

News by Telegraph.

LONDON, March 23rd, eve.—In the House of Commons to-night, Mr. Gregory enquired what ground the Government intended to take in regard to the use of mixed juries for the trial of foreigners in English courts. The Attorney General replied that the Government did not propose to interfere with the decision of judges on that point. Lord Stanley made an explanation as to the present state of the controversy with Spain concerning the Tornado case. He said that the last step taken by England was to demand the release of Macpherson. Earl Mayo, the Secretary for Ireland, said he would soon submit to the consideration of the House a plan for a new Irish University, the officers of which were to be named by Catholics, but to whom the privileges were not to be conferred exclusively. The House then went into committee and resumed the debate on the grievances of Ireland. Mr. Horsman said the ministers had promised reform in Ireland, but the reform proved to be only a commission of enquiry, and a new university. More than this was needed to conciliate Ireland. He deprecated the erection of a new college of the character described by the Chief Secretary for Ireland as likely to foment sectarian bitterness and anger,—the latter were satisfied with the present system of national schools. He declared that no ministerial statement had ever caused him so much pain. A great opportunity was lost to conciliate Ireland, which should no longer be ruled by English laws, customs and prejudices, but according to the wishes of the Irish people. Mr. Gathorne Hardy defended the Government, giving a long review of its Irish policy. He said he believed that same fears were expressed and reasons given in 1843, yet how many years had Whigs held power since that without taking any action in regard to the grievances of Ireland! At 11 o'clock to-night the debate still continues, and the House will probably hold an adjourned session.

LONDON, March 23rd, P. M.—The British League of Peace and Liberty propose to offer Charles Francis Adams an address previous to his departure from this country. This address will be presented through John Bright.

LONDON, March 23rd, midnight.—In the House of Commons this evening, a motion was made for the Government to lay before the House papers in connection with the barque Springbok case, arising from the seizure of the English vessel of that name by a United States steamer during the blockade of the Southern ports in the rebellion. In reply to an enquiry regarding the circumstances of the imprisonment of W. Johnson, the Orange Secretary in the County of Down, Ireland, Lord Mayo said the prisoner was detained in jail because he refused to express regret for his action in heading an illegal procession. The House went into committee of the whole, and resumed the debate on the state of Ireland. The O'Donoghue, member for Tralee, said the disaffection among the Irish people was widespread, and reached all classes of society, and paralyzed trade with the constant fear of its consequences. The church and land questions were the leading causes of disaffection, but the principle cause of all was the refusal of independence in legislation. Ireland is now voiceless and helpless. The first remedy to be applied should be to deprive the church establishment of its endowments, and grant to tenants leases of not less duration than thirty-one years. Sir Stafford Northcote followed with a lengthy speech in defence of the Government. Without taking action the House adjourned. No quotable change in markets.

LONDON, March 23rd.—The Prince of Wales will make his expected visit to Ireland during the Easter holidays. It is intimated that the event will be signalled by a Royal Proclamation granting partial amnesty to political offenders in Ireland. Despatches were received last night from Abyssinia. Gen. Napier was about to send out a reconnoitering party to Lake Ashangee, in the Tamee district. The Pasha of Egypt showed no disposition to withdraw his forces from Abyssinia, as requested by the British Government. On the contrary the Egyptians in camp at Massoh, received considerable reinforcements from the North. Four men of the crew of the *Jacmel Packet*, which sailed from New York as a Fenian cruiser, and called the *Erin's Hope*. They were all naturalized citizens of the United States of Irish birth. They will all be sent home at the expense of the American Government.

PARIS, March 23rd.—The American Minister, Gen. Dix, has returned to Paris. His visit to England was not of a diplomatic character, as was reported. He went to England to be present at the marriage of his son.

LONDON, 10th.—Despatches from the south announce that the Grand Vizier had returned to Constantinople from Crete. He reports to the Turkish Government that the war between the Turks and Cretan insurgents had at length ended—there were a few guerrillas still operating in the mountain districts, they were hardly a hundred strong, and no fears were anticipated of any fresh outbreaks. The Corps Legislatif was engaged last week in a discussion of the new law in relation to holding public meetings, which was introduced by the Government. An important and comprehensive amendment to this Bill has been offered by liberal members. It proposes to remove all restrictions from the rights of the people to meet in public assemblies when and where they please. Advice from Berlin state that Prince Napoleon after a series of flattering entertainments in his honor has left for Paris. His visit to Germany has given rise to many surmises and rumors, and it is extensively commented upon by the Press; but his mission has not been divulged. His reception everywhere in Germany has been most cordial.

LONDON, March 16, eve.—Political news unimportant. Mr. G. W. Hunt, Secretary of the Treasury, stated in the House of Commons that the total expenses of the British Expedition in Abyssinia up to date, were less than four million pounds sterling.

DUBLIN, 16.—Rooney, Kelly, Lawless and Hurley are the names of the four Fenians of the *Jacmel* party who have just been released by the British Government, on condition that they return to America. It is reported that all their companions, including Gen. Nagle, who were arrested at Dungarvon, will also be liberated on the same conditions.

