

improvements were required. In order, therefore, to answer the questions of the Hon. Mr. Duncan, it would be necessary to inform the Government of what alterations or improvements were sought for.

Hon. Mr. Duncan alluded to the unnecessary delay at breakfast and dinner hours, and also frequently at low tide. He had expected that the Leader of the Government, or his colleague, would have some complaints made to them about the matter. He might also state that the Contractor had informed him of his willingness to give up his contract, at a loss, owing to the many complaints that had been made against him.

Hon. Mr. Davies said, that in regard to information respecting the Ferry, the constituents whom he had the honor to represent had so frequently petitioned the Legislature touching their grievances on that subject, that they almost despaired of redress. It was strange that his hon. colleague should not expect improvements to be made that had been neglected by the late Government, of which that hon. gentleman had been a member. It was not his constituency alone that were interested in the ferry accommodation, other sections of that portion of the Island were also affected. As a great quantity of agricultural products were brought to market by that Ferry as came on any of the other thoroughfares leading to Charlottetown.

Hon. Leader of the Opposition said it was time to put a stop to that discussion, which was quite irregular and contrary to Parliamentary rule. The proper time to discuss the question would be when it was regularly submitted to the House.

Hon. Leader of the Government did not object to the irregularity of the proceeding, on the ground that he was anxious to obtain information relative to the grievances complained of. The late Government had the matter before them last session, and went to some trouble collecting information on the point. It appeared that one boat was not sufficient for the work required from the increased traffic. The Government would do all in their power consistent with justice to the Contractors.

Hon. Mr. Davies congratulated the House on the unanimity which had prevailed up to this period of the session, no counter resolutions having been submitted in opposition to any question of importance.

Hon. Leader of the Government supposed that matters had been so well conducted that no room was left for censure.

Hon. Leader of the Opposition would correct the Hon. Mr. Davies, and inform that hon. member that two counter resolutions had been submitted of considerable importance, the one being to recommit the Revenue Bill, with the view of lowering the duties on certain liquors imported to this Colony—the other relative to the grant for Steam communication with Souris, &c. How such resolutions could have escaped the notice of the Hon. Mr. Davies, if he were in his seat, he was at a loss to know.

Hon. Mr. Hensley said that the matter must have escaped the memory of his hon. colleague in the Government.

House adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, May 1.

Hon. Attorney General presented to the House a Bill for the continuance of certain expiring laws, which was received, read, and committed to a Committee of the whole. Hon. Mr. Laird in the Chair. Reported agreed to.

On Motion of the Hon. Attorney General, the time limited for the reception of new matter was extended to Wednesday next, the 8th, in so far as relates to matters of a public nature.

Hon. Colonial Secretary presented to the House a memorandum of the Stock now on the Government Stock Farm.

Hon. Attorney General presented a Bill to enable George C. Stiles of Westmorland County, New Brunswick, to obtain Letters Patent for the invention of a new and useful improvement in the construction of Spinning Wheels.

The same Bill was received, read, and ordered to be referred to the Special Committee to report thereon.

The Bill to diminish the delay and expense of proceedings in the Court of Chancery was read a third time and passed.

Hon. Attorney General presented to the House the Reports of the Visitors of Schools for the Eastern and Western Sections of the Island for the past year, as transmitted by the Board of Education.

Hon. Leader of the Government said that from the unreliable manner in which the information given in those reports was collected, the House in previous sessions did not consider them of sufficient importance to be published in the Journals. But as the Board of Education had transmitted the said papers to that hon. House, it would, perhaps, be as well to publish at least a portion of them in the Journals.

Mr. Reilly—It appeared that but little importance had been attached to the Reports of School Visitors by that hon. House. When the large amount of public revenue expended on Education would be taken into consideration, it appeared strange indeed that the printing of Reports, which should be of material importance, was considered a waste of public money. He believed, and in fact it could be proved, if necessary, that much of the information given in those Reports was from the hearsay of others, and not the result of personal observation on the part of the Visitors. That, however, could not be wondered at, when the small pittance allowed for the School inspection of the whole Colony was but £300 a year—a sum smaller than that given to the Superintendent of Public Works last year as travelling expenses. He said the office of School Inspector should be non-political, and merit, rather than political favoritism, should influence the appointment of officers, whose duties were so essential to the best interests of education. When the question came before the House in a more general form, it could be entered into more fully, and he hoped, with satisfactory results.

