

here refused to lend their assistance in enforcing the provisions of the treaty of 1818, Captain Hardinge would, no doubt, have complained to the Imperial Government of their conduct. The restrictions, no doubt, caused considerable trouble, but, under the circumstances, the law had to be enforced. The late Government, believing that our trade would be seriously affected, sent home to the Imperial Government a minute of Council, ably drawn up setting forth the advantages of fishing in the waters of the British Colonies, and that document, relaxations were made and the restrictions removed. It was felt on all sides that nothing would benefit the commerce of this Island more than free trade with the United States, for that country was the natural market for our productions. Instead of laying a paltry tax of two shillings and sixpence per ton on American fishing vessels, we had reserved our fishing grounds to our own use, and stood upon our rights, it would have shown the Americans that we could live without them, and we should today have been in a better position to get concessions from them, for the privilege of fishing in our waters, which have been determined made to the American Government, that the people of these Provinces were desirous of Annexation to the United States, and they withdrew from the Reciprocity Treaty in order to hasten our action in reference to Annexation; but they found that they were mistaken, and that the people of the British Colonies could do without them in any way. Whether those relaxations in reference to American fishermen were to be continued without our receiving any concessions in return, was for that House to consider. He hoped that the matter would be calmly and deliberately considered without regard to party. The question, of course, would have to be determined by a great measure by the British Government; still we had rights, and those rights would be acknowledged. We should endeavor to stand up for our rights to the last, and gain some ground if possible. We should look to the advantages to be derived from the coasting trade, for we know that the Americans spent large amounts of money in our ports, in purchasing outfits and supplies for their vessels, during the time that trade was carried on. But our main object, in considering the subject should be, not to consider the present benefits to be derived, but the best course to pursue in order to obtain a Reciprocity Treaty. The Americans would not be content with our fish; they would want more than that; they would want to be able to sell their goods in our ports, and therefore, we should strive to our rights, till we could obtain something in return.

Hon. Mr. HOWLAND said that the hon. member for Belfast (Hon. B. D.) had made a statement which he could not allow to pass. That hon. member had stated that he (Hon. Mr. H.) had left the Liberals and joined the Conservatives because he wanted to be Premier. The statement was utterly false, and there was not a member on the Government side of the House, who would endorse it. He had too much respect for the Hon. Mr. Howland to entertain any such thoughts. That gentleman had labored hard for the interests of the Colony, and his character stood high in the estimation of his fellow-colonists; and he (Hon. Mr. H.) knew that hon. gentleman would deny the statement in reference to his aspiring to be premier. If that high position had been offered to him by (Hon. Mr. H.) would have declined it; and no two offices in connection with the Government would have induced him to leave his business and come to Charlottetown to attend to them. With regard to his ambition it was easily satisfied. He was not even a magistrate, except by virtue of his position in the Government; and he had never accepted office of any kind. The hon. member for Belfast (Hon. B. D.) had accepted a very fat office from the late Government, and had also procured one for his son. He (Hon. Mr. H.) was not going to take the trouble to answer the hon. member in reference to the charge of underhand work in breaking up the late Government, he had simply to state that there was nothing whatever of the kind.

Hon. B. DAVIES said that he had merely stated it as his opinion that the hon. member had left the Liberal Party because he could not get the Premiership.

Hon. Mr. HOWLAND did not believe it was even the hon. member's opinion, that he (Hon. Mr. H.) aspired to the Premiership of the late Government.

Hon. B. DAVIES—The hon. leader of the Government had mentioned what had been reported out of doors concerning the formation of a strong Protestant Party. In reply, he (Hon. B. D.) would state that the Liberals as a party, never had anything to do with the Orange organization. He was a follower of the late Hon. Edward Whelan, and it was not without well considering what step he was about to take, that he joined the Liberal Party. He would like to know what control the late Government had over the appointment of the Sheriff. That office had been appointed by the Supreme Court, and the late Government had no control whatever over his appointment. He had not stated that the Returns of the late Elections had been interfered with; but that there was great room for conjecture for something appeared to be wrong. He had been accused of retaining his seat in the late Executive Council after he should have resigned. He had only received in that Council thirty-six hours after the resignation of the other members, and he did not think he could be blamed for that. He thought it was premature to discuss the Fisheries Question, till the Despatches came down; but he could not help expressing the opinion that the course which the Canadians pursued in regard to our fisheries, was very unbecoming. The Canadian Government had nothing whatever to do with the matter; it was in the hands of the British and United States Governments, and they alone could settle any difficulties in connection with it. But the Canadian Government had made themselves obnoxious in our concerns, and sent for the famous Captain Hardinge, to whom they gave orders to prevent American fishermen from landing cargoes in our harbors, or carrying on any trade. While that officer remained in this port, it appeared that he could do whatever he pleased, for it was not safe to cross the harbor on account of the cannon balls flying about. He (Hon. B. D.) believed that if Captain Hardinge's conduct had been complained of to the British authorities he would have received a severe reprimand.

Hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL said that the hon. member for Belfast, (Hon. B. DAVIES) had made heavy charges against the Government, in reference to the Returns in connection with the late Elections. Those charges were very unfair, and he (Hon. Attorney General) hoped that it such information in reference to the Returns of the late Election had really taken place, the affair should be sifted to the very bottom. He hoped that the hon. member would not venture to throw out any such insinuations, unless he had some foundation for them; but he did not think the Government need be in the least alarmed on the matter. The High Sheriff was chosen from the three names sent into the Supreme Court by the late Government, and occupied the Office when the present Government came into power. He much mistaken the character of that officer, if he would not have the matter brought before the proper authorities, and have it investigated. But he did not believe for one moment that there was the shadow of truth in the charge made by the hon. member for Belfast. The fact was, that every gentleman in Charlottetown knew that Mr. Sullivan, in looking over the Poll Books, as he had a right to do—first discovered their defects. The discoveries made, took everybody by surprise; but the hon. member would try to make it appear that the whole affair was a Confederate dodge! How the hon. member made this out, he (Hon. Attorney General) could not see. But the hon. member now tells us, that was a matter of opinion! He (Hon. Attorney General) could tell him that it was a monstrous charge; and he hoped it would not remain unanswered. All sorts of charges had been made against the Government; there was nothing too monstrous or absurd to charge them with; but all this matter was foreign to the subject under consideration. It was a matter of the greatest importance to the country to have our trade relations with the United States extended, for their people were our natural customers. It was the duty of every hon. member of that House, to offer every inducement to the United States to extend a more liberal basis of trade to this Colony. He believed Commissioners were now on their way from London to Washington, for the purpose of concluding a treaty, but to ascertain as far as possible the opinions of both sides, and what would meet their views on the matter. It was certainly a question between the United States and Great Britain, but it affected us seriously—indeed it affected the whole of British North America. It was a matter of little or no consequence to the Imperial Government, whether the Americans were allowed to fish within the three-mile line or not; but for the purpose of securing a treaty, it was of great importance to us. The question to be now considered was, whether we should continue to relax these restrictions. He thought they should be relaxed. The Commissioners sent to Washington, he believed, were entrusted with the responsibility of settling or investigating the Alabama claims, and if those claims were settled, the fishery question would be settled also. The time, he thought, was not far distant, when a new Reciprocity Treaty would be agreed upon. If, with a barrier in our way we had made such progress, our prosperity would increase in a far greater ratio, when that barrier was removed. The sooner all obstructions to free trade were removed, the better. We are dealing with a people who like to have their *quid pro quo* and we should look out, and see that we have ours also.

Hon. P. SINGLAI said that the paragraph under consideration was a very important one, as it related to the trade of the Colony; but hon. members had dragged other questions into the debate. In reference to the Election Returns for Queen's County, there had been many draw-backs. He had stated when the Sheriff returned Mr. Laird, that he had no right to do so; and he was also of opinion that the Crown Law Officers had no right to tamper with the Returns of the Sheriff. The hon. Attorney General admitted that the Government were in a close corner; but he (Hon. Mr. Singlai) thought they had a clear course before them, and that they had taken the wrong one. He believed that if the opinion of lawyers of the highest standing could be obtained, they would say that the Government had no right to interfere with the Sheriff's Returns. If members could be kept out of the House three days, they could be kept out three months; it would be difficult to tell where the matter would end, and how that would effect our case. He believed that in the eye of the law there had been very few absolute returns of members for Queen's County. To give the Crown Law Officers absolute power to sit in judgment on the Sheriff's Returns was a great mistake, and no precedent could be found for such conduct. He, for one, protested against such tampering with the Sheriff's Returns, by any Crown Law Officer. It had been stated that the principle of allowing United States fishing vessels to enter our ports to re-ship fish, and purchase supplies, was contrary to the treaty of 1818. He questioned whether it was. It had been found that the trade of the Colony had been much benefited by the new traffic which had lately sprang up with those fishermen. With the experience of the past, he believed a different view of the matter would be taken, and that our American trade would continue to increase. The United States occupied such a position that their trade would be far more beneficial to the Colony than the trade with Great Britain; and therefore the sooner a new treaty was agreed upon the better.

