# THE EXAMINER:

## A Weekly Journal of Politics, Literature, and News.

"This is true Liberty, when Freeborn Men, having to advise the Public, may speak free."---Euripides.

Vol. XII. Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Monday, April 7, 1862. New Series.---No. 13.


## Colonial Parliament.

### HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

SUMMARY.

March 3.

The following petitions were presented:—By Mr. Montgomery, from William McKay, Lot 21, setting forth his inability from ill health to maintain himself, and praying relief; also from inhabitants of Junction Road, Lot 67, praying for a grant to repair two bridges. By Mr. J. Yeo, from inhabitants of Rix's settlement, Lot 7, praying for a grant to erect a bridge; from inhabitants of Lots 12, 13, 14 and 15; from inhabitants of Indian point—both praying aid to improve their road communications; also from inhabitants of Lots 10, 11, &c., praying a grant to complete the bridge across Lot 10 river. By Hon. Mr. Perry, from Charles S. Hunt, Deputy Sheriff, Prince County, praying to be reimbursed certain sums of money disbursed by him, and to be remunerated for certain services performed by him in that capacity. All 7 preceding petitions laid on the table.

Hon. Mr. Haviland, a member of the Government, presented to the House the following documents:—Impost and Excise accounts for the Port of Charlottetown, and Impost and Light Duty accounts for the different outports of P. E. Island; Road Correspondent's accounts of the expenditure on roads, bridges and wharfs for the last year; and Road Commissioners' Returns of Statute Labour. Said documents laid on the table.

Hon. Mr. Haviland likewise presented to the House the Blue Book for 1860. Laid on the table.

The Bill for the naturalization of Aliens was read a second time, and committed. Hon. Mr. Haviland briefly explained the object of the Bill. So many applications had been made for Bills of this kind, that he thought it was better to have a general law. It would save expense, and prevent the Statute Book from being filled up with private Acts. The Bill was agreed to with an amendment.

Hon. Mr. Whelan presented a petition from Thomas Hickey, Land Surveyor, praying payment of a balance for services performed in surveys on public lands on the Worrell estate. Referred to Special Committee. Also a petition of Patrick Connelly, praying compensation for building a bridge in 1861.

Hon. Mr. Longworth presented a petition of inhabitants of Lot 65, praying a grant to repair a road, and repair two bridges on the Old Tryon Road.

Hon. Mr. Thornton obtained leave of absence until Thursday next. Adjourned.

TUESDAY, March 4.

Tte following petitions were presented:—

By Mr. Cooper—from Andrew Campbell and others, Lot 46, for compensation for damage to farm, caused by road. From Michael McCulla and others, Lot 46, for grant to open a road. From inhabitants of Greenvale, Mill River and vicinity, for grant to improve road. Laid on the table.

By Hon. Mr. Perry—from inhabitants of Nail Pond, Lot 1, and vicinity, for opening a road. Referred to Special Committee on new road petitions.

By Mr. John Yeo—from inhabitants of Township 8 and 9, to establish a Post Office at or near the residence of James H. Moore. Referred to Special Committee on new post offices.

Hon. Col. Gray, by command, submitted the following copy of a despatch:—

"DOWNING STREET, May 30, 1861.

"SIR—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch, No. 35, of the 29th of April last, enclosing a joint address of condolence to the Queen from the Legislative Council and House of Assembly of Prince Edward Island, on the death of Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent.

"I have laid the Address before the Queen, and I am commanded to express Her Majesty's sense of the feelings of loyalty and of sympathy by which it has been dictated.

"I have the honor to be, Sir, &c. &c.

"NEWCASTLE."

"Lieut. Governor Dundas, &c. &c."

Hon. Col. Gray also presented copies of several other despatches, which were made the order of the day for Monday next.

Hon. Mr. Haviland introduced an Act in amendment of that organizing the Volunteer Force.

WEDNESDAY, March 5.

The following petitions were presented to the House:—

By Hon. Mr. Yeo—A petition of divers inhabitants of Townships Nos. 17 and 15.

By Hon. Mr. Perry—A petition of divers inhabitants of Egmont Bay and vicinity.

By Mr Owen—A petition of divers inhabitants of Townships Nos. 52 and 53, and vicinity. A petition of divers inhabitants of Sparrow's Road, Georgetown and vicinity.

By Mr. Sutherland—A petition of Callaghan Walsh and others. A petition of John McLachlan and others. All praying aid to improve their road communications.

By Mr. Conroy—A petition of Alexander McDonald, for expenses defrayed by him in the repairs and hire of a scow, as also for the use of his own scow at Louis's Ferry, Mill River, Township No. 5.

By Hon. Mr. Hensley—A petition of Stephen Rose, Peter Campbell and others, North Lake and vicinity, Lot 47, for a grant as compensation for rebuilding a bridge.

By Mr. Owen—A petition of Hugh McPhee and others, inhabitants of Grand River, Townships Nos. 54 and 55, for a grant to build a bridge on Narrow's Creek, between said Township. A petition of divers inhabitants of Grand River, South Side, Township Nos. 54 and 55, for a grant to erect a wharf at the end of the chapel road.

