

News by Telegraph.

NEW YORK, Feb. 25.—Advices from Mexico state that the Mexican Government has recognized the English and Spanish debts, and that a sinking fund has been created for the redemption of converted bonds.

LONDON, Feb. 25.—Rev. Mr. Speke, brother of the well known African explorer, whose mysterious disappearance caused much excitement and comment, has been found. The coroner's jury, which has been investigating the circumstances of the death of Casey, has brought a verdict containing a charge of murder against McKay. At the last session of the French Legislative body, during the discussion of the bill for regulating the press, A. Haven, of the Siecle, rose and commenced reading the judgment of the Court exonerating himself and Mr. Giret from the charge brought against them by the Government. The President refused to allow him to proceed. M. Haven insisted on reading the document. Much disorder and confusion followed, whereupon the President declared the sitting of the day dissolved. The Government members then retired, the Liberals remaining, loudly protesting against the arbitrary action of the President. They were finally expelled from the building by the officers, and the gas extinguished. Consols 93 a 93 1/4.

LONDON, Feb. 25, eve.—In the House of Lords, this afternoon, at the beginning of the Session, the Earl of Malmesbury announced that Lord Derby tendered his resignation to the Queen, on account of continued ill health, and that Her Majesty had been pleased to call upon the present Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Hon. Benjamin Disraeli, to form a new Cabinet. Earl Russell and others expressed their sympathy for Lord Derby, and hoped he might recover from his illness and resume his post at the head of the Ministry. In the House of Commons the announcement of the resignation of the Prime Minister was made by Lord Stanley, and was responded to by Mr. Gladstone, who, with much delicacy and feeling, expressed his sorrow for the cause which compelled the noble Lord to resign his high office. The transaction of business in the House was adjourned until Friday next.

LONDON, Feb. 26.—It is thought that Mr. Disraeli will resign his position as Chancellor of the Exchequer, and that Sir Stafford Northcote will take his place. No one is yet named as the probable successor of the latter as Secretary of State for India. Official despatches from General Napier say the envoy sent by him to Prince Jessai was well received at a Durbar or Council, and found 2000 warriors with their Chiefs assembled, by whom he was heartily received. All the prisoners charged by the Coroner's jury with complicity in the Clerkenwell explosion, have been committed to stand trial for murder. The House of Lords in Committee of the whole, has agreed to the bill renewing the suspension of writ of Habeas Corpus in Ireland. The new treaty which has been concluded between the United States and the North German Confederation, provides that natives of Germany must obtain a license to emigrate, which should be registered, and that those who have taken out their naturalization papers and have resided five years in a foreign country, shall be released from the obligations of military service in Germany. Consols closed at 92 1/4 2/4. Markets generally unchanged.

LONDON, Feb. 26, eve.—The London Times of this morning, commenting on a change in the Cabinet, says Lord Derby's resignation was a foregone conclusion, so also was the accession of Mr. Disraeli, as no other man has an equal right to take the Tory lead; it thinks that Lord Chalmers will retire, but that no other change is likely to be made; it sees no reason in the present circumstances why the ministry should not be a permanent one. The Morning Standard says the previous task of Disraeli, as Chancellor of the Exchequer, was one of great difficulty; he is best fitted by courage, tact, experience and close relations with Earl Derby, to succeed in the difficult task which has now devolved upon him. The morning Post declares that Disraeli has become Prime Minister less on account of his own merit than because there is no one else fit for the place. Daily News says it is possible that Lord Cranborne may succeed Sir Stafford Northcote in the Indian office, and that Lord Stanley may be made a Peer and represent the Government in the House of Lords. The Telegraph has reason to believe that Sir H. Cairnes will replace Lord Chalmers as Lord Chancellor; and discussing the position of the new Premier, intimates that Mr. Disraeli cannot expect the indulgence showed and due his veteran and revered colleague. Consols 93 1/4 U. S. Bonds 7 1/2; Breadstuffs declined to 42s. 3d. per quarter for mixed; Western wheat steady at 16s. 3d. for California white and 16s. 5d. for No. 2 Red Western, other articles unchanged. Gold 140.