Hon. Attorney General—When the Education Act would be presented in a few days to the consideration of the House, the views of the Government would be known relative to the appointment of Visitors, as well as the general question of Education.

Hon. Leader of the Opposition said he was always of the opinion that the School Visitors were inadequately paid. Clerks in Merchants' Establishments, in many cases, had better salaries than were allowed for the inspection of Schools of the whole Colony. He was of opinion that one Superintendent of Schools for the whole Island, properly paid, and of superior attainments, would give more general satisfaction than the present mode. He said that Dr. Ryerson, Superintendent of Education in Upper Canada, had held that office for many years, no matter what party had the Government in that country. The office should not be viewed politically, and should be held during good behaviour.

Mr. P. Sinclair was happy to hear that there appeared a disposition to make the office of School Visitor non-political. It was high time that a change of some kind was made. He was of opinion that a Visitor for each of the three Counties of the Island would give more general satisfaction. He would be willing to have such officers appointed during good behaviour.

Hon. Mr. Howland said it was indeed strange that Reports relating to the expenditure of some £16,000 of the Revenue, annually, were so utterly useless, and so unreliable, as not to be worth publishing.

The supervision of the educational interests of the whole Colony required a larger sum than had hitherto been voted for that service. He hoped that hon. members on both sides of the House would concur in the necessity of not only increasing the salary, but

also of the appointment of gentlemen of superior talents and attainments for the discharge of those onerous duties connected with the office of School Inspector. And he was happy to say that he believed there were those among the young men of this Colony who possessed those required abilities.

Mr. Arsenaux said that, from his own personal knowledge, the School Visitor's Report of certain Schools in parts of the District which he had the honor to represent, was not reliable. In proof of his remarks, he referred to the Report in question, and read its statements, touching Schools at Lot 15, said to be unoccupied, and also attributing apathy, in regard to education, to the French population of that part of the country. Such statements, he said, were not true, and only furnished evidence of the fallacious nature of such reports. He then explained the difficulty of procuring licensed Teachers under the revised School Act, which enjoined the imparting instruction in English as well as French. In the absence of such teachers, young ladies were employed and paid by voluntary subscriptions. There being, according to the Visitor's Report, some six or seven Schoolhouses in the vicinity to which he alluded, was proof sufficient to show that the inhabitants were not ungrateful of the necessity of educating their children.

Mr. Cameron said that merit, and not political bias, should be considered relative to the appointment of School Visitors. From personal knowledge, he could vouch for the correctness of that portion of the Report, now before the House, relative to Schools in his District. He then commended the assiduity of the present Visitor for the Western Section of the Island.

Mr. Bell concurred with the remarks made by the hon. member (Mr. Cameron) relative to the diligent and painstaking conduct of the Visitor alluded to. He (Mr. Bell) urged the necessity of placing the educational system of the Colony on the best possible basis.

Hon. Mr. McAuley could not understand what the question before the House was. Surely it was not contemplated to place restrictions on the thoughts and opinions of men who might hold Government appointments.

Hon. Mr. Davies said that parents generally were more capable of judging the progress made by their children, than were the Visitor, who, from a hasty call at a School, could know but very little of the real state of such Schools. The principal amendment which required to be made in the School Act, was the paying of the whole of the Teachers' salaries from the Treasury, so as to enable them to make a respectable living, and cause young men of abilities to take a greater and more permanent interest in their profession. Schoolhouses, in some localities, were erected too close to each other. Some settlements appeared to be more highly favored in that respect than others. It was, in his opinion, absurd to have eleven or twelve men called together to examine candidates for the office of School Teacher. One person of qualified attainments could perform the duty as efficiently as a whole Board of Education. He alluded to the satisfactory manner in which the Grammar School at Belfast was conducted, and said that high schools of that nature, if more generally established, would be productive of much good. The ordinary Schools could be conducted by Teachers of a lower class, and Females might, as in the United States, be more generally employed. In those high, or Grammar Schools, Geography, Mathematics, Navigation, and such other branches of a practical education, should be imparted, and those parents who desired to give their children the higher attainments of a classical education, should not procure the means of acquiring such attainments from the public revenue.

