

power to deal with any difficulty that might arise.

Mr. Donald Fraser said he observed that the government of the United States and Canada had adopted all the safeguards in their power, and if the legislature here could adopt any measures to the same end, it was exceedingly desirable that it should do so. He hoped some steps would be promptly taken.

Hon. Prov. Sec. laid on the table the report of the Board of Works.

Also a letter addressed to the government by the Secretary of Board of School Commissioners for the city of Halifax Grammar School.

Mr. Annand presented a petition from Jedore asking such an alteration of the Education Act as to substitute assessment for voluntary subscription.

Also, two petitions from Waverly.

Hon. Mr. Shannon presented a petition from St. Margaret's Bay on the subject of education, asking the substitution of assessment for voluntary subscription.

Coal Mining Leases.—Hon. Atty General said he wished to present a petition from Colonel Sinclair, in relation to a subject of great importance. The petition, he said, detailed several circumstances which would bring to the notice of the House the fact that there was a provision in all the coal-mining leases for their termination in the year 1886, and the injurious operation of this provision in preventing the investment of British capital in our mines. The petitioner had been engaged in mining operations near Sydney, Cape Breton, and had made arrangements for obtaining the necessary capital in England; all the preliminaries had been settled, but when the matter was referred to solicitors for their investigation, they reported that the time was so short that they could not advise the investment.

Mr. Archibald said that the matter was one of very great consequence. The first difficulty to be encountered would be the fact that there could be no extension of the leases without an extension of those held by the General Mining Association.

Hon. Prov. Sec. said it was a subject of immense magnitude, and it was clearly the policy of the legislature to do all in its power to aid in the development of the country's resources. He confessed that when the correspondence was first submitted to his notice his feelings had been against the application, but on a careful review he had come to feel that it should receive a careful consideration from the house. It was well known that in England nothing was talked of but a ninety-nine years lease, and therefore when negotiations came to be opened with capitalists for an investment in a twenty years lease, two or three years of which would be required to organize and make the preliminary arrangements, leaving but fourteen or fifteen years to run, it was natural they should shrink back.

Mr. Archibald said the best interests of our mining trade, he thought, were concerned in American capital, and speculators in the United States had this advantage that their country afforded a market for the coal they raised. He suggested that instead of discussing the question in the manner proposed, the house go into committee of the whole on the present state of the Province.

Hon. Atty. General acquiesced in the proposition and promised to bring forward a resolution on the following day.

Mr. Tobin said it was necessary to deal with the question in a liberal spirit;—capital might be advantageously obtained in England, he thought, for mining undertakings, but England was not our market, and the United States must be looked to for the consumption.

WEDNESDAY, March 7th.

Four petitions were presented by Mr. Bourinot, two by Mr. Locke, four by Mr. Townsend, and one each by Mr. Heffernan, Mr. Cowie and Mr. Jas. Fraser, and two each by Mr. Hebb and Mr. Allison.

Mr. Donald Fraser presented a petition from merchants, shipowners, and others, of Pictou and New Glasgow, on the subject of the laws relating to pilots, signed by 100 persons, 50 of whom were shipowners, and including the directors of three Insurance Companies.

Mr. Miller said that in 1864, the existing law was passed by an overwhelming majority, and in 1865 it was retained by a vote of 33 to 12, and that more than a thousand signatures could be obtained to a contrary petition throughout the country. There were 360 or 400 shipowners opposed to the alteration in his county alone.

Mr. Archibald said that his own judgment had gone a long way with the hon. member for Richmond last year, but his views were changed to a great extent by facts which had come to his knowledge since.

Mr. D. Fraser obtained leave to bring in a Bill, in accordance with the prayer of the petition.

Petitions were presented by Mr. Hill and Mr. S. McDonnell, one of which had 455 signatures on the subject of Confederation.

Mr. Annand brought to the notice of the House a paragraph in the organ of the government, the Colonist, which he thought required an explanation, alluding to a certain meeting recently held at Cornwall, C. W. known to be represented by John Sanfield Macdonald, a late Premier of Canada, as follows:—

FROM CANADA.—Cornwall, Canada, March 2.—At a public demonstration and dinner to the members of the Government last night, speeches were made by Galt, Howland, Macdonald and Cartier. Macdonald asserted that the Confederation of the Province was now certain to take place in a few weeks. He asked the government whether they had any intima-

tion on the subject which might give the House and country to understand what was meant by the significant remarks of the Canadian statesman. He would also like to know whether the government were prepared to state if Confederation was to take place without consulting the House or without being referred to the people of this country.

