

co-operate in maturing such a measure as will obtain the all-important object we have in view. I have no hesitation in saying that I feel deeply grateful to the gentlemen who, on former occasions, gave the government their aid in improving the act now on the Statute Book, and that I am also under great obligations to the patriotic gentlemen throughout the country who, irrespective of party feeling, have united in coming forward to give their aid in carrying into effect a measure fraught with such vital consequences to the people. I need hardly add that the government approach a question of this kind with great diffidence and reluctance. In bringing forward the measure of last year as well as the one I now lay before you, they have been actuated by the belief that a government, however great their duty to the party with which they are connected may be to adopt such a course as will strengthen and consolidate their influence, have a still more solemn duty to perform, and that is what they owe to their country. But I believe that in this enlightened legislature it will be said on all sides by gentlemen who support, and by those who oppose, the government—that no administration could bring forward a measure of this kind with any other motive than to discharge a solemn duty to the country by whom they have been placed in the responsible position they occupy, and that in the fulfilment of that obligation, they are entitled to the frank co-operation of all, whatever their views may be on other questions of a public nature.

TUESDAY, March 7th.

Mr. Bourinot said he was desirous of asking the government a question in reference to the Union of the Colonies. He was therefore desirous of learning from the Provincial Secretary, as the leader of the government, when it was proposed to discuss this all important topic.

Hon. Pro. Sec. said that the policy of the government relative to this question would be submitted at an early day.

Mr. Bourinot said he had hoped that the government would have been prepared to name the day when they would be ready to lay this question fully before the House.

Mr. Jost presented three petitions against Confederation.

Mr. McLellan presented a petition on the same subject.

Mr. Killam introduced a bill, entitled "An act further to amend the act relative to the Bank of Yarmouth."

Mr. Chas. Campbell asked if it was the intention of the Government to introduce a measure during the present session to amend the Franchise Act. The Provincial Secretary replied that the subject was now under the consideration of the Executive.

Hon. Pro. Sec. laid on the table the report of the Fruit Growers' Association of Nova Scotia.

Several bills were read a third time and others a second time. The bill to amend the existing Patent Laws called out some discussion after which the subject was referred to a special committee.

Mr. Blanchard asked the government to lay on the table a return showing what steps have been taken to carry into operation the act passed in 1864 for the registration of births, marriages and deaths, and of all payments made thereunder for salaries of officers and other expenses; also, whether any officer has been appointed or is now engaged in carrying out the requirements of said statute, and the correspondence relating to such appointment, with the principal officer's report on the subject.

Mr. Blanchard introduced a bill to amend chap. 154, Rev. Stat.—Of the limitation of actions.

Mr. Tobin enquired whether there was any probability of the railway depot being brought into the city; if not, something ought to be done to improve the station buildings at Richmond.

Hon. Pro. Sec. said that it was originally intended that the depot should be brought nearer to town, and these buildings were only intended for a temporary purpose. Hence it had never been thought advisable to spend much money upon them. How far the position of affairs would be affected by the prospect of the Inter-colonial road, or of connection with the European and North American road, he was not prepared to say at present, but there was no immediate intention to change the depot.

The school bill was made the order of the day for Tuesday.

WEDNESDAY, March 8th.

Mr. Ross presented a petition against Confederation.

Hon. Mr. McKinnon presented two petitions from the township of Tracadie respecting the Educational act. He mentioned that the hon. Provincial Secretary was not correct when he stated the other day that the great bulk of the petitioners from Antigonish were opposed to the school law. By reference to the petitions it would be seen that the majority of them desired that a large proportion of the money required for school purposes should come out of the treasury, and in fact, were in favour of amendments similar to those now proposed to be made.

Hon. Pro. Secy. was exceedingly glad to learn that he had, to a certain extent, misapprehended the scope of the petitions from the county represented by his hon. friend, and that they were in favour of some such amendments as were now proposed by the government. Under these circumstances the 2163 persons whom he supposed were opposed to the present school law would be considerably lessened in number.

A message was received from His Excellency

by the Lieutenant Governor requesting the presence of the house in the Council Chamber. On their attendance he was pleased to assent to the following bills:

An Act to amend the Act to Incorporate the Intercolonial Coal and Railway Company.

An Act to Incorporate the Caledonia Coal Mining Company.

