

know that I will oppose any amendment to the Act; but I think there should be some better and more efficient provision made to secure the city against fire.

Hon. Mr. HUTCHINSON—There is one British Insurance Office which will not insure over £600 on buildings here which are worth 2 or £3000. The only Company which will insure now is the Mutual. Therefore we should endeavour to have our fire department as perfect as possible. Our funds are small when collected; but I think there is some mismanagement about collecting them. It is neglected in the summer, which is the proper time to collect them. But our fire department is not as efficient as it might be even with the funds which they have. There should be reservoirs for water in different parts of the city. I think it is the first thing that should be looked to in Charlottetown. I know that our Insurance Company was drawn away on account of the city authorities not making proper provision to secure the city against fire. However, I would be sorry to vote against the Bill, because they cannot do anything without funds, and where can they look for them but to the Legislature.

Hon. Mr. DINGWELL—If I understand aright, this Bill originated with one member of the City Council. I think that is a very lame reason for introducing this Bill. If the people require taxation they should show it by some more evident sign. I would not tax them against their will.

Hon. Mr. PALMER—His Honor is under a misapprehension. The Bill did not originate in the way he has stated; but upon a communication received by one of the city representatives from the City Clerk, from which it appears that the City Council were unanimous. That being the case, they take the responsibility on themselves, and it would be hard to refuse them.

The House then went into Committee on the said Bill.

Hon. Mr. Forgan in the Chair. After some time spent therein the House was resumed; and the Chairman reported that the Committee had made some progress, and directed him to ask leave to sit again. House adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, April 10.

Hon. Mr. Simpson presented a petition of certain members of the Royal Agricultural Society of Prince Edward Island, praying that the said Society may be reorganized. The same was received and read.

Hon. Col. SWABEY—The petition is particularly well drawn up, and it is exactly in accordance with my views. It strikes at the very root of the evil, which is those branch Societies. When this Society was formed, they thought to have a great many branch Societies in the country; but I think this plan has failed. They complain of bad seed. Well, the Society had the seed on hand, and they had to do something with it. I hope something will be done to reorganize the Society.

Hon. Mr. DINGWELL—I was always in favor of supporting Agricultural Societies, but it appears to me that we cannot do so at present. It appears that the Society is all broken up; and that, the first thing should be to reform it, and then ask to have it incorporated. Care should be taken that no political feelings were allowed to bear on the Society; it will then be free to choose proper persons for officers; but as long as political matters are mixed up with it it will not prosper.

Hon. Mr. RAMSAY—I do not think that political matters had so much to do with it as bad seed. I know many farmers who lost their crops by getting bad seed from the Society.

Hon. Mr. HASZARD—Perhaps his Honor who has just sat down is not aware that the bad seed of which he complains was damaged in consequence of having been kept in an open building for one or two years. When it was sent there it was as good as what was kept here. In regard to the observation of his Honor Mr. Dingwell, we are not asking for an Act of Incorporation, but for an amendment to the Act already in existence.

Hon. Mr. RAMSAY—Has there not been some seed destroyed in Charlottetown? I know that the man who keeps it in St. Eleanor's is a careful man, and I have seen seed there in lumps—that could not be good seed.

Hon. Mr. JOHNSON—This is a very important Society, and it ought to be encouraged. Its object is the promotion of Agriculture, which is of the utmost importance to the Colony; and it is one of the most important questions which can engage the attention of the Legislature. I think that too much money has been spent in the importation of live stock. My first attention would be the improvement of the soil; and for that purpose we should import good seed, agricultural implements, and machinery.

Hon. Mr. HUTCHINSON—Every man will have his own opinion, and I have mine. Seed is imported by the Society duty free; and if the merchants were allowed the same privilege it would be an advantage to the country, because a merchant would take care to import good seed; for he would know that it he could not sell it, it would be to his own loss.

Hon. Mr. DINGWELL—It is the general opinion in the country that seed and implements can be purchased cheaper from the merchants than from the Society.

Hon. Mr. SIMPSON—The question has been asked whether the officers have been appointed? I answer, No! because they intended to make this application before they appointed them. Under existing circumstances they could not appoint them legally.

