by Mr. Hill, from inhabitants of Hants Co., and by Mr. Longley from inhabitants of Bridgetown and Annapolis on the same subject. Other petitions were presented by Drs. Slocomb and Hamilton and Messrs Fraser, Bill, Campbell, Moroe and Longley.

Some pretty warm discussion took place on a motion made by Mr. S. McDonnell in relation to Sheriffs being appointed by the Governor in Council.

Afternoon.

Petitions were presented by Mr. J. McDonald from Albion Mines, Pictou County, for alterations of Dalhousie College Act, by Mr. Killam, from Lake George, by Mr. Moore from Wolfville, and by Mr. Kaulback, Bridgewater, on the same subject.

Financial Statement.—The Hon. Fincl. Secretary laid on the table the Annual Trade Returns, etc. In his opening remarks he congratulated the House on the satisfactory condition of the

country, and then went on to give a Synopsis of Trade Returns for 1863. The Total value of Imports is \$10,201,391, of which—

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| \$3,875,693 | are from Great Britain, |
| 1,216,621 | " B. N. America, |
| 296,280 | " B. W. Indies, |
| 3,837,765 | " U. States, |
| 965,032 | " other countries. |

A comparative statement shows the value of merchandise imported into each port of the Province, during the year ended 30th September 1862 and 1863, the increase or decrease at each port, and the total increase throughout the Province—from which it appears that the total amount of imports for 1862 was \$8,445,042; for 1863, \$10,201,391, making an annual increase in the value of imports of \$2,756,349.

A comparative statement of the value of each article imported into the Province during the years 1862 and 1863, shows the increase and decrease in each article of import. There appears an actual increase on all articles except Burning Fluid, Bricks, Corn, Wheat, Drugs, etc., Rye Flour, Fruit, Hats and Caps, Herring, Hides and Skins, Lime and Plaster, Molasses, Potatoes and Vegetables, Rice, Rum Scale Fish and wines, on which articles there appears a decrease of \$215,436, against an increase of \$1,756,349.

By an abstract of the value of the articles EXPORTED from each port in the Province, it appears that the total value exported during the year was \$6,546,488, of which articles to the value of—

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| \$ 320,340 | were exported to Great Britain. |
| 1,854,643 | " B. N. America. |
| 1,714,356 | " West Indies. |
| 1,869,772 | " United States. |
| 787,377 | " Other Countries. |

Making a total of \$6,546,488. These returns show the total number of Vessels registered on 30th Sept. 1863, to be 3539, tonnage, 309,554, and estimated value \$8,965,929. And the total number of vessels built, during the same period, 207, tonnage 46,802, and estimated value, \$1,962,814, which is more than a hundred per cent. than in 1860.

A comparative statement of the amount of Excise duties collected on articles imported into and manufactured in this Province in the years 1862 and 1863, showing an increase over 1862 of \$31,862 84.

The gross amount of Light Duty collected at the different ports of this Province for the years 1862 and 1863, shows a total amount collected in 1863 of \$32,343 80 against \$31,164 50 collected in 1862, increase \$1149 30.

The Receiver General's account current with the Province, from the 1st Jan'y. to the 31st Dec'r., 1863, shows a balance in hand of \$100,745 67.

The Gold Fields—Receipts, \$19,247, and disbursements \$25,950.

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| The increase on Excise duties | was \$31,862 84 |
| Light Duty, | 1,149 80 |
| Casual Revenue, | 1,962 89 |

Making a total of \$34,976 03

The total amount of imports for the year was \$10,201,391, whilst the exports realized \$6,546,488. Adding to the latter sum the value of new vessels, \$1,962,814, as well as that of the gold exported, \$286,000, we have a total amount of \$8,789,302.

the duties collected on the ad valorem goods which were reduced last year exhibit a very handsome increase, instead of a reduction of \$90,000 as was estimated last year. The disbursements for the gold fields may appear large, but they are chiefly accounted for by the fact that a large sum had to be expended in paying certain land claims at the "Ovens."

Petitions were presented by Mr. Bill from a number of the inhabitants of West Cornwallis, praying that alterations be made in the law regulating Dalhousie College, by Mr. Colin Campbell, from the county of Digby, by Mr. Lawrence, from Lower Horton, of similar purport.

Hon. Prov. Sec. submitted the report of the Chairman of the Railway Board for 1863, and also Mr. Perley's report of his inspection of the Nova Scotia Railways.

Mr. Tobin introduced a bill to amend the Act incorporating the Halifax Fire Insurance Company, and also a bill relating to Fire Insurance Companies doing business in this city, but not incorporated within the limits of this Province. The object of this measure is to compel such Companies to invest an amount of money in the Province as a guarantee for the payment of any losses on risks they may sustain in this country.

Appointment of Sheriffs.—The House in committee on bills resumed the consideration of the Revised Statutes.

