

THE AMTHER

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"This is true Liberty, when Freeborn Men, having to advise the Public, may speak free."—Euripides.

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Colonial Parliament.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

MONDAY AFTERNOON, April 7.

The House went into Committee on the Report of the special Committee on petitions of School Teachers. The propriety of adhesion to a rule adopted last Session, which excluded the applications of all parties who had not complied with the terms of the Education Act, was the subject of some conversation—in the course of which Hon. Mr. COLES called attention to the fact that the Report of the School Visitor had not been submitted, in accordance with the terms of the Act by which he was appointed.

Hon. Col. GRAY, seeing a member of the Board of Education in his place in the House (Hon. Mr. Hensley), would ask if the cause of the non-submission of the Report was attributable to that body, or was it chargeable to the officer whose duty it was to make the report.

Hon. Mr. HENSLEY had attended a meeting of the Board of Education that day, and he had ascertained that no report had been received from the School Visitor. The law required that the annual Report should be submitted to the House within fourteen days after the commencement of the Session.

Hon. Col. GRAY read extracts from the Act, which showed that it was the duty of the Board of Education to furnish the report to the Legislature; yet, at the same time, Government had no power to compel them to do so—nor had they any control over the Visitor, although they appointed him to his office. He was then the officer of the Board of Education.

The report of the special Committee was agreed to, with amendments.

Hon. Mr. Haviland submitted the annual report of the Postmaster General; and in answer to a question of Hon. Mr. Perry, stated that to-morrow he would inform the House whether Government had received the report of the Indian Commissioners.

Hon. Messrs. Haviland, Gray and Laird were appointed a special Committee to prepare a Bill, in accordance with a despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, to prohibit the exportation of gunpowder, saltpetre, nitrate of soda, brimstone, arms, ammunition, military stores, and lead, should it be necessary to do so.

Hon. Messrs. Kelly, Longworth, Hensley and Thornton, and Mr. Conroy, were appointed a Committee to prepare a Bill to incorporate the Roman Catholic Bishop of Charlottetown.

TUESDAY, April 8.

The House went into Committee on roads and bridges. Progress reported.

Hon. Col. Gray, by command, submitted copies of two despatches from the Colonial Minister, one of which announced the intention of the Imperial Government to double the amount of remuneration of the Land Commissioners, and to defray the incidental expenses of the Commission, the other stated that there being but one copy of the appendix to the Award the Secretary retained it for use in England.

The Bill in amendment of the Small Debt Act was re-committed. A motion made by the Hon. Mr. Pope, that the benefit of the Insolvent Debtor's Act be extended to parties confined for any amount, was passed.

Hon. Mr. Haviland laid on the table copy of a despatch, suggesting the propriety of vesting property held for naval purposes in the Commissioners of the Admiralty.

Hon. Mr. Haviland presented a report of Theophilus Stewart, Esq., one of the Indian Commissioners, and Hon. Mr. Pope a letter from Henry Palmer, Esq., a fellow Commissioner, referring to the expenditure of the former.

The papers were referred to Hon. Messrs. Perry, Thornton, Hensley, and Messrs. Davies and Sutherland to report upon.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON, April 8.

The Liquor License Act Amendment Bill was read a third time and passed.

The House then resolved itself into Committee of supply. Hon. Mr. HAVILAND moved a resolution granting the sum of £ to Mr. Hugh Logan, late Jailor of King's County Jail, as compensation for the summary manner in which he was dismissed from his office. He understood a sum had been voted last year, but through some oversight it had not been carried through all the stages.

Mr. OWEN said he would oppose the resolution. Mr. Logan was well paid when in office, and as he received a pension from the British Government he was not an object of charity.

The resolution was carried, 16 to 7.

Hon. Mr. Haviland then moved that the blank be filled up with Mr. Owen.

Mr. Owen moved in amendment that it be filled up with £10. Amendment lost, 12 to 13.

Hon. Mr. McAULAY moved that the sum of £100 be granted and placed at the disposal of the Trustees appointed to superintend the erection of the new grammar school in Georgetown—the said sum to be drawn when the building is ready for the reception of pupils.

Hon. Mr. HOWAT strongly opposed the resolution.

Hon. Mr. HENSLEY supported a resolution of a similar nature last year, but it was only for £50. He would go for that sum this year again, as he thought the capital of King's County ought to have something better than an ordinary school.

