

tion of the Government themselves, an increase of £55 a year, but as the Government refused to pay Mr. Ball, it augmented the expenses of the Councils by £135, beyond what they were last Session. They had added £50 to the Colonial Secretary's salary, and he had an Assistant in the person of the Road Correspondent.

Hon. Mr. LONGWORTH replied, showing that the Government had reduced the cost of the Public Departments very materially, and that the addition of £55, caused by the adoption of the Bill, bore no proportion to the amounts saved by the expenditure of the late Government.

After a few brief observations, the purport of which has already been given, Mr. Coles' amendment was seconded by Mr. SINCLAIR, who opposed the Bill, as creating new offices, and an unnecessary expense. In 1858 the Clerk of the Executive and Legislative Councils was paid by statute £125 per annum; and now it was proposed to pay £300 for the Clerkship of the Executive alone. The Government might say that the only increase was £55, but the Legislative Council had paid extra for the preparation of the Indices for their Journals; but what security had the House that they would not continue the practice after the passage of the Bill? One of the principal objects against the late Government had been that they created new offices, and increased the salaries. Last year the present Government did practice a little economy, but they were now adding to the public expenditure, and increasing the evils which, while in opposition, they had so loudly complained.

Mr. MONTGOMERY.—The sum formerly paid was withheld in a trifling amount as that provided by the Bill. He supported the Bill as being a fair and honest mode of raising the public money, by which the secret and underhanded practice which had hitherto been pursued would be done away, and the efficiency of the public service increased without increasing the public burdens.

Two or three members having reiterated some of the arguments already reported, the report was received on the following division:—
For Mr. Coles' amendment—Messrs. Coles, Whelan, Kelly, Cooper, Sutherland, Sinclair and Doyle—7.
Against it—Messrs. Haviland, Laird, Howat, Holm, Davies, Perry, Thornton, Gray, Pope, Longworth, Douse, Montgomery, Ramsay, Beer, J. Yeo, McNeill, Wightman, McAulay, Owen, and Conroy—80.

W. M. Hows, Reporter.

DECIMAL CURRENCY BILL.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON, 28th February.

Mr. McNEILL.—I rise, Mr. Speaker, to move the first reading of the Bill which I have given notice, to authorise the keeping of the public accounts in dollars and cents. The Bill will not have the effect which has been attributed to it, of changing the currency. It does not interfere with that subject. In Nova Scotia, last year, the Hon. Mr. Young, then the leader of the Opposition, introduced a similar measure, which was supported by the Government, without reference to party differences. Canada had adopted the decimal system some years since, and New Brunswick two years ago passed such a law, which is to go into operation to-day. The Bill, I may state, is brought in by myself, as an independent member, without previous consultation with hon. members, either of the Government or Opposition. It will have the effect of saving a great amount of labor, and its application to the public accounts will gradually induce mercantile men to adopt the system of keeping their accounts in dollars and cents. The decimal system obtains over nearly the whole of North America; it is in practice in France, and has been strenuously agitated, and, I believe, that the time is not remote, when its advantages will be recognised by the British public. The Bill, I consider, will be a great boon to the people of the Island. Our trade with the United States is already very large, and is constantly increasing; and by assimilating our mode of accounting to theirs, our people would readily understand their currency, and their intercourse would be greatly facilitated. I leave the Bill, however, to the opinion of the House.

Hon. Mr. COLES.—The adoption of the currency of the United States will not increase our trade with them. The Americans know well enough what the value of our currency is in dollars and cents; but the bulk of the people of the Island would be subjected to great inconvenience in making their calculations in American money. The hon. member says that the Bill proposes the adoption of the system in keeping the public accounts; but that would impose upon all parties through whose hands public money is disbursed to make up their returns in the same manner. The difficulty of such an innovation must be perceptible to any eye who reflects upon the subject for a moment. We had better adhere to the good old British practice. The other Colonies have not acted upon the system, but have found it expedient to keep to the old mode. When we shall have seen the results of the experience of the decimal system, it will be time enough for us to adopt or reject it. It is true that we have extensive dealings with the United States, but we also trade largely with Great Britain; and when the Railway shall be completed between Shediac and St. John, I believe that New Brunswick will be the best and largest market for our produce. It would be a long time before the people of the Island would become accustomed to the change, and nothing but confusion would ensue from the public accounts being kept in dollars and cents, and the accounts of mercantile men and others in pounds, shillings and pence.