Hon. Mr. Henderson said that, in justice to the gentleman who held the office of School Visitor for the Eastern Section of the Island, he felt bound to state that some of the allusions made to that gentleman were unjust and unfair. It was well known to hon. members on both sides of that House, that the officer to whom allusion was made, had for many years, been a teacher of youth in the Colony, and also master at one time in the principal institution of learning on the Island, in both of which capacities he had done some service to the country. When the small salary allowed him, as Visitor for the whole of the Eastern section of the Island, was considered, and also his advanced years, he thought some allowance should be made for any imperfections that might appear in his Report.

Hon. Mr. M. was astonished at the remarks of the hon. member from Belfast (Mr. Davies) comparing the knowledge of parents with that of School Visitors relative to the improvements made at Schools. It was well known that there were those who cared but little for the Education of their children. It was, therefore, necessary that the Government of the country should protect the children of such parents, even against the neglect of their own parents, especially as such neglect would inevitably lead to dangerous consequences to society.

Hon. Leader of the Government reviewed the different experiments that had been resorted to in the Free School System, with the view of improving it. The Visitors' department had also been changed from one for the whole Island at first, to the dividing of the work into two sections, and appointing a Visitor for each. The latter mode, it appeared, had not given the general satisfaction which was expected. The whole question would, however, shortly be submitted to the House, when the subject generally might be fully debated. He hoped, however, that no party feeling would be manifested on that question.

Mr. McNeill—It was impossible to know, from the Reports transmitted, what the state of Education was in the country. Much of the success of teaching was the result of tact on the part of the teacher. Local Boards should be appointed in different localities, the members of which should be competent to examine schools and they should attend at the visits of the inspectors.

Ordered, that said Reports be laid on the table.

Hon. Mr. Duncan then asked what alterations or arrangements, if any, the Government contemplated relative to the Hillsboro' Ferry—and at the same time, would correct a remark made by him yesterday, relative to the Ferry Steamer stopping at four o'clock in the Fall of the year. He was since informed that they always ran till five o'clock.

Hon. Leader of the Government said, in reply, that there was no time, since notice was given, for the Government to investigate the matter. If any material change was required, it was better for the House to consider it in Committee, and come to some resolution on the subject. The Government was prepared to give every possible facility to the public, relative to that Ferry, and he would be willing to hear the subject freely debated by the House in Committee of the whole.

House adjourned.

THURSDAY, May 3.

Hon. Mr. Howland presented a petition from Augustine Calaghan and others, Merchants, and other inhabitants of Casumpeo, praying for an amendment in the Small Debt Act.

Hon. Mr. Howland, in presenting the above petition, explained that petitioners prayed for an amendment to the law relating to the recovery of Small Debts, by providing, in cases of appeal, that the Respondent as well as the Appellant should be required to give security for the costs of the appeal. It was alleged that cases frequently occurred where parties having unfounded claims went to law, anticipating that, rather than incur the costs of defence the defendant would compromise such claims. If characters of that class were compelled to give security, there would be less litigation in the Courts. He therefore hoped the prayer of the petition would receive the careful consideration of the House.

Ordered, that said petition be referred to a Committee of the whole House to-morrow.

Mr. Ramsay presented a petition from divers inhabitants of Lots 10 and 11, praying for the establishment of a New Post Office; the prayer of which could not be entertained as it had not been forwarded to the Government according to Statute.

Hon. Attorney General presented to the House several petitions, all praying for the establishment of Small Debt Courts, as follows:—

Petition of M. Row and other inhabitants of Montague Bridge.

Patrick Doyle, and others, of South-west Settlements, Townships Nos. 26 and 27.

Thomas Cairne, and other inhabitants of Georgetown Road, Baldwin's Road, Sparrow's Road, and the Barrens, King's County.

Ordered, that said petitions be referred to a Committee of the whole House to-morrow.

Hon. Leader of the Government presented to the House the Detailed Public Accounts for the past year.

Ordered, that said Accounts be referred to the Special Committee appointed to examine the same, and report thereon.

