

true allegations against a public officer, charging him with having embezzled money. The petitioner chooses to prevent other men getting the contract by bidding down to too low a figure, and then his only way of avoiding the loss, is by setting up the pretence that he did not understand that the railing was to be placed on any part of the bridge but the planked portion. That bridge has given more trouble and annoyance to the Government than any on the Island. If, as the petition alleged, Mr. Williams had told him he would never receive a tender from him in future, he was quite right in saying so, and he wished a rule of that sort were adopted generally. The present practice is for several to combine, and put in different tenders, to prevent others from getting the contract, and then the lower ones withdrawing until the highest of the party is accepted. The petitioner was contending with Mr. Williams all summer. At last, Mr. W. and the superintendent of public works put up the railing. The railing put up by the petitioner was down almost as soon as it was erected.

Hon. Mr. MOONEY stated that he did not mean to convey any charge against Mr. Williams, who had told him that the petitioner had probably been informed that he had received the money, and was desirous that the petition should be laid before the House. But really the sum is so small, that sooner than have any discussion about it, he would, if his road scale had not been made up, give the amount out of his district road moneys.

Hon. COL. SECRETARY said that there were parties in the neighbourhood of that bridge, who combined to prevent any stranger from getting contracts on it, and did the work so badly that it was really a disgrace to the country. Repeated complaints had been made to the Government, who had been solicited to make the bridge at least passable. It was costing the country £200 or £300 a year.

Mr. COOPER was opposed to referring the petition to supply. If people take contracts, when they do not intend to do the work according to the terms of the contract, it is time such a system was stopped. But the House would be paying the way for applications of this nature if they vote the public moneys on petitions like the present.

Hon. Mr. MONTGOMERY thought it most improper for the House to entertain such a petition—containing as it does, a serious charge against a public officer. He trusted it would not be allowed to go to supply.

Mr. McINTOSH agreed with the last speaker. It would never do for the House to interfere between the Commissioner and Contractor. Such a course would be casting reflections on the Commissioner, and taking his business out of his hands. Let the contractor settle with the commissioner. There may be a desire on the part of some people, to combine to get a contract in the way stated by the Honorable Colonial Secretary, and then when they fail, to fall back upon the House for a grant. It would be a very bad precedent to establish.

Hon. Mr. LORD, though not generally in favour of paying anything beyond the amount of the contract, was bound to say he considered the case of the petitioner a peculiar one. The petitioner by his contract was required to drive certain piles, and lay the stringers, and prepare a certain length of the bridge, and to put up a temporary rail to last for one year. The abutments at each of the ends were covered with bushes and clay. Now there never had been a rail on those parts, and Mr. Scott naturally thought that the railing specified in his contract, was to be put up on wooden portion only, and consequently declined to rail the clay covered abutments. He (Mr. Lord) saw Mr. Scott at the bridge, and certainly did not think that the railing was to be erected on the abutments. But the contract named a railing for the bridge—under the circumstances he thought the petitioner should be paid. As to the rail not standing long, there was no use of attempting to put up a permanent rail, while the vessels made fast to the bridge. No rail could stand the strain, and in fact it would be wiser and cheaper to build a proper wharf for the accommodation of vessels, than to allow the bridge as at present, to be almost destroyed every year by vessels made fast to it. In making these remarks, he did not for a moment mean to cast any reflections on Mr. Williams, who he had no doubt acted from a sense of duty.

Hon. COL. TREASURER considered that the House should decide at once. The petition should not be entertained by the House. Mr. MOONEY thought that the petition was entitled to the consideration of the House. Mr. Scott, the petitioner was well known, and he had come before the House, with a solemn affidavit, stating that he did not understand that the railing was to extend along the abutments. Mr. Williams, the Commissioner, did not say that Mr. Scott might not be entitled to the sum asked by the petition, but had merely declined to certify, as the work had not been done as specified in the contract, which the petitioner swears that he did not understand. Hon. COL. SECRETARY.—Mr. Scott knew quite well that he would have to put up the railing, the whole length of the bridge, as specified in the contract, the contents of which he was well aware of, as he had it before him a week before he signed it. Hon. Mr. MOONEY, rather than divide, would give the amount from the road money of his district, although, it would involve the necessity of re-arranging the whole of the scale, which was already prepared. Hon. COL. TREASURER moved that the petition be rejected, which was carried without division.