LONDON, Feb. 27, eve.—The House of Commons has passed the bill renewing the suspension of writ of Habeas Corpus in Ireland. It is thought that the appointment of Sir Hugh Cairnes as Lord Chancellor will defeat all hopes of reform in the Irish Church. The civil authorities have determined to withdraw the remainder of the suits at law against those Irishmen who were indicted for walking in the mock funeral procession at Dublin recently. The Daily News' this morning has an editorial article on the resignation of the American Minister. 'All England,' the News says will lament the departure of Charles Francis Adams. Mr. Disraeli has gone to Osborne, where the Queen is now stopping. It is expected that both Houses of Parliament will adjourn for the week to await the reconstruction of the Cabinet. The London Times says the American who will succeed Mr. Adams could not have an easier or more gracious task than the settlement of the questions which have arisen concerning the rights of naturalized citizens. Consols unchanged.

LONDON, March 1.—His Majesty Louis, King of Bavaria, died yesterday. He was only 23 years old. In the case of Gen. Nagle, now on trial at Sligo, on the charge of Fenianism, the motion for delay of trial, made by Mr. Heron, counsel for the defence, was refused. On the announcement of this decision, Mr. Heron moved to transfer the case to the Courts of the Queen's Bench, in order that the trial might take place elsewhere. The chief grounds for this motion, Mr. Heron said, was the fact that there were not six Americans in the whole city of Sligo, and therefore it would be impossible to select a mixed jury. Mr. G. F. Train, who happened to be in Sligo, rather unexpectedly appeared before the Court, and offered to become one of the American Jurors, but the offer was declined. Mr. Heron's motion was argued at length, when the Court refused to transfer the trial to another place, the case was then proceeded with. The Times, in an editorial article on the trial of Gen. Nagle, the writer strongly urges the abandonment of the prosecution, saying that the point of law involved is, to say the least, doubtful. True bills have been found against Fitzsimons, Fitzgibbon, Leonard, O'Connell and Leahy, and the prisoners were accordingly brought to trial without delay.

NEW YORK, March 2.—Articles of impeachment against President Johnson have been presented in the House of Representatives at Washington, and the question of their passage will be taken at 4 o'clock this afternoon. Gold 141 1/2.

Correspondence.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

Sir,—I cannot but suppose that you in common with a majority of the citizens of Charlotetown, are desirous of placing the metropolis of the Island upon a level, in point of comfort, convenience, and safety, both to person and property, with the municipalities of the other Provinces—in fact, in your issue of the 22nd of January last, you say as much in the leading article headed 'A proposed amendment to the Incorporation Act.' Now, in order to make Charlotetown what it ought to be, and what it is capable of being made, a clean, wholesome, well-watered attractive place of residence, it is absolutely necessary that the funds of the City should be augmented. The only question is how shall that be done? We want pure water brought into the City from some trustworthy source. With a hose and hose pipe, we can get water from the surface that can be held in solution by water percolates to almost any depth, it cannot but happen that the water in the wells is fed by impurities that it is sickening even to think of, and great are the complaints in some parts of the town with respect to this increasing evil. There is

not a common sewer in the City, and any one who in summer enters the building where the public offices are kept, and where the Legislature hold its Sessions, may be easily convinced, if his sense of smell be in a normal state, of the great want of one in this locality at least. But not only there, but in all the more densely inhabited parts of the City are sewers required. In what situation are our streets during the spring and autumn months? The side walks are in an unfinished state, and only partially laid down. Two of the squares have been enclosed by private subscription, but they require to be better planted and kept in order. Queen Square and the market place should be properly ornamented with trees, and the latter fenced. The streets are not half lighted; several not lighted at all. Now, in order to accomplish these not only very desirable but absolutely necessary improvements, the funds of the city must be augmented. In all municipalities, the personal estate of the citizens has been made the subject of raising a revenue. The true rule of taxation is, that the burthen should be borne by those best able to sustain it. The tax now levied upon the occupants of real estate presses hard upon the poor, and any further addition, whether upon the occupant or the owner, would augment that pressure. The assessment as proposed by the bill to be submitted to the Legislature, is in conformity with what is invariably adopted by every municipality, and which must, sooner or later, be resorted to.

