The Examiner.

such circumstances as are contemplated by the Bill, every protection which we have it in our power to extend to her. I am really surprised that my honorable and gallant friend should be so ungallant as to be willing to consign to prison for debt any poor woman so unfortunately circumstanced. The Bill I say is good, just, and humane; and I would wish to urge upon your Honors the propriety of agreeing to it as it now stands, and giving it one year's trial. When the Legislature shall meet again, if it shall have been found to have operated unjustly, it may easily be repealed.

Hon. Col. Swabey—I agree with his Honor, Mr. Walker, in his opinion that if the Bill pass in its present form, it will actually exclude from credit, in an especial manner, the very individuals for whose protection and relief the Bill has been devised.

The Chairman then put the question on the proposed amendment, and the Committee divided:

Contents—The Honbles. Messrs. Bagnall, Walker, Craswell, Swabey, and Palmer.—5.

Non-Contents—His Honor the President, Honbles. Messrs. Forgan, Simpson, McIntyre, Hutchinson.—5.

The House was resumed, and the Hon. Mr. Johnson reported that the Committee had gone through the Bill, and had agreed to the same without any amendment.

Ordered, That the report of the Committee be received.

The following Bills were severally read a second time, viz:

The Bill intituled "An Act to amend the Act for the purchase of lands on behalf of the Government of Prince Edward Island, and to regulate the sale and management thereof, and for other purposes therein mentioned."

The Bill intituled "An Act to alter and amend the Act relating to the establishment of Township Boundary Lines."

PETITIONS.

The following petition was presented to the House by the Hon. Mr. Palmer, and the same was received and read, viz:

A petition of divers inhabitants of Prince County, setting forth that although nearly a century has elapsed since Princetown was originally laid off as the County Town, only one or two buildings have hitherto been erected on the site of said Town; that the Act, 19th Vic., cap. 21, virtually disfranchised Princetown by adding Township No. 18 thereto, thereby conferring upon that portion of the County a representation of two members in the House of Assembly, a privilege to which, from its natural position and relative resources, it has no just or equitable claim; and praying the House to sanction such an alteration in the present Election Law as will transfer the right of returning two representatives to the House of Assembly hitherto enjoyed by the district aforesaid, to the inhabitants of Township No. 17, embracing Summerside and St. Eleanor's, and to make such other provisions in the premises as the House, in its wisdom, may deem meet.

Ordered, That the said Petition do lie on the table.

Hon. Mr. Palmer also presented to the House the following petitions; and the same were severally received and read, viz:

A petition of Patrick Hickey of Charlottetown, and of Emery Beall of the State of Maine, Assignee of the Patent of Hall's Stumping Machine, praying the House so to amend the Acts relating to Patents as to enable the petitioners to obtain from the Government a patent to secure the manufacture of the said machine in this Island.

A petition of James Douglas Haszard, Esqr., praying compensation for work performed by him as Queen's Printer for the Government of this Island.

Ordered, That the last two preceding petitions be referred to the special committee appointed to report on all petitions relating to miscellaneous subjects.

DESPATCH.

Hon. Mr. Palmer, a member of Her Majesty's Executive Council, by command of His Excellency the Lieut. Governor, laid before the House copy of a despatch from the Duke of Newcastle to Lieut. Governor Dundas, dated Downing Street, 17th September, 1859, transmitting copy of an Act passed in the last Session of the Imperial Parliament, as regards the Colony of Victoria, and to enable other Colonial Legislatures to repeal certain provisions of the Imperial Acts of the 54th George Third, cap. 15, and of the 5th and 6th William Fourth, cap. 62.

Ordered, That the said despatch and enclosure do lie on the table.

R. B. Irving, Reporter.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Thursday, March 22.

AFTERNOON SITTING.

CHARLOTTETOWN MARKET HOUSE.

Continued.

Mr. MACNEILL.—I am opposed to the market being held on Queen's Square, which is at present quite small enough for the health and general convenience of the inhabitants. Any building in addition to those already erected on it would seriously detract from the appearance and character, not only of the particular square, but of the City generally, of which it forms one of the most attractive features. While I say this, I must add that I am by no means disposed to purchase another site from the public Treasury. The City has three squares besides Queen's, still vacant, and one of them, the Hillsborough, is in a more central situation than Queen's. It is conveniently situated with reference to the Malpeque and St. Peter's Roads, and in the vicinity of the Ferry Wharf. While King's and Hillsborough Squares are unoccupied, it is unnecessary to call upon the Treasury, in the present depressed state of the Revenue, for the cost of a site.

Mr. HOLM.—The principal objection to locating the Market House on Queen's Square is, that such erection would injure it as a pleasure ground, and it is asserted that some of the other public squares are more suitable for the purpose. I presume that argument might apply as strongly to their appropriation for purposes of recreation. Queen's Square offers but limited accommodation for such purpose, while it is an eligible site for a market. In the present financial condition of the country I am decidedly opposed to the purchase of a site, which might cost between £2000 and £3000.