Hon. Mr. PALMER—The Agricultural Society is entitled to favorable consideration, because it has been a vast benefit to the Colony. I regret that it has not been supported with that spirit which it should have been; and I think it is the duty of the Legislature to encourage it in every possible way. It has existed for 30 years and upwards, and I regret that it has fallen off so much lately. I believe that it is mainly to be attributed to the experiment of the model farm. If it had been managed with more prudence and had been more amply supported it would have succeeded. I believe it would be cheaper to raise stock, and they would be of a more suitable description than what is imported. The idea was good, but it did not get a fair trial. Where the fault lay I cannot exactly say. Perhaps I have not interested myself in the matter as much as I should have done. In my time I have seen vast improvements in the agriculture of the country; and they are due, in a great measure, to the existence of that Society. I recollect when farmers would say, of what use is it to sow turnips? They will not come to perfection. But experience shows that as fine turnips can be raised in this country as in any country in the world; and we know that the cultivation of turnips is becoming valuable in this country, where hay is rising in price every year. I fear that if that Institution is abolished agriculture will not progress as we would like to see it. It has been observed that farmers would procure seed and agricultural implements cheaper at private stores. It may occasionally happen so; but you will have no greater faith in the soundness of the seed; and where there is an agricultural depot a man always knows for certainty where to go to get seed. I think that if men would place confidence in the Society, and increase its funds, its usefulness would increase in a corresponding ratio. I know that prejudice does a great deal; but I have seen seed condemned by farmers, and afterwards 37 grains out of 40 would grow when tried. If it cannot be supported as at present constituted it would be better to separate the Counties, and let each have its own Institution. I have heard of branch Societies taking more seed than they would dispose of, and bringing it back, after keeping it for a long time and demanding credit for it. All that actuates me is the prosperity of the country, and I am of opinion that that Institution should be supported. I know that poor farmers will say it is no good to us, we derive no benefit from it; but that is a fallacy. There was the same opinion respecting the Free Education Act when it was introduced. The Agricultural Society has brought the Colony into celebrity for a good stock of horses. I believe it will reanimate; and poor as we are, I would give it every possible encouragement.

Ordered that the petition do lie on the table. House adjourned.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

TUESDAY, March 12.

AFTERNOON SITTING.

The Clerk informed the House that he had received the fees payable on the Bill to authorize John Hunter to take the additional name of Duvar, and the House ordered that the said fees £7 10s. be paid into the Treasury. The following petitions were then presented to the House and read.

Hon. Col. GRAY—A petition from inhabitants of Lot 49, praying for a grant to rebuild a bridge; also one from inhabitants of Point Prim praying for a grant to complete the road leading from the main road to the shore of Puente River; and one from inhabitants of Lot 48 praying

aid to repair a new road leading from Burnt Hill road to the Baltic road.

By Mr. MONTGOMERY—A petition from inhabitants of Millvale settlement and vicinity, Lots 21 and 22, asking aid to enable them to open a road leading from Millvale to the road to Fife's ferry bridge, and also to erect a bridge on the road.

By Hon. Mr. HAVILAND—A petition from inhabitants of Lots 34 and 35 praying for a special grant to extend Apple-tree wharf, Lot 34. These six petitions were laid on the table.

Hon. Mr. LAIRD presented a petition of Lauren Doucet, licensed teacher of the first class, stating that until Nov. 1858 he had received at the rate of £50 annually, for some years, after which period his salary was reduced to £40, with the exception of £5 which the House granted him last year; and that for six months ending May, 1860, he had received but £20 for his services, and he prayed the House to grant the amount deficient, or any sum which they may deem meet; also one of Charles Fowle praying for a grant of £5 withheld from his salary on account of a deficiency in the daily average attendance, which arose from the prevalence of Scarlet Fever in the School District. These petitions were referred to the Special Committee on Schools and Education.