Hon. Mr. PERRY said he would like to see a superior school in Georgetown and another in the capital of Prince County, but he thought that any proposition for the support of such ought to have been submitted in the estimates.

Hon. Mr. POPE did not think the country was prepared to see a grammar school established either in King's County or Prince County, but if this resolution was carried in favor of a grant to Georgetown, he would consider it to be his duty to propose a similar resolution with respect to the capital of Prince County.

Hon. Mr. HAVILAND maintained that the cases between the capitals of King's and Prince Counties were not parallel. At Georgetown a grammar school was in course of erection, but there was nothing of the kind at the capital of Prince County. When such was the case he would be happy to give his support for a grant to aid the undertaking.

Hon. Mr. LONGWORTH thought the proposer of the resolution ought to make the sum £50, if he did not wish to endanger it altogether.

Hon. Mr. McAULAY consented to insert £50 instead of £100 in the resolution, and it was then agreed to.

Hon. Mr. KELLY proposed a resolution to the effect that £100 be granted to W. C. Burke, as an encouragement to him for running a new steamboat (now in preparation) on the Hillsborough. As the new boat would cost about £3000, he thought the sum proposed would not be too much for this year.

Mr. DAVIES thought that moving £100 would defeat the whole resolution.

Hon. Mr. BEER was of the same opinion.

Hon. Mr. COLES said that there should be some consideration in favour of Mr. Burke, owing to the kind of boat he intended to put on the route. A new and good boat would enable the people to come to the market regularly.

Mr. OWEN would also support the sum of £100. A good boat on the Hillsborough would be a great advantage to the people of King's County. As there appeared to be some objection to inserting £100 in the resolution, he thought it would be better to name £75.

Mr. BEER moved that the sum be £50, and this motion was agreed to.

Hon. Mr. HAVILAND then moved the sum of £50 in aid of a steam ferry-boat between Georgetown, Montague, and adjacent rivers, for the coming season, provided the said steamboat be placed on the route, and continues plying thereon semi-weekly during the opening of the navigation.

Mr. HOWAT said he must rise again; he did not think a boat was required there. But however that might be the country could not afford to place a steamboat on every creek.

Mr. OWEN thought the resolution would produce a similar effect to the grant given last session for the "Lord Seafort"—it would prevent a like application for some time to come. On that ground he would support it.

Hon. Mr. McAULAY said the hon. member for Cardigan had given a most extraordinary reason for supporting the resolution. He (Mr. McA.) thought Charlottetown was not a city, but a village, and that it was not a city. It would be very unjust to refuse the grant for Georgetown, after one had been given for Charlottetown.

After some further discussion the resolution was agreed to, 20 to 7.

Hon. Mr. HAVILAND said he had another resolution to move which he did not wish to be responsible, namely, the usual grant of £72 for new rates in the city charter. It was generally known what action he had taken on this subject, but as church wardens and others had spoken to him, stating that it was unfair to withdraw the grant without giving notice, he would move it for this year.

The resolution was agreed to, as well as several others of an unimportant nature.

Hon. Mr. POPE moved the resolution:— "That the sum of Sixty Pounds be granted and placed at the disposal of the Government for the purpose of purchasing a Cup or Urn, to be offered as a prize to be competed for by the Volunteers of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island."

He moved this resolution because New Brunswick had come forward handsomely and offered a prize to be competed for by the Volunteers of the different Colonies, and as it had been carried off by Prince Edward Island, this Colony should give the Volunteers of New Brunswick an opportunity to redeem their prize. Some might say that this amount ought to come out of the £400 voted for the Volunteer force, but he was not of that opinion, as part of this grant would have to be taken up in procuring ammunition, an article which had formerly been supplied by the British Government. He thought this Colony would be no loser by voting a sum for a prize cup, as the additional number of people that would visit the Colony on the occasion, would create such a circulation of money as would more than counterbalance the sum proposed in the resolution. He did not believe that the cup would leave us, but that our Volunteers would be able to retain it. Something of this kind must be done here to keep up excitement among the Volunteers, as our case was different from that of other places where large sums were granted to encourage the movement.

Hon. Mr. PERRY would oppose the resolution. We could not get money to vote for necessary purposes, and this was only for the purpose of being fined away.

Hon. Mr. HENSLEY could not support it either. He would not oppose money for a prize cup being taken out of the £400, as he had voted for that sum.