Hon. Mr. LONGWORTH.—It is natural that parties resident in Charlottetown should have their several preferences as to the site to be selected; but it must be remembered that a Market is intended for the mutual accommodation of consumers and producers—of buyers and sellers, and it is our duty to legislate in such manner as to promote the interests of all. When the town was originally laid out, certain squares were reserved for the public health and convenience. Such reservations are deemed of great importance in all towns, and nothing should be suffered to divert them from the purposes for which they had been set apart. In the case of Queen Square, an argument had been based on the fact of its having been occupied by a Market House already; but no portion of it had ever been formally set apart for such purpose. At first, a mere temporary shed was run up, and the site had been removed from one part of the square to another. When the present Market House was erected, it was generally understood that it was to be only a temporary encumbrance of the square, and no written authority sanctioned its location. In no other town was there to be found a Market House placed on one of the public squares. On market days Queen Square is monopolised by the frequenters of the market, and the accumulation of decaying and otherwise offensive matter, must necessarily tend to engender and perpetuate disease. If we allow the new building to be erected on the square, on which it is sought to place it, so far from being an ornament, it will be found to be a disgrace and deformity. As the City increases, in equal proportion will be the increase of the nuisances already experienced from the market being held on the square. As to the market being situate on any or either of the public squares, I do not feel it necessary to enter into any discussion as to their comparative eligibility. The City Corporation applied to the Government for authority to build a Market House on Queen Square, to which application it was replied, that the Executive had no such power. That want of power applied to the other squares equally with the one referred to, and if the Government had possessed the authority, the exercise of which was requested, they would not have complied with the request. The question is, whether the site shall be on Queen Square or not; and it appears to me that every sound argument is against placing it there; and even if it were formally and authoritatively placed there in the early settlement of the town, yet the subsequent increase of the place would justify its removal, from a regard to the danger to the public health, which would accrue from its continuance in its original situation.

Hon. Mr. THORNTON.—I have always been opposed to placing the Market House on the principal square of the town, and Queen's is already encumbered to a considerable extent; and we are now asked to occupy the remaining portion by a market. In dealing with a matter of this nature, we should be influenced by considerations not of present convenience, but of future necessity. As to the convenience and advantage of having the market in the centre of the population, I would change its relative position, as I believe such situation conducive to disease. The late Dr. Conroy stated that the water used by the bulk of the inhabitants was greatly contaminated, and from the elevated position of Queen Square, the continuance of a market there must add to the evil. It is now sought to take from the general public their right to the free use of the square. As last year we were requested to give to the Civic body certain Water Lots, which application was properly refused, I give the Government credit for refusing the application of the City Council. Some years ago Hillsborough and King Squares were talked of as situations for a market; but because certain parties carrying on business in Queen Street were interested in keeping it in its old situation, all change was declined. I have no personal interest in the matter myself, but I wish to act with regard to the permanent interests of Charlottetown, the extension of which can only take place in an easterly direction. It would, therefore, be advisable to build a market to the eastward of Queen Square. It has been asked, why should we contribute towards the purchase of a site, when one can be obtained for nothing on Queen Square? I answer we ought to, because we should locate the market where the greatest accommodation will be afforded to the greatest number, and not merely gratify the desires of those interested in a particular neighbourhood. A primary consideration should be to select a site, the occupation of which, as a market, will not be prejudicial to the health of the City.

Hon. SPEAKER.—The argument of the hon. member, Mr. Thornton, is somewhat inconsistent, for, while he objects to Queen Square being occupied as a market, on the ground that its situation would endanger the health of the Inhabitants, he yet advocates a more central situation, where, of course, the danger would be greater. It seems that some hon. members do not wish to see the market placed on any of the squares. Their objection suggests the question, are they prepared to expend £2000 or £3000 for the purchase of a site? We know they are not, and I for one am disposed to support the prayer of the petition for the west side of Queen Square, in preference to the outlay necessary for the purchase of a site. There will be no necessity for the occupation of a very large portion of the square. All that will be required will be adequate accommodation for market produce, and the parties who frequent it. The other squares being totally unoccupied by buildings, are more adapted than Queen's for purposes of recreation. Of course, no objection can be urged against the people of Charlottetown putting the market in any other situation, if they choose to purchase it themselves.

Mr. OWEN.—Would the Charlottetown people be willing to buy an adequate site at an expense, perhaps, of £3000 or £4000? Application having been made for the west side of Queen Square, it was the duty of the House to give it, as it will render unnecessary the purchase of ground elsewhere; and there is room sufficient. I would prefer, if we could purchase, a situation near the harbor, as that would greatly accommodate parties who have to cross the Ferries, and would not subject to any inconvenience the farmers coming from the Charlottetown side of the harbor, with their carts and waggons. The other squares are not large enough, and are liable to the additional objection, that the country people would be taken to a distance from the business portion of the City.

Hon. Col. GRAY.—Hillsborough and King Squares are severally larger than the ground asked on the west side of Queen Square. I agree with the hon. member, Mr. Owen, as to the desirableness that a situation near the water should be procured, if our means enabled us to obtain one.

Mr. MONTGOMERY.—When the people of Charlottetown have petitioned for the Market House to be placed in a particular situation, I see no reason why their wishes should not be complied with, more especially when I consider that there are no funds wherewith to purchase another site.