Hon. Mr. HAVILAND as a member of the Executive presented to the House the following papers, addressed to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor in Council, and referred to the House, viz:—

1. Report of the Commissioners on a line of Road leading from the present main road to the Gulf shore at Cavendish.
2. Letter from Postmaster General, transmitting a petition of inhabitants of Lot 43 praying for the removal of their Post Office.
3. Letter from Board of Education requesting to draw £150 for the purpose of procuring books on Agricultural Chemistry for the use of Schools.
4. Letter from the Postmaster General, with enclosure respecting the compulsory prepayment of postage by stamps.
5. Letter from Alex. McDonald, Commissioner of Highways, at East Point, respecting certain bridges in his District.
6. Application of inhabitants of Lot 15 for a road.
7. Letter from Messrs. Ryder and Hubbard, respecting the probable cost of buoys recommended by them for Cascumpee Harbor.
8. Letter from Donald McLeod, Commissioner of Highways, Orwell, about a line of road leading from Montague to Newtown.
9. Letter from Donald McNeill and others about the wharf at Ellis River ferry.
10. Letter from John Craig, Light Keeper, Richmond Bay, transmitting names of vessels the masters of which refused to pay Light duty.
11. Report of Joseph Murphy, Commissioner of Highways, regarding the removal of a bridge from Walsworth ferry to Lot 10.
12. Letter from Mr. John D. Woodman, Harbor master, Cascumpee, respecting the collection of Light and Anchor-dage duties, and the inadequacy of his remuneration, with a list of vessels which evaded payment of Light duties during the summer of 1860. Some of the preceding papers were referred to their respective Committees, and the others were laid on the table.

Hon. Mr. HAVILAND also begged leave to present to the House the Accounts of the Committee for the reception of the Prince of Wales, with vouchers of expenditure. Referred to the Special Committee. The Bill to authorize John Hunter to take an additional name was then read a second time, and committed to a Committee of the whole House, Mr. Sinclair in the Chair. The Committee then went through the Bill; the Speaker resumed the Chair, and the Chairman reported accordingly.

NEWFOUNDLAND FISHERIES.

The House resolved itself into a Committee of the whole to take into consideration the Resolutions of the House of Assembly of Newfoundland, of Jan. 29, 1861, which were transmitted to this Legislature, on the Convention in course of negotiation between Great Britain and France, relative to the Newfoundland Fisheries. Hon. Mr. McAvail in the Chair. The resolutions—6 in number—were then read, and are to the following effect:—

1. That this House heard with surprise and alarm, that the Convention in course of negotiation between Britain and France on the subject of the Newfoundland Fisheries, is not to be submitted for the assent of the people of this Colony.
2. That such a course of procedure would be a violation of the pledge of Mr. Labouchere given in a Despatch dated March 26, 1857.
3. That that pledge aptly styled the Colonial Magna Charta, could not be withdrawn without a breach of faith on the part of the British Government towards all the North American Colonies.
4. That the Imperial Government be earnestly entreated not to disturb the sacred right of the Colonists in the matter in question; for, besides being unjust, it would inflict a stain on the honor of the Imperial name.
5. That an address embodying the Resolutions be transmitted to Her Majesty's Government, and copies sent to the Legislatures of Canada, N. S., N. B., and P. E. Island, for their information.
6. That if necessary, the question should be brought before the House of Commons.

The following is a summary of the arguments used by hon. members who spoke on the question relating to the Newfoundland Fisheries:—

Hon. Col. GRAY remarked that the question submitted for the consideration of the House was one which involved interests of grave importance, and was one, in his opinion, upon which, properly speaking, action should have been taken in the first instance by the Legislature of Newfoundland, and afterwards action might have been taken upon it by these North American Colonies, conjointly. In the present stage of the negotiations he did not see that the House of Assembly in P. E. Island could express an opinion on the matter. The question was one in which that Colony took no interest, and in his opinion they should fight their own battles. With equal reason, we might call upon the House of Assembly in Newfoundland to sound our efforts in reference to the settlement of the Land Tenures of this Island, the settlement of which was of as great consequence to this Colony as the termination of disputes about the Newfoundland Fisheries would be to the people of that Province. As the Legislature of Newfoundland had taken some action in reference to the matter, it would be prudent to wait till such time as the result was made known. As a correspondence had been opened up between Her Majesty's Government and the Emperor of France, on this subject, it would be well not to manifest haste in adopting any specific course of action, in reference to the subject matter in dispute. However much disposed this Legislature might be to sympathize with the people of Newfoundland—and he had no doubt the sympathy throughout this Colony was general—still the question was one of a character so completely local he could not see what action the House could take, in order to sustain the Newfoundland Legislature in their effort. Under these circumstances, he (Col. Gray) considered it better to wait till such time as the result of the application, on the part of that Colony to the Imperial authorities, was made known.