You are, however, mistaken in the supposition that it will necessitate the taking of stock by the merchants. The assessors make their valuation, and it is only when the person assessed conceives that the assessment is too high, that he relieves himself of it by oath. This, I think, would be seldom resorted to, as the assessors would be more likely to under-value than over-rate the stock of the merchant. I should anticipate very few, if any, objections to the rate in this respect.

Your next objection is to the clause vesting the ungranted shore in front of the Hillsborough in the city. You state that it would be a hardship on the purchasers of the Barrack property. I am at a loss to know how it would so operate on the different owners of the Barrack land lots. They purchased by metes and bounds, and the law under which that land was sold prescribed, with the utmost exactness, the area of land which was to be sold in lots under the authority of that law. Those persons conceiving themselves warranted by the assurance of Col. Gray, that they might take as much of the shore opposite their respective lots as they pleased, will find themselves mistaken. Col. Gray had no right to make any such assurance, and he was told so at the time of the sale by the late Mayor that his assertion was incorrect. The parties, too, were warned that they had no such right. The law, however, might remedy that, and give the city a power to either sell the parts of the shore thus unwarrantably taken possession of, or lease them for terms of years, paying the city a rent for the same. It would be, perhaps, as well to give the city, under proper restrictions, the power of absolutely disposing of them. That the law intended that the ungranted shore should be vested in the city, there can, I think, be no doubt. When the Bill is received, I hope that it will be submitted to a special committee, with power to send for persons, papers and records, and the matter, which is of the highest importance to the city, can then be fully and fairly investigated. The city of Halifax is but fourteen years older than the city of Charlotetown, and although there are some colossal fortunes, the great bulk of the citizens are no better off than our own; yet not only is real estate liable to assessment, but household furniture and moveable property of all kinds, goods, chattels, wares, and merchandises, whether in possession or in the public warehouses; monies in possession or abroad; ships or vessels, whether at home or abroad; monies invested in mortgage or other security whatever within the city. In addition to this, every owner of property is compellable to provide, at his own expense, a quantity of brick, with granite coping, sufficient for laying down a side-walk in front of his premises. There is, moreover, a wider rule. This, however, can hardly be called a tax, as the water is brought from a great distance, and every house can be supplied in unlimited quantities; and yet, to a certain degree, it is a tax, for the pumps, which were a nuisance and disgrace to the town of Halifax, as the pumps are to the city of Charlotetown, are all removed, and the citizens are compelled to take the water from the city water-works.

It is a great misfortune to a community when the words tax and assessment are in the minds of a great majority of the people, equivalent to robbery; that is, to a dead loss—a picking of the pocket—under color of law. Let the same tax be levied indirectly, and they think nothing of it; and yet, when the merchant pays five, ten, or fifteen per cent. on his imported goods, he not only charges that, but he charges an additional sum to reimburse him for the impost or excise duty advanced, and he does only what is right. The people, however, do not feel it. All that a purchaser looks to is the price of the article he wants, and purchases it at the cheapest store. When the tax is either a poll tax, road, or other direct tax, or an assessment on real or personal estate, all are up in arms. Let, however, the streets be in such a state that a wife or daughter gets her feet wet, and a consequent cold, hoarseness, and a doctor sent for, then comes the cry—'What is the Corporation doing? Why have we not decent sidewalks and proper crossings? Why are not the streets lighted as they are in other cities? To which there can be but one reply. The city funds will not allow of the necessary expenditure. The merchants and shopkeepers go to great expense in having plate-glass windows in which to display their wares for the purpose of attracting customers. This is a voluntary tax imposed on themselves for their own benefit. They lay down sidewalks for the same purpose; but to what purpose if parts of the street are still without them and no sufficient crossings? In a word, if the citizens of Charlotetown will but reflect—will take into consideration what is done in other municipalities, they will see the necessity of making their well laid out city be somewhat on a par with those of the adjoining Colonies, so that when strangers visit us, they will be able to admire us for our taste and spirit, and not, as at present, politely hinting that we are behind the age.