Hon. Mr. POPE.—It has been said that the appearance of Queen Square would be damaged by the erection of a Market House on the western side. On the contrary, I maintain that a proper building would improve its aspect. The present state of the market is disgraceful, and the comfort and convenience of a properly built and well managed Market House on the square admit of no question. I admit that it would have been better had the square been kept unoccupied by buildings, as originally intended; but if the petitioners in favor of having it there, choose to deprive themselves of the benefits of air and recreation, it is their business, not ours. If it be, as asserted by the hon. member, Mr. Thornton, that a market on Queen Square would poison the water of the neighbourhood, surely it is better to let the petitioners enjoy the fatal privilege they have asked, than by changing the site confer the deadly gift on those who have not solicited it. It would be preferable to have the market on or near Mr. Reddin's Wharf, on account of the superior facilities for drainage which that situation affords; but the finances are inadequate. A great injustice would be done by the removal from Queen Square.

Hon. Mr. COLES.—The market should not be so immediately contiguous to the Colonial Building. It was disgraceful to the City that a stranger wishing to visit the building should have to wade to it through the accumulated mud and filth of a public market. In Halifax, Albany and other places, the Hall of Legislation and Governmental Offices are surrounded by iron railings and kept in an ornamental condition; and the same should be the case with Queen Square. Unless some protection be extended now, in a few years access to the Building will be matter of difficulty. The City Council do not ask for thousands for the purchase of a site. A few hundreds would be sufficient, and the people would not complain of a small appropriation for such an object. I am willing to appropriate a moderate sum for a market; but I will not consent to perpetuate a nuisance on Queen Square. In other cities our market would be indicated as a nuisance. The memorial of the City Council for the purchase of a site should meet the favorable consideration of the House, for that body represents some 1,200 voters, while the contra petition bears but some 400 signatures. The purchase of a site would not cost £3000. A suitable piece of ground could be procured for about a third of that sum.

Hon. Mr. POPE.—It has been said that the petition in favor of placing the market on Queen Square was not to be put into comparison with the memorial of the City Council, which should be regarded as the expression of the general opinion of the citizens in favor of purchasing a site. But that memorial actually strengthened the case of the petitioners, for the Council stated that they had applied for the western side of the square, and that the Government had decided that they could not grant the application. This proved the general desire of the inhabitants as to the locality; and he hoped other country members would not aid in placing a Market House in Charlottetown in a situation which was not approved of by the people.

Mr. COOPER.—The objection that the erection of the Market House on the site asked, would leave too limited a space around the Building, is of no force, when it is considered that there would still remain a greater open area than is found sufficient in other places. The Colonial Building in Halifax has not so much, and many squares in London are of less dimensions. As far as the question of health is concerned, I believe a more open City than Charlottetown cannot be found.

Hon. Mr. HAVILAND.—The hon. member should recollect that the squares in London are private property, and are built round the open spaces in the centre. There is, therefore, no analogy between the two cases. It appears that members from the Country are afraid of putting their hands into the public purse to prevent the misappropriation of public ground. There is a little manifestation of selfishness in such a course. The hon. member, Mr. Howat would locate the market on the square, because he was afraid that the House would have to pass a grant for the purchase of a site, if any other locality were selected. That hon. member said the other evening that the people of Egmont Bay, and its vicinity, did not come to Charlottetown to market, and that consequently they should not be required to contribute towards it, as they would if a grant out of the general Revenue was voted for the purpose. That declaration disclosed a narrow policy, the prototype of which was to be found in one of Æsop's fables. The interests of Charlottetown and the country parts of the Island were not antagonistic, but identical, and could and ought to be fostered for their mutual interests. If the principle involved in the statement to which I allude were recognized and carried into practice, where, I ask, would now be the wharves, public buildings, and other improvements in Prince County, which have been built and made from the general Revenue of the Colony? Such an argument is nonsensical—it is mere clap-trap, as the hon. member himself would be the first to admit, if it were applied to his own District. To return to the subject before the Committee, I am decidedly opposed to the contemplated market being established on Hillsborough, or any of the other squares, which should be preserved intact for the purposes for which they were originally intended. I should prefer a site near the water side, which would accommodate parties living on the East and West Rivers, and on the opposite side of the Ferry. The people in Queen-street and vicinity indulged in doleful anticipations of impending ruin when the Ferry Wharf was erected at the foot of Prince street. How have they these anticipations been realized? Have they not the same amount of custom as they enjoyed when the Ferry was at the foot of Queen-street? But were the case otherwise, I ask, are we to sacrifice the general good to the private interests, real or supposed, of some 400 individuals? This building is already too small, and in a few years will require additions; and as the property of the of the people of the whole Island, it should be guarded by all against the inconvenience which would result from too limited a space surrounding it, and should be preserved in a condition adapted to convience of the people.

Hon. Mr. YEO.—The building we are in is an ornament to the square, on which no one can say that it has stopped the circulation of plenty of pure air. The town and the country are very healthy. The fact is, to one man dying on this Island, three or four run away. Laughter.

Hon Mr. LAIRD.—I have heard nothing to satisfy my mind that the Market House should not be placed upon the square. I consider it the most proper situation, and my opinion on the subject is entertained by my constituents. A good deal has been said about rubbish accumulating on the square from the market. That may and does arise from the want of room in the old Market House; but certainly affords no argument against the new one proposed. If it shall be properly conducted, and sufficient room be provided, there is no danger of refuse matter accumulating.