An Act to Incorporate the Clyde Coal and Mining Company.

An Act to Incorporate the Sydney and Louisbourg Railway Company.

History of Nova Scotia.—Hon. Pro. Sec. laid on the table a memorial from Berish Murdoch asking for aid in the publication of his work on the History of Nova Scotia, together with a prospectus and a portion of the same.

After remarks of approval from several members, Mr. Blanchard stated that the work was already finished up to 1810, and that the author had the remainder in a state that would enable him to advance its publication rapidly.

The subject was referred to the committee on Printing and Reporting.

Registration.—Hon. Fin. Sec. laid on the table the report of Mr. Scott, secretary to the Board of Statistics, of the returns under the act passed last session concerning the Registration of Marriages, Births, and Deaths. Also a return showing the payments for salaries and other expenses connected with the act. Also a return from the Postmaster General giving an account of the marriage licenses up to the 31st Dec. 1864. The Post Master General asked that the department be relieved from the duties of issuing licenses.

Mr. Robicheau, chairman of committee on Navigation Securities, reported in part from that committee, recommending that a fog trumpet be placed at Cranberry Island, near Cape Canso, and at Sambro.

Several gentlemen spoke on the benefit that it would be to all vessels, not only those that pass through the gut, but all that approach our coasts.

St. Peter's Canal.—Hon. Atty. Genl. laid on the table the report of Mr. Perley, the engineer that was employed by the government last summer for the purpose of reporting on the St. Peter's Canal.

Mr. Levesconte asked whether the government intend to put anything in the estimate for the Canal.

Hon. Atty. Genl. said the matter was under the consideration of the government, and they would be prepared to state their decision in a few days.

Mr. Miller trusted that the government would deal with the matter with a view to the interests of Cape Breton.

Mr. Tobin expressed his belief that a railway would not be desirable at St. Peter's; if anything were requisite, it was a canal.

Adjutant General's report.—Hon. Atty. Genl. laid on the table the Adjutant General's report for 1864. It treated, he stated, of the militia organization generally. At the beginning of this year, the whole of the militia of the first class, for actual service, numbered 56, 111 men. The number that were called out on Militia duty were 41,811, leaving 14,240 that did not attend—the majority of them consisted of fishermen, and seamen absent temporarily from their homes. In 1863 there were drilled 34,878, and in 1864, 41,871, or an increase of 6998. In 1862 the number of volunteers was 1893; in 1863, 2010; and 1864, 829; the number of companies disbanded last year was 38 in all.

Hon. Pro. Sec. said in reference to the position of the Volunteer force and the Militia organization that upon more than one occasion, he had called attention to the great difficulty of maintaining the Volunteer organization upon an efficient footing in a country like this. He had always said that too much praise could not be given to the Volunteers of this province for the spirit which they evinced in coming forward at a time when the militia force was in a state of desertion, and something had to be done for the local defences of the country. They had come forward and rendered themselves so efficient as to compare favorably with any other organization in the world.

Mr. Tobin could not understand how gentlemen could consider the militia system on an efficient footing when the men were not armed. He would like to ask his hon. friend from Lunenburg (Mr. Kaulback) what he could do with his men, without arms. He thought the sooner they were supplied from some source the better.

Hon. Atty. Genl. remarked that in some parts of the country the volunteer system was really obnoxious to those engaged in the militia business, inasmuch as advantage was taken of it to elude serving in the militia; and in many cases they actually served in neither one branch of the service nor the other.

Hon. Pro. Sec. said a great deal had been done, and could yet be done, without arms; the primary thing was to get the men enrolled, and instructed in the rudiments of drill, and to get the officers qualified for their duties. The subject, however, was now engaging the attention of the Commander-in-Chief, and would soon be brought under the notice of the house.

Dr. Brown presented two petitions from North Kings against Confederation.

Mr. McLellan requested the government to inform the house whether any Provincial Debentures had been sold for the purpose of raising money for the construction of the Pictou Railway, and if any, the amount—the rate of interest they bear—the premium obtained, if any—the names of purchasers, and the mode of disposal.

THURSDAY, March 9th.

Hon. Pro. Sec. laid on the table the report of a geological survey made by Rev. Dr. Honeyman.