Hon. Mr. YEO.—The proposed alteration in the currency would be attended with great difficulty. When I was in England, about ten years since, great efforts were being made to introduce the decimal system there, but it has not been adopted yet. The great bulk of the people are tenants, and their leases specify the rents to be paid in our present currency or in Sterling. The Bill would be productive of no good, but a great deal of annoyance and confusion. The same would be the case with Merchants, and others who had to pay duties on their importations. As to the alleged increased facility in keeping accounts, I have never found any difficulty in that respect. I have large dealings in Boston, New York, and other parts of the States, as well as with Britain and the neighbouring Colonies; and although some of my accounts are made out in dollars and cents, and others in pounds, shillings and pence, I experience no inconvenience from the difference.

Hon. Mr. LONGWORTH.—It is, I believe, quite true, as the hon. member who introduced the Bill, has stated, that he has not applied to any member of the Government on the subject. He has brought it in on his own responsibility; and while I give him credit for a sincere belief that the measure will be of benefit to the country, I must say, that after a very cursory glance at the Bill, I am not prepared to support it. It is time, as that hon. member stated, that the decimal system has been recognised by legislation in other Colonies; but in Canada the law has remained for five years a dead letter on the Statute Book. I know not the reason, but it may be the result of some deep rooted prejudice against any deviation from long established British usage. In New Brunswick, a Colony which prides itself upon its adherence to British institutions, it has not been adopted in practice. In Nova Scotia the system only came into operation on the first of January last, consequently we have no means of knowing how its working will affect the people of that Province. But I think that the example of the mother country is quite sufficient a guide for us in dealing with so momentous a question as the currency. The Imperial Parliament appoint a Committee to examine and report as to the expediency of introducing the decimal system. An influential Committee, chosen from both sides of the House, and representing all interests, was appointed. Their report, which was of considerable length, and which reviewed the question in all its bearings, was adverse to the proposed change; and really I cannot see what benefits can be expected to result to the Island, when the change was not considered an improvement in Great Britain, where all the accounts of her Majesty's monetary institutions and establishments, public and private, are kept in pounds, shillings and pence. It is true that in the United States, Mexico and Texas the computation is by dollars and cents; but there is no reason why we should deviate from our system to conciliate the people of foreign countries. As to the argument that the Bill would have the effect of inducing Americans to open accounts with us, they have already laid fair and legitimate inducements to do so, and they manifest no reluctance to avail themselves of them. The Bill might, indeed, to a certain extent, facilitate the dealings between the Island and the United States, but such facility would not justify us in deviating from long established usage and unsettling our financial system. The Bill strikes at the root of our present mode of computation. It specifies the value of foreign coins relating to dollars and cents; for, by the existing statute, the value of the Mexican and American dollar is fixed at 5s 3d, but the Bill before the Committee gives the value of the sovereign at five dollars, thus making the latter coin worth £1 11s 3d. It is impossible that such a Bill can go into operation without a thorough change in our present currency act. If the measure is in-

tended to assimilate our currency to that of Nova Scotia it will have the effect of adding 20 per cent. to the present value of our money, and will consequently affect all existing contracts to that extent. This aspect of the question, alone, is entitled to grave consideration; and I am satisfied that hon. members have not had time to give to the subject that deliberation which its importance demands. The time may, and probably will, come when the neighbouring Colonies, having tried the decimal system, their experience may influence us to adopt it; but we may safely rest content with a mode which has stood the test of centuries, until other countries shall have shown us an improvement realized in practice.

(To be continued.)

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS.

Tuesday afternoon, Feb. 28.

Hon. Mr. Kelly moved for the addition of two members to the committee appointed to report upon the best mode of giving Shipbuilders a lien for their wages on vessels on which they have been employed—Hons. Messrs. Longworth and Pope were appointed.

Hon. Mr. Wightman presented a Post Office petition from Murray Harbour—Referred to Post Office Committee.

Mr. McNeill moved the first reading of a Bill authorizing the keeping of the public accounts in dollars and cents, after a long debate which will appear in its proper order—Hon. Mr. Coles' motion that it be read this day 3 months was carried. The principle of the measure was generally acknowledged, but the objection to its passage was based on the inconvenience and confusion which would arise from its immediate adoption, and the fact that the decimal system established by law in the neighbouring Colonies had not yet been carried into practice.