Mr. OWEN.—If hon. members consider a Market House such a nuisance on the square, let them build a wall ten feet high, if they think fit, and keep the country people on the market side of it.

Mr. SINCLAIR.—Queen Square is the most suitable place for the market; and so far am I from considering it a nuisance, that I regard a market day as one of the most interesting in Charlottetown. There is always business in the neighborhood of a market. As interested for the country people, I shall support that situation which offers most room, and where is that advantage to be found, if it be not on the squares, and which of them is so convenient in point of local situation as Queen's? We have the positive statement that the Civic authorities are unable to purchase a site. A small plot of ground would not be sufficient, consequently a large amount would be required to buy a space adequate to the requirements of the people, both of the town and country, the latter of whom will not support an appropriation for such object, while ground can be obtained on a public square. The buildings already erected on this square prevent its being used as a mere pleasure ground, while the other squares being altogether unencumbered can be applied to such purpose without objection from any. In other towns the ornamental parks and squares are not found in the centres of business.

Hon. Mr. MACAULAY.—I am in favor of postponing this debate during the absence of one of the Representatives of the City—Mr. Davies. If we are to give effect to the wishes of any portion of the people of the Island who may feel themselves particularly interested in the subject before us, it is desirable that their Representatives should be here, in order that they may give their opinions on a matter, in the discussion of which, it is only reasonable to suppose that they would reflect the sentiments of the general body whom they represent, in a more reliable degree than other hon. members can be supposed to do. Both the petition and the memorial before us are in favor of having the Market House on Queen Square, and that being the case, I, as a Representative of the people under the system Responsible Government, am willing to aid in giving effect to the opinion thus expressed. That the present Market House can be allowed longer to cumber the ground, no one will be hardy enough to affirm. Such a specimen of public architecture is, I believe, peculiar to Charlottetown, and future generations, should they see a representation of it, will suppose that their ancestors had some long forgotten necessity for a gigantic extinguisher. In times past it might have answered the purposes for which it was intended, but now it is a timeworn relic of by-gone days. But I must say that I think it a humiliating reflection that the City of Charlottetown—the Capital of the Island—of the great wealth of which we are so constantly reminded—cannot build a Market House without coming to the Treasury and asking for aid. But it is our duty, before we appropriate money for ornamental pleasure grounds, to provide for objects of utility. As a comparatively poor community, we should first secure the useful, and afterwards, when our means enable us, we might indulge our taste for the ornamental. The hon. leader of the opposition desires to reverse this order. As the people wish to locate the market on the west side of Queen Square, we shall be remiss in our duty as Representatives, if we do not give effect to their wishes. My own individual opinion would led me to prefer that all the public squares should be kept clear of obstructions. The free circulation of pure air is an object of primary importance; but I will not set up my personal views in opposition to those of the people who are to be principally affected by our action in the matter. It has been said that the petition being signed by but four hundred must not be supposed to represent the views of the majority; but I have been credibly informed that of all those to whom it was submitted for signature but two declined to affix their names, and their only objection was, that they believed that the House would take action in accordance with the requst of the Common Council.

Mr. BEER.—The hon. member may ridicule as much as he pleases the idea of Charlottetown asking for money with which to build a Market House. A compliance with that request is no more than what it has a right to expect. It is not a tithe of what it is entitled to.

Hon Mr. PERRY.—I see no necessity for voting money to purchase land for a public purpose of acknowledged utility, when we already have other land adapted for it, which we are asked to reserve as pleasure grounds for the people of Charlottetown. Queen Square is probably the driest part of Charlottetown, and there is nothing to prevent any one passing from Stamper's Corner to this biulding, with as little inconvenience as he would experience in going the same distance in any other part of the City. I move that the Speaker take the chair.

Hon. Mr. POPE submitted a resolution, in lieu of one previously submitted by Mr. Beer, who now withdrew his.

Hon. Mr. PERRY would press his motion as an amendment.

Mr. CONROY.—I see no necessity for the Speaker taking the Chair. The site asked for is in close proximity to that of the present Market House. I consider that the larger attendance of country and town's people at market is one of the greatest ornaments to Charlottetown. The names signed to the petition afford the most reliable proof of the opinion of the City; but I hope that when they get the ground, the citizens will build the Market House themselves.

Mr. PERRY'S motion was put and lost.

Hon. Mr. POPE'S resolution was then put and carried without division.

W. M. Howe, Reporter.

Friday, March 23.

HIGHWAY ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

AFTERNOON SITTING.

The House in Committee on the amended Statute Labor Act—Mr. Sutherland in the Chair.

The first clause having been read—

Hon. Mr. LONGWORTH explained its object. At present no Commissioner of Highways had authority to let any of the roads within his jurisdiction to contract. Under the present system it was a subject of complaint that the main roads were in a bad condition. The law, as it now stood, specified the period within which Statute Labor must be performed, and parties had the option of commuting that labor for money, or of performing it. This system had not worked satisfactorily. The clause authorized the letting of the main Post Roads by contract, and by it the contractor would have the benefit both of the labor and the money in cases of commutation. A statement of the persons liable, and the respective amounts of their liabilities, would be prepared, so that any party contracting would know what amount he was to receive from this source. As to the period of time over which the contracts were to extend, it would be for the House determine that point.