Hon. Prov. Sec'y said he thought it rather a curious course to ask for an explanation of speeches made at a public dinner in another province. The hon. gentleman must certainly be attempting a joke at the expense of the administration when he propounded such a question, and asked them to give an explicit answer. As respects the position of the question of Confederation, it was almost unnecessary to say much to the House. As every gentleman was aware, it had not at any time been brought forward as a Government measure. Inasmuch as the Government had obtained the services and co-operation of leading gentlemen of the Opposition, they could not bring forward the subject in a party aspect. He had no hesitation in saying that whilst he believed that the scheme of Union as devised at Quebec was of vast and vital importance to British North America—and to no portion of it more than to Nova Scotia—yet, under existing circumstances, he considered that the question was in that condition that it could not be dealt with practically. It was obvious that whilst New Brunswick assumed such an attitude, Nova Scotia, however favorable to Union, could not stir in the matter. When the Legislature was called together on the present occasion, the circumstances that existed last year still continued, and it would be altogether futile for Nova Scotia to move at present. Should the time come when the question could be taken up, not as a hypothetical measure, but in a definite, practical shape, it would be quite time enough for the Government to declare their policy. He had never shrunk from expressing his opinions fully and explicitly whenever this great question had come up. He could not understand the position of the hon. member for East Halifax, who declared himself opposed to the scheme of Union, and yet at the same time exhibited such a strong anxiety to bring the question to the notice of the House.

Mr. S. Campbell said that the hon. Provincial Secretary had exercised some ingenuity in asserting that the statement in question was an after-dinner speech, and that therefore, there was no reliance to be placed upon it. He could not understand the argument of the Provincial Secretary in respect to New Brunswick. What had that Province to do with Nova Scotia? We were able to attend to our own affairs, independent of the action of any other Colony, the Provincial Secretary had not given an answer to the question put to him by the hon. member for East Halifax, namely—Whether it was the intention of the Government to force the measure upon the House and country, without an appeal to the people?

Hon. Prov. Secretary said he was glad that the hon. member for Guysboro had called his attention to a question which he had forgotten to answer. He would without hesitation say that the Government would not be a party to any action outside of the Legislature that would interfere with the constitution of the country.

Mr. Annand asked the Provincial Secretary to explain the fact, that he had not carried out the pledge he had made to his colleagues at Quebec—that he would submit this question to the House and country. He thought that the Provincial Secretary was shirking the question when he should deal with it manfully—be prepared to stand or fall upon it.

Hon. Attorney General said it was difficult to understand how the hon. member for Guysboro could show the House that this Province might stir in the matter of union independent of the action of New Brunswick. A glance at the map, and the respective geographical positions of the Provinces of British North America, would be a sufficient answer to any reasonable man. If New Brunswick erected a barrier between Nova Scotia and Canada, we had to wait until she decided to take it down. It was somewhat amusing to hear the member for East Halifax complain that the delegates had not carried out the pledges made at Quebec. If any pledges had been violated the hon. member surely was not the proper party to complain. That hon. gentleman's policy should be to say nothing as long as he saw the Government were not moving in respect to a measure to which he professed so much hostility. No doubt the gentlemen to whom such pledges were stated to have been made, perfectly understood the position of this Province—that as long as New Brunswick opposed the scheme, it was impracticable. The question of union was one concerning the whole people of Nova Scotia, and could not be treated in a party aspect. The government had no policy on the subject, and could not come to any decision upon it until the necessity for action arose.

Mr. C. J. Campbell presented eight petitions. Mr. S. MacDonnell two, and Hon. Mr. Shannon two.

Mr. S. MacDonnell introduced an act to incorporate the Strait of Canso Marine Railway Company.

Mr. Pryor introduced a bill to incorporate the Merigomish Coal-Mining Company; also presented a petition from J. Kirby and ninety others, praying for the substitution of assessment instead of voluntary subscription for the support of schools.

Mr. Longley presented one petition, and Mr. Balcarrone one.