Hon. LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT said that it was hardly fair for the hon. member for New London (hon. P. Singlai) to state that the Crown Law Officers had interfered with the Sheriff's Returns. The hon. Attorney General was bound to give his legal opinion on the matter when called upon by His Honor the Lieutenant Governor to do so; and he simply gave it as his opinion that Mr. Laird was not absolutely returned as a member of the House. The hon. member's own statement corroborated that fact. The hon. Attorney General had not taken it altogether upon himself to decide the question, but had referred it to the House for their decision; it was therefore very unfair for the hon. member to speak in the way he did.

The Speaker then took the chair, the Chairman reported progress and obtained leave to sit again.

House adjourned. I. O.

Committee on Draft Address resumed.

Mr. McLEAN.—This subject is one of very great importance to my constituents, and indeed to the people of the Island generally, and I am happy to see that it has been referred to in the speech of the Lieut. Governor, expressive of a desire to have a renewal of the Reciprocity Treaty. When the proper time for discussing the question arrives, when the despatches and other papers connected with it are before us, I shall give my views upon it. The somewhat angry discussion which took place this morning, I regret, and if I was in the case of having brought it on, I am sorry, and trust our discussion will, in future, be carried on with regularity. I merely add, that I yield to no man in the desire to dispense even-handed justice to Protestants and Catholics.

Mr. McLEAN.—I agree, Mr. Chairman, with what has been said in reference to the importance of this question to the people of the Island. Our general commerce was seriously affected by the abolition of the Reciprocity Treaty. I think, sir, that the complaint of the American authorities is not unreasonable. After having exercised for twenty years without molestation the right to fish within three marine miles of the shore, it was but fair that one notice should have been given to them. As for the privilege of the First District of Queen's County, I cannot agree with the resolutions of the Opposition, as tabled. The Sheriff would be wrong if he returned any but those having a majority of votes. The third paragraph of the preamble to the resolution introduced by the hon. member for Belfast (Hon. B. DAVIES) states that the Sheriff had proclaimed Messrs. Laird and Sinclair elected by a majority of votes, but his return of the writ, which must be our guide, is worded so ambiguously that I cannot say that a legal return of any particular candidate has been made. If the Sheriff had returned two names duly elected, that is, in point of fact, would have been valid in law; and this matter would be subject to the subsequent action of the House. The next paragraph states that the Law Officers of the Crown having advised that no legal return having been made to the writs, Messrs. Sinclair and Laird have not been summoned to sit in the House. Now I do not deny that the hon. Mr. Singlai may feel aggrieved at being kept out of his seat, that gentleman having a clear majority over Mr. Laird and myself, but as he is in company with Mr. Laird, he must share his fate. Censure has been cast upon the Law Officers of the Crown for having given their opinions on the return to the writ. But it has been stated without contradiction that the Sheriff availed himself of legal advice before making the return before us. I concur fully in the opinion that this is a matter for the decision of the House; but, at the time these matters occurred, there was no House to which they could be referred. While doubts existed as to the position in which the return placed Mr. Sinclair, or any other of the candidates, the Government could appeal for guidance to no higher authority than that of their official advisers.

Hon. Mr. WRIGHTMAN.—Mr. Chairman, I shall not follow the example set by other hon. members, in introducing into the debate on this paragraph matters entirely irrelevant to the subject. The hon. member who introduced the subject matter of the paragraph before us. The subject to which it relates is of vital importance to the commercial interests of the country, and I am glad that it has been introduced into the speech with which His Honor the Lieutenant Governor opened the Session. The hon. member who introduced the subject has done us a great service, and he has done it in a most judicious manner. It is a subject which we should all be interested in. I might almost say the only, markets to which we exported our surplus produce, and the merchants of those places took advantage of the necessity we were under of selling to them, and regulated the price at their pleasure. When the Reciprocity Treaty was introduced, our price—our price—the consequence of it, and our surplus produce, were readily obtained. When that treaty was abolished, I confess, Mr. Chairman, that I, in common with many others, apprehended a serious reduction in the price to be obtained for our exports; but the alteration in our commercial relations with the United States, a market was opened up to us in the most advantageous manner, and we were able to dispose of our surplus produce, and in all probability, a definite and satisfactory arrangement will be concluded. I lately noticed in an American paper, a statement to the effect that the American people would never be satisfied while the flag of Great Britain flew over the States of South Carolina. I do not believe to be the sentiments of the American Government. Let the two Governments settle the matter of the Alabama Claims, and a better feeling between the two peoples will be once again. I sincerely hope for a speedy renewal of our commercial relations with the States of the Union, as once stimulate our business of all kinds, and all parts of the Island would participate in its benefits. When the treaty was in force, American fishermen brought much money to the Island, for the purchase of barrels, provisions, salt, and many other requisites of their business. The amount of accommodation possessed by Charlottetown, and all other parts of the Island, would be increased, and all parts of the Colony will share its advantages, in a greater or less degree, and we ought all to unite in the wish that a new treaty will soon be arranged.