Mr. S. McDonnell introduced an act to amend the law relative to licenses. The law, as it at present stood, rendered void notes, agreements, specialties, and all documents given in whole or part payment for intoxicating liquors. It was, however, most unfair, since it had an *ex post facto* operation. His object was to remedy this defect.

Dr. Hamilton said the question might arise whether it was wise to adopt any license law at all. If we admitted the sale of spirituous liquors, he did not see why we should tie it up. The hon. member for Inverness had said the house had dealt injudiciously with the subject, but he would like that hon. member to say why we should deal with it at all.

Hon. Mr. McFarlane said that the provisions of license laws were sometimes so exceedingly stringent that in many instances it was found impossible to carry them out. He was desirous of aiding temperance whenever it was practicable, but he did not think it was wise to go to such extremes as some would.

Mr. Fryor, chairman of Committee on city bills, reported up a bill, entitled "An Act to authorize the city to borrow money to pay off the debt upon the market house."

Mr. G. S. Brown presented a petition from Yarmouth in reference to the school act.

Mr. Fryor presented two petitions against the Union of the Provinces on the same subject.

The School Act.—Hon. Attorney General asked leave to present a bill entitled "An act in addition to chap. 58 of the third series of the R. S. of public instruction, and ratifying and confirming proceedings therein."

Mr. Kaulback and Mr. Donkin presented petitions asking that the subject of Confederation be submitted to the people.

FRIDAY, March 10th.

Mr. Bourinot said that he had been requested to put a question to the Government whether there had been any communication received by them with regard to the passport system between this Province and the United States. He noticed in a telegram to the city papers that the order had been rescinded in regard to Canada.

Hon. Pro. Sec. replied that no communication had been received touching any proposed alteration in the present system. He was inclined to believe that the fact that Canada only was mentioned arose from the want of information, that so frequently characterized communications with reference to British America.

Mr. Archibald said that he was afraid the Pro. Secretary was anticipating too much in supposing the Passport system was abandoned as regards the Lower Provinces. He had the authority of a leading merchant in this city, to say, that the United States authorities here refused to *visa* the passports of gentlemen in this community of the first character and standing; whose business called them to the States, and who were above all suspicion of interfering in their local disputes.

Confederation.—Mr. Locke presented four petitions from Shelburne against the Union of the provinces.

Mr. P. Smyth presented a petition against Confederation.

Mr. Robertson expressed his opinion that all the petitions were not really against the proposed Union.

Hon. Atty. Genl. replied that the people wished time for the consideration of the question. They were certainly against legislating upon it this session, but they did not express any opinion adverse to the scheme.

Mr. Stewart Campbell thought it was about time that the government should relieve the people from the anxiety they now felt lest this measure should be passed through during the present session.

Inland Fisheries.—Mr. Levesconte reported in part from the committee on the Fisheries that the bill introduced on the previous day and referred to that committee by Mr. Blanchard was not necessary. Petitioners were under the misapprehension that shear-nets could not be used, whereas they could be, the law only referring to bag nets.

Mr. Blanchard was glad to have this explanation. As his constituents had a right to use these nets, it was unnecessary to have the bill he had introduced passed.

Crown Lands in Cape Breton.—Hon. Pro. Sec. laid on the table an answer to an enquiry asked by the hon. member for Inverness, (Mr. McDonnell) respecting Crown Lands in Cape Breton, showing the amount paid into the Receiver General under the act of 1859 in reference to that island; also amounts expended under section 10 and for what purpose. These returns show that the gross amount is \$24,719; for surveys, over \$20,000; leaving a balance of over \$22,000 of net proceeds.

Mr. Blanchard was glad that the return showed that the island of Cape Breton at this moment was entitled to some twenty-two thousand dollars to be expended on the opening up of her crown lands, &c., and he trusted that the government would carry out the intention of the law.

Hon. Pro. Sec. said the hon. member had fallen into the same error that he had himself, for he (Dr. T.) was somewhat under an erroneous impression when he addressed the house a few days ago. As the hon. member would see the clause of the act which referred to the expenditure of the money for the opening up of roads did not apply solely to that which arose under the settlement of titles but to all money received from crown lands.

Provincial Debentures.—Hon. Fin. Sec. laid on the table a return asked for by the hon. member for North Colchester, (Mr. McLellan), giving a statement of the debentures sold in connection with the building of the Pictou Rail-

way. There were 28 bonds of £500 sterling, amounting to £14,000, and 78 of £100, making a total sum of £21,800 etc., sold at par.