The subject is by no means exhausted, but I fear to trespass on the patience of your readers. I am, Sir, Your obedient servant, JOHN LAWSON.

March 9, 1868.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

A PUBLIC MEETING

Of the inhabitants of Alberton and vicinity was held, pursuant to notice, at the Temperance Hall, Alberton, on Wednesday, the 26th ult., to take into consideration the distressed state of the District, when the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:—

Resolved, That Richard B. Reid, Benj. Rogers and Neil Woodside, Esqrs., do constitute a Committee to memorialize the Government in accordance with the views of this meeting.

Moved by Herbert Bell, Esq., M.P.P., seconded by Hon. G. W. Howland, M.P.P., That a list be opened for subscriptions, and that James Forsyth, Esq., be appointed

to distribute the same, and appoint agents, from whom recommendations will be required, to obtain relief. It was also further resolved that the following gentlemen do constitute a Committee to solicit subscriptions in behalf of the poor of the District:—Messrs. Daniel McInlyre, William Wells, Richard B. Reid, John D. Woodman, John Clark, James Rogers, R. H. Craswell, Antoine Perry, and William Hardy.

It was then proposed and seconded that the proceedings of this meeting be published in the Island papers. Dr. O'Leary then vacated the chair, and Mr. John Carter was called thereon, when the thanks of the meeting were given to Dr. O'Leary for his efficient conduct in the chair. The meeting then dispersed.

R. B. REID, Secretary.

February, 1868.

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY,

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

WEDNESDAY, March 4, 1868.

At 3 o'clock His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor was pleased to open the Second Session of the Twenty-third General Assembly of this Island, with the following

SPEECH:

Mr. President and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

I am glad to meet you at the Commencement of another Session, and to have recourse again to your assistance and advice. During your last Session you passed an Act to authorize the raising of a Loan; it was deemed advisable that, during the recess, a Delegate should proceed to England to carry out your intentions in this matter; and, also to apply to the various Proprietors of Township Lands resident in England, with the view of ascertaining from them the terms upon which they would be willing to dispose of their Estates.

I regret that the negotiations with these Proprietors have not, thus far, been productive of any results; Nevertheless, the efforts of the Government continue to be directed to a full and final settlement of all questions connected with the Land Tenures.

As one of your principal objects in passing the Loan Act was to enable the Government to make extensive purchases of Land, it has not, as yet, been deemed advisable to proceed with that Loan.

Papers on these subjects will be laid before you.

I have received a petition from certain Persons who have purchased their holdings on the Selkirk Estate. The petitioners allege that the amount paid by them, as instalment, has already been more than sufficient to pay for this Estate, and that it was not the intention of the Legislature in passing the Act under which this Property was purchased, that a larger sum should be exacted from the Tenants than would render it self-sustaining.

I deemed it necessary to refer this Petition for the consideration of the Law Officers, and I have directed that their opinion should be laid before you, in full confidence that you will mature such measures as may be deemed equitable and convenient on this subject.

A Bill will be submitted to you for relaxing the provisions, enacted by the Land Purchase Act, for the Sale of Wiltshire Lands on Public Estates, with the view of encouraging their speedy settlement and disposition.

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly: The Public Accounts for the past year will be laid before you.