Hon. Mr. YEO, after he had spoken of the commercial intercourse which existed between this Island and Newfoundland, said, he thought a Colony so small as P. E. Island could not render them much assistance in the present instance; that the people of Newfoundland must stand upon their own ground, and that any action which this Legislature might take, would have but little weight with the Home Government.

Hon. SPEAKER said that a few years ago a similar application was made to this House by the Newfoundland Legislature. If the Newfoundland fishing grounds, and certain lands had been granted away in the manner which was stated, the people of P. E. Island would also sustain a loss. As the Newfoundland Legislature merely requested this House to unite with them in addressing the Home Government, he could not foresee any evil results which would be likely to ensue from doing so. If he (the Speaker) remembered rightly the House joined with the House of Newfoundland in an address of a similar nature, to Her Majesty's Government, not many years ago.

Mr. BEER thought an address from all the Colonies might have a good effect, but that one from this Island merely would not accomplish a great deal. The people of this Island were much interested in the welfare of their fellow-colonists in Newfoundland, and he would be willing if any assistance could be rendered them to unite with them in addressing Her Majesty's Government.

Hon. Mr. LAIRD said he considered there was no necessity for depreciating the influence of this Colony; that though it was small, they had only to lend the weight of their influence to the Legislature of Newfoundland, he it ever so trifling. He considered it was the duty of the House to comply with the request, for this Colony did not know but what it might soon need the assistance of Newfoundland for a similar purpose.

Hon. Mr. COLES considered that according to the Resolutions transmitted, the House was not requested to join in an address with the Legislature of Newfoundland, to Her Majesty's Government. In 1857 he had invited this Legislature to unite with them in an address to Her Majesty, praying that no action might be taken which had reference to the treaty then existing between Britain and France without consulting the Legislature of Newfoundland, and a promise to that effect, it appeared, had been given; but since that period affairs had taken a different turn. Her Majesty's Government and the Emperor of France had come to a final decision without consulting them, and on that account they naturally felt aggrieved, just as any people would who considered they were deprived of their just rights. On these grounds they had considered it their duty to communicate to these Provinces that the prayer of their addresses had not been complied with. After all, he (Mr. Coles) said he could not see what this House could do to assist them. If the treaty was closed between Britain and France not any action of the Legislature would alter it. The Reciprocity treaty between the United States and England was very different from the old treaty between Britain and France. According to the original treaty, privileges were granted to France on the Newfoundland coast, but these for many years were not looked after by the French nation. British subjects, in ignorance of the treaty settled there, and now France was reviving her old claims. Such measures would be likely to terminate in a federal union of these Provinces, and in their united capacity these Colonies could make their influence felt. In this case he thought Britain would put itself in a false position by interfering in the matter.

Mr. COOPER said that when the question was first brought under the notice of the House he was under the impression the object was to save some British subjects who had made settlements on lands which actually belonged to the French, and that instead of removing them they were willing to allow them to remain, on the consideration of certain concessions being made to the French. If there had been any change made from the former treaty he (Mr. Cooper) thought the Colony of Newfoundland would certainly have been concluded, but if that treaty was only being carried out, England was bound to adhere to it independently of the consent of the Colony of Newfoundland.

Hon. Col. GRAY said the whole transaction was a species of squatter right, and that there was a great difference between such a right and the national rights of two mighty empires. In a country like this, a squatter sat down upon the soil of a proprietor, and after a time acquired certain rights, but great states or nations did not recognise these rights. Long ago one of the Kings of France received certain rights and privileges on the coast of Newfoundland, which for years lay dormant, till finally the actual occupants regarded them as a dead letter. Sometimes these rights were revived; and in the present instance the people of Newfoundland were greatly astonished when they discovered that rights which they considered their own really belonged to another power. He (Col. Gray) did not defend the Colonial Minister in writing to the Legislature and making the promise which he had; but it was statesmanship of a description similar to that which resulted in the loss of the North American Colonies many years ago, and might continue till the Colonies united, and then they would have more power and be in a better position to approach the British throne than they are in at present. If the people of Newfoundland had sustained a loss, no doubt compensation would be made on the part of the Home Government; but any action which this Legislature might take would be local and could not contravene what had been resolved upon by Britain and France.