By Hon. Mr. McAulay—A petition of divers residents of Georgetown, Brudenell River and other settlements, for a grant to extend the wharf north side of Brudenell River. Laid on the table.

Hon. Col. Gray, by command, presented copy of Despatch on the subject of the Elective Legislative Council Bill. Made order of the day for 18th instant.

Hon. Mr. Perry, Hon. Mr. Kelly, Mr. Davies, Hon. Mr. Pope and Hon. Mr. McAulay, were appointed Committee on school petitions.

A petition of John O. Arseneaux, Egmont Bay, was presented by Hon. Mr. Perry, praying for a grant of ten pounds, being deficiency of salary claimed by him. Referred to the above Committee.

A petition of Michael Fitzgerald, Township No. 14, was presented by Hon. Mr. Perry, praying for bounty on destruction of two bears. After a short conversation the petition was withdrawn on motion of Mr. Beer.

A petition of the Sons of Temperance of this Island was presented by Hon. Mr. Hensley, for a renewal of their Act of Incorporation. Referred to Committee on expiring laws.

A petition of Allan McDonald and others, of St. Margaret's, was presented by Hon. Mr. Hensley, against the removal of the post office of that district. Referred to post office Committee.

A petition of Abercrombie Willock was presented by Mr. Howat, detailing alleged grievances arising from the Land Question. Laid on the table.

Hon. Mr. Haviland, by command, presented the following documents:—

Accounts and Returns of the Commissioner of Public Lands for the year ending 31st January, 1862.

The Public Accounts as arranged and classified by the Auditors for the financial year ending 31st January, 1862.

The Estimates of the Expenditure of the Government for the current year.

Accounts and Returns of Fees, and account of suits in various Courts of Commissioners for the recovery of Small Debts, for the year 1861, in pursuance of the Act 23d Vic., Cap. 16.

Hon. Mr. Longworth had leave to introduce a Bill to authorise grants of the shores of this Island. Read a first time.

An Act for the naturalization of Aliens read a third time and passed.

Hon. Mr. Haviland moved the second reading of the Bill, in amendment of the Act organizing the Volunteer force; and, in doing so, stated that there were two objections to the Bill passed last session It did not regulate the relative rank between officers of the militia and those of the volunteer force. It was easy to obviate this objection by leaving the matter subject to the Queen's Regulations. The other objection was that the period specified for drill was too short, especially for Cavalry. Committed.

The first clause passed, and the second having been read,

Hon. Mr. Coles thought that 8 days' drill in six months was too much.

Hon. Mr. Haviland—The Duke of Newcastle thought otherwise.

Hon. Mr. Coles referred to the rumored dissatisfaction at recent appointments to the Volunteers, which would not be experienced if the parties had the privilege of electing their own officers. Under the old Act which was a transcript of one passed in the reign of Geo. the Third, the militia were liable to be turned out on all occasions, at present they were not, except in case of invasion. He could see no reason why there should be any distinction between the militia and volunteers. The militia ranked higher than the volunteers. He thought, however, that it was better to bring them under the operations of the Queen's Regulations. Bill agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Haviland presented the accounts and returns of the commissioner of public lands for the last year, and the classified public accounts for the same period, the estimates for the current year, and, also, return of fees and number of suits from the several small Debt Courts for 1861.

In reply to a question of the Hon. Mr. Coles, Hon. Col. Gray informed the House, that the last mail from England had brought out a copy of the Award and Report of the Land Commissioners, accompanied by a despatch on the subject from the Colonial Minister. But one copy of the Award had been received, and that was in print. It was a lengthy document, and would be submitted, with the despatch as soon as it should be received from the Queen's printer, to whom it had been handed, immediately on its receipt, in order that members might be furnished with copies.

THURSDAY, March 6th.

The following petitions were presented—

By Hon. Mr. Wightman, from inhabitants of Township number 61, and from inhabitants of Township Nos. 61 and 62.

By Hon. Mr. Kelly, from inhabitants of Townships Nos. 35 and 36, all praying aid to improve road communications.

By Hon. Mr. Thornton, from Launching Place and vicinity, for grant to repair wharf.

By Hon. Mr. McAulay, from inhabitants of Georgetown, for a grant of £100 towards completing School house. Laid on table.

By Hon. Mr. Wightman, a petition of inhabitants of Township Nos. 59 and 61, for opening a road from Sturgeon to Widow Ross's on Whim Road, and extending to St. Mary's Road, Lot 61.

By Hon. Mr. Kelly, from Hugh and Angus Campbell, Township No. 35, against the opening of certain road prayed for. Referred to committee on new roads.

Supply made order of the day for to-morrow.

Hon. Mr. Kelly presented a petition from trustees of Marshfield school, St. Peter's Road, for remuneration to Alex. McEachern, for his services as teacher, for 3 months and 10 days, he not having been licensed as required by law. Withdrawn, as being against rule of the House.

Hon. Mr. Haviland presented copy of a communication received by the Lieut. Governor from Commander Hancock acting in charge of St. Lawrence survey, on the subject of the inadequate buoyage of Charlottetown Harbor, and containing suggestions of improvement.