On motion of the Hon. Attorney General, the House went into Committee to take into consideration the Expediency of amending the law relating to Education. Mr. George Sinclair in the chair.

Hon. Leader of the Government presented to the House several petitions from School Teachers, setting forth numerous grievances with which they are oppressed under the existing Education Law, and praying the attention of the House to the defects of the said law, and for a remedy of such grievances.

Ordered, that said petitions be referred to the Committee of the whole House on the expediency of amending the Education Law.

Hon. Attorney General, in submitting the Resolutions, addressed the Committee, reviewing the principal clauses in the School Act which had not given general satisfaction. Owing to the lateness of the present session, it was not intended to enter fully into the whole question. The repeal of that clause in the Act touching the payment of a portion of the salary of Teachers by the people, was loudly called for, as contemplated by the Resolution now before the Committee. The estimate sum thus provided was about £4,000, which would, on the payment of the whole of the Teachers' salaries from the Treasury, be taken from the general revenue. That change, however, could not very materially affect the resources of the Colony for at least the first year. It was considered just and proper that young men, who had just received license to teach, should be engaged in the business for some time before being placed on a level with old Teachers. A reduction of £5 a year for the first three years in the salary of young Teachers; which with the fact that 5 months of the present financial year would expire before the Bill would be in operation, would leave the total additional sum that would be paid from the revenue at the end of this financial year, £2,800, as the result of the change about to be introduced. There would, in all probability, be less money expended for military purposes this year than last.

A revision of School Districts, in some cases, would lessen the number of Schools, without endangering the efficiency of the Act. He believed that the country would sustain the change without injury to the Revenue; but if not, they would, in his opinion, prefer an additional tax, rather than continue subject to the present mode of taxing themselves for the payment of Teachers. As a member of the Board for many years, and in the course of his profession, he saw many difficulties arising from the system of collecting a portion of the salary of Teachers by subscription. The most efficient and satisfactory method was that of paying the whole salary from the Treasury.

Hon. Leader of the Government—Not only the late but previous Governments had made alterations in the Free School Act, all of which failed to give satisfaction. He believed the object of the amendment compelling the people to contribute towards the payment of Teachers' salaries, was to relieve the revenue; but after the people had enjoyed the advantages of Free Schools, it was a difficult matter to attempt any change in the system. He then reviewed the general working of the Free School system, showing the disadvantages to Teachers, and the difficulties experienced by Trustees, as the result of the amendment now about to be abolished. He commended the principle of paying Teachers exclusively from the Treasury, as the best, most practical and satisfactory that could be adopted.

Mr. Brecken would not admit that the principle upon which the amendment sought to be repealed was based, was wrong, although it had not worked satisfactorily. If more stringent means were adopted for the collection of the amount necessary to be paid by the people, and the allowance from the Treasury withheld until ample proof of the collection was given, different results might have followed.

Hon. Mr. Henderson concurred with the remark made by the hon. Leader of the Government, to the effect that it was hard to get the people to contribute towards the salary of the Teacher, after having it previously paid in full from the Treasury. His own experience, as a Trustee, afforded him ample proof of the correctness of that remark.

Mr. Howatt said he would support the Resolution under consideration; the amendment in question had proved a great failure. He alluded to an address of a late member of that House to his constituents, previous to the last general election, in which it was made to appear that the amendment, which had been adopted by the late Government had not been for the support given to that measure by him (Mr. Howatt) and the Hon. Mr. Laird. Such, however, was not the fact.

Mr. Reilly—That portion of Teachers' salaries supposed to be contributed by the people, he believed was seldom paid. The Government allowance was all the Teachers generally received. He favoured the principle of placing young teachers in a subordinate position for a few years; it was but right that those who spent a great portion of their lives in the profession should receive some extra compensation. The general question presented many points deserving consideration. The Free School system in this Colony was superior to that which obtained in the other Colonies, and our young men compared favorably in point of talent and attainments with those of the Sister Provinces, and even in the Great Republic they occupied positions of equality.

Hon. Mr. Duncan—The amendment respecting which so much had been said was introduced with the view of causing the people to take a greater and more direct interest in the education of their children. The principle upon which it was based was sound and was similar to that which prevailed in other places. There were more schools established in many localities than was necessary. He would favor any measure calculated to perfect the School Act, and to encourage parents to educate their children.