Hon. Mr. Thornton presented a road petition.

Hon. Mr. Coles then asked who was to be considered as Leader of the Government—the gentleman who last year held that position in the House having taken a seat in the Legislative Council—and it being said that some one member of the Government should be recognized as the party in whom answers to questions asked of the Government might be expected.

Hon. Col. Gray trusted that the hon. member would be satisfied by his stating that, as senior member of the Council, holding a seat in the House, he would be prepared to answer questions which might be put to the Government; he would not, however, pledge himself or colleagues to reply to questions of so extraordinary a nature as some that were occasionally put. In his absence some one or other of his colleagues would furnish the necessary answers.

Hon. Mr. Coles then asked when the Government would submit the correspondence on the subject of the Commission. A member of the Government, some days since, stated that a copy of the despatch was in the desk of a member of the Executive in the House.

Hon. Col. Gray was not aware that any particular despatch had been referred to, but he would reply, with reference to any despatches or correspondence on the subject, that while the preliminaries are being arranged, it was not usual or generally convenient to produce papers connected with a negotiation still pending. When the business should be completed he presumed the despatches would be submitted. Their production at present might embarrass the proceedings and retard the organization of the Commission. Suppose, for instance, that parties residing in England or the Colonies had been named as Commissioners, and they should decline, and others had to be substituted, who might also object to the production of correspondence on those particulars would be unnecessary and inconvenient.

Hon. Mr. Thornton—Are we to have the despatches or not?

Hon. Mr. Coles gave notice of an address to the Lieut. Governor praying for the despatches on the Commission, and then put a similar question as to the correspondence on the subject of the Legislative Council.

Hon. Mr. Longworth—According to parliamentary rule the Government was entitled to 24 hours notice of a question. A verbal notice was sufficient, but a notice of some kind was as necessary as in the case of the introduction of a Bill.

Hon. Mr. Coles observed that, in the Imperial Parliament questions were put to Government on the first day of the session. The Government were not bound to answer immediately, but they could name the particular time when they would be prepared. He then gave notice that he should ask the question to-morrow.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, Feb. 29.

Hon. Col. Gray, by command of His Excellency, brought down a message on the subject of the correspondence concerning the Legislative Council. A desultory and somewhat violent discussion took place, which will be given at length hereafter.

The House in committee on Bill to authorize Americans from the United States to build and employ fishing vessels in the Island, under licence, which was agreed to without amendment.

THURSDAY, March 1.

The following petitions were presented—By Mr. McNeill from certain inhabitants of Lot 61, praying for a grant to enable them to purchase and drain the coming spring. By Hon. Col. Gray, from inhabitants of Lots 50 and 51, praying a grant in aid of individual subscriptions for building a wharf at Orwell Point. By Mr. Conroy from Robert Kennedy, Lot 1, praying a grant equal to a sum of money which he had to pay as expenses for prosecuting an assaulter. By Mr. Sutherland, from Henry Anderson, Teacher, praying for balance of salary. By Mr. Knight, from Michael Morrison, Lot 54. By Mr. Sutherland, from inhabitants of Lot 49. By Mr. Conroy, from inhabitants of Casumpane,—all relating to roads or bridges.

Hon. Mr. Haviland, as a member of the Executive, presented a Bill to authorise the Government to open a cash account with the Bank of P. E. Island, which was read a first time.

Hon. Mr. Haviland moved the second reading of the Bill to amend the Act relating to the office of Sheriffs.

Hon. Mr. Coles, after some remarks, moved in amendment, that the Bill be read this day three months.

that any member holding an office may resign it and accept another without vacating his seat, be struck out—motion negatived by a division of 13 to 7.

On the second clause being read which specifies the qualification of Electors, a discussion arose which occupied the time of the House until the hour of adjournment.

AFTERNOON SITTING.

The House occupied in Committee on the Bill to alter the clause specifying the qualification of the Electors, and the subject of a protracted and angry debate, the detailed Report of which will appear in due course. The clause passed.

The section requiring a certificate that statute labor has been performed and the commutation paid, was also carried after an animated discussion. Progress reported.

MONDAY, March 5.

House did not meet in the forenoon.

MONDAY AFTERNOON, March 5.