HOUSE IN COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY. Hon. COL. SECRETARY moved that £5 be granted to Mary Ann Williams, a young woman who had lost her arm by a threshing machine. Hon. Mr. WIGHTMAN moved £34 8s. 7d., balance due Dr. Hobbs; £60 for the Speaker, and £30 each for the Members of the House, with the usual travelling expenses. Hon. COL. SECRETARY said that he considered the Speaker, as the head of the House, should be placed in the same relative position as those holding the same office in the other Colonies. In Nova Scotia and New Brunswick the Speaker receives £200 or £250, and he is expected to entertain the members of the Legislature and other public functionaries. The House were now to consider whether £60 were sufficient to enable the first commoner of the country to dispense the official hospitalities which his situation required. It was not to be expected that it should be one from his private means. The state of the revenue justifies an addition to the present amount, and although I think £100 little enough, I will propose that the motion be reconsidered, and the blank be filled up with £75. The sum of £75 was then carried.—Hon. Mr. Mooney declaring that he would oppose it when it came up in the House. Hon. COL. SECRETARY moved that £3 be placed at the disposal of Jeremiah Simpson, Esq., for the relief of the McKay family. Carried. The sum of £24 to the Rev. Alexander Sutherland, for the relief of 25 poor persons. Carried. The sum of £6 10s. to David Johnston, for the relief of 4 indigent persons. Carried. The sum of £8 10s. to Alexander Laird, Esq., for the relief of 5 poor persons. Carried. Mr. MURDOCH reported on the petition of Laughlan McKinnon, Lot 50, recommending that be granted to enable him to purchase seed grain and other necessaries to maintain his destitute family, three of whom have been deaf and dumb from their birth. Hon. Mr. MOONEY moved that the blank be filled up with £20; and he did so, as he thought it would be wrong to give such a man as the petitioner some paltry sum, which might have the appearance of classing him with the list of paupers.

The petitioner had clearly shown that he did not deserve to be ranked among the common class of those who petition the House for pecuniary relief. The petitioner is an old man, 67 years of age, and although he has been so afflicted in his family, he has never before applied to the House for assistance, nor would he have done so now, had not his property been destroyed by fire.

Hon. Mr. LORD had no doubt that the petitioner was a deserving man, but he feared the precedent they were about establishing would lead to many applications of a similar nature.

Hon. Mr. WIGHTMAN had no doubt that the petitioner had been heavily afflicted, but from what he had understood, he had reason to believe that the petitioner had received very liberal contributions from his neighbors and others, who had been very charitable. In consideration of that assistance, he thought £10 would be sufficient, and therefore he moved in amendment that the blank be filled up with that sum.

Mr. McINTOSH.—Charity would lead him to deal liberally with the petitioner, but he knew that his neighbors had been very generous to him.

Mr. COOPER had heard that circulars and petitions had been circulated among the neighborhood of the petitioner, and he thought that this system of private subscriptions and public aid might cause a man to be a gainer by the loss of his property, and might lead to the wilful destruction of property. It would be a hardship and injustice to make the people pay, through the House, after they had voluntarily contributed a liberal sum; and he was of opinion that it was referred to supply merely for the purpose of providing seed grain for the petitioner.

Mr. MURDOCH.—Perhaps the hon. member who has just sat down may not be aware that the petitioner has had the burden of supporting three deaf and dumb children, and has done so without ever making application to the House for assistance. It is fortunate for the House that cases of such distress are rarely brought to its notice.

Mr. PERRY instanced the case of a family on Lot 15, who had three deaf and dumb children, yet there were no more hard working people in the country.

It was here stated that the three children of the petitioner were idiots.

Mr. DOUGLASS could bear testimony to the good character of the petitioner. He was a most industrious and honest man, who had worked hard all his life, and if hon. members would contrast the change in his worldly circumstances, that occurred in a few minutes, from a spark which fell from the pipe of a man who came to buy a horse, and which destroyed the fruits of a life of industry, they would not grudge £20.