Hon. D. DAVIES.—Mr. Chairman, I heard the hon. member say this morning by some hon. member of the Opposition, that it was the duty of the Government to be returned to Messrs. Sinclair and Laird, as elected by a majority of votes at the Election for the first District of Queen's County, and that by their omission to do so they had infringed the rights of this House. Such was not the office of Government, it was the duty of the Sheriff to make such a return, and the Government, in doing the act, for not doing which they are censured, hon. members might justly complain of a violation of the privileges of the House, and an authorized assumption of authority by the Government. I wish to be understood as not imputing any blame to the Sheriff. He acted under the advice and I have no doubt with the best intentions. Some hon. members appear to be awfully afraid of confederates, and the hon. member for Summerside (Mr. McMillan) thought that some deeply laid scheme connected with "Confederation" underlay the proceedings which have taken place in connection with this Election. As to that subject, I have always been favorably disposed towards it; but my opinions upon it are very moderate. I believe that it will come sooner or later, but have no desire to urge its adoption. If it be postponed for twenty or thirty years it will be all the better for us; making steady advances in prosperity, with the lightest taxation of any country I know of, and I am not at all anxious to change the political conditions under which such results have been attained. With reference to the paragraph immediately before us, I may say that I do not consider that the fisheries are the main-stay of the people. Those of the Island who have embarked in the prosecution of that branch of industry know that the results are very uncertain; I have tried it myself, both from the shore by boats, and outside by schooners, and the result was not such as to induce me to continue the experiment. The American fishermen conduct their fishing business on a system widely different from that pursued here. Instead of having up their vessels in autumn, they keep them actively employed nearly the whole year; after the close of the mackerel season in the Gulf, they resort to the Banks for codfish and halibut, to the Magellan Islands for porpoise, herring, and to Greenland for halibut, their vessels and crews are thus kept constantly engaged in this particular business. This constant employment in one pursuit renders those engaged in it more skillful and proficient in an avocation which is the business of their lives. The principal occupation of the people of the Island is on the other hand, mainly agricultural. I consider it a matter of great importance to us, that American fishermen should be allowed to enter our ports and purchase all the barrels, provisions, and other articles they may require, as that would bring a large amount of money to the Island, and they should be allowed to transmit their fish in bond to the States. In these respects, I believe, that last summer, Captain Hardinge,

of H. M. S. *Valorous*, exceeded his duty; but only in these. In other instances in which he seized vessels, the parties had been guilty of violation of the Merchant-Shipping Act. The seizure of the schooner, the "Chiff F. Friend," was attributable solely to the misconduct of the master, and had the owner been on board at the time, no trouble would have arisen. With reference to reciprocal trade with the States, I am as desirous to obtain a renewal of our former relations, as any one, but do not recognize the policy of conceding to the Americans the privileges they ask from the Colonies, while they themselves maintain a system of exclusiveness towards us. We cannot sell our vessels in their markets, and heavy charges are imposed upon our trade with them. I have no idea of making concessions of all our privileges to those who will not reciprocate with us. However, the proper time for discussion of this matter will be when the despatches are before us.

Hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL.—I was surprised, Mr. Chairman, at what fell from the hon. member from New London (Hon. Mr. Singlai), this morning. The Sheriff of Queen's County acted under legal advice. He did so, and was quite right in doing so. He took the advice of gentlemen of high standing in his profession, and unconnected with any political parties. I repeat, that I was not consulted by the Sheriff. When the writ of election for the first District, and the return to it were before the Executive, His Honor the Lieutenant Governor said—"Here is a special return; I will not interfere with the rights of the House of Assembly." The Government declined to meddle with a matter cognizable only by this House. And when the hon. member admits that it was proper for me to give my opinion, when it was called for, he concedes the point for which I have been censured. I have stated that I would not act as a judge myself, nor would I advise the Lieutenant Governor to act judicially in this matter, as he must have done if he had decided on the documents before him, that he should send down the names of Messrs. Sinclair and Cameron, as having been returned elected. No doubt the delay in taking his seat, has operated largely in the case of the hon. member, (Hon. Mr. Singlai) who clearly had a majority over the other two candidates. With reference to the charge of withholding the writ from the House, Sir, it is more than a Crown officer dare do, to advise such a course; and that writ has been sent down in due time. The hon. member charges me to produce a precedent for the course adopted by the Government in this case. I have not sought to find one, nor was it necessary. The hon. member should first have established the legality of the return; and that shall have been done, when course could be the Government pursue, other than that which they have adopted. I refer to my previous answer, that the Sheriff of Queen's County never asked my opinion, and never held any conversation with me on the subject of this, or any other, of the recent elections in his County. It has been said that my opinion, as given, was influenced by the probable effect of it upon my own seat, or that of my honorable colleagues. I now, Sir, emphatically deny that I ever saw the Poll Books; and that, never, for a moment, did I give a thought, in advising His Honor the Lieutenant Governor in this case, to the seats of the members for the City. However desirous I may be to see my hon. colleague occupying a seat here as a member of this House, I shall act, as far as I am capable, honestly and justly in the matter of his election, or that of any other member of this House, and any assertion to the contrary, is as baseless a fiction as ever fell from the polluted lips of a scoundrel. I am aware, Mr. Chairman, that these are harsh words, but I can assure hon. members that they are words of truth.

Paragraph agreed to.

The 9th Paragraph, referring to the New Building in course of erection in Charlottetown for the public offices having been read:

Hon. LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT said, I presume, Mr. Chairman, that there will be no objection to this paragraph. It is well known that greater accommodation than is afforded by the present Colonial Building is required for the transaction of the public business of the Island, and better provision for the security of the public records and documents than at present exist should be provided. The duties of the various departments has increased greatly for the public business, sufficient for its requirements is now totally inadequate. The Speech of His Honor the Lieutenant Governor merely announces the progress of the work. It is probable that it will be completed early in autumn.

Mr. McMillan.—I believe, Mr. Chairman, that the building referred to is required but I hope the Government, in their estimates, will not forget Summerside. We need a proper building there for a Post Office, and for a Registry of Deeds. We also require a lock-up, and I hope Government will be prepared to meet our wishes, and I ask my hon. colleague (Mr. LeFurgey) especially as he is on the Government side of the House, for his influence in securing the grants for these objects. Now, Mr. Chairman, I see nothing in the Speech about the Land Question, and nothing about education. A great deal has been said about these questions and other matters during this debate on the Address, and the Hon. Attorney General has made a good many speeches. I know that he can make a good speech out of nothing; I only wish I could do the same. As so much has been said about the change that has taken place among the political parties, I may say, that although the Government has now got the Catholics, it may be different hereafter. When I was engaged in ascertaining the support I would probably receive at my last election, members of our party were sent from Charlottetown to canvass against Mr. The Catholic members who were with us until last evening, now abuse us, and when I heard last evening the resolution read by the hon. member from Cassequep (Hon. Mr. Howland), to the effect, that all the Catholics wanted was simple justice, I was willing to allow that every man had a right to that; but, Mr. Chairman, I have heard some say that they would not vote for a grant to Catholic schools. That has been the cry in a rural district, including that which I represent. I am not finding fault with the Catholics for having left our party; I told them in caucus, that if they insisted on having the grant, they had better leave it. Some allusion has been made to conversations in the streets of Charlottetown, previously to the formation of the Government. All I now about the matter is, that when Judge Hensley accepted a seat on the Bench, the Liberals wanted a leader, and I think that our own ranks did not furnish one under whom I would be more willing to act, than the Hon. Attorney General, if he would only keep out of Confederation. The Hon. Leader of the Government looks very significantly at me, but I make the statement because I believe it to be true. With reference to the Land Question, I am as willing as any one, and will go as far, to buy up proprietary claims. It is true that a good many Lots have been bought up, and it may be that they who have got their lands