Mr. P. Sinclair said that School Teachers, Road Commissioners, and Country officials generally, were poorly paid; he would not say that the same remark would apply to officials in Charlottetown. He would be glad if the salaries of Teachers could be raised, but it appeared that the present state of the revenue would not warrant any very material change, beyond that contemplated by the Resolutions before the Committee. The clause compelling teachers to attest on oath to their quarterly returns, was too stringent and should be repealed.

Hon. Mr. Howland presented a petition from divers inhabitants of Lots 10 and 11, praying for the establishment of a New Post Office; the prayer of which could not be entertained as it had not been forwarded to the Government according to Statute.

Hon. Leader of the Opposition well remembered when in the year 1852, as a member of the House of Assembly, he was appointed one of the special committee who agreed to the Report on which the Free Education Act was first founded, and from that day to the present he never regretted the support he then gave on that question to the Hon. Mr. Coles as Leader of the Government of that day. Whatever differences of opinion might exist on other questions on the floor of that House, all should meet as patriots on the all-important question of Education. He spoke of the advantages of education to all classes, and alluded to several eminent persons in the present day, who had acquired distinguished positions because of their learning, more than from any birth-right inheritance. When the Education Act was altered in 1862, the then Government had no intention to cripple the system, but on the contrary to make it more effective by getting the people to contribute towards the payment of Teachers' salaries, and thus lead them to attend more closely to the educational interests of their children. It appeared, however, that teachers and parents thought differently and hence the expediency of cancelling the amendment.

Hon. Mr. Davies said he was pleased to see that those who supported the obnoxious amendment, now about to be cancelled, had seen the evil of their ways. The principle of paying the teachers direct from the Treasury was preferable to the difficult and impracticable mode of collecting a portion from the people, and paying the balance out of the revenue of the Colony. The Free School system as at first enacted, extended the privileges of Free Schools to all classes irrespective of rank or condition.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

House in Committee on the expediency of amending the law relating to Education.

Mr. Bell spoke of the inconvenience to Teachers, arising from their having to attest on oath to the average attendance at schools. Much indifference was felt by many of the people, especially in back settlements, touching the attendance of their children at school, hence the necessity of securing a more regular attendance at schools. He commented on the great benefits arising from the free school system, and said he was not disposed to find fault with the late Government for the amendment relative to the raising a portion of the salaries of Teachers by subscription, as the principle of direct taxation was, by some, contended to be the most equitable. The machinery for the collection of Small Debts was very complicated, and having to refer to that process for the securing of a portion of Teachers' pay was indeed very disagreeable and vexatious. He would favor a different system for the inspection of Schools than that which now obtained. The establishment of subordinate Boards of Education in each of the three Counties of the Island whose duties it should be to inspect the Schools, and report on all matters relating to Education in their respective sections of the country to a central Board at Charlottetown. He also alluded to the hardship of compelling Trustees to attest together before a Magistrate for the purpose of certifying to Teachers' papers.

Hon. Mr. Laird—On the principle that the state is bound to educate the people, the attendance at schools should be compulsory. If a Government be compelled to pay for Education, parents should, on the same principle, be compelled to send their children to school. That was a question with which, in his opinion, the Government, sooner or later, would have to grapple. He then enlarged on the necessity of educating all classes, irrespective of rank or condition. The application of machinery for lessening manual labor, in relation to agricultural and mechanical pursuits, was becoming universal, hence the necessity of educating the laboring classes, that, by well regulated and cultivated minds, they might be able properly to apply and appreciate those inventions and improvements calculated to improve their condition. Promotion by merit alone was the true principle, and the road to fame should be free to all. The gifts of nature were not confined to the sons of those in high rank. The child of the poor man frequently rose by his own merits to places of position and honor, to which, without education, he could never attain.

Mr. Cameron regretted that the lateness of the present session would not permit of a more general revision of the School Act. There were several very objectionable clauses in that Act which should be repealed. Compelling teachers to certify, on oath, to the correctness of their journals, and also consequent upon the non-attendance of scholars, were matters which demanded serious consideration. Female teachers should be paid in more equal proportion to Male Teachers than they had been. The provisions of the law should therefore be more equally divided; but as it was not contemplated at present to enter fully into the question, he would not express the great pleasure it gave him to support the Resolution under consideration, having for its object the raising of Teachers from that degraded position in which they had been placed by the unjust and deservedly unpopular amendment of the late Government.

