COLONIAL LEGISLATURE.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY, February 14.

Conclusion of the Debate on the purchase of the Worrel Estate.

Hon. Mr. WHELAN, I rise, Mr. Speaker, in support of the motion of the Hon. Col. Secretary, that the documents he has laid upon the Table be published, as I deem it but right that the widest publicity should be given to them, not only for the information of my constituents who are more immediately interested in the subject, but for that of the people generally, who are ardently desirous of knowing the terms on which they may obtain Land under the Act—Sir, I was amused at hearing the Hon. Member for Charlottetown state that the Government should bring the matter before the House in Committee on the general state of the Colony; in other words, should bring themselves to trial;—who ever heard of such a course being suggested? Let the Hon. Gentleman move for such Committee, and I have no objection, as a supporter of the Government, to meet him and discuss the matter fully. But the Hon. Member feels that he is in a small minority and hopes by his present course to induce some supporter of the Government to move for the Committee. With reference to the observations of the Hon. Gentleman, on the amount of the Salary of the Commissioner of Public Lands, he knows right well that it is fixed by law at £300 and cannot exceed that sum.—He has alluded to the great loss of Land and School tax to the Treasury, during the time the property may remain in possession of the Government,—Sir, that loss cannot be very serious, when we consider that those taxes were paid up previously to the time of purchase by the Government, and now, so soon after the purchase, 16,000, or 20,000 acres will be liable as before, and it is but reasonable to suppose that ere 12, aye, or even 6 months shall have elapsed, a very large portion will have passed out of the hands of the Government, and thus have contributed its proportion of Land and School Tax to the Revenue, as a great desire to purchase from Government is felt not merely by the Tenants on the Estate, but by persons residing in Tracadie, and in various parts of Prince County, because they know that better terms can be obtained from Government than from private individuals—The Hon. Gentleman stated that he did not oppose the Bill: true he did not, but he never liked it, and only declined opposition because he knew it would be hopeless, but now he seeks to paint this bill, which he never opposed, as injurious to the best interests of the people of the Island. Sir, the Government of the Hon. Member could not shew that anything had been done in the matter, but his predecessors, the gentlemen connected with, and supporters of, the present Government had made an application to purchase.—Why had not their opponents, while in power done so? Was it not notorious that the leader of that Government was one of the Trustees of the Estate, and was thus in a favorable position to have done so! The Hon. Member, I must admit, is consistent in one particular: he intimates that the Government were hasty in effecting the purchase, that they should have waited, taken more time, &c. Why, sir, that is a favorite plea with the Hon. Gentleman. When the introduction of Responsible Government was sought, his cry was "wait, the time has not yet arrived." The error of that opinion has been abundantly proved, and his fallacy will be manifested on this matter. Sir, by the provisions of the Bill and the course intended to be pursued by the Government, tenants can become proprietors in 11 years time: that is abundantly manifest. With reference to the remarks of the Hon. Member on the gentlemen selected to act as Commissioners under the bill, I can only say, that I know not where a better selection could have been made. Would he have the Government, in so important a matter, appoint men hostile to themselves? As the Hon. Col. Secretary has stated, and as the Hon. Member himself well knows, it was necessary that the Commissioner of public lands should be one, and as to the Surveyor General, if Mr. Wright had been appointed, it would have been all right. Sir, the Hon. Gentleman in his anxiety to damage the Government, forgot that the line of conduct insinuated as likely to influence the Hon. Member, Mr. Dingwell, would have an effect, directly contrary to his interests were he, as stated by the Hon. Member, a land speculator, for in that case, he would put as low a valuation as possible on the land, and, although the Hon Member has affirmed that the late *Government* was not liable to censure for their inaction on the subject, I ask, was not an offer to sell under the act, made by Mr. Haviland, senior, to that Government?

Mr. HAVILAND, Mr. Speaker, I will answer that question. The offer alluded to was made to the Government which composed the party now in power.

Hon. SECRETARY, It was made but a fortnight before they went out of office, but before their resignation, a commission was appointed and a report made.