Hon. Mr Longworth reported from the committee on expiring laws.

The House went into Committee on the report. Mr. Sinclair, chairman.

The Act for regulating the standard weight of grain and pulse, being the first on the list of expiring Acts, as reported by the committee, the petitions relative to it, praying a reduction in the standard, were referred to the committee.

Hon. Mr. LONGWORTH, referring to the petitions, could not bring his mind to the opinion that any good would result to the farmers from the reduction asked for. If, as was requested, the standard for oats were reduced from 36 to 33 lbs. per bushel, the price would decline proportionately. It would be futile to think otherwise. The standard weight had been, for a long period, fixed at 36 lbs. and any change would only lead to confusion, without benefitting either buyer or seller. He was opposed to the adoption of the old plan of weighing by beam and scale, as a retrogade movement, when a better mode had been introduced. The subject was one more particularly within the cognizance of other members, who were in the habit of purchasing grain, but he did not think the House should interfere by arbitrary legislation, unless frauds in the operation of the present mode of weighing were proved to have been committed. If the Fairbanks' scales, mentioned in some of the petitions, were liable to get out of order, a question might arise for their consideration.

Mr. OWEN agreed that no good would result from a reduction of the standard. Last year, although oats generally were light, they would, if properly cleaned, weigh over 36 lbs The merchants would of course reduce the price in proportion to the reduction of the standard weight.

Hon. Mr. YEO—The reduction would be of no benefit to the farmers. He had bought large quantities of oats at the weight of 36 lbs and had got many of them, when properly cleaned, weighing 41 lbs. In England the standard was 45lbs. If oats were of merchantable quality and properly cleaned, no object would be gained by reducing the standard. On the contrary, it would operate injuriously to the country by depreciating the character of its grain abroad.

Hon. Mr. THORTON was opposed to any alteration in the present scale. The reduction asked would only have the effect of inducing careless farming — rendering a farmer indifferent to the quality of seed. Any farmer conducting his business properly could raise oats weighing 36 lbs to the bushel. Oats of his own raising weighed, generally, 37 or 38 lbs, and he had raised them of the weight of 40 lbs.

Hon. the SPEAKER approved of the system of selling by weight, and coincided in the opinion that lowering the standard would induce farmers to bring an inferior and worse cleaned article to market.

Mr. CONROY opposed the alteration. The people were accustomed to recognise 36 lbs as the standard. It would make but little difference if it were reduced to 33lbs, as the price would fall in proportion.

Hon. Mr. LAIRD was of the same opinion. Oats properly cleaned would weigh, generally, more than 36lbs. He was in favor of selling by measure as well as by weight, for it might be that a struck bushel of oats would weigh 40lbs, and would consequently be worth more than one which weighed only 36

Mr. MONTGOMERY would oppose any alteration. His own experience satisfied him that oats properly cleaned would weigh 36lbs, and a reduction in the standard of weight would depreciate the character of Island raised grain.

Hon Mr. PERRY thought that the weight would regulate the price, and *vice versa*, and that the law should be amended by imposing a penalty on a party purchasing oats weighing more than the standard, without allowing for the difference, unless in cases where special bargains had been made.

Mr. DAVIES—The standard ought not to be too low. If it were reduced to 33lbs, merchants would reduce the price in the same ratio. But a greater objection would be found in the depreciation of the character of our grain in foreign markets. In London, oats were sold by the Imperial bushel which exceeded the Winchester by 3 per cent. The best oats in the London market were worth 3s 6d per bushel, which was a shilling more than Island oats would bring. If any alteration were made in the standard, he would prefer raising to lowering it. The present standard of 36lbs represented, he thought, the fair average weight of our oats. He had shipped some cargoes which averaged about 35½ lbs. but others had exceeded 36. In the United States the standard weight of oats was 32lbs, and the quality of their grain was very inferior. It frequently did not weigh even 30lbs. His experience had taught him that they who shipped grain did not make money. A shipowner might make a reasonable freight, but where a party chartered a vessel, as was the general mode, he would, in a majority of cases, lose money. The reduction from 36 to 33lbs, would not benefit the petitioners, for they need not expect to receive as much for 33 as for 36 lbs. As to Fairbanks' scales, they were liable to get out of order. In his own business he had found it a good plan to have a set of stamped weights by the side of his scales, by which he could at any time test their accuracy. The adoption of this plan would have a good effect in the country, as it would satisfy both seller and buyer. As to Charlottetown, the regulation of the matter might be left to the City authorities.

Mr. HOWAT.—It appeared that the petitioners had but a small chance of success. Perhaps the reduction they asked was too great, but he did not agree with those who opposed any reduction at all. He had received a letter from an influential farmer at Bedeque, stating that the farmers in that district generally considered 36lbs. for oats and 48lbs. for barley, as too high an average The letter referred to the standard for those articles in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. He was not aware what the standard weight in those Provinces was, but he certainly considered that 36lbs. exceeded the average weight per bushel of Island oats, and that 48lbs. was too high an average for barley. A farmer might sell grain of these weights, by selecting for market the best of his produce, and leaving the rest of it at home. If they intended to pass a law which should fix the weight per bushel, it would not necessarily follow that the stated number of pounds would fill a bushel. As to what had been said about the character of Island grain being injured if the law should be altered, last year, when it was sold by weight, the quality was inferior to that of previous years when it was sold by measure. Besides, under the latter system, the purchaser saw what was the quality of the article he was buying, which he did not when he purchased by weight. He was disposed to meet the views of the farmers to a certain extent, and would therefore propose that the standard weight for oats be 35lbs. and for barley 46lbs.