A Bill introduced by the Hon. Mr. Haviland to amend the Registration Act, was read first time. It provided for the recording of deeds on premises of the grantor of the land; and it gave a judgment creditor his prior claim from the date of the judgment, against transferees subsequently recorded.

The amended Election Law was recommitted, and a long discussion ensued, the principal part of which arose from the following resolution, introduced by the Hon. Mr. Pope, based on some observations which had fallen from Mr. Sinclair in a previous debate on the Bill:—

WHEREAS one of the members of this House representing Lot 18, and Princeton and Royalty, is of opinion that a should not be allowed to vote, unless the said Town Lots be of the yearly value of Forty Shillings; and is also of opinion that there is no prospect of Princeton ever becoming a place of any importance; And whereas Lot 17, comprising Summerside and St. Eleanors, is a place of more importance, and contains a greater number of voters than Lot 18, Princeton and Royalty—Therefore Resolved, that so much of the Act of XIX Vic. cap. 21 as relates to the Towns, Royalities, Common, and to the division of the Electoral District in this Island, be so amended that Lot 17 be taken off the Third Electoral District of Prince County, and be an Electoral District entitled to return two members to this House; and that in lieu of Lot 17, Lot 18, Princeton and Royalty be added to the said Third Electoral District of Prince County.

TUESDAY, March 6.

Mr. Holm presented a petition from inhabitants of Lots 29 and 30; and Mr. J. Yeo a petition from Thomas Boyd—both relating to roads.

Mr. Beer presented a petition from inhabitants of Lots 25, 26 and 37, praying for a grant to build a wharf at Cranberry Point.

Hon. Mr. Haviland introduced a Bill for the protection of the Salmon Fishery. It provides that those fish shall not be caught between the 31st of August and the 1st of April.

Hon. Mr. Haviland introduced a Bill to protect the real and personal property of married women. He explained that as the law now stands the property of married women is liable for the debts of their husbands. This was almost a disgrace to an enlightened country. It was altogether unfair that women who might have a little property when married, and who might be industrious and economical, should be made liable for the debts of their extravagant and drunken husbands. The Bill is to provide a remedy in such cases.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON, March 6.

Hon. Mr. Haviland, as a member of the Government, laid on the table the detailed statement of the public accounts for the past year.

The Bill to amend the Registry Act was read a second time, and agreed to with an amendment.

WEDNESDAY, March 7.

A large number of road petitions were presented; also the following:—By Mr. Knight from inhabitants of Lots 46 and 47, praying for a grant to build a wharf; by Mr. Conroy from inhabitants of Lot 54, praying for the erection of a light-house on the North Cape, and another on the East Point; by Mr. Sinclair from inhabitants of Princeton, praying for the same; also a petition from inhabitants of Princeton, praying for a grant to build a block in Princeton wharf; by Hon. Mr. Coles, from John Hughes, contractor of the eastern mill, praying a grant to remunerate him for loss sustained in running said mill; by Mr. J. Yeo, from inhabitants of Lot 13, praying in alternative for the building of a light-house on the North Cape, and another on the East Point; by Mr. Davies, from J. S. Bremner, assistant Controller of Customs, praying for an increase of salary; by Hon. Mr. Whelan from inhabitants of King's County, praying for a Lighthouse on East Point.

Hon. Mr. Haviland, by command of His Excellency, laid before the House a copy of a Despatch in answer to the Address of the Legislature, in reference to the exclusion of salaried officers from the Legislature.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, March 7.

Some ordinary Petitions were presented; also the following:—By Mr. Haviland moved that a supply be granted to Her Majesty.

The Bill to protect the Salmon Fishery, by prohibiting the catching of those fish during certain months, was read a second time and agreed to.

Post Office Bill was read a third time and passed, as was the Bill authorizing the licensing of Americans to build Fishing-boats on the Island.

Several Petitions were received.

Correspondence.