Mr. DINGWELL. Mr Speaker, as one of the Commissioners referred to by the Hon. Member for Charlottetown, I am compelled to notice the observations he has made affecting myself, and in doing so, I can assure him that I am no land speculator nor was I ever, and nothing in my conduct can justify the Hon. Member in making the remarks he has. In discharging my duty under the Commission I acted honestly, and I tell the Hon. Member that I am, and I trust ever have been, as honest and conscientious a man as himself. It is most improper for the Hon. Member to attribute interested motives to the Commissioners who merit no such imputations.

Mr. McINTOSH. Mr. Speaker I rise, merely to observe that I think the Government made a judicious selection of the Gentlemen who acted as Commissioners, they are fully competent to estimate the value of land, and I for one am satisfied with their report. I must say, however, that in my opinion, the Government were somewhat hasty in concluding the purchase, as, I believe, that, had they waited a little longer, they could have obtained the land at a lower price.

Mr. COOPER. The reason Mr. Speaker of the comparatively high price paid by Mr. Cox is, that his land contained valuable improvements, it comprised, 200 or 300 acres of well fenced land, and the former residence of Mr. Worrel, &c. But my obejection to the action of the Government is, that the bill makes purchasers pay for their improvements and I certainly was under the impression that the title of Proprietors would have been investigated by the Commissioners.

On the second reading of the Sheriff's Bill, Mr H. Haviland suggested an alteration to that part which held the sureties for Sheriff liable for the acts of his Deputy after the death of the principal, which after some discussion was adopted without division.

Legislative Summary.

TUESDAY, Feb. 20.

Mr. Cooper presented a petition from J. Campbell, Teacher, Bay Fortune, praying payment of his salary for 6 months, read and referred to Committee on teacher's petitions.

Also, a petition of divers inhabitants of the Eastern section of King's County and others, praying a grant to extend the New Harmony Road to the East Point Portage, Lot 47, which was read.

The following petitions were received and read, viz:—By Hon. Mr. Mooney—from inhabitants of Township No. 30, for grant to build two Bridges, and repair road.

By Mr. LAIRD—from inhabitants of Township 21, for grant to open a road to Mill Vale.

The following papers were submitted by the Hon. Col. Secretary, viz:—Report of Superintendant of the Public Works on Panmure Island Light; report of Commission appointed to inspect Ellis River Bridge; report of Henry Palmer, Esquire, Indian Commissioner, and letter of Theophilus Stewart, Esquire, on the subject of the Indians; report of Commissioners appointed to examine and report as to which of two lines dividing Lots No. 67, 26 and 25 it will be advisable to adopt.

Report of Commissioners on proposed new line of road from Montague Bridge to Georgetown Road; report of Commissioners on intended new line of road from Argyle River Settlement to the South Shore; report of Commissioners on the practicability of selecting a line of road, avoiding three hills, on the road leading from Souris to East Point; report of Commissioners on Survey of Cambpell's Cove, Lot 47; report of the Superintendant of Public Works, on repairs of Vernon River Bridge; petition of the inhabitants of Launching Place and Grand River (South Side), for the establishment of a Post Office; Account of Joseph MacDonald, for repairs to Georgetown Jail Yard Fence—referred to Committee of Supply.

Hon. Mr. WIGHTMAN moved the third reading of the Sheriffs' Bill, on which a very animated discussion arose, principally between the Hon. Mr. Palmer and the Hon. Col. Secretary, Mr. Palmer moved that it be read this day 3 months which was negatived, on division, and the Bill was passed.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 21.

The following Petitions were presented to the House, and the same were severally received and read, viz:—

By Mr. PERRY.—From inhabitants of Townships 14 and 16, praying grant to build Bridge across the Southwest branch of Ellis River. Also, from inhabitants of Townships 13, 14 and 15, for aid to repair and Bridge a Road on the division line of Townships 13 and 14, from Engmont Bay to the Main Western Road.

By the Hon. Col. Secretary.—From inhabitants of Townships 8 and 9, for aid to complete Road from Pierre Jacques to the Brae Settlement—ordered to lie on the Table.

Resolved, That the House will to-morrow, take into consideration all maters relating to Roads, Bridges and Wharves.