Hon. SPEAKER thought that though the Legislature of Newfoundland had not directly asked this House to join with them in an address to the British throne, still they had left it optional. If the Legislature of P. E. Island could assist them in obtaining their rights he considered it was a duty to extend to them a helping hand. This Island was much interested in the question also, for as matters now stood none of the British people could throw a line or set a seine in waters in which formerly they had full liberty to fish.

Hon. Mr. HAVILAND said he agreed with the hon. the Leader of the Opposition, when he said he considered this House would put itself in a false position by interfering in the dispute in relation to the Newfoundland Fisheries. A great deal depended upon the old treaty between France and England. In ignorance of the treaty it appeared British subjects had settled in lands which in reality belonged to France, and so would be compelled to abide the consequence, but under such circumstances the Government of Great Britain would, in justice, be bound to compensate those parties who had sustained losses on that account. Unless the House had the original treaty, and all the documents and papers bearing on the question, before them, he (Mr. Haviland), could not see it would be possible to arrive at a proper decision, and in the absence of such papers they were not in a position to know what course to pursue in reference to the question.

Mr. SINCLAIR, considering the circumstances of the case, was in favor of uniting with the people of Newfoundland in an address to the British throne.

Mr. MONTGOMERY thought the Legislature should be cautious, and under existing circumstances he thought the House would not be justified in interfering in the matter.

Mr. OWEN thought it was a serious matter, and one which affected the interests not only of Newfoundland but also of this Colony, that it would be well to ask the Legislature of that Province for more information on the subject; and when received, the House would be in a better position to back them up in their efforts to regain their rights, if this Legislature should then see good to do so.

Hon. Mr. COLES expressed himself in favor of applying for more information, after he had alluded to the convention in course of negotiation between France and England, in reference to the giving up of certain rights and privileges by Britain to France, and that a promise had been made to the effect that their decision was to be submitted to the Legislature of Newfoundland for their approval. While these negotiations were pending, France, it appeared, asserted her claims under the old treaty, which raised new obstacles. They had ordered British subjects off grounds which they claimed under that treaty and the people had unanimously applied to the Home Government for redress. The whole affair was so complicated that he considered that with the amount of information which the House had before them it would be injudicious to take any action in the matter at present.

Hon. Col. GRAY said as the question was one of considerable moment, that the hon. members would do well to consider eventualities; for, should the people of Newfoundland remonstrate, war might be the result; and should this Legislature second the efforts of Newfoundland, Her Majesty's Government, in the event of war would probably call upon this Colony for support. The Government of Newfoundland agreed to a Commission appointed to settle existing disputes relative to the Fisheries, but it appeared so soon as the decision was considered unfavorable to them, they turned round and refused compliance, which, on their part, was an extraordinary act. Till further information was received, he thought the House should exercise caution as regarded any action which the Legislature might take in relation to the question at issue; but there could be no objection to the House writing to the Government of Newfoundland, for further information.

Hon. Mr. HAVILAND moved the following Resolution, which was passed:—

RESOLVED, That it is inexpedient for this House to take any action upon the Resolutions adopted by the House of Assembly of Newfoundland, relative to the Convention in course of negotiation between Great Britain and France on the subject of the Newfoundland Fisheries, until the Government of Newfoundland has furnished this House with a copy of the original treaty, and other documents connected with the subject matter in dispute between Great Britain, France and the Colony of Newfoundland.

The Speaker then took the Chair, and the Chairman reported the Resolution agreed to. Adjourned till ten o'clock to-morrow.

WEDNESDAY, March 13.