Hon. Mr. THORNTON would likewise oppose the resolution. He understood that there were 600 Volunteers on the Island; let them, then, if they wish a cup to fire for, put their hands in their pockets and give us 6d. each, and that would be sufficient to purchase one.

Hon. Mr. HAVILAND said there was no reason why the Volunteers should put their hands in their pockets for this purpose. They gave their time, and it was certainly too much to ask them to give their money also. The Volunteers of New Brunswick did not raise the money to purchase the silver urn competed for there; it was a grant of the Government of that Province.

Hon. Mr. POPE alluded to the remark of the hon. member for Cardigan, that the Volunteers should put their hands in their pockets and purchase a cup. He (Mr. P.) considered it was a matter of justice for this House to grant the money, as the Government of New Brunswick did not the Volunteers of that Province provided the prize competed for at the shooting match there. He had frequently suggested to encourage the movement, and would do so again if required. He did not care whether the House refused the grant or not; he would give £5 or £10, if necessary, to maintain the honour of the Volunteers.

Hon. Mr. COLES thought that something ought to be done to improve the Volunteers, for it was known that at a recent shooting match on Government House ground, a certain company had to be taken off the field to prevent them from shooting away all the Governor's turkeys. (Laughter.) He understood that the men in New Brunswick was on hand since the Prince of Wales visit to that Colony, and the Government thought they might as well offer it for a prize. As there was some £40 for wine on the occasion of the Prince's visit to this Colony that had not yet been accounted for, he thought the House might grant £30 to purchase a cup, with an understanding that the money due for the wine should be taken for this purpose. He was of opinion that £60 was perhaps more than the country could afford.

Hon. Mr. LONGWORTH spoke at some length in favour of the resolution, and in reference to the wine said, the hon. member of the Opposition knew it was paid for though it did not appear on the public accounts. The reason was, the under-taker had not been entered into the accounts because there was still an outstanding claim against the Prince of Wales Commission.

When the question was taken on Mr. Pope's resolution there appeared for it—Hon. Messrs. Pope, Gray, McAulay, Spenser, Longworth, Haviland, Coles, Wightman, Messrs. Ramsay, Douse, Beer, J. Yeo, Hohn, Davies—14.

Against it—Hon. Messrs. Perry, Thornton, Kelly, Laird, Hensley; Messrs. Cooper, Sinclair, Sutherland, Doyle, Conroy, Montgomery, Howat—12.

Adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, April 9.

Hon. Mr. Haviland introduced a Bill for vesting all estates and property occupied by or for the naval service in the Lord High Admiral, which was read a first and second time, and passed through Committee.

The Bill for the prevention of vice and immorality in the City of Charlottetown, was read a second time and passed through Committee.

Mr. Beer introduced a Bill to alter and amend the Act to encourage steam communication between Charlottetown and certain parts of the Hillsborough and Elliot Rivers, which was read a first time.

Hon. Mr. HAVILAND presented a Bill relating to the Inland Posts within this Island. He explained that the object of the Bill was to carry out the suggestions contained in the report of the Postmaster General. That officer had shown that by the present system the Colony was losing revenue, and had recommended compulsory prepayment of postage on all letters leaving the Island. He had also suggested that in his opinion the time had arrived to require prepayment of postage on letters passing from one part of the Island to the other.

The Bill was read a first time.

Mr. Davies introduced a Bill to amend the Act incorporating the town of Charlottetown. Read a first time.

The Bill to give effect to the report of the Commissioners on the Land Question was read a third time, and a motion having been made that the Bill do pass.

Hon. Mr. COLES moved in amendment that it do pass this day three months, and that an address be presented to Her Majesty, praying that she will be graciously pleased to urge on her Government the early consideration of the Report of the Commissioners appointed to inquire into the land question of this Island, in accordance with His Grace the Duke of Newcastle's despatch to His Excellency George Dundas, Esq., bearing date 7th February, 1862, wherein he says, "I shall be very glad if I shall find it possible, at a future opportunity, to offer any fresh suggestions for meeting the difficulties of the case."

Hon. Mr. SPEAKER objected to put the motion in that form, as he considered it irregular.