Hospital for Insane.—Hon. Prov. Sec'y laid on the table the annual report of the Medical Superintendent of the Hospital for the Insane. He stated that the number of admissions had been forty-six, or the same as in the previous year. The applications have been far beyond

the power to receive. Fifty were discharged, of whom not less than thirty-eight were restored. The centre building and north wing are under contract, and the work is being vigorously forwarded. Accommodation will be given for ninety additional patients. The necessity for enlargement was universally acknowledged. The present average for provisions is \$55.04 per annum per patient. The statistics compare favorably with the best of these institutions.

Hon. Prov. Sec laid on the table a copy of correspondence relative to foreign trade.

The Penitentiary.—Mr. Hill called attention to a great necessity that existed for a change in the management of the Provincial Penitentiary. The want of a system of classification and other improvements, was obvious to any one who visited that institution.

Hon. Pro. Secretary said that the condition of the Penitentiary had been very different from what could be desired. A committee of the Executive Council, consisting of the Hon. Solicitor General and Hon. Mr. Shannon, had been engaged in examining into the condition of the institution, removing some abuses that had existed, and preparing rules for its management. As for the silence system and the system of classification, the character of the building and the absence of adequate provision, rendered their adoption impracticable. The attention of the Government had been called also to the deficiency in the supply of water. An engineer had been sent down, and measures had been taken which, it was hoped, would remedy the evil. The number of inmates had been largely increased by prisoners being sent there by the military authorities and by the civic courts, and while a great deal of improvement had been recommended and had been carried out, very great, and indeed insurmountable difficulties existed to the operation of any such system as that proposed last year. He only felt surprised that so large a number of men of such a character could be kept in control so well by the present number of attendants. The present Superintendent had done, all in his power, and had given great satisfaction to the prisoners by the increased rigor of his discipline. He was not sorry that it had been brought to the notice of the house.

Hon. Mr. Shannon, as one of the Executive Committee said that there was no one thing in which more earnest endeavors at improvement had been made than in this, the building had not been constructed with a view to the arrangements which the modern system required. The prisoners had been accustomed to the privilege of conversation during certain hours of recreation, and the attempt to enforce the new regulation almost created a mutiny. A code of regulations embodying all the changes that could at present be effected, had been adopted, and it was at the hazard of rebellion that they had been put in force.

Mr. Parker regretted that a proper code of rules had not been prepared before. If the recommendations of last year had been carried he thought the result would have been different and the confusion would have been lessened. He did not see why the inmates could not be prevented conversing as they did. He had visited a penitentiary in a neighboring province, and there he found the men neat and clean and orderly, the machine shops were in the most creditable condition, and not a word was spoken by any of the prisoners, either in working, in marching, or in eating. He hoped the time would soon come when a change would be carried out.

Mr. Robertson said he had declined signing the report, believing that some of its recommendations could not be carried out. There was one great requisite, however, which was the separation of a dozen or more of the worst characters from association with the others; the effect of the present confusion in this respect was that the inmates came out more perfected in crime than when they were sent there. All the desired changes could not be carried out unless another building were erected, and he thought it high time that the province had a proper penitentiary.

Petitions were presented by Mr. McLellan, Mr. Archibald and the Attorney General.

THURSDAY, March 8th.

Petitions were presented by Mr. Heffernan, Mr. Balcarrone and Mr. Colin Campbell.

Mr. Bourinot introduced a bill to incorporate the Washington Wharf and Harbour Company.

Lunenburg Lutheran Church.—Mr. Jost presented a petition from the Elders and Trustees of the Evangelical Lutheran Church at Lunenburg, asking an amendment of the act incorporating them, and requested leave to bring in a bill in accordance with the prayer.

Mr. Tobin said that the original act authorized the sale of certain church property which had been sold, and the trustees asked now further power to sell other lands without the consent of the congregation. He read a letter from the late clergyman of the church, stating that the trustees had dismissed him without paying him the arrears of his salary, for which he was obliged to bring an action, that, contrary to the expressed wishes of the congregation, the trustees defended the suit, and having failed in it, and having involved themselves in expense, they now desired to sell the church property, in order to reimburse themselves. He requested that the petition lie on the table for the present, a counter one being in circulation.

Hon. Prov. Secretary thought the usual course of allowing the bill to be introduced should be pursued.

Mr. Jost said that the trustees only desired to be indemnified for a sum paid to the minister.

Mr. Kauback urged the adoption of the usual course.

Hon. Atty. Gen. contended that the bill should

be introduced, stating that he had never known this courtesy refused to a member making the request.