I am glad to observe that notwithstanding the commercial depression of the past year, the Revenue was larger than could have been anticipated, and including that derived from the sale of Public Lands, was in excess of the expenditure.

I have directed that estimates of the current year be laid before you, and I ask with confidence such supplies as may be required for the public service.

Mr. President and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council. Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly.

When I released you from the Legislative duties of last Session, I expressed the hope that you would, at your next meeting, take into consideration a measure, calculated to impart to your system of Education a degree of efficiency and practical benefit more commensurate with your liberal provision for that service.

A measure for consolidating the present Laws on this subject, and for amending them in certain particulars, will be submitted for your consideration.

The Committee which you appointed last Session, to report the best method of improving the Highways throughout the Island has concluded its labors, and its report will be laid before you.

I would direct your special attention to a subject of such manifest importance to the people whom you represent.

I venture to hope that the success which attended the Exhibition of articles of local industry during last Autumn, will encourage you to repeat and extend the stimulus which such exhibitions undoubtedly give.

I now leave you to the performance of the duties of the Session.

Hon. Members of the Assembly having returned to their seats, His Excellency's Speech was again read from the Chair, after which the House proceeded to business.

Hon. Mr. Coles, Col. Secretary, laid on the table the Writ of Election issued for the Election of a Member for the Second District of King's County, in the place of Edward Reilly, Esq., who had accepted the office of Queen's Printer, and the Sheriff's Return thereon, which was read by the Clerk.

E. Reilly, Esq., Queen's Printer, re-elected a Member for the Second District of King's County, appeared at the Bar, and having been introduced, took the usual oath and his seat.

The following Committees were then appointed, viz: Committee to prepare and report the Draft Address in answer to His Excellency's Speech—Messrs. Reilly, McNeill, Hon. Mr. Kelly, Messrs. McCormack, Dr. Jenkins, Bell, Kiekham.

Committee to receive Tenders for Printing the Debates of the House—Hon. Messrs. Hensley, Howland, Haviland.

Committee to receive Tenders for Printing the Journals of the House—Hon. Mr. Hensley, Mr. McNeill, Hon. Mr. Howland.

Committee on Public Accounts—Messrs. P. Sinclair, Bell, Hon. Mr. Kelly, Messrs. McNeill, McCormack, Owen, Yeo.

Committee to provide Stationary—Messrs. Bell, G. Sinclair, and Hon. Mr. Laird.

The usual standing Committees were then appointed; and, on motion, it was ordered that Mr. John Griffith be Doorkeeper to the House, in the place of Mr. Furlong, who, owing to illness, was unable to attend to the duties of that office.

On motion of the Hon. Col. Secretary, Mr. Archibald McNeill was appointed Summary Reporter to the House, his duty being to furnish each Member of the House, daily, with a printed Summary of the previous day's proceedings.

House adjourned till ten o'clock to-morrow.

THURSDAY, March 5. Hon. B. Davies submitted a Resolution, seconded by the Hon. Mr. Howland, to the effect, that Robert Gordon, Benjamin Balderston, and Isaac Oxenham, be appointed Reporters to the House, during the present Session.

To which the Hon. Mr. Howland moved an amendment, seconded by the Hon. Mr. McAlley, namely, that the names of Robert Gordon, Benjamin Balderston, and Isaac Oxenham be struck out, and the names of David Laird and Peter Stalworth McGowan be inserted in lieu thereof.

A debate on the subject of Reporters then followed, an extended report of which will appear in the Parliamentary Reporter.

After debate the amendment was lost in the following division, viz: Hon. Mr. Howland, McAlley, Henderson, Messrs. Ramsay, Provost, Yeo, Hreckett, &c. Against it: Hon. B. Davies, Howland, Calbeck, Laird, Atty. General, Col. Secretary, Kelly, Messrs. Bell, Arsenault, Reilly, McNeill, P. Sinclair, Kiekham, McCormack, Dr. Jenkins, &c. Hon. Atty. General, from the Committee appointed to receive Tenders for Printing the Debates of the

House, presented their Report, to the effect, that they had received Tenders from F. W. Hughes & Malone, and from Mr. David Laird, upon the consideration of which the said Committee recommended the tender of Messrs. Hughes & Malone be accepted.