Hon. Mr. COLES then moved that the Bill do pass that day three months. He thought the best course which the House could pursue was to pass such an address as he had moved for, because from the despatch read here yesterday, it was evident that the House Government were taking up the whole question, and intended to make other suggestions. But his first object was to get the Bill passed, so that he might be able to offer any fresh suggestions for meeting the difficulties of the case.

Hon. Col. GRAY was surprised at the extraordinary view which the hon. leader of the Opposition took of the despatch of the 7th of February. His Grace the Duke of Newcastle said that the appendix to the report of the Commissioners, owing to its bulk had not been printed, and as there was only one copy, it had been kept for the purpose of aiding the Imperial Government in their deliberations on the subject. On account of this statement the hon. member appeared to be of the opinion that Her Majesty's Government were still deliberating on the Report of the Commissioners, when no such idea was contained in the despatch. But when this Bill went home they would have to deliberate upon the subject of the Award, and might have occasion to refer to the appendix.

He (Col. G.) understood that His Excellency had addressed a letter to the chief Commissioner requesting a copy of the appendix to be immediately forwarded to this Island, and he hoped that it would soon be received here.

The House divided on Mr. Cole's motion of amendment: YEAS—Hon. Messrs. Coles, Whelan, Kelly; Messrs. Conroy, Cooper, Doyle—6.

NAYES—Hon. Messrs. Gray, Haviland, Longworth, Wightman, Pope, Hensley, Laird, Perry; Messrs. Sinclair, Sutherland, Davies, Hohn, Howat, Montgomery, Ramsay, Beer, McNeill, J. Yeo—13. Adjourned.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, April 9.

Sundry resolutions from supply were reported and agreed to.

The Bill prohibiting the exportation of military stores was read a second time and agreed to.

The Committee on the subject of the Government papers was resumed. The arguments pro and con. have been already given.

The Committee rose without reporting.

Mr. John Yeo reported from the Post Office Committee. After which the House went into Committee on the question of the propriety of imposing an export duty on timber. The principle of the proposed measure having been fully debated, and the opinions of different members having been given to the public, need not be repeated. The result was the adoption of a resolution affirming the principle of the Bill, and Messrs. Pope, Davies, and Owen were appointed a Committee upon it.

THURSDAY, 10th April.

On motion that the Telegraph Bill be read second time, Hon. Mr. COLES moved that it be read that day three months. The Bill was premature. The cable had parted late last year. The Bill provided that the charter would expire on the 1st June if the cable was not kept in repair. This he considered unfair. He would support a resolution to amend the charter next session, if the company should do all in their power to keep the line in working order.

Hon. Col. GRAY—If proper precautions had been taken last autumn, it would have been perfectly practicable to have continued the communication. This the Company were bound to do in consideration of the subsidy of £300 per annum. There was plenty of time last fall to have renewed it if, as should have been the case, they had provided themselves with an extra cable and a sufficient staff.

Mr. COOPER—June was not a suitable month to lay a new cable. July or August was preferable. The great object was to find the most suitable points at each side at which to attach the cable. It was desirable to lay it in situations where, by being imbedded in mud, it would escape the action of the accumulated ice in the winter. He would oppose going into Committee. The Government ought to communicate with the Company before taking the action proposed by the Bill.

Hon. Mr. McAULAY—The Bill was calculated to remedy an evil. If June were unfit, he would not object to July. They had nothing to show them that the Company contemplated repairing the line. Under those circumstances, it was their duty to break up the monopoly.

Hon. Mr. HENSLEY approved the principle of the Bill; details could be discussed in Committee. The Bill on the Statute Book showed that the condition of the grant was the working order of the cable. He was in favor of the Committee.

Hon. Mr. HAVILAND was of the same opinion. The Island was entitled to the benefits for which they paid. The House would not be justified in continuing their monopoly while the country derived no benefit from it, and it prevented others from furnishing the necessary accommodation to the public. Details could be settled in Committee.

Hon. Mr. POPE—Serious loss had accrued from the stoppage of communication last fall. People were unable to ascertain the state of markets and direct the destination of their loaded vessels, as they otherwise would. The Company had acted unfairly. They bartered away their charter, which it was not intended that they should have done. When the cable was broken, in the Spring, it was repaired in a day, and no longer period would have been required last autumn. Fair offers had been made to the Company to which no answer had been received. If others would not embark in the enterprise, the merchants must keep up the line, if they should sink all the cost.