Hon. Mr. THORNTON would prefer that the contractor should be the overseer of the road as well as receiver of the commutation money, and that he should receive a small sum in lieu of the daily labor. The sooner Statute Labor was abolished the better. No man could reasonably refuse to pay the price of a bushel of oats, rather than perform Statute Lrbor on the roads. He was in favor of letting the main Post Roads by auction. A question of so general of a nature as this should be decided on its merits, independently of local feelings or personal interests.

Mr. COOPER agreed that the contractor should receive the commutation money. He thought some inconvenience might arise from the abolition of Statute Labor—the commutation rate of which should not be made too low. The main roads should be let for a period of not less than five years.

Mr. OWEN did not approve of the clause. Until cash payments should be, by law, substituted for the performance of Statute Labor, a contractor would not take it into his consideration in tendering for the road. The clause excepted from its operation the 12th District of Queen's County. In that District the system of employing parties and paying them by the day, was found to work satisfactorily, and he would ask, why could not the same principle be adopted on the main Post Roads generally? The contractor would not, in tendering for the contract, consider the Statute Labor as of any value; but if it were once placed at his disposal, as contemplated by the Bill, he would enforce the performance of it to the utmost extent to which the law allowed him to go. The late Government had sold the winter roads, and found the system both expensive and troublesome. And the operation of the clause under consideration would be found equally inconvenient. He opposed any alteration in the present system, until money payments were substituted for the Statute Labor in every District, and that change he was not prepared to advocate.

Mr. BEER would support the clause, to which he had given mature consideration.

Hon. Mr. COLES said, that if Statute Labor was to be retained, it should be performed at those seasons of the year in which it could be most usefully applied. But little benefit was experienced from the present system of ploughing up sods, and putting them on the roads in the month of July. When he was a member of the Government, he had always deprecated the practice. If the Government let the roads, the contracts should be for four years. He would, rather than retain the system of Statute Labor, reduce the commutation money to 1s. 6d. If the Government, however, decided on retaining the labor, the contractor should have nothing to do with it. He might object to the sufficiency of any parties appearing in order to perform it, and the Government would be continually annoyed with complaints on the subject. Besides, parties might materially affect his ability to perform his contract, by assigning a variety of excuses on grounds personal to themselves, of the truth or falsity of which the contractor could not judge. He did not think it advisable to let all the main roads by contract; but if it were done, it should be for a term of years, and all hollows in the roads, within ten miles from Charlottetown, should be levelled by macadamization, and the contractors would find it to be to their own advantage to do so. This, of course, could not be done over the whole extent of the roads in the Island. Under the present system the roads were frequently in their best condition when the labor was put upon them.

Mr. BEER.—The contractor should take his chance of the proceeds of the Statute Labor, which might be performed or commuted.

Mr. OWEN did not approve of the total abolition of Statute Labor. People worked hard on the bye-roads, if they did not on the main. A contractor would merely take care that the roads were passable during the period of his contract. If parties were employed on the main roads by the day, it would give satisfaction.

Hon. SPEAKER.—If the course recommended by the hon. member were adopted, it would be necessary to increase the salaries of the Road Commissioners, for it would be absurd to suppose that a Commissioner would devote such portion of time as would be requisite, for the sum of £10 a year. He approved of the main roads being let by contract, and the only difficulty appeared to be the application of the Statute Labor. It would not do to allow the contractor to be the overseer of the Statute Labor, for the reasons assigned by hon. members; and, now that it was intended to reduce the commutation, he saw no reason why the people should object to pay, in preference to working on the main roads.

Hon. Mr. LONGWORTH.—The reason why the 12th District of Queen's County was excepted, was because it was placed under special authority. It was advisable to let the main roads to contract, and while it was deemed best to leave it optional with parties to perform their Statute Labor or commute it, the rate of commutation had been reduced expressly with the object of rendering it more advantageous to a party to pay the money than to perform the labor. If a party preferred to perform his labor, it would manifestly be wrong to give the contractor the control over him. If such power were given, it might be abused, therefore the overseer who had no direct personal interest should direct him. The principle of letting the public roads by contract was a sound one.

Hon. Mr. YEO thought difficulty would be experienced with reference to the optional performance of Statute Labor.

Mr. DOYLE was in favour of Statute Labor being retained on the bye-roads. The contractor on the main Post Roads should have the whole management of the whole distance covered by his contract, of which he should receive the full amount from Government. But the whole of the Statute Labor should be expended on the bye-roads.

Mr. HOWAT agreed that the contractor should have no control over the performance of Statute Labor. Perhaps it would be better to employ all the Statute Labor or commutation under the overseer at one end of a line of road, and let the remainder by contract. For instance, if in a distance of six miles the Statute Labor would be sufficient to keep in order two miles, the contract would only be for the remainder, and the Commissioner might not be under the necessity of drawing any money from the Treasury. The idea of compulsory commutation for Statute Labor he repudiated. It was put forward as a feeler, and if now approved, in a few years the people would find themselves subject to a money tax to the full value of the Statute Labor to which they are now liable. It would be impossible for them to pay all their taxes in money.