Mr. COOPER.—If the petitioner had come before the public in one way, he would know how to act; but having already applied to the public through the means of individual subscriptions, it should be made known. That would be an objection to the House granting any thing.

Hon. COL. SECRETARY recollects, some two or three years ago, a subscription was got up to recompense a man for the loss of an old horse. The sum raised enabled him to get a freshhold farm. The petitioner's list of subscriptions amounted to about £50 at the time he subscribed to it. He considered that they might be establishing a bad precedent, but he would, under all the circumstances, not oppose £10.

Hon. Mr. WIGHTMAN then moved that the sum of £300 be placed at the disposal of the Government for the purchase of a portion of the property of the late Col. Lane, which was carried.

The Hon. SPEAKER was not present when the vote of £75 for his salary had passed the committee. Had he been so, he would have opposed any increase. He had reasons for wishing that no addition be made to the sum heretofore allowed; with which, however, he would not trouble the committee, but would move a reconsideration, and then, that the blank be filled up with the usual amount, £60. This was agreed to.

Hon. Mr. MONTGOMERY'S Bill for preventing swine running at large in Princetown and Royalty, was read a first time.

THE EXAMINER.

CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. I., MARCH 19, 1855.

ESCHEAT—THE FISHERY RESERVES AND THE LAND PURCHASE BILL.

A public meeting was held at the Head of St. Peter's Bay, adjoining the Store of P. McCallum, Esq., on Thursday last, to ascertain the public opinion respecting the Land question and the Fishery Reserves. The meeting was called at the instance of J. B. Cox, Esq., against whom, as our readers may have seen, the Government contemplate bringing an action for the recovery of a large portion of the Reserves in his possession. There were, we believe, upwards of 200 persons in attendance. The meeting was organized by Mr. Cox, by his proposing that Mr. Dennis Hogan should take the chair, which was agreed to. He made a few preliminary observations, and suggested that as Mr. Whelan—one of the members of the district—had come to the meeting with the intention of explaining the policy of the Government, on the subject of the Fishery Reserves and Escheat, that that explanation should be first given, and if satisfactory, would render further action on his part unnecessary. Mr. Whelan insisted that Mr. Cox should first express his views, as he had called the meeting, but Mr. Cox declining, Mr. W. at length commenced the discussion—and in a speech which occupied considerably more than two hours, reviewed the action of the Government in purchasing the Worrel estate—the price at which it had been valued by Commissioners, and the terms on which the Government were now transferring that estate to settlers. He then entered into detail on the subject of the Reserves—showed how these had become Colonial property by the passage of the Civil List Bill—that the House of Assembly had passed an Address in 1852, requesting the Governor to issue a proclamation, forbidding persons to trespass upon, sell or rent those reserves, without license from the Government—that such a proclamation was issued (which Mr. Whelan read to the meeting)—that the House of Assembly again took up the subject in 1853, and agreed to a lengthy report, in which directions were given to the Government for settling the reserve question—that in this report it was recommended that small freeholders should be left in the quiet possession of their farms, which included reserves, when it was known they made purchase under the impression that proprietors had a right to sell the reserves,—that small leaseholders, instead of paying rent to the proprietors for those portions of their farms which consisted of reserves, should attach to the Government for the same, and pay a moderate rent,—that Mr. Cox's case was an entirely different one from that of any other, as he had purchased in defiance of the proclamation before referred to,—that Mr. Pope, before selling the estate to the Government, had relinquished his claim to 600 acres of fishery reserves,—that about 170 acres Reserves had been transferred to Mr. Cox with the Morell Farm, and that for the recovery of these 170 acres the Government should look to Mr. Cox. After some further observations in reference to this point, Mr. Whelan proceeded to the consideration of the question—whether it was practicable to obtain the establishment of a Court of Escheat? In support of the negative of this question, he read extracts from the despatches of several Secretaries of State—quoted the opinions of Lieutenant Governors of this Colony, and referred to admissions made by the leaders of Escheat in the House of Assembly, that the establishment of an Escheat Court was unattainable.