under the Land Purchase Act, no longer trouble themselves about who still continue tenants; but I think it strange that no mention of this subject appears in the Lieutenant Governor's Speech. As the matter of education has been brought up in this discussion, I may be permitted to allude to it in a few words. I hold in my hand a copy of the *Herald* newspaper, containing the following extract from the *Islander*:—"Here is a picture of our 'noble' school system, which the *Islander* of Friday gives us:—"We have been informed that in one of the public schools in Summerside, upwards of one hundred and fifty children are occasionally to be seen crowded together. The school is under the charge of a Mr. Hodgson, who has one assistant under him, Mr. Hodgson is, we believe, a very efficient teacher, but it is simply absurd to suppose that he, and one assistant—a young woman—can do justice to so many children. We spend annually a very large sum of money upon education, but our schools generally are inefficient."

"This must be gratifying to the soul of Mr. Laird and those who agree with him, that the kind of schools above described, in which the mere rudiments of a godless education are taught, is just the thing for this Colony."—*Herald*, Feb. 22.

Now, Mr. Chairman, this allusion to Mr. Laird is not only an insult to that gentleman, and all who are opposed to sectarian grants, but, Sir, if the statement as to the number of scholars in the school referred to, is correctly given, and I believe that it is, it is quite evident that more schoolhouses are required there. The teacher of that school does not receive as much as the Common School teachers in Charlottetown, and some alteration is required in the law, which would make Mr. Hodgson's salary equal at least to those paid to the teachers of public schools in Charlottetown.

Hon. D. DAVIES.—Is there a local assessment for schools in Summerside? There is a heavy rate imposed in Charlottetown.

Mr. McMillan.—I am alluding to the salaries paid by Government, and the school-house referred to is far better than any I have seen in Charlottetown and the teacher, Mr. Hodgson, is as efficient as any that I am acquainted with in the Island, and fully competent to impart both moral and religious instruction and the pupils, as to good conduct and moral principles, would compare favorably with those who attended any school in the Island.

Mr. LEFURGEY.—Mr. Chairman, I am happy to endorse what has fallen from my hon. colleague on the subject of the local wants of Summerside. I am pleased to see the new public buildings in Charlottetown, and especially admit that the increase of public business, the result of the expansion of the trade of the country has rendered its construction necessary. But, Sir, Summerside is the second town in the Island, and the public buildings referred to by my hon. colleague, are required, and the population of Summerside, the amount of its commerce, justify our thinking that we should not be overlooked by the Government in the Estimates. As to the school to which my hon. colleague has referred, I have no hesitation in saying that I never, in this Island, saw one in a more efficient state. The teacher, Mr. Hodgson, complained to me of the insufficiency of his salary, and when it is ascertained that, as has been stated this evening, no less than one hundred and forty scholars attend that school, his complaint must be admitted to be founded in justice. I expected to have received a document to fortify my position in advocating the claims of that gentleman to an augmentation of his salary. I do not, however, have one to show to the Executive Council. Mr. Hodgson's school is situated in the Eastern school district of Summerside, but that located in the Western division of the town has one hundred and twenty scholars on its register. Now, Mr. Chairman, each of those schools has a greater number of pupils than any school in Charlottetown, and I cannot see the justice of the teachers being paid but fifty pounds a year each while every teacher in Charlottetown, with nothing like the same number of pupils, receives seventy-five pounds per annum. I say this not in the particular interests of Summerside. I will claim the same right for Georgetown under the same conditions. I maintain, that where an unusually large number of pupils are under one teacher, that teacher should be fairly remunerated for the work he has to perform. Although it has been agreed by the Government and their supporters that no change was to be made in the Education Act during the continuance of this House, that agreement as I view it, was not intended to exclude an alteration in details, such as an increase of the salaries of teachers, which involve no interference with the principle of equality of schools established under the Act. As to grants from the public purse, I will not follow my hon. colleague in his charges against the Government, I confine myself to the paragraph before the Committee, and have much pleasure in supporting the claim of Summerside to a grant for local improvement. Some fifteen or sixteen hundred pounds would satisfy me, and to that amount at least, I think Summerside is fairly entitled. Of this sum, a considerable portion will be required to improve the streets, and it is high time that the buildings referred to by my hon. colleague were erected.