Hon. Mr. Henderson said that the principle acted upon in regard to Teachers attesting on oath to the correctness of their journals, also applied to Road Overseers and other salaried officers of the Government. It would be well to dispense with that system if the morality of the community would justify such a step. But if correctly informed, and that, too, from the records of the Board of Education, representations had been made to the Government that the law was evaded in regard to school attendance. Hence the adoption of that principle in the School Act. The principal object, relative to the amendment, for raising a portion of the Teachers' salary by subscription, was to secure, if possible, the more direct interest of parents in the education of their children, as well as the relief of the revenue, a large portion of which had been spent in the amendment in question was unpopular, and he was prepared to give his support to the Resolution before the Committee.

Hon. Mr. Coles again explained the difference between the Free School system of this Island and the system which obtained in the Province of Nova Scotia. There teachers were but partially paid by Government, and parents had to contribute in proportion to the number of their children attending school. Under the Free School system of this Colony, as at first introduced, and as the present Resolution contemplated, it should again be placed, paid the whole of the Teachers' salaries from the Treasury, thereby enabling the poor man to send all his children, regardless of number, to school. He hoped that system would be kept up in its integrity. The principle upon which it was based was sound, and had proved to be the best that could possibly be adopted. The agitation and discontent which arose from the unpopular amendment made by the late Government was proof of the efficiency of the Free School Act as at first enacted.

Mr. Brecken said he would support not only the Resolution restoring to the teachers the full payment of their salaries from the Treasury, but would even go further and support the raising of their salaries. Teachers were but very inadequately paid for their services. Although he was free to admit that the principle of raising a portion of the salaries of Teachers from the people had not given general satisfaction, yet he would contend that it was sound. Any boon conferred upon a community or an individual, without personal efforts or cost, was seldom, if ever, duly appreciated. The fact that the benefits of a Free System of Education were not prized by the people, was evinced by the non-attendance of children at schools. The immediate and no doubt unpleasant connection which was necessarily caused between Teachers and unwilling rate-payers, under the working of the amendment now sought to be abolished, was no doubt injurious to the interests of Education. He then commented upon the advantages to all, in every walk of life, who, at the close of the labor of the day, could enjoy that recreation, during leisure hours, which Education imparted to the mind.

Dr. Jenkins—To impart to the youth of the Colony a sound practical education, and thereby prepare them to lay hold of the different pursuits of life, was the bounden duty of the Government. That higher objects of moral and religious culture, calculated to make communities virtuous and honorable, also required careful consideration. If the Report which he held in his hand

of the Visitor of the Eastern section of the country, was to form a standard, the state of Education must be at a very low ebb. That document was slovenly executed, and what the author termed a Tabular Synopsis of Statistics, was carelessly prepared; the spelling was bad, and the writing not legible. The money spent to procure such Reports as that might be appropriated to better purposes.

Mr. Prowse was glad to find that the Government had at last laid hold of the question of Education, which they should have done more fully than appeared from the Resolutions submitted. The want of interest taken in schools, under the Free System, was so great, that it was with difficulty meetings, for the appointment of Trustees, could be raised. That apathy and carelessness induced him to believe that the amendment, making it compulsory upon the part of the people to contribute a portion of the Teachers' salary, would be productive of good results. It appeared, however, that to some extent, that experiment had proved a failure. Attending to the correctness of School Journals on the part of Teachers was, in his opinion, very proper, but he considered that rendering it imperative on Trustees to meet in presence of each other before a magistrate, was as called for. Non-attendance at schools, in many cases, was owing to want of proper clothing and other necessaries, and the principle of adopting a compulsory system would require to be approached with great caution.

The Herald.

Wednesday, May 15, 1867.

A NEW LOAN.