The Hon. Mr. Speaker laid before the House the Report of the Visitor of Schools for the present year, of which 300 copies were ordered to be printed and distributed—one copy to each public school—the residue for the use of the Legislature and Board of Education.

The Hon. Col. Secretary presented to the House a letter from the Visitor of Schools, relative to the contemplated Normal School, which was read, and the consideration of it was ordered to be referred to the House when in Committee on the Normal School Bill.

Hon. Mr. Lord, by command of His Excellency, presented to the House a Message, on the subject of the permanent tenure of office by Assistants in the public departments.

Mr. Muirhead presented the Impost Accounts from Cascumpec, also from Richmond Bay—referred to Committee on Public Accounts.

Hon. Mr. Whelan presented a Petition from the Office-bearers of the Mecahnics' Institute of Charlottetown, praying Act of Incorporation, and grant in aid of the Library and Apparatus.

The Hon. Col. Secretary introduced an Act relating to Emigrants.

The Charlottesville Jeffersonian says a young lady in that place has a pet pigeon, which dances very gracefully whenever she plays on the harp, and when the music ceases, it will jump up and pull the harp strings itself.

GLEANINGS FROM LATE PAPERS.

EVILS OF WAR.—I cannot say, as I once did, talk lightly, thoughtlessly, of fighting with or that nation. That nation is no longer an abstraction to me. It is no longer a vague mass. It spreads out before me into individuals, in a thousand interesting forms and relations. It consists of husbands and wives, parents and children, who love one another as I love my own home. It consists of affectionate women and sweet children. It consists of christians united with me to the common Saviour, and in whose spirit I recognize the likeness of his divine virtue. It consists of a vast multitude of labourers at the plough and in the workshop, whose toils I sympathize with, whose burthen I should rejoice to lighten, and for whose elevation I have pleaded. It consists of men of science, taste, genius, whose writings have beguiled my solitary hours, and given life to my intellect and best affections. Here is the nation which I am called to fight with, into whose families I must send mourning, whose fall or humiliation I must seek through blood. I cannot do it without a clear commission from God.—*Channing*.

LANCASTER GUNS.—Our readers and the public generally have probably noticed in the letters from the Crimea accounts of the Lancaster gun, which proved to be the most effective weapon against the walls of Sebastopol, although it has not been altogether a safe gun for those who handled it, two or three of them having burst. The Montreal Gazette gives the following description of this gun and the principle of its operation:

"It is a well known fact that it is impossible to cast balls in such a way that one side will not be heavier than the other, and it is also well known that this circumstance defects the projectile from its right line. With small arms this difficulty is overcome by the groove in the rifle barrel, which, being spiral, acts upon the soft substance of the leaden bullet, and gives it a rotary motion before leaving the muzzle of the rifle which continues until the ball is stopped. By this means the heavy side is alternately turned in all directions, so that any tendency in one direction is immediately counterbalanced by a revolution of the bullet which changes the position of the heavy side, and the result is the ball flies in a direct line.—Now, however well this plan may answer for small arms and leaden balls, the groove is impracticable for cannon and cast iron balls, and it has long been a problem to discover some means of making rifled cannon.

"The Lancaster gun professes to have accomplished this by means of an clipitical bore, out of which is to be thrown an eliptical projectile, either shot or shell. The gun is large, because it is at a long range that its great precision of aim tells best over the cannon gun, and its appearance is that of ordinary large cannon, except that the mouth, instead of being circular, is elongated like an egg—having the axilonger than other. We will suppose that the mouth is the largest up and down—that is, that the longer axis is vertical, so that the flattened ball fitting it would stand on its edge; but the bore winds gradually from the mouth to the breech of the gun, so that when the ball is driven home to the proper position where the gun loaded, it will have one quarter around, and will lie horizontally—that is, at right-angles to the longer axis of the mouth of the gun, and on its side. When the gun is fired, the ball must make one revolution for every four lengths of the gun, and thereby counterbalances any imperfection in its shape which would otherwise detect it. Several of these guns have burst. This is perhaps attributable to the fact that they are used at very long ranges, and were probable overloaded, although it is quite possible and in fact probable, that forcing the ball to take a rotary motion would increase the resistance offered so much as to increase the resistance offered so much as to increase the risk of bursting Experience will soon test the question. We may remark that the same principle has been applied to small arms, and a decided advantage is claimed for the Lancaster over the common rifle."