Hon. Mr. Coles' amendment was lost, and the Bill was committed and agreed to with an amendment proposed by Hon. Mr. Hensley, extending the time for repairing the cable to July.

Committee of Supply resumed.

Hon. Col. GRAY—A petition was yesterday presented by the hon. member Mr. Davies, which might be considered to require a reproach to the House, as not being mindful of the rights of a certain portion of the population. That point, however, I shall waive, as I believe the House will recognize the claims of the parties in whose favor the petition was prepared, with as much frankness as ever. But when I see such an array of names, representing so much of the intelligence, respectability and wealth of the community, as are subscribed to this document, when I see that it is signed by the Mayor of the City, by the Common Council, by the President and Manager of the Bank, the Attorney General, Treasurer, Postmaster General, nearly all the leading merchants, by members of the medical and legal professions, by officers of the Royal Navy, and several of my military brethren, I trust they will pardon me, if I differ from them in one opinion they may have affirmed. I never affirm my name to a petition without duly weighing the statements it contains; and it is my duty, however averse to differ from the gentlemen to whom I have referred, to avoid the grounds of that difference. If the allegations in this petition be correct, it might be our duty to grant a large sum to the parties on behalf of whom it comes before us; but if I can show that these allegations are unsubstantiated by proof, a question arises as to the obligation to give a large amount. The petition states that the Indians now on the Island are the lawful descendants of the original owners of the soil. If that be the case, we would be bound to make liberal compensation; but I fear that it never entered into the minds of those who signed this petition to ascertain the fact. I do not agree that the Micmac Indians were the original owners of the Island. When Cabot discovered Canada, he found there principal tribes, The Hurons, the Algonquians, and the Iroquois. Some say that the latter are a bastard branch of the Algonquians. According to Cabot, the Iroquois settled in Nova Scotia and part of Maine. I will read a despatch to the Duke of Newcastle from an officer of high position and very great talent, who has lately been sent to explore a route across this Continent to the Pacific ocean. He arrived at the conclusion that from the great Algonquin family there have sprung the Ojibways, Crees, Potawatomes, Shawnees, Leni Lenappe, Delaware, Ottawas, Nippissings, Abenakis, Amalontes, Montagnais, Sokokis, Mississippis, Mohogans. The mention of the last named tribe will doubtless recall to hon. members the sunny days of their boyhood, when with all the enthusiasm of that period we have dwelt with rapture upon the thrilling scenes so admirably depicted by the inimitable Fenimore Cooper. I believe all parties are agreed that from the Abenakis have descended the present tribes of Micmacs. I think it will be difficult to dispute the fact that this Island was occupied by people of the Esquimaux race long before Cabot's expedition,—at that time the Abenakis were settled in Maine and New Brunswick, Nova Scotia being without any settled tribes, although hunters from New Brunswick periodically visited that Province. But soon after the French began to establish military posts at Annapolis Royal, the Abenakis moved but little difficulty, when supplied with arms and ammunition, from cross-ovring over to this Island and exterminating the less formidable armed Esquimaux; and, Sir, it is a very nice question if the Micmacs ever possessed a foot of land on this Island, except as the ruthless invaders they probably were. It is a fact that when the illustrious Wolfe sent Lord Haldé to take possession of this Island, after the fall of Louisbourg, to take possession of this Island, his inhabitants were only a few French Acadians, occupied in catching salmon for exportation to Quebec; and as the Island then abounded in bears, martins and foxes, several of the Abenakis tribes were engaged in hunting for the French residents, but with scarcely any signs of there being any permanent location of these people. I hope the gentlemen who have so numerously signed this petition will not think I am anxious to throw cold water upon its prayer; I am not actuated by any such wish—I am but desirous to arrive at something like proof of the statements set forth, for as yet these allegations are not supported by any. Yet I admit it is not an easy matter to procure reliable evidence,—every thing connected with this extraordinary people appears as if shrouded in the mists from which apparently they first emerged. Some authorities say the Abenakis are descended from the lost tribes of Israel; but I do not coincide in this view,—they want too many of the characteristic marks by