On Thursday last, the Hon. Attorney General introduced into the House of Assembly a Bill to authorize the Government of this Island to raise a Loan not exceeding £100,000, sterling. This Bill is of a two-fold nature, inasmuch as £40,000 of the above amount may be raised in this Island, and £60,000 in the English money market. The payment of this Loan is to be secured by Government Debentures, bearing interest at not more than six per cent per annum, and payable—the smaller sum in ten, and the larger one in twenty years, from the date of issuing the same. A sinking fund of £5 on every £100 actually borrowed is to be provided by the Bill for the payment of interest and principal.

We think there are few persons in the colony of ordinary intelligence, not biased by sinister or selfish motives, but will approve of the action of the Government in introducing this Bill. Whether we view the subject in the light of our present monetary difficulties, or from the expediency of carrying into effect the provisions of the Land Purchase Bill, and developing the latent resources of the colony, we must come to the conclusion that a loan is absolutely necessary at the present time. Upon the soundest principles of political economy, as well as from a review of our financial circumstances and position, we approve of the measure of a Loan. The great want of all young countries is capital, and Prince Edward Island is no exception to the general rule. Limited as our means as a Colony have been, and restricted as our specie currency is, especially in the precious metals, still the trade and public service of the colony, the construction and management of public works, and the purchase of all the Proprietary lands in the Island, have to be effected by them, and, what is more, the present generation has to bear burdens which more properly belong to posterity. Nearly all Her Majesty's colonies have learned the lesson early, and acted upon it; that it is impossible to make any rapid advances in material prosperity without a loan. We have the examples of Queensland, New Zealand, Ceylon, Mauritius, Cape Town, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, &c., to guide us in the matter. Each of these countries is much more extensive and much richer, in moneyed wealth and resources, than this colony, yet, still they have deemed it judicious and expedient to obtain loans in foreign markets in preference to local loans, for the carrying out of important public works. A loan obtained by young countries such as those for a long term of credit, and at a low rate of interest, must, in the very nature of things, prove advantageous. In this Island especially, which is not a manufacturing country, and whose exports exceed its exports, and which, in addition to these drawbacks, is cursed with an absentee proprietary, the judiciousness of obtaining a foreign loan to finally settle our land difficulty, would not seem to admit of a doubt, nor would it meet with the slightest opposition but for the political and selfish objects of a fraction of the population. There is scarcely a man in the Island who has not experienced, within the last year, the trouble of obtaining money, particularly sterling exchange. This difficulty has principally arisen from the buying up of proprietary estates, the purchase-money of which has to be diverted from trade and withdrawn in the precious metals from local circulation, and remitted to absentee proprietors in England. Now, as the total amount of gold and silver in the vaults of all our banks, and upon which their paper currency is based, amounts to about £25,000 currency, we are not surprised at the difficulty experienced by our merchants in obtaining sterling exchange, nor in creditors obtaining their ordinary debts, when about £15,000 have been already abstracted from our circulation, and nearly the same amount has to be remitted within the course of a few months. From these figures it will be seen at a glance that the ordinary trade of the colony cannot be successfully carried on if the lands of the colony are to be bought and paid for at the same time. When manufactures come to be established, as we hope they will be before the Loan becomes due, and when our unoccupied lands come to be settled and cultivated, so as to swell our exports, it will be much easier to pay for the proprietary lands of the colony than it is at present. The interest which will have to be annually exported will not be equal to the rents remitted to absentees, but which, under the operations of the Land Purchase Bill, will be saved to the colony. In fine, with a Loan, the Land difficulty of the Island can be finally settled without injury to its trade, whereas, without a Loan, that chronic difficulty will still remain unsettled, and general bankruptcy stares us in the face. Unless, indeed, the Confederate Government comes to the rescue and offers us the \$300,000 previously rejected. Between the Loan and Confederation we see no alternative, and it is rather suggestive that every Confederate in the Colony is opposed to the measure. Should their opposition triumph, and the Loan unfortunately fail, we would not give much for the future opposition of the "light little Island" to Confederation upon the \$300,000 basis.

The session of the Newfoundland Legislature is closed. The members have neither accepted the Quebec nor London scheme of Confederation.—The Seal Fisheries are reported as being fully an average catch.—Produce is in good demand in Newfoundland this spring.—By private advices to a gentleman in this city, we learn that potatoes are selling at 4s., and oats at 3s. 6d., Island currency, per bushel.—Pat.