CONSTANTINOPLE BECOMING FRENCH.—A correspondent of the Journal of Commerce, residing in Constantinople, thus writes of the gradual change of which is taking place in the government of the city:

"Constantinople is gradually changing hands; and the rule of the Mahommedan is yielding to the effrontery of the Frank. Everything tends to prove that the day of Islamism are over, and that the French will soon form a Paris on the sides of the Golden Horn. Not long ago, the French took possession of the large and beautiful Russian palace, one of the best edifices in Pera, and hitherto held inviolate by the English. The French for a long time, looked upon it with covetous eye, but were not prepared to use it; now, however, they are so numerous here that additional room is wanted for accommodation, and the pretext was found for seizing on the Russian Palace. Again, three or four days ago, several guard houses in Galata, were occupied by French soldiers, and the Turks turned out into the open streets, not daring to open their lips in defence. The reason assigned was, that as such a number of outrages were committed by the French and English sailors in the neighborhood, and as the Turks were unable to preserve the peace, it was deemed necessary to use a more efficient authority, one with more force to back it.

"And when we consider the matter in its most serious light, and view the subject in all its bearings, we must confess that Constantinople would be a more pleasant residence, and a greater mart of commerce, if the French retained possession of it.

"I am induced to believe that, in a couple of years from this time, we will see a fine and noble city, rising like a Phœnix from its ashes, on the site of the present. Mighty changes convulsing both Europe and America, may take place before then!"

PANAMA RAILROAD.—The Panama Railroad is nearly completed. Only three miles of rail have yet to be laid, and it is predicted that the whole will be finished in a few weeks. This will greatly facilitate the transportation from ocean to ocean, and supersede the necessity of uncomfortable mules, and obstinate Indian guides and drivers.

PETROPAULOVSKI.—The *Polynesian*, having made a statement to the effect that it was probable that the pilot, who conducted the allied forces at Petropaulovski to the place of landing, was guilty of misrepresentations, if not of treachery, and that he was an American, makes a correction in its issue of the 18th ult., and says that it has been satisfactorily ascertaind, that two persons acted as pilots on that occasion, one of whom was an Irishman and the other a German, and that they were both runaway sailors from whaleships. It also appears that it was the ignorance, and not the treachery, of the guides, which led to the disaster.

UNITED STATES.

The way in which the new States of the West are filling up with emigrants is truly surprising. It has been stated that during the past season 100,000 emigrants have settled in Iowa, 25,000 in Minnesota, and about 40,000 in Wisconsin, while the roads leading to Texas are still swarming with them

Governor Gardiner, of Massachusetts, has ordered the disbandonment of seven military companies "composed of persons of foreign birth."

It is the boast of the Know-Nothings of Massachusetts, that Gov. Gardiner, on the day of his inauguration, wore a suit entirely of American manufacture. Every article came under the term "home made."

WOMEN'S RIGHTS.

In the Assembly of the New-York Legislature last week, Mr. Hall presented the following bill relative to the rights of married women. We go for these rights.

Section 1. Any married woman, whose husband, either from drunkenness, profligacy, or from any other cause, shall neglect or refuse to provide for her support, or for the support and education of her children, and any married woman who may be deserted by her husband, shall have the right, in her own name, to transact business and to receive and collect her own earnings, and the earnings of her own minor children, and apply the same for her own support and the support and education of such children, free from the control and interference of her husband, or of any person claiming the same, or claiming to be released from the same by or through her husband.

Sec. 2. Any married woman whose husband shall neglect or refuse to provide for, or who shall abandon his wife and children, may bind out their minor children and execute indentures of apprenticeship in the same manner and to the same extent as her husband could do.

Sec. 3. Hereafter it shall be necessary to the validity of every indenture of apprenticeship executed by the father, that the mother of such child, if she be living with her husband shall, in writing, consent to such indentures. Nor shall any appointment of a general guardian of the person of a child by the father be valid, unless the mother of such child, if she be living with the husband, shall, in writing, consent to such appointment.