Hon. Mr. WIGHTMAN had taken oats last year at the weight of 34lbs. per bushel, while others required 36lbs. It was necessary that some specific weight should be established by law. A great difference existed between different places, in reference to this subject. In Halifax oats were sold by measure; in Boston by weight of 32lbs. per bushel; in Bermuda it was required that the bushel of oats should weigh 36lbs. He did not consider that any reduction of our standard would alter the relative positions of buyer or seller, for the latter would not get the same price for grain which fell short of the standard as he would for that which reached it, while he would receive the rateable advance on that which exceeded it. He was aware that dissatisfaction existed with reference to Fairbank's Scales; the people were anxious that public weighing scales should be established at the different shipping places. He approved of the practise adopted by Mr. Davies, of having stamped weights to test the accuracy of the platform scales. He would not reduce the standard of barley, which was the same in Halifax as here; but he would, in deference to the wishes of his constituents, reduce that of oats to 34lbs.

Mr. OWEN was at a loss to know what benefit would result from reducing the standard to 34lbs. The party purchasing could contract for whatever weight he chose. The reduction would operate as a positive injury to all good famers, for it would remove any inducement to their having their oats properly cleaned. No difficulty need arise from the use of Fairbank's scales, for a public assayer could always test their correctness; and if they should be, in any instance, found to be inaccurate, a fine could be imposed upon the owner of them.

Mr. COOPER was in favor of the prayer of the petitions. The people in his neighborhood were in favor of a lower standard; where there was but little competition the merchants had the opportunity of taking the advantage of the producer. He did not doubt that the standard weight could be obtained by good farmers. But on the whole he thought it better to lower the standard for grain, and encourage agriculture by other means.

Mr. BEER opposed the alteration, as calculated to damage the character of Island produce abroad, and it could be productive of no benefit to the farmers, who would have to take a price proportioned to the weight of their grain. As to the idea which seemed to have suggested the petitions, namely, that the buyers of grain were not doing them justice, a reference to the history of those who, for the last 20 years, had been in the habit of purchasing grain for exportation would show that the majority of them had been nearly ruined by the business. The farmers had received the benefit of the trade, not they who had purchased their produce. He would not advocate anything having a tendency to injure the farmers, but injury would result to them from lowering the standard weight of grain, for the character of their produce would be depreciated by the reduction.

Hon. Mr. KELLY—The general feeling in the country was that the standard was too high. He was in favor of reducing it, in accordance with the wishes of the people.

Hon Mr. POPE was opposed to the proposed reduction, as conferring no benefit on the farmers; it would have a contrary effect. Having been in the habit of purchasing large quantities of grain, he would give his opinion that the lower the recognised standard weight, the lower would be its character abroad, and the demand for it would be proportionately diminished. The consequence would be that shippers would retire from the trade in disgust, finding it to be unprofitable. Well cleaned oats would exceed 36 lbs. to the bushel. He had had shipped cargoes averaging 38 lbs. If the standard were reduced, dirt and rubbish would be mixed up with the grain, and the general character of our produce would be depreciated; besides, the price would be regulated by the weight, for a merchant making his calculations for a speculation in oats, at 36lbs per bushel, would reduce or increase the price proportionately to the excess or deficiency of weight. The farmers thought the standard weight too high, because last year, oats were generally light. He was as anxious as any to benefit the farmers, but in justice to them and the other classes of society in the Island, he would oppose the reduction of the standard. He considered 36lbs a fair average for oats, although he had known them to weigh as much as 41lbs. With respect to barley, he was not disposed to alter the present standard, for, although the four rowed kind might not always weigh 48lbs per bushel, the two rowed, which was the more generally cultivated, would. In England the standrd for barley was 60lbs to the bushel.

Mr. DOYLE could see no benefit to the farmers from the reduction of the standard, for the merchants would pay according to weight. It might be that 35lbs would be a fair average for oats, but the difference being but that of 1lb in a bushel was so trifling that it was not worth while to alter the present standard. Wheat was generally sold at the weight of 58 or 59lbs per bushel. He knew instances where merchants had taken it at the weight of 60lbs. At present there was no law to fine a party who took advantage of a poor man ignorant of his rights. A poor man in debt to a merchant must sell his produce on whatever terms the latter may think fit to allow him. He thought 48lbs too high a standard for barley. The dissatisfaction with Fairbanks' scales arose from the people of the country not being acquainted with them. The beam and scale formerly in use gave general satisfaction because the people were accustomed to them.

Hon. Mr. YEO—If the oats were properly cleaned there would be no occasion for complaint of the standard weight as being too high; and the same observation would apply to barley. As to the adoption of the beam and scales, in lieu of the platform scales at present in general use, it would cause a great deal of inconvenience and expense to introduce them, to supersede the others. He had bought thousands of bushels of grain by Fairbank's scales, and had heard no complaints of them.