Report adopted. Hon. Atty. General also presented the Report of the Committee appointed to receive Tenders for printing the Journals, which was to the effect that the said Committee had received tenders from Thomas Reilly, Hughes & Malone, and D. Laird, and that having compared the specimens of paper submitted, the Committee recommended the acceptance of Messrs. Hughes & Malone's tender.

Report of said Committee was then also adopted. Mr. Reilly, from the Committee appointed to prepare and report the draft Address in answer to His Excellency's Speech, presented said draft Address which is as follows:—

To His Excellency George Dundas, Esquire, Lieutenant Governor, &c., &c. MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY.

We, Her Majesty's loyal and dutiful subjects, the House of Assembly of Prince Edward Island, beg to re-proceed with you, Excellency the pleasure which we experience in meeting you again at the commencement of another Session, and to ensure your Excellency that our assistance and advice will be cheerfully given whenever you shall have occasion to require them.

With your Excellency, we regret that the negotiations entered into during the recess of the Legislature, with non-resident Proprietors of Township Lands in this Island, have not, up to the present time, proved successful.

Although your Excellency has not, as yet, deemed it advisable to proceed with the Loan, yet, the provisions of the Act authorizing it shall remain available in case any Proprietors shall hereafter, as we trust they will do, see the advantage and propriety of meeting the views of the Government by accepting a fair price for their property.

Any papers upon these subjects which your Excellency may lay before us shall receive our due consideration.

When the opinion of the Law Officers of the Crown on the subject of the Selkirk Estate shall be laid before us, your Excellency may rely upon our giving the several questions involved in it our serious and careful attention, and maturing such measures on the subject as may appear just and equitable upon a full consideration of the whole question.

It will afford us much satisfaction to give every encouragement to the settling of wilderness lands, by passing a bill for relaxing the provisions of the Land Purchase Act, or devising such other measures as may best promote that desirable object.

We thank your Excellency for the assurance that the Public Accounts for the past year will be laid before us. It is gratifying to learn from your Excellency that the Revenue for the past year has been in excess of the Expenditure, notwithstanding the commercial depression to which your Excellency has alluded, and also the unusual demands upon the public Treasury to repair the damages caused by the gales of last autumn.

We shall be prepared to give to any measure which may be submitted to us, having for its object the improvement of our present system of Education, and the amendment and consolidation of the laws by which the same is regulated, our careful consideration, believing as we do that the subject is one of paramount importance to the people of this Colony.

The system of Road making hitherto adopted in this Island has been almost universally condemned by its inhabitants. We hail with pleasure the prospect that some feasible scheme will be devised by which our highways will be improved without trenching too much upon the public revenue.

The Report of the Committee appointed last session to consider this important subject will receive our special attention when laid before us.

As Agriculture must ever form the principal business of a large proportion of the people of this Colony, it will be our duty to stimulate, by every means within our power, an occupation upon the successful prosecution of which depends, to a considerable extent, the material well being of the Colony.

The Local Industrial Exhibition of last autumn having proved a success, we can assure your Excellency that it will be a pleasure for us to extend to every section of the Island the benefits which such exhibitions are calculated to confer.

On motion of Mr. Reilly, it was resolved that on Saturday next the House resolve itself into a Committee of the whole to take into consideration the said Draft Address.

House adjourned till 10 o'clock to-morrow.

FRIDAY, March 6. The Hon. Attorney General, from the Committee on Expiring Laws, submitted the Report of that Committee, and on motion, it was ordered to be submitted to a Committee of the whole House to-morrow.