The following petitions were presented, viz:—By Hon. Mr. Yeo, a petition of inhabitants of Lot 17, praying a grant to the owner of the Steamer Princess Royal to induce him to place her on the route from B-deque to Miramichi via Shediac and Richibucto, and perhaps Cascumpee; also a petition

from Summerside and vicinity, praying a grant to repair the public wharf at Summerside. By Hon. Mr. Haviland, a petition of Emma Sherlock of Cascumpee, praying a grant to compensate for some loss sustained by her late husband, while health officer of that Port, on account of a case of small pox.

By Mr. Sinclair, a petition from Lots 18 and 19, praying the House to pass such an enactment as would stay proceedings in the collection of arrears of rent, until the award of the Commissioners be made public. By Mr. Davies, a petition of T. Heath Haviland, W. W. Lord, and others, praying for the passing of a Bankruptcy law—ordered to be committed to a Committee of the whole House on Tuesday next.

By Mr. Conroy, a petition from Lots 4 and 5, praying a grant for the erection of Lighthouses on the North Cape and East Point. Several other petitions were presented, praying for grants for roads, bridges, and other matters.

Hon. Mr. COLES said he would like to see the message of the Lieut. Governor on the petitions of proprietors against the Act to give effect to the award of the Land Commission, published; as it would be some time before they appeared in the Journals of the House. He hoped there would be no objection to publishing the message and accompanying papers in the Royal Gazette.

The suggestion was agreed to, and it was ordered accordingly.

Hon. Mr. COLES was uncertain whether the hon. leader of the Government understood him the other day when he asked if there were any documents, such as affidavits, respecting the evidence before the Land Commission, sent home with the petitions of the proprietors. If there were any such documents, he thought they should be laid before the House.

Hon. Col. GRAY was not aware of the existence of any such documents. He understood that His Excellency had furnished an account of all that had been transmitted. No such documents, at least, ever came before the Government. Two Bills were read a third time and passed, viz: the Bill to authorize John Hunter to take the additional name of Duvar, and the Bill to authorize the exportation of the horse "Saladin" from the Island.

Mr. BEER introduced a Bill for the punishment of persons who shall be guilty of the trespasses therein mentioned, which was read a first and second time, and then committed to a Committee of the whole House, Mr. Sinclair in the Chair.

Hon. Mr. COLES did not see that there was any necessity for an Act of this kind. The present laws were sufficiently stringent for the punishment of offenders.

Mr. BEER said that there was a general complaint throughout the Colony respecting the difficulty of keeping orchards, on account of the disposition on the part of young persons to plunder them; and as there was no law which could be brought to operate against such offenders except the common trespass Act, it was found difficult to punish them. It was gratifying to observe that there was a growing disposition on the part of the people of the Colony to raise orchards, and he thought it should be encouraged by every means.

Hon. Mr. COLES thought the existing law sufficiently stringent. To steal an apple was as much a theft as to steal a sheep, and could be punished in like manner according to the extent of the offence. He did not see the necessity of filling up the Statute Book with more laws of this kind.

Hon. Mr. HAVILAND said the principal object of the Bill was to increase the penalty for such offences. Under the present law, it was so trifling that it was scarcely worth prosecuting an offender.

The Committee then rose, and the Chairman reported progress.

A message was received from the Legislative Council, stating that the House had passed the Census Bill and the Alewives Fishery Bill, with amendments.

The amendments to the Census Bill were then read a first and second time, and committed to a Committee of the whole House. The principal amendments were, to insert a clause headed "Number who have not been vaccinated or had the small pox in each family," and a clause headed "Number of Acadian French, or persons of French descent in each family." The first of these two amendments was agreed to, the last was disagreed to on the following division:—Yeas—Hon. Speaker, Messrs. Montgomery, B. McNeill, Haviland, Laird, Howat, Holm—8. Nays—Messrs. Whelan, Conroy, Coles, Kelly, Sinclair, Yeo—6.

A number of petitions were then presented, one of which was from W. C. Burke praying a continued grant to encourage him to run his steam ferry boat between Charlottetown and Mount Stewart Bridge, during the ensuing summer.

Hon. Mr. Haviland presented the residue of the vouchers accompanying accounts of Committee for the reception of the Prince of Wales—referred to Committee on Public accounts. Adjourned.

AFTERNOON SITTING.

