

restrictions and regulations specified in the Act. Experience has proved that it is difficult, without causing public inconvenience, to make any extensive cash payments out of local funds for Lands purchased where the amount has to be remitted abroad. Lands, so purchased under the Statute above referred to, are sold out again to the Tenants at a credit extending to ten years; and, therefore, a long time must elapse before the funds coming in from such sales can be available to meet the payments of the original purchase money of Estates acquired by the Government, where the same, or any considerable proportion thereof, has to be paid, either at once, or within a short period of time, in cash. This has been felt in the case of the purchase of what is known as the "Cunard Estate," embracing an area of 212,885 acres, acquired in the year 1866, at a cost of £79,500 currency, equivalent to £53,000 sterling money of Great Britain. By the terms of the purchase, £5,000 sterling had to be paid at the time, £7,166 13s. 4d. sterling had to be paid in January last, £7,166 13s. 4d. sterling more has to be paid on 1st July next; and, again, £7,166 13s. 4d. more has to be paid on 1st January next (1868), with such interest, at the rate of six per cent. per annum, as may have accrued; all which will probably be remitted abroad, as the vendors are not resident in Prince Edward Island. The residue of the purchase money (£26,500 sterling) has to be paid in ten (10) years from the time of purchase, and meantime bears interest at the rate of five per cent. per annum, payable half-yearly. The present Act has for part of its object, the raising in London, or elsewhere out of Prince Edward Island, of the future instalments which have yet to be paid on the purchase of the "Cunard Estate"; and, also, the replacement in Prince Edward Island of such amounts as may already, or before any loan can be effected under it shall, have been paid for that purpose.

Another object is to enable the Government having cash to offer to deal on more advantageous terms than perhaps they otherwise could do with any other Proprietors of Lands who may be disposed from time to time to sell their property to the Government under the provisions of the Land Purchase Bill. It is the intention of the Government, if successful in raising funds abroad under this Act, to apply to such other Proprietors and ascertain the terms upon which they are willing to sell their Lands. It is not contemplated, in the first instance, to attempt to raise at the most more than one-half of the Loan authorized; and the Government can, if this can be raised on advantageous terms, find at once profitable occupation for that amount by discharging a portion of the already existing Public Treasury Warrants or obligations of the Government of this Island.

As to whether the residue of the Loan will, or will not be raised, or attempted to be raised, will depend upon future circumstances; and it probably will not be done unless opportunities hereafter offer of acquiring more lands on advantageous terms.

the negotiations for raising it abroad should not prove successful.

The Act authorizes the appointment of Agents abroad to negotiate a Loan, and authorizes them to issue Bonds and Debentures bearing a rate of interest not exceeding six per cent per annum, which are to be disposed of at the highest price the money market will permit at the time. The annual interest is to be remitted to meet the payments in that respect required; and where the money is raised in Great Britain, or elsewhere out of Prince Edward Island, the Debentures are made redeemable in twenty years, as it has been thought that parties in Great Britain, willing to advance money, would not probably be disposed to do so if the Debentures were made payable in any shorter time. A sinking fund of five per cent. per annum is required by the Bill, to be provided so as to accumulate a sufficient amount by yearly contributions to pay off the Loan at the time at which the Act makes the Debentures redeemable. In case it should become necessary to raise the Loan in Prince Edward Island, the Debentures are to be payable in ten (10) years, as parties there will probably not object to lend for that short time.

The Public Funds, Monies and Securities of Prince Edward Island are expressly pledged for the redemption of the Debentures or Bonds to be issued under this Act.

JOSEPH HENSLEY,
Attorney General.

Prince Edward Island, 4th June, 1867.

(B).

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND,
Charlottetown, 30th May, 1867.

To
Andrew Mitchell, Esq, J. P., and
Thomas DesBrisay, Esq., Auditor of Public Accounts:

GENTLEMEN,

I have to request that you will compile and furnish me with a Return and Statement of the Public Revenue and Expenditure of Prince Edward Island, during the ten years ending on the 31st January last. I wish to have this made out in two different ways:

1st. The gross Revenue and the gross Expenditure, including all liabilities incurred or amounts paid for Purchases of Land by the Government during that period, under the Land Purchase Bill, or received by them on account of Lands sold thereunder.

2d. The ordinary Revenue and Expenditure of each of the above years, irrespective of Lands bought or sold.

3d. Also a Statement for the above ten years of the Public Debt, its increase or decrease.

4th. Also a Statement of the value of Exports and Imports during the last Ten years, exclusive of Ships built.

5th. Also a Statement of the number of Ships built and Registered in Prince Edward Island during the last ten years, and the amount of their united Tonnage in each

remaining unsold, amounts to 143,775 acres, as described in the Schedule B, annexed, and are valued at £34,344 3s. 0d. currency, (£22,896 2s. 0d. sterling).

Ch:

| Year | R | Abstract |
|------|----|----------|
| 1857 | 27 | 1 |
| 1858 | 22 | |
| 1859 | 27 | |
| 1860 | 28 | |
| 1861 | 28 | |
| 1862 | 29 | |
| 1863 | 41 | |
| 1864 | 44 | |
| 1865 | 45 | |
| 1866 | 63 | |