Mr. Archibald said that at the present moment it was quite obvious that the amount of our provincial currency in circulation was altogether inadequate to the wants of the country. The greatest difficulty was experienced by gentlemen engaged in mining enterprises to get the notes that they required for their purposes, and he was informed by gentlemen well qualified to express an opinion on this matter that £50,000 might be put into circulation quite easily, which would save the province a sum equivalent to £3, or £4000 a year.

He did not think it wise to sell the bonds and incur 6 per cent interest, when such a cheaper plan was available, if any money were actually required to meet present exigencies.

Hon. Fin. Sec. replied that the work was under contract on every section, and several contractors were actually employed; and a much larger amount would soon be required. During the ensuing summer there would be probably expended on the work something like \$600,000. It was only a necessary precaution to secure the comparatively small amount shown by the return he had handed in. It would be remembered that an extension of the Lunatic Asylum was to be made, and any amount of money that might be available from the source alluded to by the hon. member for Colchester—the issue of Provincial currency—would be entirely absorbed in connection with that undertaking. So the Receiver General, in view of the fact that our bonds were selling at a large discount in England, exercised a wise discretion in selling at par a small amount for any contingency that might arise.

Mr. Tobin stated that he had been ignorant until very recently that our bonds were for sale here, but it was quite certain that the price which they had brought was satisfactory. He believed that the Provincial Bonds were selling at a very much less rate in London, and therefore, he saw no reason for complaint. He did not agree with the hon. member for Colchester that £50, or £60,000 of Provincial paper could be readily put into circulation. A large sum, about £102,000, was already afloat, and it was not likely that a small province like this, with 330,000 people, required more at present. He heard the question discussed by mercantile men and they thought that perhaps £10,000 might be put in circulation; but not more. If £60,000 were put out, every bank in the city would soon be flooded. He looked upon the policy of selling the bonds in the province itself as judicious.

Hon. Pro. Sec. said that the government were quite under the impression that a further issue of Provincial paper might be resorted to, but the only issue that had been authorized was the expenditure of £10,000 for the purpose of paying for the site of the new building now in course of erection. In consideration of the position that our debentures occupied in England, he thought it was a wise policy to dispose of the bonds on the terms they had received.

The discussion of this question occupied the remainder of the day. But little new matter was brought out in addition to the above.

Hon. Pro. Secy. presented a petition from Alexander Munro, author of Statistics of British North America, asking for aid in connection with that work—referred to committee on printing.

Dr. Brown introduced a bill concerning school law in Horton.

Hon. Pro. Sec. called attention to the backwardness of the business before the respective committees. In order to bring them together he would move an adjournment until 11 o'clock the next morning.

SATURDAY, March 11th.

The House met at 11 o'clock.

Petitions were presented by Mr. Hill and Mr. C. Campbell.

Two private bills were read a third time.

The House in committee on bills passed the following:—To incorporate the Mira Bay Coal Mining Company; to incorporate the Sydney and Bras D'Or Steamboat Company. A bill to enable the city of Halifax to borrow money to pay off debt on Market House. A bill to authorize the sale of the parsonage house and lot in connection with the Baptist Church at North West Lunenburg.

Mr. Archibald introduced a bill to amend the act relative to the Elective Franchise.

Mr. MacDonnell gave notice of his intention shortly to bring in a bill to repeal the present Franchise act.

The list of the various committees was then called over and progress reported.

Then the House adjourned until 3 o'clock on Monday in order to give the committees an opportunity of meeting.

MONDAY, March 13th.

Petitions were presented by Mr. Ray, Mr. Fryor, and by the Hon. Attorney General.

A Bill was introduced by Mr. Allison, to amend chap. 62, of the Revised Statutes "Of Highway Labor."

Hon. Provincial Secretary laid on the table, for inspection of Hon. members, a mass of gold, weighing 457 ounces, the product of ten days operations of the German Company at Waverley. The specimen was much admired.

Hon. Pro. Sec. submitted an application from the Newfoundland Government, soliciting pecuniary aid in establishing and maintaining steam communication between St. John's, Newfoundland, and Pictou. Referred to the Committee on Navigation Securities.

Also a memorial from Rev. Dr. Honeyman, and John R. Willis, Esq., recommending the