Hon. Mr. COLES.—The hon. member paid but a poor compliment to his constituents, when he said that they would rather work on the roads than pay the small amount of commutation money. Perhaps the people of Tryon might agree to perform their Statute Labor this year, to serve the Government, and keep up its character for economy. The system of Statute Labor was degrading, and he would rather exact 1s. 6d. a day as commutation than continue the practice. Very little benefit resulted to the roads from it. The people, generally, made it the occasion of a frolic. In the early settlement of the Colony it was requisite to have Statute Labor on the main roads; but such necessity no longer existed, and he trusted that the people of the flourishing district of Crapaud would have too much self respect to work on the roads, when a trifling cash payment would be taken in lieu. The contractor should have nothing to do with Statute Labor, for if he knew that a man was liable to four day's work, he would exact it to the utmost.

Mr. BEER moved that the clause, as read, be agreed to.

Mr. SINCLAIR, while giving credit for good motives to the introducer of the Bill, nevertheless thought that it would not remedy the evils complained of. There were defects in the present system which called for redress. As the hon. member, Mr. Coles, had stated, the work was done on the roads at the wrong time. The roads at present were too narrow, and before letting them to contract, grants should be applied to widen them. The Statute Labor and commutation money might be applied to keep them in repair, while they were being widened. The money proposed to be granted for those roads would have a more beneficial effect if it were offered to competition, in small jobs, which would enable many to buy seed for their farms, and by the work being performed early in the season, the people would make the money immediately available for the supply of their necessities. If the commutation were reduced, the people would soon perceive the advantage of paying it, and more work would be performed. The privilege of performing Statute Labor would interfere with any contractor's arrangements, who, in making his calculations, would not regard it as of any appreciable importance. If the contractor had the direct control of the parties performing Statute Labor, he would have a direct interest in exacting it to the last minute that the law allowed. If the roads were let in their present state, no permanent improvement would result, they would be merely kept in repair. They must be widened before any lasting improvement could be expected.

Hon. Col. GRAY.—The system of Statute Labor on the Highways was a relic of barbarism, unworthy of the present time, and should, wherever practicable, be abolished. The season in which, under the present system, the roads are repaired, was altogether inappropriate. Instead of July and August, the roads should be repaired in the Spring, when the ground could be easily turned up. The plan of letting the main roads by contract was introduced merely as an experiment, and should have a fair trial. It was proposed to let them merely for three years.

Mr. COOPER considered commutation preferable to Statute Labor; but the only course would be to leave it at the disposal of the contractor, who could allow for it at the rate of his contract. It would be impossible to make commutation compulsory immediately.

Hon. Mr. PERRY.—Difficulty might ensue if the contractor and the overseer should not work harmoniously. More had been said about the principles, than of the practical effects of the details of the Bill. The commutation at 2s. per man would not suffice to keep the roads in repair. In a few years people would be called upon to pay 10s. In his District, the inhabitants found it no easy matter to pay their School and Land Taxes, and if that was the case, how were they to raise this additional tax for roads. Although he had no doubt that the clause had been introduced with a sincere conviction that it would be conducive to the public advantage, he thought it would not be right to deprive a poor man of his chance of working on the roads.

Hon. Mr. THORNTON was surprised at what had fallen from the hon. member, who represented his constituents as too poor to pay 2s. or 3s. a day, while they could build a place of worship which would cost some £2000; and as preferring to work on the roads to commuting a day's labor for 9d. He had always advocated the abolition of Statute Labor, as being a disgrace to the country, and sooner than retain it he would fix the commutation at 2s., and he was satisfied that at that rate a greater amount of work would be applied to the roads than under the present system. The statutable age for liability to road work was from 16 to 60 years. He was willing that 50 should be the maximum, and that the commutation should be reduced.

Mr. CONROY was opposed to the compulsory commutation. In his District many would rather work on the roads than pay money, which their circumstances rendered difficult—others would, of course, prefer to pay the commutation. As to the reference made by the last speaker to the new Chapel at Tignish, as indicating the means of the people, he could say that the comparative scarcity of money among them arose from the fact, that they spared no exertion to pay their debts. In no part of the Island were the Rents better paid, and in many instances this honest disposition left the parties with little or no money. The compulsory commutation of Statute Labor was, therefore, not adapted to his District.

Hon. Mr. LAIRD approved of the clause, the objections to which were merely imaginary. The only difference the Bill would effect would be, that the main roads would be let by contract, and it was expedient to adopt that alteration.

Hon. Mr. LONGWORTH.—The contractor would not be at liberty to act as intimated by the hon. member, Mr. Sinclair, who said he would do nothing but keep the roads in a passable state of repair. He would be required to put them into proper condition, and keep them so during the time of his contract.

Mr. HOWAT repudiated the opinion attributed to him, that he wished to make people work on the roads. He only desired to leave the performance of Statute Labor or payment of commutation optional.