Mr. P. Sinclair directed the attention of the House to the desirability of causing the extended Debates of the House to be published in all the Island newspapers, in order that the general public might know the action taken by their representatives on all questions affecting their interest. He then submitted a Resolution to the effect, that a sum, not exceeding fifteen pounds, be paid to such publishers as would publish in full the Debates of the House in the papers under their control.

Hon. Mr. Haviland took exception to the Resolution, on the ground that it was introduced contrary to the principle upon which was based the initiation of money votes.

Hon. Atty. General said that though, strictly speaking, the objection urged by the hon. and learned member was correct, yet the purport of the Resolution might be adopted without affecting any vital principle.

Mr. Reilly observed that the Resolution might be amended by striking out the words naming any given amount, and leaving it with the House to pay out of the sum that would be voted at the end of the Session, for contingent expenses, such sum as the House might think proper to each publisher of the Debates.

Hon. Col. Secretary said that the only objectionable feature in the Resolution was the naming of the amount intended to be paid. The hon. member who moved in the matter was no doubt influenced by motives of economy in naming the amount. It was indeed wisdom to name the sum which each publisher would receive on the due performance of the work, and the safest method therefore, was the adoption of the usual course touching such questions.

Hon. Mr. Haviland then stated that the Resolution had been taken by surprise, no notice of it having appeared on the Order Book, in accordance with the established rule of the House.

Hon. Attorney General said that the rule relative to the initiation of money votes would not apply in that case it was not usual to introduce matters touching the publishing of the Debates or the payment of the Officers of the House in accordance with the rule in question.

Mr. Sinclair then said that he had no desire to press his motion, as objections had arisen; he would, therefore, withdraw it, and place a notice on the Order Book declarative of his intention to bring up the question at another time.

House adjourned.

SATURDAY, March 7. House in Committee on expiring laws. Mr. George Sinclair in the chair.

Hon. Atty. General submitted two Resolutions, which were severally read, to the effect that it was expedient to continue and amend the Act relating to accidents by fire at Summerside, and the removal of nuisances from the streets thereof.

ings on the subject until a bill for the Incorporation of that town would be submitted.

Mr. Green said it would be quite time enough for the House to take up the matter when the people of Summerside asked for it—he would then be prepared to entertain the question.

A Committee was then appointed to bring in a bill pursuant to said resolutions, viz:—Mr. McLellan, Hon. Mr. Haviland, Hon. Mr. Howland. House adjourned.

A. McNEILL, Reporter.

The Herald.

Wednesday, March 11, 1868.

The Islander of the 6th Inst. contains a long and labored article on the Opinion and Report of the Crown Law Officers upon the petition of Joseph Dixon and others, purchasers of lands on the Selkirk Estate. The aim of the writer seems to have been to make the smallest amount of sense and argument extend over the greatest possible space. Had he been paid a penny a line for his effusion, he could not, if he were ever so "hard up," have contrived to make it three lines longer. Our readers will be surprised to find that the learned editor considers the law of the opinion to be unassailable. He is obliged to admit that each and every conclusion to which the Attorney and Solicitor General have come is a sound one. He acknowledges that they are right in deciding that each transaction under the Land Purchase Act should be self-sustaining; that the purchasers are bound by the deeds and declarations which they have signed; and that they must seek relief elsewhere than in a court of law. Since the opinion of the Crown Law Officers coincides so entirely with his own, what, asks the reader, does the editor of the Islander see in it to find fault with? The enquiry is a very natural one, and one which it would be very difficult for any person, except the editor of the Islander, to answer. But that gentleman has found matter for censure in the Opinion which none but a man determined to find fault could discover. The astute editor, suddenly become very jealous of the reputation of the late Government, imagines that he sees in the Opinion a disposition to fasten upon them the charge of having violated the spirit and letter of the Land Purchase Act. This charge W. H. Pope himself has for some weeks been doing his best to fasten on his late friends and coadjutors. That he has succeeded but too well he now finds. He should be the last man in the Colony to reproach others for having assisted him in performing this labor of love. If our Crown Law Officers have interpreted the law aright—and Mr. Pope acknowledges that they have—the late Government, whether intentionally or unintentionally, did violate the law when they set a higher price on the lands of the Selkirk Estate than was sufficient to make the purchase self-sustaining. The inference is unavoidable, and the editor of the Islander must be exceedingly obtuse not to see that, if there is any guilt in the matter, his crime is much greater than that of the Crown Law Officers. He it was who threw the first stone at the late Government. But we emphatically deny that the opinion contains a single word directly censuring the late Government for the manner in which they managed the Selkirk Estate; not the slightest trace of party politics can be discovered from the beginning to the end of the document. We defy the editor of the Islander to produce from it a single sentence or expression that bears evidence of being dictated by the spirit of party. The allusions which it contains to the sale of the Estate are as few as possible, and appear to have been worded with extreme care, in order to avoid even the appearance of partisanship. If the following paragraph contains any censure on the late Government, it is merely by necessary implication:—