which the Israelites have been every where at once recognizable. I have seen far stronger evidence of such an origin among the people of Zanzibar, Sofala, and the Mozambique, where the rite of circumcision obtains in full force. Far more probable is it that they are of Canaanitish nations,—we know that in the time of Solomon the Phoenicians sailed through the pillars of Hercules, leaving most indubitable traces of their having visited the Canary Islands—a very few days sailing from whence would allow them to drop anchor in the waters of the Connecticut. I recollect an old military acquaintance who passed many years of his life in endeavouring to prove that the inhabitants of Scandinavia had settlements on that coast centuries before its more modern discovery, and would endeavour to instance as a proof a round tower in Connecticut still existing, upon which may be traced a Runic inscription. To suppose that America was peopled by Behring's straits or the Aleutian chain, only shows to what lengths men are willing to go to establish any particular theory; but I can never imagine that tender women and children, after leaving a comparatively warm climate, would be able to endure the horrors of those arctic winters to which, with all the modern appliances at their command, British tars have fallen victims. However, in view of the points I have stated connected with our Island's settlement, I ask on what grounds can it be shown that the present race of Micmacs were the original proprietors of the soil. Although I will at once admit that if, as the Abenakis, they were displaced by the British Government without compensation, they are entitled to the deepest consideration on the part of this Committee; and whatever sum may be voted, it is our duty to consider whether we are paying it on the ground that the recipients are the descendants of the original lawful owners, or otherwise.

After several remarks from different parties, of no particular interest, the House went into Committee of Supply.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON, April 10.

The Bill to authorise the Government to prohibit the exportation of military or naval stores and provisions, was read a third time and passed, as also the Bill for the prevention and punishment of vice and immorality in the City of Charlottetown.

Hon. Mr. Hensley, from the Committee on the petition from Lots 45 and 46, praying the alteration of a line of road, presented a report recommending that the Road Commissioner of the district be required to visit the intended new line of road, and report to the Government.

Mr. Conroy, from the Committee to whom was referred the memorial of divers inhabitants of Lots 1, 2, 3, and 4,—with a subscription list attached—praying that a grant be given to construct or hire a dredging machine for the removal of some obstructions near the mouth of Kildare River, presented a report stating that the construction or hire of a dredging machine would necessitate the outlay of a large sum of money, and in the absence of any estimate as to the probable cost or practicability of said proposed work, a grant could not be recommended to aid the enterprise this session.

Hon. Mr. Howat, from the Pauper Committee, presented their report which was read and ordered to be committed to a Committee of the whole House to-morrow.

The House then went into Committee on the further consideration of supply.

The petition in favor of a grant to the Micmac Indians was again taken up.

Hon. Col. GRAY said there appeared to be some irregularity in regard to the petition. Its merits ought to have been discussed when it was referred to supply. But his hon. colleague, the member for the second lot of Queen's County, as he believed, concluded the remarks which he commenced to make in the morning.

Hon. Mr. LONGWORTH said he had nearly concluded his remarks on the subject. He maintained that the Indians ought to have been provided for by the British Government. It was questionable whether a grant from this House would be any benefit to them in their present condition. The number of Indians on the Island at present was only about 300; in 1750 the number was about 4000, which showed that the race was rapidly passing away, like leaves before the autumn's blast.

Mr. BEER said some hon. members appeared to have scruples about voting for a grant to the Indians, owing to the nature of the petition before them. He would then move that the hon. member have leave to withdraw his motion for the present.

This motion was agreed to.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Longworth a resolution was passed granting the sum of £175 for enlarging and repairing the Lunatic Asylum.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Perry the following resolution was agreed to:— "That the sum of £30 be granted and paid for the relief of the Indian Indians, to be divided as follows:—£15 to the Rev. Mr. Kay, for Prince County; £10 to the Rev. Daniel McDonald, for Queen's County; and £5 to the Rev. F. J. McDonald, for King's County."

Hon. Mr. HENSLEY said he had a resolution to propose, and as he had not been very troublesome to the Committee, he hoped it would not meet with much opposition. The resolution was that the sum of £150 be granted and paid to the Commissioners appointed in 1850 to superintend the consolidation and re-peining of the laws of the Island, in part payment. He was a Commissioner on a former occasion of revising the laws, and as he believed the duties were quite as onerous this time as they were before when they received a like sum, he thought no person could object to the amount. It might be considered rather strange that the resolution should be proposed by a member on this side of the House, but in a matter of this kind he thought he had a right to make a motion, as no one present probably understood better about the nature of the service performed.