Mr. BURN.—As the hon. member from Summerside has alluded to the Land Question, and expressed the hope that it would be discussed at length, I shall be excused if I say how he proposes to attain that object? My own impression is, that the only practicable way is by buying out the claims of the proprietors, and that opinion is strengthened by despatches from the Imperial Government. On the subject of Common Schools, I agree with what has fallen from each of the hon. members from Summerside. It is wrong that teachers in Charlottetown should receive higher salaries than those in the rural towns and villages. In Southport the Common School is as well kept as any in the country, and the teacher deserves great credit for the manner in which it is conducted and for the progress his pupils have made and are making under his tuition. Now, I cannot see the justice or propriety of that gentleman receiving £50 per annum when on this side of the harbor, in the City of Charlottetown, the Common School Teachers receive £75 a year. The expenses of living are as great in one place as the other. I agree with the hon. member for Summerside that the Education Act should not be interfered with during the continuance of this House, and we intended to apply to questions of this nature or to prevent any alteration in matters of detail. I concur in what was said by the hon. member, Mr. Munro, as to the advisability of having schools of different grades. It is unjust to the pupils and unfair to the teachers that the time of the latter should be occupied by teaching pupils at one time in the alphabet, and hence through others up to the highest branches requisite to be taught in our schools.

Mr. McLEAN.—While we are on this subject, Mr. Chairman, I must assert the claims of my District to a grant for public buildings; and I hope the Government will not disregard the necessity which exists for such at Souris. The want of a proper building for a post office is severely felt. The building at present used as such affords no protection from the weather to parties applying at the office, and I hope the Government will grant the funds sufficient for the erection of a suitable building, and its being kept in a proper manner. The people of Souris have to hire a place in which to keep the common school, and as I presume of my hope that the claims of Souris will not be overlooked by the Government.

Mr. REILLY.—As to what has fallen from the hon. member from Summerside, (Mr. McMillan) I deny that the extract from the *Herald* which he read, contains any reflection upon the teachers of the school to which it refers. I cannot, for a moment, see where any insinuation is conveyed, that paragraph, or any insinuation against the moral or religious characters of either teachers or pupils. A good deal has been said about liberalism in this debate, and the question of denominational grants, has been frequently alluded to, in connection with the breaking up of the party which formed and carried the late Government. It is all very well for a man to call himself a Liberal, but I fail to recognize the justice or liberality of taxing the poor Catholics of Charlottetown, for the support of schools, in the whole number of which you may not find five Catholic pupils. As the local requirements of different sections of the country have been urged upon the Committee by their several representatives, I am in favor of a liberal consideration of the claims of Summerside for public aid. The harbor requires considerable improvement, and its claims are, as good as those of either Souris or Georgetown, and I can assure the Government, that those whom I represent will remember with gratitude a liberal appropriation for the purposes I have mentioned.

Hon. LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT.—In debating the address the latitude of a ruling opinion is generally allowed to hon. members, and is usually indulged in by allusions to any and every topic which occurs to the mind of the speaker. The hon. member from Summerside (Mr. McMillan) has urged the necessity of the erection of sundry public buildings in Summerside. I have often seen the necessity of a building to be used as a lock-up, and it is a place of great and increasing importance, and its present population is between three and four thousand. I think that a proper building for a Post Office is required. The Post Office there, is a distributing office, and there has been complaints of the abstraction of money letters. There should be a secure building furnished with keys for the proper custody of letters. I do not see the necessity of going into the question of education at present, and while admitting that 140, or 120 scholars should not be at one time in attendance at any one school, and that the salaries of the teachers are too small. Ask the hon. member, why when the late Government, of which he was a supporter, judged that the Island did not have the Land and Education Questions settled? It is not, however, expedient to discuss those matters just now. That hon. member has admitted an attempt to discredit the Hon. Attorney General from his allegiance to his party, and to bring him to the leadership of that party, which he has never belonged to. It says but little for the opposition now to denounce a gentleman whom they recently yielded to follow.

Mr. McMillan.—It is a credit to us.

Summary of Legislative Council Proceedings.

MONDAY, March 6.

Hon. Mr. McDonald presented a petition of trustees of St. Andrew's College Farm, praying that they may be allowed to sell said farm, and apply the proceeds towards the support of St. Dunstan's College. The petition was referred to a special committee, consisting of Hon. Mr. McDonald, Hon. Col. Secretary and Hon. Mr. Walker, to report thereon by bill or otherwise. Adjourned.

TUESDAY, March 7.

Hon. Col. Secretary read in his place a message from His Honor the Lieutenant Governor, transmitting several public despatches. The said despatches were read by the Clerk and ordered to be laid on the table.