Mr. HOLM.—It would be to the interest of the contractor that the work should be performed as early as possible, and that it should not be postponed till July, when there is but little need of it, and when it is of very little advantage. He would like to know how the bye-roads were to be kept up, if the Statute Labor was applied to the main road?

Hon. Mr. LONGWORTH explained that the bye-roads would receive the benefit of Statute Labor, as at present.

The clause passed, and the time for the duration of contracts was fixed at from 3 to 5 years.

One or two clauses of minor importance were then ageed to, and progress was reported.

W. M. HOWE, Reporter.

Correspondence.

For the Examiner.

CONSECRATION OF A BISHOP IN THE CATHEDRAL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, ST. JOHN, N. B.

On last Sunday, about seven thousand persons were present at the performance of one of the most imposing and magnificent ceremonies ever witnessed in this City—the Consecration of the Right Reverend John Sweeney, D. D., as R. C. Bishop for this Diocese.

The documents appointing Dr. Sweeney to the Episcopal dignity having been received from the Holy See some weeks since, Low Sunday was fixed upon for the consecration of the Bishop-Elect; and all preliminary arrangements necessary for so important a ceremonial were made in a manner commensurate with the occasion.

For some hours before the commencement of the ceremony an immense concourse of citizens had congregated on and about the Cathedral grounds: and in a few moments afterwards the sacred edifice was encompassed by a multitude of men, women, and children, amongst whom could be recognised many of the various Protestant denominations belonging to the City, and all eagerly endeavouring to gain admission to the Church. But, on the principle of "first come first served," those near the doorways had made good their entrance long before the main body of the crowd found themselves on the *terra firma* of the Cathedral yard; while hundreds, relinquishing all hope of approaching even to the exterior of the building, retraced their steps homeward. I had the good fortune, after an hour's struggling with men and hoops, to find myself upon the threshold of the centre door. Just before advancing further, and looking back upon the disappointed thousands, thought I, well if some *one* only saw this vast assemblage of Papists, intermixed as it is with a number of those who enjoy the "genuine liberty which Protestantism bestows," he might indeed exclaim with an official *dictum* "it is time to sound the alarm."

I entered the Church at 10 o'clock and procured a seat. After some meditation, and (of course) invoking the protection of angels and saints, I perceived with *un coup d œ.l* that the inside of the Church, especially the sanctuary, altar, &c., presented an improved appearance—having been decorated with the choicest natural flowers and shrubbery that the season could produce, and wrought together in various devices by the delicate hands of the Ladies of the Sacred Heart Sisters of Charity. The new Altar of Italian marble, recently erected at a cost of some six hundred pounds, looked truly grand and brilliant. It was elegantly adorned with emblematical ornaments appropriate for the day. Paintings of artistic excellence, "glowing with the imagery of Heaven," hung on either side. Upon its summit stood two marble statues whose saintly-looking brows were encircled with a wreath of pink and white roses, jessamines, lilies, and other blooming flowers. On the right of the High Altar were prepared two handsome side chapels for the Bishop-Elect and assistant Bishops: and on the left was the new Bishop's throne with a richly finished canopy, all covered with white satin. The Pulpit, too, was exteriorly lined with silk of the same chaste color.

Outside of the railing of the sanctuary were assembled the Sisters of Charity, surrounded by 70 or 80 of their pupils, tastefully apparelled in white, with long loose veils. From their shoulders was suspended a blue ribbon, to which was attached a medal of the Immaculate Conception.

A few minutes before the Prelates and Priests in attendance appeared at the front of the Altar, the pews and body of the Church, as well as the gallery alloted to the choir, were densely filled. The respectful and reverent demeanor of the congregation, from the devout and pious Catholic—the constitutional Episcopalian—the predestined-looking Presbyterian—the self-elected Baptist—to the more modern Methodist saint—together with the impressive appearance about the sanctuary,—all combined to inculcate feelings of holy awe and veneration, and to announce that a ceremony at once pregnant with sublimity and grandeur was about to commence.

Precisely at half-past ten o'clock the procession from the Vestry entered into the sanctuary in the following order:—Acolytes, followed by twelve or fifteen Priests, some robed in full vestments; the Right Rev. the Bishop of Boston, with Mitre, Cope, &c.; the Bishop-Elect wearing a splendid Cope and Biretum; the Right Rev. Bishop of Arichat, wearing his Mitre, Cope, &c., followed by the illustrious Archbishop of Halifax, in magnificent Pontificals. His Grace the Archbishop was the consecrating Prelate, and the Rt. Revds. Drs. Fitzpatrick and McKinnon were the Assistant Bishops. The Rev. Mr. Power, of St. Mary's, Halifax, was deacon; the Rev. John Quin, St. John, sub-deacon; the Rev Mr. Kennedy, Halifax, Assistant Priest; Rev. Mr. Nugent, St John, Master of Ceremonies. The Revds. Messrs. Dunphy, Connolly, Gear, James Quin, Farrell, Vereker, and O'Regan, also assisted. The Rev. Dr. Cameron, of Arichat, read the apostolic mandate in an audible and distinct voice.