Hon. Mr. HAVILAND presented a petition from Benjamin Davies and others, the Executive Committee of the Charlottetown Debating Club and Reading Room, praying for a grant from the Legislature. Mr. Haviland stated that the association was established on a wide basis, and that it had taken the place of the Mechanics' Institute, to which, Session after Session, the Legislature was accustomed to grant a sum of money. As stated in the petition, the members belonged to different political parties and denominations, and as the hon. Leader of the Opposition was a member of the Debating Society, he hoped to have the weight of his influence in supporting the prayer of the petition. Mr. Haviland then enumerated some of the principal foreign Journals received at the Reading Room, and of the assistance which the association gave to kindred societies in different parts of the Island, numbering 18 in all. One or more of these were in the constituency of the hon. member from Tryon, and he (Mr. Haviland) trusted he would have his support.

Mr. HOWAT said if the hon. member expected his support to the petition, he would be mistaken, for he had received orders to have nothing to do with the affair, as it was of a party nature; that the Club expected to draw a large sum of money from the Treasury because they assisted societies in country districts; but that all the associations in the country received were a few old worn-out newspapers.

Mr. OWEN presented a petition of Henry Mooney, praying for a balance of £7 on the building of a bridge at Morell River; also from the same, a petition praying the payment of £1 13s. for repairing Peake's Road, Lot 51.

Hon. Col. GRAY presented a petition from Lots 61 and 62, praying for a grant to repair the road leading from Montague Bridge to Wood Islands; also another from inhabitants of Douce's Road, for aid to improve the County line road and Douce's road; also one from Ugg, praying aid to repair a road leading to that settlement.

Mr. MONTGOMERY presented a petition from Lot 67, and its vicinity, requesting aid to improve Haslam's Mill road, and to build two small bridges; another from people of the petition was then received and read. The number of members, it was stated in the petition, was 120, including men of various sects, and differing in their political views; that for general improvement the Club was extending the list of its newspapers at a cost of £30; and that on the arrival of each mail the Association transmitted to various institutions 50 newspapers, free.

Renville settlement and Millvale, and others asking aid to repair the Millvale and Murray Harbor Road, and one from Norman Campbell and other School Trustees, Johnston's Road, Lot 22, praying aid, as their school house had been destroyed by fire.

Hon. Mr. HAVILAND presented a petition of Rev. Donald Morrison, and inhabitants of Strathbury, in which it was stated that much Sabbath desecration resulted from the Saturday market, and they prayed the House to lend its influence to have Wednesdays and Fridays appointed as market days, instead of Tuesdays and Saturdays, according to the present arrangement.

Mr. HOWAT presented a petition from inhabitants of Tryon, praying aid for the widening and repairing of a road leading through Tryon to the wharf at Crapaud.

Hon. Mr. COLES presented a petition of Donald Stewart and others of St. Peter's Road and vicinity, Lot 34, praying a grant to repair the road leading from St. Peter's Road, near the 7 Mile Post, to the Hillborough river; also, one from Michael Doyle and others, Lot 37, praying aid to repair a road from Point de R-ene to the Gulf Shore.

Hon. Mr. KELLY presented a petition of John Kelly and others of Lots 36 and 37, praying for a grant to pro- vide a scow or horse boat at Cranberry Point wharf, for the conveyance of passengers, &c., across the Hillsborough river; another of John McNally, asking for a grant to enable him to keep up a light at Battery Point for the guidance of benighted travellers on the ice; also, one from inhabitants of Battery Point, French Fur, and St. Peter's Road, for aid in extending a wharf at Battery Point; and one from James McDonald and other inhabitants of Lot 37, asking aid for repairing a road leading from Savage Harbor to the North Shore.

Mr. BEER presented a petition of Robert Rennie and others of Kent Street school district, concerning the re-opening of a School.

Hon. Mr. WIGHTMAN presented a petition from Lot 61,

praying to erect 3 bridges on the St. Mary's road, and to improve a road leading from St. Mary's road to Wain road; another from settlers on Lots 59, 61, and 63, praying for the establishment of a Ferry from the South side of Montague to Georgetown; also, one of Jas. Howar and others of Brudenell Island, praying for a wharf at that river.