Hon. Mr. PERRY thought the House had better renew the Act. The reduction proposed by Mr. Howat, was so trifling that no practical effect would result from it; but even if it were otherwise the price would fluctuate in proportion to the weight of the grain.

Mr. CONROY—There should be a penalty imposed on parties purchasing at a weight beyond that fixed by law. He knew of cases where wheat, the standard weight of which was 58lbs, had been taken at 60lbs.

Mr. HOWAT would ask, if the reduction of the standard would have the effect attributed to it of lowering the character of the grain, would the raising of that for oats to 50lbs per bushel, elevate it?

Mr. DAVIES—Yes, it would induce the farmers to be more particular and careful.

Hon. Mr. McAULAY—The principal object of any legislation on this subject, should be the creation of a demand for our produce; that demand having once been created, there would be no doubt as to the supply being furnished adequate to it. If a law passed, lowering the standard weight, which must be regarded as representing the average of Island grain, its character must necessarily be depreciated, and the demand for our produce, as an article of exportation, would diminish, or perhaps cease. The farmers would be injured by the establishment of a reduced standard as the price would be regulated by the weight. In Great Britain the standard was higher than with us, and we could not expect to equal the quality of grain raised there. If our grain trade was confined exclusively to the United States, there might be no objection to reducing the standard, but the proposed change would be injudicious, in view of the present state of our commercial relations

Hon. Mr. COLES—A reduction of the standard would induce an inferior quality of grain. The present standard was a fair one. Is was true that last year the oats were light. The farmers could not expect good crops unless their seed grain was of a reasonable weight. Years ago, when he commenced business, he bought oats by weight, and got quantities which weighed 40 lbs a bushel, while others, who bought by measure, got those of an inferior quality. The standard was then 38lbs. and it was afterwards reduced to 36. If the standard were lowered, merchants would not give as much as they would for grain of a superior quality. As the standard was fixed and generally known, it would be unwise to disturb it. It might be that four rowed barley would not average 48 lbs. per bushel, but the two rowed would reach 60 lbs. The difficulty about the scales could be easily obviated by making it incumbent on the assayers of weights and measures to test the scales at the several shipping places once a day.

Hon Mr. THORNTON moved that it was inexpedient to reduce the standard.

Mr. DOUSE said there was room for improvement in the relations both of buyer and seller. He had witnessed instances of gross fraud on the part of some sellers of grain. In one case large quantities of sand were put into the bags with the oats, and the fraud was not discovered until the sacks were being emptied into the hold of one of his vessels. Proper officers should be appointed, whose duty it should be to see justice done between buyer and seller. The latter is in many cases not conversant with figures and is consequently in doubt whether he has received his just rights. It would not be advisable to reduce the standard weight; as at present fixed, our Island grain had a high character in Mark Lane, and a reduction of the standard would depreciate it. If the farmers would pay more attention to the cleaning of their grain, there would be ample market for it.

Hon. Mr Longworth's resolution—to the effect that a Committee be appointed to bring in a bill to renew the old act—was carried.

Mr. Howat's resolution was lost—Messrs. Cooper, Kelly, Wightman and Howat only voting for it.

FRIDAY, March 14.

The order limiting the time for the reception of private petitions was extended until the rising of the House to-morrow, and the following were presented.

By Mr. Beer,—a petition of inhabitants of Little York, Lot 34; and a petition of inhabitants of St. Peter's Road,—both praying aid to improve road communication.

By Hon. Mr. Coles,—a petition of inhabitants of Lot 37; a petition of inhabitants of Covehead Road; a petition of inhabitants of Friston and Stanhope roads; a petition of inhabitants of Black River,—all praying aid for the service of roads and bridges. Also a petition of inhabitants of Lot 37, setting forth the decay of Mount Stewart bridge, and its dangerous state to travellers, and praying that it be examined by competent persons who may report to the House while in Session; a petition of inhabitants of Lots 34 and 35, praying a grant to extend the wharf at Appletree farm, and repair the road leading thereto. And a petition of Thomas A. Dougan, Constable, setting forth that in the execution of his duty as a constable to apprehend two persons, that he called on James Keefe, another Constable, by direction of a Justice of the Peace to aid him, who refused to do so; that upon his complaint of Keefe's refusal, a summons was issued by another Justice of the Peace against Keefe in his the petitioner's name, whereupon judgment was given in petitioner's favor; that subsequently, on appeal, such judgment was reversed, and the petitioner subjected to costs, amounting to £15 14s. 6d, and praying a grant as a reparation for the loss he sustained—petition referred to a Special Committee. Also a petition of Henry Fisher and others, praying for the opening of a road.

By Hon. Mr. Laird,—a petition of inhabitants of Loyalist road and others, praying that the said road be opened throughout.

By Mr. Davies,—a petition of Lucretia Pringle, Teacher, of the female department of the Normal School, praying an increase to her salary as such; and a petition of the trustees of Minor School District Darrynane, Lot 65, praying remuneration for an unlicensed teacher.