Hon. Col. Secretary also presented the accounts of the Government Stock Farm for the year, and in doing so, remarked that the finances of the farm were in a healthy state. It was gratifying to see the interest taken in that institution by farmers, and the competition for the young stock by auction. Cattle had sold at prices which a few years ago, would have been considered high for cows. The Legislature grant was only £400, £100 of which were required to pay the rest of the farm, and the committee had been to work the institution satisfactorily, and had a considerable balance still on hand.

Hon. Mr. Beer had not seen the accounts, but had a good idea of the financial state of the farm. He believed that if they were spared to assemble twelve months hence a still more interesting report would be presented. Stock throughout the Island had improved greatly within the last few years, and he had seen many improved breeds distributed from the Stock Farm. Adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, March 8.

Hon. Col. Secretary read a message from His Honor the Lieut. Governor, transmitting copies of Minutes of Council, correspondence with Government of Dominion of Canada, correspondence with officers of Her Majesty's Navy, &c. relative to the protection of the fisheries. Said papers were read and ordered to be laid on the table.

Hon. Col. Secretary, according to notice in the order book, presented a bill relative to the payment of mortgages on the farm, and the difficulties which sometimes arose, and which the bill was intended to obviate, where a testator, or sometime, had in his lifetime taken a mortgage upon real estate. He, or next of kin, were sometimes children, or they were scattered in different parts of the world, and an executor or administrator had no authority to grant a legal acquittance to the mortgagee on payment of the sum of Margaret McDonald. The said bill was read a first time and ordered to be read a second time to-morrow.

THURSDAY, March 9.

Hon. Col. Secretary read in his place a message from His Honor the Lieut. Governor, transmitting copies of several public despatches and papers. Said despatches were read by the Clerk and ordered to be laid on the table.

Hon. Mr. Beer, in accordance with a notice in the Order Book, presented a bill, in which the Government if they were prepared to lay before the Council the report of the Commissioners appointed to inspect that part of the Trade estate, owned by Mrs. Margaret McDonald. Hon. Col. Secretary replied that he was not aware of any such report, but if it could be found among the files of papers in the office, it would be laid before the House.

A bill to make better provisions for the dealing by Executors and Administrators with mortgages was read a second time, and Hon. Col. Secretary, on being to words that it be referred to Committee briefly explained that the object of it was to enable a mortgagee to get back his estate when it was before the payment of the mortgage, which was sometimes difficult after the decease of the mortgagee, as the law now stood. The bill was referred to committee and reported agreed to without amendment.

A bill to continue certain Acts therein mentioned, was again referred to committee, reported, and read a third time and passed. The bill continues "An Act to regulate the survey of lumber." An Act to prevent pedlars travelling and selling within this Island without licence." An Act for the punishment of persons who shall be guilty of trespasses therein mentioned." and "An Act to prevent the running at large of horses, neat cattle and sheep within the Royalty of Charlottetown for the space of ten years."

Hon. Mr. Beer rose to present a petition of certain inhabitants of Lot 1, praying that the sum of £242, collected from John Masfield as arrears of rent, may be refunded on the ground that it was a condition of the purchase of the Palmer Estate, by the late Government, that said sum should be refunded, but the late Government decided that it could not be received, the remedy being elsewhere. Adjourned.

FRIDAY, March 10.

Hon. Mr. McDonald presented a petition of the trustees of St. Andrew's College Farm, praying that they may be allowed to sell said farm, and apply the proceeds towards the support of St. Dunstan's College. The petition was referred to a special committee, consisting of Hon. Mr. McDonald, Hon. Col. Secretary and Hon. Mr. Walker, to report thereon by bill or otherwise. Adjourned.

SATURDAY, March 11.

Hon. Mr. McDonald presented a petition of the trustees of St. Andrew's College Farm, praying that they may be allowed to sell said farm, and apply the proceeds towards the support of St. Dunstan's College. The petition was referred to a special committee, consisting of Hon. Mr. McDonald, Hon. Col. Secretary and Hon. Mr. Walker, to report thereon by bill or otherwise. Adjourned.

SUNDAY, March 12.

Hon. Mr. McDonald presented a petition of the trustees of St. Andrew's College Farm, praying that they may be allowed to sell said farm, and apply the proceeds towards the support of St. Dunstan's College. The petition was referred to a special committee, consisting of Hon. Mr. McDonald, Hon. Col. Secretary and Hon. Mr. Walker, to report thereon by bill or otherwise. Adjourned.

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