Mr. Cox followed Mr. Whelan. He insisted that 12s. 6d. per acre, as charged by Government for lands on the Worrel estate, was too high—that as regards the Fishery Reserves, he thought he was a persecuted man by being asked to attend for the 170 acres he purchased from Mr. Pope, when other farmers, who had purchased their properties many years ago, were not asked to attend. As to Escheat, he contended that with the establishment of Responsible Government the Colony derived the power of settling that question as it might think proper; and if the present Government would not establish a Court of Escheat, they should get a Radical Government that would.—There was a good deal of personal altercation during the discussion. Mr. Cox concluded his address by reading to the meeting the draft of an Escheat petition sent to him by Benjamin Davies, Esq., of Charlottetown.—(Mr. Cox intimating that Mr. Davies had become Secretary to the movement), which he urged the meeting to adopt. He also read several resolutions, condemning the Government for purchasing the Worrel estate, without investigating the title to it in a Court of Escheat, and for putting so high a price upon the land. These resolutions, he said, had been handed to him by a deputation from the Eastern part of King's County, but he did not know from whom they emanated. The people, however, did not seem inclined to adopt Mr. Cox's petition or resolutions, and neither of them were put to the meeting. The following resolution was the first adopted, by a large majority, as publicly declared by the Chairman:—

Proposed by Mr. Thomas Noonan and seconded by Mr. James McKay:

Resolved, That this meeting are content with the terms on which the Government have purchased the Worrel Estate, as well as with the terms on which they propose to sell to actual settlers and others the several parcels of land contained in said estate. And further resolved, that the arrangement agreed to for the settlement of the Fishery Reserve question, as just explained to us by one of our Representatives, meets with our entire approval.

(Signed) "DENNIS HOGAN, Chairman."

The next resolution was proposed by John Sutherland, Esq., and seconded by Mr. Hilary McIsaac, and a division having been called for, it was agreed to by a large majority.—Mr. Cox persisting, however, that the majority was not in favor of it, until the Chairman emphatically decided against him, assuring him that the majority for the resolution was a large one. It is as follows:

Resolved, That a revival of the escheat question is not desired by the people here present, inasmuch as it could not affect their interests, even if successful; but this meeting believes that question to be altogether an impracticable one, and to agitate it would lead to the worst results for the Island generally.

"DENNIS HOGAN, Chairman."

The next resolution was proposed by Mr. Robert Webster and seconded by John Sutherland, Esq., and was carried by acclamation.—Mr. Cox cheerfully assenting to it himself. It is as follows:—

Resolved, That this meeting entertains the highest respect and gratitude towards the Hon. Edward Whelan and Joseph Dingwell, Esq., for their faithful and unwearied discharge of their duties as our representatives since they entered the House of Assembly.

"DENNIS HOGAN, Chairman."

Mr. Whelan briefly returned thanks, and proposed three cheers for the Chairman, which were heartily given, and then the meeting dispersed.

We will offer some observations in our next No., if possible, in reference to the present movement for Escheat, which many of the Tory party now seem so anxious to encourage, in the hope that it may embarrass, if not ultimately break up, the Government.

The Hon. Attorney General has handed to us the following letter for publication, being a copy of the one addressed to Mr. Cox, in answer to his of the 3d instant, which appeared in our last No.:

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE, Charlottetown, 7th March, 1855.

SIR:— I have received your letter, of the 3d instant, in reply to mine of the 26th February, and learn from it that you are prepared to attend to the Government for the lands commonly called "Fishery Reserves," of which you have taken possession on Lots 33 and 40, so soon as it becomes the law of the land for you to do so, which you evidently think cannot be the case without steps being first taken to disturb the original grants of Township Lands in this Island. You are, however, laboring under an error in the latter respect, and also with respect to the nature of the title of the Crown to the "Fishery Reserves," which, I think, in justice to yourself and also to the public, (as you propose publishing our correspondence on the subject,) ought at once to be put right. I deduce this from the statement contained in your letter, that the Government have struck at the original grants by taking steps to recover possession of the "Fishery Reserves."

Now the "Fishery Reserves" do not form any part of the original grants, being, as their name denotes, "Reserves" out of such grants; and any question which can be raised with respect to the conditions of the original grants must, of necessity, be totally different from any which can arise with respect to the title of the Crown to the "Fishery Reserves," and involve totally different points both of law and fact. The "Fishery Reserves" have never been granted by the Crown, on any terms; and parties in possession of them, without license from the Crown, come properly under the denomination of trespassers. Such being the state of the case, I shall be happy to learn from you that you are now ready to comply with the demands contained in my letter of the 26th February.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant, JOSEPH HENSLEY, Attorney General.