By Mr. McNeill,—a petition of said teacher, Emma Jane Richards, with a similar prayer.

By Mr. Montgomery,—a petition of Trustees and teacher of a School, Old Town Road, praying a grant for services of said teacher.

By Mr. Howat,—a petition of trustees of Back Settlement School, Tryon, praying a grant for services of an unlicensed teacher

By Hon. Col. Gray,—a petition of W. C. Bourke and H. P. Welsh, lesees of the Charlottetown ferry, praying a grant to compensate them for placing an additional steamer on the said ferry during 34 weeks last year. Also a petition of Catherine Matheson, Murray Harbour road, praying aid to support an imbecile child.

By Mr. Owen,—a petition of inhabitants of Lots 51, 52, New Perth and vicinity, praying that the standard weight of grain for the Island be 34 lbs. for oats, 45 lbs. for barley, and that at each port where large quantities of grain are exported, a proper person should be appointed to superintend the weighing of the same. Also a petition of inhabitants of Dundas; a petition of John Dogherty and others, Lot 52; and a petition of inhabitants of Lots 51 and 52, west of Morell River,—all praying aid for roads and bridges.

By Hon. Mr. Laird,—a petition of inhabitants of Rustico and adjacent settlements praying a grant in aid of subscription to erect a wharf, at the south side of Wheatley River.

By Hon. Mr. Montgomery,—A petition of inhabitants of Strathalbyn, Lot 67, praying a grant in aid of subscription towards building a Temperance Hall; a petition of inhabitants of Graham's Road, praying a grant to repair a bridge; and a petition of divers inhabitants of Old Town Road, praying a grant to repair that road.

Hon. Mr. Haviland, a member of the Executive Council, presented to the House a report of the Superintendent of Public Works, on the state of Mount Stewart Bridge, with an estimate of the probable cost of rebuilding the same.

The Bill for establishing the standard weight of grain and pulse, &c., was read a third time, and on a motion being made that it do now pass, Mr. McNeill moved in amendment that it pass this day three months. The motion of amendment was lost, 12 to 2, the yeas being Messrs. McNeill and Howat. The motion that the Bill do pass was then put and carried.

The Bill to continue the act relating to floating logs down streams, and the Act incorporating the Grand and Subordinate Divisions of the Sons of Temperance was read a third time and passed.

Hon. Col. Gray, a member of the Executive Council, presented to the House return of amounts paid and received on account of public lands from 28th December, 1854, to 31st January, 1862.

The following petitions were presented to the House:—

By Hon. Mr. Laird—A petition of George Hooper and others, praying the establishment of a Post Office about the junction of the New Glasgow Road with the Rustico Road.

By Mr. McNeill—A petition of divers inhabitants of Whim Road, &c., praying for a Post Office on that road; a petition of inhabitants of Sparrow's Road, Lot 66 and 51, and a petition of inhabitants of Brother's Road, Lot 66,—both praying for a Post Office at Edmond's on the main post road.

By Mr. Y. Yeo—A petition of the inhabitants of the Brae Settlement, Lot 9, praying for a post office.

By Hon. Mr. Whelan—A petition of inhabitants of Lot 56, praying a reduction in the present standard weight of grain to 46 lbs. per bushel for barley, and 34 lbs. per bushel for oats; a petition from Big Marsh Settlement; a petition from Lots 41 and 42; a petition of John Walsh and others; a petition of Patrick Connolly and others; a petition of Patrick Donnelly,—all praying aid for roads. Also, a petition of W. H. McEwen and others respecting a gate on the road to St. Peter's Harbour.

By Mr. Douse—A petition of Angus Nicholson and others, Orwell, praying that the standard weight of grain may be lowered; a petition of Thomas McPherson, Lot 57, praying compensation for extra work on China Point Wharf contract; a petition from Lot 62, praying a grant to repair the road from Woodville cross roads to the shore.

By Mr. J. Yeo—A petition from Lots 12 and 13; a petition from Lots 3, 4 and 7; a petition from Cascumpec,—relating to roads, bridges and wharfs.

By Hon. Mr. Haviland—A petition from Georgetown, praying a grant for the thorough repair of the wharf there; a petition from Dundas, relating to a wharf; a petition of Archibald McKinnon, late teacher Georgetown Royalty, praying a grant to compensate him for books, &c., burnt when schoolhouse of said district was consumed by fire; a petition from North River, &c., respecting inconvenience for want of an Inn at Marshead Corner, Lot 32; a petition of Archibald McRae, Point Prim, branch pilot, praying an amendment of the Act relating to pilots. Referred to a Special Committee.

By Mr. Douse—Petition of trustees of the Albion School, Lot 48, praying a grant of £5 towards discharging a debt for building said school.

A motion being made by Hon. Mr. Laird that the hon. member have leave to withdraw the petition, it was carried.

By Mr. J. Yeo—A petition of W. B. Dean and others, praying the establishment of a Small Debt Court at Campbellton, Lot 4.

Mr. Yeo moved that the said petition be referred to a Special Committee, which motion was carried, 8 to 6.

Adjourned for one hour.