Hon. Mr. COLES said it was a most extraordinary course for a member of the Opposition to propose to move a grant for the payment of officers appointed by the Government. The sum should have been included in the estimates. He (Mr. C.) did not say the Commissioners were not entitled to the amount named in the resolution, but it was for the Government to say whether they had done their duty or not.

Hon. Mr. HENSLEY said the hon. member who had just spoken might have more parliamentary experience than he had, yet he had been a Commissioner for revising the laws, and knew something of the duties of such officers; but to perform them. Besides, he considered he had a perfect right to table any resolution which he pleased.

Hon. Mr. HAVILAND said the matter was not included in the estimates for the reason that the Commissioners had not then reported. If the hon. leader of the Opposition was of opinion that all money votes should come from the Government, why did he presume to move a resolution to remunerate a Government officer, namely, constable Douglas, for services performed?

Hon. Mr. WIGHTMAN remarked that if the Commissioners were entitled to the money, it made no difference from which side of the House the resolution came. He thought, however, that the resolution should be more explicit; if the Commissioners had done their work, why should not the whole amount be included?

Mr. COOPER did not see any irregularity in the manner of proposing the resolution.

Hon. Mr. LONGWORTH had not intended to say anything or to vote on this matter, as he was an interested party, but as questions had been asked he might offer a few explanations. The hon. member, Mr. Hensley, was well acquainted with the nature of the duties performed, and had kindly offered to propose the resolution. In reference to the amount of the work which had been done through, he might say that the Commissioners had spent three months in the summer of 1860 removing obsolete statutes and placing marginal notes. When the laws were revised, eight or nine years ago, the Commissioners then appointed received £200 for their services; and as the first volume was now nearly published, and would be ready for delivery in about 2 months, the half of the duties to be performed by the present Commissioners were at least completed.

Hon. Mr. COLES wished to make a remark, namely, that there were two members of the Government sitting in the House, and one of them, in the face of the law which said that no salary officer should sit in this House, without having received the approval of his constituents. He put it to the hon. member if he had not vacated his seat by the course which he had taken.

Hon. Mr. LONGWORTH said if he had vacated his seat, the hon. member should have taken the proper course with respect to him. He (Mr. C.) knew very well that he was talking for talk sake; as he (Mr. L.) was a member of the House when he was Commissioner on a former occasion, and he was not then required to vacate his seat.

Hon. Mr. COLES thought when he saw the appointment in the Royal Gazette that it would be sufficient to cause the hon. member to vacate his seat, but as no money was asked for then, no action could be taken.

Hon. Col. GRAY was astonished at the arguments of the hon. leader of the Opposition. The majority of this House

came in pledged against the departmental system, but the office of Commissioner for revising the laws was not a departmental office; it was more in the way of a person's profession as a lawyer. On the principle maintained by the hon. leader of the Opposition, it would follow that any member receiving money from the Treasury on any account should resign his seat.

Mr. DAVIES said that he had received some £50 from the public funds during the year, and he supposed he ought to have vacated his seat.

Hon. Col. GRAY—There the hon. member for Charlottetown gave a case in point.

Hon. Mr. COLES then read from the Act the list of the different offices the acceptance of which disqualifies a member from holding his seat in the House of Assembly, unless re-elected, the last clause of which list reads thus:— "The office or appointment of Auditor of the Treasury or Public Accounts, and any other office for which there shall by law be provided an annual salary of the amount of Twenty Pounds or upwards."

Hon. Col. GRAY said this showed that the hon. member did not understand what he was talking about, as he had been referring to offices not mentioned in the law; and there was no annual salary provided by statute for the office of Commissioner for revising the laws.

The resolution, after a little further conversation, was agreed to.

Mr. J. YEO said he had a small resolution to submit. The House was aware that a special Committee was appointed last Session to examine and report on the proposed wharf at West Cape. This report had been handed in, and he would now move that the sum of £500 be appropriated towards the erection of a wharf at that place.

Mr. CONROY said the wharf was very much required, and he would second the motion of the hon. member.

Mr. DAVIES said the hon. member, Mr. Yeo, must be making fun of the House.

Hon. Col. GRAY thought it was very praiseworthy on the part of the hon. proposer of the resolution to advocate the interests of his constituents. Had the Government not given to understand that no such special grants would be made, something might have been done. But if the hon. member persevered, he did not doubt that he would be successful some time when the finances of the Colony were in a more flourishing state.

Hon. Mr.