The ceremonious train of Bishops, Priests, and Acolytes being arrived below, and in front of the High Altar, the consecrator, after praying a short time, ascended the steps, and took his seat on the faldstool. The Bishop-Elect advanced between the assistants from the side chapel to the consecrator, and saluted him. He was presented by the senior assistant to the consecrator for consecration, and, after the apostolic mandate was read, the Elect took the solemn oath usual on such occasions. Then began the long and interesting ceremonial which lasted four hours, and enchained the attention of the entire congregation, who preserved a most orderly deportment during the different stages thereof. Mass was also said by the consecrator and Bishop-Elect at their respective Altars. Dr. Cameron preached the sermon from the Gospel of the day, and for nearly an hour he addressed the multitude in a style and voice clear, distinct, and argumentative, and finished by pronouncing a well-deserved eulogium upon the virtues and character of Bishop Sweeney.

It is beyond my ability to give a correct description of this grave but beautiful ceremony, and probably little more than what I have already said would encumber the columns of the *Examiner*. The Most Rev. Archbishop went through all the forms, as prescribed by the Roman Pontifical and Missal, in a manner which, to be duly appreciated, should be witnessed, and preserving that *otium cum dignitate* peculiarly his own. The very appearance of his Grace would alone inspire deep respect and admiration for himself and for the religion of which he is so eminent a Pontiff. There he stood robed in shining vestments and the Royal Ermine, the noble champion of a noble cause, and lately the triumphant defender of Catholicity against the unfounded accusations and sophistries promulgated by a judicial functionary of Catacomb notoriety. The presence of the Bishops of Boston and Arichat, too, added lustre, dignity, and reverence to the spectacle. Shortly before the Prelates left the sanctuary the newly consecrated Bishop, wearing his Episcopal Robes, Mitre, Ring, &c., was conducted by the Archbishop from the Altar and enthroned—receiving the Crosier from the hands of the consecrator, which completed the investment of all power and authority. From the choir resounded the *Te Deum* in admirable style, while a procession from the sanctuary went through the Church, preceded by the Bishop of Boston; next to him followed the new Bishop, imparting his benediction as he slowly passed along, to the entire congregation, who devoutly stooped to receive their beloved Bishop's blessing. The Bishop of Arichat followed next in the procession, which, when returned to the Altar, the consecrated ascended and received the kiss of peace from the Most Rev. Archbishop and the assistant Prelates. After some other forms ware gone through the Bishops and attendants left the sanctuary, and the congregation dispersed in the same marked decorum which characterized them during the divine service. In a few moments the Cathedral was emptied of its mass of human beings, and silent solemnity pervaded its spacious interior.

It were unnecessary, and perhaps irrelevant, to say one word upon the character of Bishop Sweeney, or upon the many Christian virtues which adorn him. They are long well known to all who have the happiness of his Lordship's acquaintance; and fully esteemed by the Catholics of New Brunswick, whose prayers, no doubt, will be, that he may be long spared to direct their spiritual welfare. On next Sunday his Lordship will say his first Pontifical Mass, and his Grace the Archbishop of Halifax will preach his farewell sermon.

St. John, N. B., April 18, 1860. P. E. I.

To the Editor of the Examiner.

EXPLODED DELUSIONS.

"When evil strives the worst have greatest names."

Sir,—I intended to address you some observations which occurred to me, on the controversy which grew out of the "alarm" which the pious defender of the faith sounded in the Government organ; but the party which at present guide the destinies of our little state fly from injustice to outrage so rapidly that they allow us scarcely time to speculate on one event or action before another claims our attention. Like the American showman, Barnum, they have some strange delusion to supplant the old one, which had become too stale even for their most ardent admirers. Thus, they loudly denounced the tyranny and injustice of withholding despatches, but at the present moment they find it convenient to hold "Secret Despatches" which have been demanded, and which justice to the characters of public men, as well as common honesty to the people proclaim, should have been given to the public months ago. Then the Government boasted that they were to retrench the public expenditure. What do we see but new offices created, and instead of retrenching the expenditure and lessening taxation, the Leader of the Government in the House of Assembly gravely states that the people may shortly expect to have to submit to increased taxation! Again, they proposed to promote peace and harmony among all classes, and the Government have descended in their organ, the *Islander*, to arouse bitter religious prejudices among the people, and have insultingly and falsely asserted that the Catholics were seeking to bring this Colony under the rule of "Romish ecclesiastics." When this statement was disproved by the fair arguments and clear reasoning of your correspondent "Lector," instead of apologising for the injustice which was committed, and retracting the mischievious assertions which were made, the editor of the *Islander* whines, equivocates, reasserts, and offers to the letters of "Lector" the most paltry opposition, if that can be called opposition where the thunderbolt strikes and the clay yields.

Though it be admitted that the Government have practised deception, as above stated, yet it will be said that they have fulfilled all the other promises which they made,—for instance, that none but men of sterling talent and acknowledged abilities should fill the high places—that education would be better encouraged and schoolmasters' salaries raised—that the Land Question would be amicably settled—not to mention a score of other reforms, when they came into power. It is true that the Government have shown regard to the progress of education, they give £200 yearly to John Arbuckle, Esq., M. A., School Visiter, for desseminating useful knowledge about the corners of the streets of Charlottetown, the country districts having no need of his valuable services. Besides, proving their interest in the cause of education by appointing this