MONDAY, March 17.

Mr. Owen presented a petition of John Crawford, setting forth that there remains due to him a balance of £24 19s. 6l. on his contract for work on Cardigan Bridge, for which he received an order from the Road Commissioner, for payment out of the subscriptions in aid of the erection of the said bridge; but that he (the petitioner) has no hope that the sum can be collected from that source, and praying the House to grant such sum and make such order as will afford the desired relief. Mr. Owen said that he had asked the Government the other day whether they had required the returns of the Small Debt Court at Georgetown to be made to them in conformity with the statute. His reason for asking this question was because the subscription list referred to in the petition had been given into the hands of the clerk of that Court to collect several of the sums subscribed, and he (Mr. O.) was desirous to know how much had been paid in this manner; but as no returns had been furnished from that Court, he was unable to ascertain. He presented the petition of the contractor, however, stating that a certain balance was due, and praying that it might be made good. He scarcely knew what motion to make in regard to the petition, whether that it be laid on the table or referred to a Special Committee.

Hon. Mr. LAIRD thought the general way in such cases was to leave the contractor to look to the subscribers for their respective amounts. The House should not be troubled with this matter.

Hon. Mr. McAULAY said this was a special case, and deserved the particular attention of the House.

The petition was laid on the table.

Mr. Owen presented another petition of said John Crawford, praying a grant for the extra work performed by him on said bridge. Referred to the members for the district.

A petition of inhabitants of Covehead, Stanhope, and adjacent settlements, was presented to the House by Hon. Mr. Coles, praying a grant to repair Cass's bridge.

Hon. Mr. Coles called attention to a Road Commissioner's return, that of John McMillan, in which an oath was signed that he had sent a faithful report of all monies received and expended in his district, and there was not a word in the returns as to the amount of statute labour performed, or commutation money paid.

Adjourned for one hour.

WEDNESDAY, March 19.

The following petitions were presented:—

By the Hon. Mr. Kelly—A petition from Lots 36 and 37, praying for the opening of a road under the Road Compensation Act, from the shipyard of Robert Longworth to the new church on the farm of Alex. Hayden; a petition from French Fort, Battery Point, &c., praying a grant to extend the wharf at Battery Point. Also a petition of John McNally, praying a small grant to enable him to continue keeping up a light at Battery Point, for the purpose of guiding benighted travellers on the ice of the Hillsborough River.

Hon. Mr. Kelly moved that the last mentioned petition do lie on the table.

Hon. Mr. Haviland moved in amendment that the petition be withdrawn by the Hon. Mr. Kelly, which amendment was carried, 15 to 8.

Mr. Howat, from the Committee appointed last session, to report this session, by Bill or otherwise, on the subject of the Bill then introduced, to alter and amend the laws regulating the sale by license of spirituous liquors, presented to the House the report of the said Committee, which was read and ordered to be committed to a Committee of the whole House to-morrow.

Hon. Mr. Haviland presented to the House a report of the Commissioner of roads for the first district of King's County, on the subject of a proposed new line of road prayed for by inhabitants of Conovoy settlement, Lot 38; also, a petition of the ministers, elders and others, of Brown's Creek congregation, praying that two aged sisters—Flora and Christy McLeod—one of whom is blind and the other bedridden, and both in indigent circumstances, be placed in the poor house or house of industry, or relief otherwise extended.

Hon. Mr. Haviland moved that the Bill relating to limited partnerships be read a third time.

Hon. Mr. LONGWORTH said he did not rise to oppose the Bill, but as he had not an opportunity of expressing his opinion on the Bill at its second reading, he might be permitted to do so at this stage of its progress. Though the principle of the Bill was new in this Colony, it had been acknowledged in the other Provinces for some time, and was based upon a law passed in the mother country some time ago. It was found that the British law relating to general partnerships worked injuriously to those parties who were called "sleeping partners"—men who furnished capital but took no part in conducting the business transactions of the firm. The injury to which those partners were exposed under that law was that when a failure occurred through mismanagement of the business, though they had no part in this, yet they had frequently to pay the heaviest share and in many case the whole of the liabilities. To protect partners so circumstanced, therefore, Parliament passed an Act whereby they could be held liable only to the amount of the capital which they had paid into the firm, and those partners who conducted the business were made liable to the whole extent of the loss. It was considered in England that the Act would greatly facilitate trade, as monied men might invest their capital without being subject to a greater loss than the amount which they subscribed. As such a law might possibly be a benefit here to enable some parties to extend their business for manufacturing purposes or otherwise, this Bill had been introduced; but he did not think it would be acted upon to any great extent by the mercantile community, as he was of opinion that few would comply with the provisions of the Bill, which required the amount of capital invested, and other particulars to be registered in the ordinary transactions of mercantile business It will, however, be useful in establishing a new branch of industry in the Colony, in which case parties might volunteer to allow their capital to be employed by some person who understood the business, but had not means at his disposal for carrying it on.

Hon. Mr. HENSLEY made some remarks of a similar nature. Since there was such an Act in force in Britain, he considered it was perfectly safe to pass the Bill. He thought, however, that there should be some provision in it for enabling parties to ascertain whether the amount subscribed by the partners had been merged in the business or not; but perhaps it might be said that persons should look out for themselves, and be on their guard respecting those with whom they deal.