ELECTION FOR THE SECOND DISTRICT OF PRINCE COUNTY.

Mr. Clark has been re-elected, as we foresaw he would, for the above district, beating his opponent by 120 votes—the numbers at the close of the poll being as follow:—

Clark 382 Walsh 262

The Islander promised its readers that Mr. Clark would be beaten. What a capital fellow the editor is to make political prophecies and promises!

CONCERT.—We regret that we were not in Town on Friday evening in time to be present at the Concert in aid of the Patriotic Fund. We are informed that the spacious room in the Temperance Hall was crowded and splendidly decorated—that the singing by the Misses Preedy under the direction of Mr. Ross, was excellent, and the solos by Mrs. Warren greatly applauded—that the instrumental music did much credit to the taste and judgment of the performers—that there were eloquent speeches delivered by the Hon. Col. Swabey, Hon. G. Coles and Heath Haviland, Esq.—and that, in short, the evening's entertainment was superb, and every one was pleased.

BENEVOLENT IRISH SOCIETY.—The annual meeting of this Society took place on Saturday evening, the 10th instant, when several new members joined its ranks, and a considerable amount of money was collected.

ble amount Thomas Phelan handed a donation from His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, for which the thanks of the Society were unanimously awarded to His Excellency. Before proceeding to the election of the usual office-bearers, Hon. Mr. Whelan proposed that His Excellency be respectfully solicited to fill the office of Patron to the Society, which was agreed to by acclamation. The following gentlemen were then elected office-bearers for the ensuing year:—

President—The Hon. James Warburton, Vice President—Mr. William Mitchell, Assistant Vice President—Mr. William Duggan, Secretary—Mr. Richard Walsh, Treasurer—Mr. Arthur O'Neill, Committee of Charity—Patrick McCarron, Chairman, John Arnold McKenna, William Mahaffey, Andrew Doyle, Peter Trainor, Martin Hogan, Charles McKenna.

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.—On Tuesday evening last the Hon. Col. Swabey read before the Institute an interesting paper in which he recorded many of his Military reminiscences. It abounded in anecdote, and was replete with touches of humour and pathos. An interesting discussion followed, in reference to the war in the East.

To-morrow evening (Tuesday), Mr. Alexander M'Ausland will lecture on Steam, as an agent in promoting trade and commerce.

One of the Mail Couriers (M' Rae) and the usual hands, left Cape Traverse for Cape Tormentine, on Wednesday morning, the 7th instant, and had not been heard of up to Thursday morning, the 15th instant. We hear that considerable anxiety is felt at Cape Traverse for their safety.

Since writing the above, one of the Couriers (Mutart) arrived in town with a Colonial Mail. The papers furnish nothing later from Europe. The Pacific, due at New York, out 14 days, had not arrived on Saturday, the 10th instant. The Courier reports that one of the Mail Boats, with three passengers—the one alluded to above—left Cape Tormentine, for this Island, on Saturday last, but up to Thursday night last, no tidings had been heard of them. The passengers are supposed to be Mr. R. Johnson and Harry Hazzard, of Charlottetown, and Mr. Wier, of Three Rivers. A fire was observed to be burning on the opposite coast last night, and it is to be hoped it was a signal for the safety of the missing party.—Islander, Friday.

A son of J. D. Hazzard, Esq., arrived in town to-day, bringing the melancholy news, that although the Boat arrived at the other side, after being out four days and four nights, one of the passengers—a son of Mr. Hazzard—died from cold and exhaustion; and another passenger, a son of Dr. Johnson, of this town, is reported as being in a very dangerous state.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—We have to apologise to correspondents for the omission of some favors on hand. We shall attend to them as soon as possible.—"Fair Play" has been received. The author not having furnished his name in accordance with the rule long since laid down, we cannot publish his communication until we have responsible references to assure us that the facts are correctly set forth.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

Dry Goods, Hardware, Groceries, &c. THE Subscriber will sell by Auction at his Room, Queen Square, on Tuesday, 3d of April next, without reserve, 50 pieces Grey Cotton, 20 do. Striped do., 50 do. Printed Cottons.