Hon. Mr. LAIRD presented a petition of John Trempe and others, praying aid for a road called "Ward's Road," and for four bridges on it.

Mr. McNEILL presented a petition of inhabitants of Murray River and Toronto, for aid to open a road between the two settlements; another from Hugh Brink and Little stands for aid to build a road; and one of D. C. Campbell, landowner and executive officer, praying for an alteration of the Act of 1855, 55th section. The foregoing petitions were laid on the table.

Mr. MONTGOMERY presented a petition of C. H. Young, praying for a Post Office.

Hon. Mr. WIGHTMAN presented a petition from White Road, praying for a sum to open a Post office.

Hon. Mr. KELLY presented a petition of Jane Green, praying for an allowance as a primary teacher. The preceding petitions were referred to their proper Committees.

Adjourned. THURSDAY, March 14. Hon. Mr. YEO presented a petition of Robert McDonald, Strang Hart, and others, praying for £1000 to erect a wharf on the west side of the West Point.

Hon. Mr. YEO presented a petition from Lots 13 14 and 16, praying for a grant to erect a wharf at Ellis River ferry.

Mr. HOWAT presented a petition of Donald Palmer and others, praying that the grant of £250 made last Session for building a Drugging machine for C. Upad, be given to the Crapaud Drugging machine Company; that the said machine be in the hands of the said company; and that the Corporation of Crapaud be granted the privilege of taxing produce shipped from the said port, for the purpose of raising a sum sufficient to hire a machine to deepen the harbor. Petitions laid on the table.

Mr. J. YEO presented a petition of John Hopwood, Postmaster, Port Hill, praying for an increase of his salary.

Hon. Mr. KELLY presented a petition from Lots 32 and 36, praying for the appointment of a Commission for opening a road through Malcolm McConnell's farm. Referred to Committee.

Hon. Col. GRAY in answer to a question previously asked by the hon. Leader of the Opposition, stated that there were no more bills of the kind in preparation at present, and that those sent down to the House by His Excellency.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Coles, next Thursday was appointed for taking into consideration petitions lying on the table, praying the House to take some action in preventing proprietors from distraining for arrears of rent till the award of the Commissioners be made known. It was then ordered that there be a Call of the Committee on the petition.

Hon. Mr. HAVILAND, as a member of the Government, presented the Writ of Election for the election of a member for the first District of King's County. The Hon. Mr. Hensley who was returned in the room of John Knight, Esq., who had resigned, was, after the reading of the Return, introduced to the speaker by Hon. Messrs. Thornton and Wightman. Mr. Hensley then took the oath of allegiance in the Assembly.

Hon. Mr. HAVILAND—the 13th rule of the House having been suspended, begged leave to introduce a Bill to give primary protection to persons employed in the publication of Parliamentary papers. Mr. Haviland then remarked that it was a Bill which should have been passed years ago; that as the law of libel stood, any individual thinking himself aggrieved by any publication in the House of Commons, or in the Journals of the House, might sue the printer; and that as soon as they appeared in print the publisher was liable to be prosecuted. He (Mr. Haviland) then gave as an instance, a case which arose in the Imperial Parliament some years ago, which was brought before the Court of Queen's Bench, and the trial and proceedings connected therewith, lasted 10 or 12 years. Mr. Stockdale, who thought his character had been injured by the publication of certain reports, brought an action against the printer of the House of Commons. In consequence of the proceedings, Parliament imprisoned the Sheriff of London during the whole Session of Parliament, and the Court of Queen's Bench used to imprison the Sergeant-at-Arms of the House of Commons, and thus a regular warfare was kept up. It is to be regretted that the same course has not been pursued to the effect that it would be sufficient satisfaction of the Printer produced a certificate from the Speaker of the House of Commons, or from the Lord Chancellor of the House of Lords, certifying that the reports were ordered to be printed. The Bill just presented was a copy of the Imperial Act (passed last year) which contained the circumstances of this case.

The Bill was read and read, and ordered to be read a second time to-morrow.

Hon. Mr. HAVILAND as a member of the Government, presented to the House a plan and specification of a proposed wharf at Red Point, Lot 47, which was laid on the table. Adjourned.

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