Hon. Mr. COLES said there was an evil which might creep in under the Bill; for example, the partners transacting the business, as had been the case recently with respect to some banks, might run off, and creditors of the firm would then have no remedy.

Mr. DAVIES thought that sleeping partners should bear a fair share of the loss; but it was unjust, as at present, when they could be made liable for the whole.

The Bill was then read a third time and passed.

The Bill to incorporate the Minister and Trustees of the Presbyterian Church, Brookfield, Lot 23, was also read a third time and passed.

Adjourned for one hour.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON, March 20.

Mr. Davies presented a petition of Ann Cullen, widow of the late William Cullen, formerly clerk of this House, setting forth her destitution in her declining years, and praying a small grant to relieve her necessities. Laid on the table.

HOUSE IN COMMITTEE ON DESPATCH OF DUKE OF NEWCASTLE CONTAINING OBJECTIONS TO ELECTIVE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BILL.

The order of the day for the House in Committee on the consideration of the despatch—presented to the House on the 5th of March instant—from the Secretary of State for the Colonies to Lieut. Governor Dundas, containing objections to the Bill to change the constitution of the Legislative Council, &c., being read,

Hon. Mr. HAVILAND said—Mr. Speaker, I move that the House go into the order of the day, and in doing so scarcely think it necessary to enter into any explanation on the subject, as the principle of an Elective Legislative Council has been frequently discussed in this House and is admitted by a large majority of its members. All that remains now is to decide how this principle is to be carried out. The Duke of Newcastle has shown himself to be very liberal. The argument of the small minority who opposed the Bill, that the Home Government would not assent to the principle being carried into operation here, has been set aside by his despatch, for he in effect says that he is unable to refuse it since it has been sanctioned in Canada, Australia and Tasmania. This all along was my argument; besides the fact that the principle was acknowledged by some of the most distinguished members of both Houses of the British Parliament, who said that there were only two principles, the nominative and elective, and admitted that the former had been a failure. His Grace, however, is of opinion that the electors for the Council should have a different qualification from those for the Assembly. This is his view, and I think it is a sound one, because with the qualification the same in both cases, we would have as it were two Houses of Assembly, one meeting in each end of the building. The Colonial Minister also appears to think that the only qualification necessary for an elective Councillor is that he be a British subject, resident in the Colony, and 30 years of age. It seems to be a general opinion that there is some virtue in this age. I suppose it is because a person is then supposed to have sown his wild oats, and become prepared to view questions on their own merits. The other points referred to in the despatch are in reference to the wording of some clauses. I think there can be no cavilling about the despatch, as all must admit it to be a very able document. I suppose there is no alternative left us if we desire to have an elective Legislative Council, but to carry out the suggestions of the Duke of Newcastle.

Hon. Mr. COLES—I have much pleasure in seconding the motion of the hon. member for Georgetown. I agree with him that the Duke of Newcastle has shown himself to be very liberal; even more so, I believe, than many hon. members expected when they voted for that Bill. And I mainly attribute the liberal sentiments of His Grace on this subject to the visit of the Prince of Wales to these Colonies. The Duke undoubtedly saw then that the principle of nomination for Legislative Councils was not working efficiently. He has taken the very proper view in reference to the qualification of Councillors, that money does not make the man. I certainly think a great concession has been gained.

The House then resolved itself into Committee. Mr. Holm in the chair.

Hon. Col. GRAY—Mr. Chairman; I am rejoiced at the prospect before us. It is but proper for me to state to hon. members on both sides of the House that I now find myself in a position to give my cordial support to a measure for an elective Legislative Council. All objections which I formerly had have vanished away. I have no objection to any amount whatever of the democratic element in this House—no desire to curtail the right of any man to vote for a member to sit in this branch of the Legislature; but I have decided objections that members of the Upper Chamber should be chosen by such electors as would render that body only a reflex of this House. Doubtless every person is desirous to avail himself of the liberty which he possesses, and I, as a native of the Island, would be sorry to see any of the electors for this House deprived of their privilege; but if members for the other House should be chosen by the same electors there would be continual contention between the two bodies. Though it would scarcely do to make the assertion last year, yet now I may almost say that such a principle is simply absurd. I consider that the manner in which the Government intend to take up the despatch of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, is worthy of a loyal people. What says the document? After alluding to the necessity of making the property qualification for the electors and not for the elected, His Grace remarks, "I would enforce a *tolerably high* property qualification in the case of the electors." Now, what is a "tolerably high" qualification? The Government propose that the person who has a freehold or leasehold interest of the value of £100 shall be entitled to vote. This, I cannot say, is a *tolerably high* qualification; but it is, I think, a fair one for this Colony. I cannot but again express my satisfaction at the prospect of our having an elective Legislative Council. What has been my principal objection to the departmental system of Government is this, that the members of a nominated and irresponsible chamber should share in the offices with those of a body elected by the people. True, the members of the Council are said to be the nominees of the Crown; but who was the *Crown* that nominated the large majority of the members