Black, brown and blue superfine Broad Cloth, Pilot, Beaver and Whitney, do. Doeskins, Cassimeres and Tweeds, Moleskins, Coburgs, Orleans, Alpaccas, Lustres, Delaines, Gala Plaid, Cloaking, Jeans, Drills, 3 Bales Cotton Warp; a large assortment Ladies' and Children's Boots and Shoes; 1 dozen Men's Boots, Shawls, Silk and Cotton Handkerchiefs, Neck Ties, Habit Shirts, Sleeves and Collars, Bonnet Silks and Ribbons, Laces, Edgings, Gloves, Hosiery, Hats and Caps, Victoria, Muffs, Umbrellas, Lining Cottons, Countergarments, Blankets, Pieces red, white and blue Fiancel, Tailor's Trimmings.

Knives and Forks, Spoons, Traces, Hames, Window Glass, Saws, Hammers, Axes, Screws, Nails, &c.

4 Chests Tea, 2 Kegs Tobacco, 2 Pouches Molasses, 2 Hhds. Sugar, a large and varied assortment of Paper Hangings, with a variety of other articles.

Terms.—All sums under £10, cash; from £10 to £20, 3 months; £20 upwards, six months. WM. DODD, Auctioneer.

Valuable Business Stand. TO be sold by auction on Thursday, the 10th day of May next, on the premises, all that piece of Land situated on Pownall Street, on Lot No. 37 in the first hundred—measuring 7 feet front and 84 feet depth. The above property will be sold in one or two Lots to suit purchasers; its proximity to Pownall Wharf renders it a desirable situation for a first rate business stand.—Terms at sale.

At a meeting of the Committee appointed to solicit contributions to the Patriotic Fund, held this day—

Hon. George Coles, Captain Orlebar, R.N., William Swabey, Theophilus Desbrisay, Esq., Secretary and Treasurer, J. Pictou Beebe, Secretary and Treasurer.

It was resolved, That the collectors in different parts of the country be requested to transmit to Mr. Desbrisay the names of the contributors to the Fund, in order to their publication. Mr. Desbrisay reported that the following sums have been received by him:—From Queen's County, including Charlottetown, £111 15s 10d; King's County, including Georgetown, £122 7s 10d; Prince County, including Princetown Royalty, £56 8s 10d.

It was also resolved, That the names of the several contributors, not already published, be advertised as far as now ascertained, and the remainder as the accounts are received. THEOPHILUS DESBRISAY, Secretary and Treasurer.

Notice. THE Subscriber hereby notifies all persons indebted to him, either by Note or Book Account, that unless they make immediate payment, their Accounts will be placed in the hands of an Attorney for collection. C. CROSS.

Notice. THE Subscriber requests all persons indebted to him to make immediate payment, and settlement of accounts, as his Books will shortly be placed in the hands of an Attorney for collection. JOHN ANDREW MACDONALD.

Selling off at Georgetown. FOR COST AND CHARGES. THE Subscriber respectfully informs the public that he has this day commenced selling off his large Stock of Goods, at a GREAT REDUCTION on former prices, to make room for a large Stock, which he expects to receive early in the Spring. ANDREW A. MACDONALD.

Caution. THIS is to caution all persons from giving to my wife Mary Murphy, anything on my account, as I will not be answerable for the same. JAMES ORMOND.

American House—12th March. THE subscriber keeps on hand a constant supply of Cooking Stoves (for wood and coal), Franklin and other Stoves, Tables and Chairs of every description, Boots and Shoes, Ladies' and gents' Rubber do., Tea, Coffee, Sugar, Molasses, baking and washing Soda, soda and wine Crackers, Pilot Bread, Arrowroot, Sago, Tapioca, Rice, Confectionary, Nuts and Spices, Clocks, Hats of every quality, glazed Caps, beautiful Window Shades, striped Shirting Cottons, Carpenters' & Cutters' Tools, Manure and Hay Forks, Spades & Shovels, Glassware, Churns, Brushes of every description, Blacking, Lamp Black, Dye Stuffs, Salt, &c. &c. W. B. DAWSON.