Mr. Archibald said that to-day the hon. Atty. General had treated the Committee to a vigorous speech in which he waxed exceedingly warm, and the nature of his address was calculated to remind one of some of the events of last session. It had been remarked that the present House was a dull one, but then the exhibition of the learned Attorney General showed that there really was some life in it yet. But a day or two ago an hon. member for Kings had proposed an amendment to the law relating to the appointment of Sheriffs, and on that occasion the learned Attorney General rose and opposed the proposition saying that if he were disposed to be governed by motives of expediency alone, he might support the motion; but as he was not, he felt bound to oppose it, and said he thought it wiser to submit to slight inconvenience than to disturb a system which he believed was founded upon sound legislation.

He proceeded to comment on the different opinions expressed by the Hon. Attorney General now and on that occasion when he objected to the government having the appointment of the Sheriffs.

Hon. Sol. Gen. said he saw no good reason

why the Sheriffs of this Province should not be appointed by Government as well as the Prothonotaries. In England the nomination was made by the Lord Lieutenant who submitted the names of three persons to the Government, and the latter made the appointment, and therefore virtually had absolute power in the case, and the Judges had no voice in the matter at all. He did not think it would be unwise to introduce in Nova Scotia the mode and practice followed in England; and he read from the law of New Brunswick to show that in that Province the appointment of Sheriffs was vested solely in the executive Government. In New Brunswick the Governor and Council had more power, in respect to this matter, than it was proposed to confer upon this Province by the amendment under consideration. The present mode was calculated to bring the executive and the Judges into collision, and in some instances he believed it had had that effect, and therefore it was well that the existing practice should cease. He contended it would be judicious to keep the Judges clear of the matter of appointment of Sheriffs, and throw the whole responsibility on the Government, who were answerable to the house and country. The hon. leader of the opposition had said that there seemed to exist a tendency to establish a system of dismissals from office. If such were the case, and the system was to be deplored, as the hon. member had said, that hon. gentleman was not in a position to throw the first stone. He thought the reference to political Sheriffs came with exceedingly bad grace from the leader of the opposition, seeing that he had a few years ago sent two political Sheriffs to conduct an election in County of Victoria, completely ignoring the regularly appointed Sheriff of that county. In vesting the appointment of Sheriffs in the Government they would only be following the example set them by England and neighbouring Province of New Brunswick. The system had worked well in England for centuries and could not fail to work equally satisfactorily in Nova Scotia.

After further remarks by Mr. S. Campbell, Mr. Blanchard, and Mr. C. J. Campbell, the amendment was put and passed by a large majority.

The Committee then arose and Mr. Robicheau introduced a bill to add an electoral district in the county of Digby.

As so much of our space is already occupied with the report of proceedings in parliament, and as nothing specially important was done in the subsequent days, we defer any further report rather than exclude other matters of interest.

Religious Intelligence.

YARMOUTH.—Quite a revival is being experienced in some of the Yarmouth Churches. On Lord's Day, 7th Inst., nine persons were baptized at Chebogue, and six in Yarmouth town. May there be many more added of such as shall be saved.

Since the above was in type we have received the following:

YARMOUTH.—Dear Brother, It will be refreshing to many readers of the Messenger to learn that the work of the Lord has appeared to His servants at Chebogue, and His glory unto their children. During the last few weeks our brother Warren S. Parker, who is laboring there, has had the privilege of baptizing twenty-three, all of whom are in the prime of life. This great work is principally seen in the neighbourhood of Arcadia. It is evidently deepening and widening. All classes of the community are stirred to unusual thought and action on the subject of religion, and surrounding communities are beginning to participate in the holy and soul saving influence.

The fruit of past and present faithful sowing is being gathered in. There is joy in heaven and rejoicing on earth. To God be all the glory.

Yours truly,
J. H. S.

Yarmouth, Feb. 15, 1864.

ST. JOHN, N. B.—The Leinster Street Baptist Church have engaged the Rev. Mr. Garner, of New York, to become their pastor. He is expected to commence his pastorate about the first of May, at which time the church edifice is to be completed.

THE TRIAL OF BISHOP COLENSO.—Bishop Colenso's trial at the Cape was concluded on the 16th of December. The presenting clergy accused Bishop Colenso of heresy on the nine counts. The suffragan bishops found him guilty on all the nine. The metropolitan agreed in that opinion; and sentenced Bishop Colenso to be deprived of his see and all his rights of office therein. The defendant not being present to hear the judgment pronounced against him, the metropolitan gave him until the 4th of March next to file in London a full, unconditional, and absolute retraction in writing, of all the heretical extracts referred to in the counts, or otherwise to the 16th of April next to file a like retraction in Cape Town. On Bishop Colenso so complying the sentence becomes null and void. Dr. Black protested against the proceedings and the validity of the judgement, and gave notice of appeal.