"If, as the Petitioners allege, the Selkirk Estate has been charged with the payment of any large amount more than was required to make its purchase self-sustaining, then we think that it has been so charged contrary to the spirit and meaning of the Land Purchase Act, under which it was purchased."

The framers of the opinion could hardly have said less, and they might have said a great deal more.

The second fault which the learned editor finds with the opinion is, that it does not point out authoritatively the policy which the Government ought to pursue towards the purchasers of land on the Selkirk Estate—that it leaves the final settlement of their case to the consideration of the Legislature.

Had one of the least "able" of the "able" men, at whom the learned and amiable editor is so fond of sneering, ventured to censure the Crown Law Officers for not overstepping their duty by dictating to the Legislature, he would be the first man in the Colony to laugh at him for his want of knowledge. The Attorney and Solicitor General were asked for their opinion on the law. Having expressed that opinion, their duty was performed. It would be mere impertinence in them to have dictated to the Government the course which they ought to pursue in the matter on which their opinion had been required. Suppose the Attorney and Solicitor of Great Britain were applied to by the Government for their opinion, or, say, the legality of the Alabama claims. Would it be their duty, after laying down what they believed to be the law in the premises, to command the Prime Minister either to put a stop to the negotiations on the subject, or to liquidate the claims forthwith, as their opinion might happen to be adverse or favorable to the recognition of the claims in question. Those eminent lawyers would never dream of being guilty of such folly. They would give the ministry their opinion of the bearing of the law on the course submitted to them, and then leave it to the Government to act upon that opinion or not as they should think proper. The Government applied to our Crown Law Officers for their opinion on a point of law, and they very properly, as we think, gave that opinion, simply as lawyers, and not as politicians. They have declared what they consider to be the law, and have left it to the Government and the Legislature to decide upon what is equitable and expedient. That the Government and the Legislature will deal fairly with the settlers on the Selkirk Estate, we are well convinced. This, if the whole truth were known, is what the editor of the Islander so much regrets.

W. H. Pope denies being a member of the Government when the Selkirk Estate was purchased. This is true, but he has forgotten to state that he was, at that time, a confidential servant of that Government; that he sat at the Executive Board as chief clerk, and, if Report speaks truly, that he took no small share in the deliberations which were there conducted. We have reason to believe that the subject of pricing the lands of the Selkirk Estate was a matter of discussion among the members and supporters of the late Government, and that a high selling price, when compared with the buying price, was, in opposition to the recommendation of the Commissioner of Public Lands, purposely put upon the land to make up the loss alleged to have been incurred on the purchase of the Worrol and other Estates. The members of the late Government considered that they were justified in thus managing the Selkirk Estate. We the more readily believe this as it appears exceedingly improbable that men of experience in public affairs would blunder so grossly as to commit an error of £10,000 or £12,000 in so simple a calculation. If we are rightly informed on this matter, and we