Mr. Archibald replied that the very urgency and hot haste with which the matter was pressed indicated, a doubt as to the consideration to which it was entitled. One very strong circumstance, he said, that the letter stated, was, that those trustees had been evicted and others installed in their places.

Mr. Jost said the clergyman referred to had sued the trustees for £450 and had compromised for £200 so that by resisting the claim the congregation had been largely benefited.

Hon. Prov. Sec. said he had been in the house for ten years, and had never before seen a motion for the first reading of a bill thus opposed. He trusted the gentleman introducing the matter would press his motion and that motion would receive his support without his being in any way committed to the principle of the measure.

Mr. Jost said that if the adoption of his motion would have the effect of shutting out the opponents of the bill, he would not press it. The introduction of such a bill was the course advised by the Chief Justice in trying the cause.

Mr. Tobin's amendment was negatived, 20 voting for it, and 22 against it. Mr. Jost's motion passed, and the bill was introduced and read a first time.

Dr. Hamilton presented a petition from Canning.

Mr. Townsend presented two. Mr. Annand introduced a bill to authorize an assessment in Dartmouth for a sum necessary to obtain a plan. Also a petition on the subject of Education.

Mr. Tobin presented three petitions. Mr. Locke introduced a bill to amend Chap. 128 of the Revised Statutes, Of the Jurisdiction of Justices of the Peace in Civil Cases.

Mr. Lawrence presented eight petitions from Hants County on the subject of Confederation. Also one on the subject of Education.

Mr. Blanchard one for an alteration of the Education Law.

Mr. Robicheau one for a lighthouse on Cape St. Marys.

Hon. Provincial Secretary, from the joint committee of both houses, reported an address to Her Majesty the Queen on the subject of the protection of the fisheries.

Mr. Parker presented a petition relative to fisheries.

Mr. Bill one for aid to improve a wharf at Canning. Also one for the opening of a road.

Mr. Tobin thought it absurd to make application to the government for such purposes.

Mr. Bill referred to the amount of revenue derived from the traffic on the Bay Shore. On one of these wharves 150,000 cords of wood had been shipped during the year.

Hon. Prov. Secretary laid on the table a return shewing the railway damages allotted to persons in Hants Country.

Hon. Prov. Secretary laid on the table the returns of the various Colleges of the Province for the past year.

Hon. Atty. General laid on the table the report of the Adjutant General of Militia for the past year and also a numerical statement of the Militia.

Mr. Kauback introduced a bill to repeal Chap. 52 of Acts of 1863—entitled an Act concerning the Township of Chester, &c.

Hon. Prov. Secretary, from the joint committee in reference to the Protection of the Fisheries reported an address to the Lieut. Governor requesting that the address to her Majesty be forwarded. Adopted.

Mr. Col'n Campbell presented a petition from Westport for aid in building a bridge.

Mr. Annand presented one from East Halifax on the subject of Education.

Also—A petition from Chester against Confederation.

FRIDAY, March 9th.

Mr. Bourinot presented six petitions.

Hon. Prov. Sec. laid on the table a communication to the Government from the School Commissioners of the City of Halifax, proposing certain alterations in the Education Law.

Hon. Mr. McFarlane presented a petition for the incorporation of Wallace Lodge of Good Templars.

Mr. Donkin presented two petitions.

Mr. Locke presented a petition from 600 residents of Digby and Shelburne counties for the construction of a line of road to connect these two Counties.

Mr. Hill presented a petition for a certain Indian Reserve be granted as Crown Lands.

Mr. J. Campbell one from Port Medway for a light house.

Mr. Robertson two for Barrington to be a port of registry.

Mr. Ray one from Mr. G. R. Grassie.

Mr. Tobin one from 255 of the congregation of the German Evangelical Lutheran Church of Lunenburg against the bill introduced yesterday by Mr. Jost.

Mr. D. Fraser one from Pictou for a grant to build a hospital.

Hon. Atty. Gen laid on the table for information of members a copy of the bill introduced by the Committee of Ways and Means into the United States House of Representatives containing the duties proposed to be levied on articles heretofore included in the free list.

Several Harbor and Mining Bills were read a second time.

Hon. Prov. Sec. by command laid on the table of the House copies of correspondence relating to the Union of the Colonies.

Hon. Prov. Sec laid on the table plans and specifications of bridges, and returns of engineers, inspectors, &c., on the Pictou Railway.

Mr. Blanchard introduced a bill to incorporate the Nova Scotia Slate Company.