THE ISLANDER ON CATHOLIC PROSCRIPTION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

Sir—The editor of the *Islander*, in the last issue of that paper, commenting on the letters of "Lector," says, that he does not "for a moment suppose that they were written by the same person. In this, as in many other things, he is quite correct. I beg to assure him that the same person, in fact, who has written the letters of "Lector," is the same person who has written the letters of "Patriot." I have never undergone any metamorphosis, nor do I believe in the doctrine of metempsychosis. The editor adds:—"Although we do not admit the soundness of the arguments of 'Lector,' we cannot deny him the credit of having offered his views with ability, and also with moderation. It is not, however, our intention to continue the controversy." I beg to assure him that the same person, in fact, who has written the letters of "Lector," is the same person who has written the letters of "Patriot." I have never undergone any metamorphosis, nor do I believe in the doctrine of metempsychosis. The editor adds:—"Although we do not admit the soundness of the arguments of 'Lector,' we cannot deny him the credit of having offered his views with ability, and also with moderation. It is not, however, our intention to continue the controversy." I beg to assure him that the same person, in fact, who has written the letters of "Lector," is the same person who has written the letters of "Patriot." I have never undergone any metamorphosis, nor do I believe in the doctrine of metempsychosis.

ing stock of the discerning portion of the community. I ask again what have the continual complaints of "child-murder, poisoning, and general moral corruption," or the "worse than heathen ignorance" in England and Wales, to do with the Government of this Island?

Perhaps, however, the intention of the editor of the *Islander*, in giving the extract from Dr. Cullen's letter, was to give a gentle hint to his clerical and Gualano-biblical friends, by directing their attention to the deplorable state of morality in England, and at the same time indirectly suggest to them the propriety of acting, on the principle, "Clarity begins at home," and of turning their overflowing missionary zeal in the direction of England, in order to convert the heathens of that country, instead of making collections for the poor apostate Chiniquy, or for "the reclaiming of the poor benighted Irish from the errors of Popery?" The following extract taken from the *Islander* of the 3d inst. may, perhaps, tend to strengthen the opinion that such, indeed, was the editor's motive. The question has lately been asked by one of our British subjects in London whether or not "Christ?" It was answered by a statement made at a meeting of the Congregational Union of England and Wales to the following effect:—"Of all the places in the land, London is the most heathenish. There are some 900,000 persons living in London who never entered a place of worship. If such a state of things was entered upon in the South Seas, we should speedily send missionaries to preach the Gospel to them. And it is a fact that in Rarotonga there are only ten per cent of the population absent from divine worship on the Sabbath. In London, 40 per cent. are present and in Rarotonga 90 per cent. are present. Of all the seats provided for public worship in England, the Congregationalists have only provided 6 per cent. of the total amount. And what is worse, on the census Sabbath, only one-third of those sittings are filled." If the object of which the editor had in view was that which we have intimated, it was, indeed, a laudable one, and I trust that the hint will not be thrown away on his friends.

The *Islander* has the following:—"Dr. McHale, in speaking of the ancient Catholic city of Tunn, says that 'although strewn with the venerable ruins of seven Catholic Churches which flourished and gladdened the people with the blessings of charity and education long before the wretched breath of Protestantism blighted our land, scenes of such barbarous bigotry are now enacted in striving to extinguish Catholicity as would appear to be the congenial doings of Mussulmans.' Now, I think that the editor of the *Islander* should have informed his readers of the particular case to which the illustrious Archbishop referred. It is this: The Bishop of Partry, the Right Rev. Lord Plunket, is now erecting a large number of tenements from the farms which they till in their youth and manhood, and which their forefathers held for generations, and he is doing this, it appears, not because they had failed to perform any contract which they had entered with their landlord, but because they have not at naught the will of their lord and master in one point, they have refused to let their children be reared in his proselytizing schools, of the sacred pearl of the faith. The following extract is taken from a letter addressed to the Rt. Hon. E. W. Cardwell, Secretary of State for Ireland:—"Lord Plunket is only a landlord since yesterday. The people are tenants, good and evil, and he is doing this, it appears, not because they had failed to perform any contract which they had entered with their landlord, but because they have not at naught the will of their lord and master in one point, they have refused to let their children be reared in his proselytizing schools, of the sacred pearl of the faith. The following extract is taken from a letter addressed to the Rt. Hon. E. W. Cardwell, Secretary of State for Ireland:—"Lord Plunket is only a landlord since yesterday. The people are tenants, good and evil, and he is doing this, it appears, not because they had failed to perform any contract which they had entered with their landlord, but because they have not at naught the will of their lord and master in one point, they have refused to let their children be reared in his proselytizing schools, of the sacred pearl of the faith. The following extract is taken from a letter addressed to the Rt. Hon. E. W. 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