DUBLIN, 18.—Mr. W. Johnson, the Orange Secretary, who was imprisoned in the county of Down for taking a leading part in an illegal procession, has been made a candidate for Parliament for the city of Belfast.

LONDON, March 17, eve.—The House of Commons again went into Committee this evening, and resumed debate on the resolutions of Mr. McGuire relative to reforms in Ireland. Speeches were made by Mr. McGuire in support of resolutions, and by Mr. Disraeli in opposition. On the conclusion of these speeches Mr. McGuire withdrew his resolutions. Lord Stanley said the Government could not at present admit papers in the Springbok case, as they were in the hands of the law officers of the Crown. Lord Mayo, in reply to a few charges in public print, and alluded to in the House of Commons, said that Messrs. Sullivan and Paget, Dublin editors, now in Richmond prison, are treated with leniency. They are not compelled to wear prison uniform; are allowed to select their own table, and have all the exercise they desire. Thompson and Malloy, tried and convicted at Manchester, charged with being accessory to the murder of Police Sergeant Brett, today have been sentenced to be hanged. Advice from Manchester unfavorable. Markets for goods and yarns dull.

OTTAWA, March 13.—The Dominion Parliament opened yesterday, but the business transacted was only of a routine character. The Senate adjourned till Monday next, and the Commons to this afternoon. Hon. A. G. Archibald, of Nova Scotia, has been appointed to the Senate, and took his seat yesterday. Hon. Stewart Campbell and Dr. Tupper were present at the opening of the House yesterday. There is every disposition to deal fairly with your Province, and her real interests will be protected, with a view to promote intercolonial trade.

OTTAWA, March 16.—A Grand Union Concert between Irish Protestant and Catholic Societies, will be held in this city to-morrow evening, the Anniversary of St. Patrick, in aid of our city charities. The Hon. Mr. McGehe, who takes part in the proceedings, will be entertained at the Russell House after the concert. Stanford Flemming left to-day to make additional sur-

veys on Intercolonial Railway. He starts three surveying parties, one for each, Northern, Central and Frontier routes, and goes himself to make a more thorough survey of part of route in Nova Scotia. It will probably take six or eight weeks to complete these explorations. A new Fishery Bill is under preparation and will soon be ready for submission to Parliament. James Cullen has been gazetted Landing Waiter in Custom House in Halifax.

OTTAWA, March 17.—It is rumored that there is still serious trouble in the Ministerial wigwam among the members of the Intercolonial. Sir John A. Macdonald, it is reported, has changed sides and now goes for Northern route, which has majority in the Cabinet. The further survey, being a mere ruse and temporary makeshift, it is thought not improbable that Tilly and McDougall will resign on that question. Dr. Tupper left on Saturday en route for England. There is a general impression that under all the circumstances, a better delegate might have been chosen.

OTTAWA, March 18.—The Dinner to Mr. McGehe last night was a great success. Nearly all the Ministers were present. Speeches were made by Sir John A. Macdonald, Hon. Mr. Cartier, Hon. Mr. Mitchell, and others. Business in Parliament still preliminary. It is said that Galt refused to go to England with Tupper.

OTTAWA, March 19.—In Parliament, Hon. Mr. Ross introduced an act, the object of which is to assimilate the currency of the Dominion. In the event of England and the United States not carrying out the recommendations agreed to in Paris, then the bill bringing the N. S. standard up to the present standard of the United States and Canada would be put in force by proclamation; but if the recommendations were carried out by the United States and England, then the act would be put in force, which adapted the currency of Canada to that now prevailing in Nova Scotia, and which would then prevail in the United States.

NEW YORK, 17th.—Serious freshets are reported in various parts of the country, caused by breaking up of river ice. O'Connell the Irish pugilist has settled his match with Elliot. The money has been put up. O'Connell puts \$1000 to two thousand, that he whips Elliot in half an hour. The fight is to be contested in May.

NEW YORK, March 19.—Steamer *Magnolia* exploded her boiler yesterday, twelve miles below Cincinnati, killing 40 persons of the one hundred on board.

NEW YORK, March 17th.—Late advices report the general situation of affairs in Mexico as unsatisfactory, and fears of trouble are unavoidable; incendiary fires, robberies and murders are of frequent occurrence in the capital, and the streets of the city are unsafe at night.

LATE FROM THE STATES.

The House impeachment Committee is continuing its investigations of the charges before it, and has subpoenaed the stenographers who reported the speeches of the President during his Western tour, as well as his famous 22nd of February speech. It will be remembered that the reports printed of the latter differed widely from each other. The *New York Times* says:—"The general impression in this region, and we think throughout the country, is that the President will be convicted and deposed from office; yet we see no symptoms of an earthquake either in Wall-street or anywhere else. The general belief is that the Senate will give the President a fair trial, and will convict and depose him only if he be found guilty; and in that event the whole country and all parties will acquiesce."

ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL.—St. Patrick's Cathedral, on Mulberry street, which has recently been rebuilt, is to be solemnly dedicated on St. Patrick's day, the 17th inst. The Most Reverend Archbishop McClosky will officiate, and the dedication sermon will be preached by the Reverend Father Schneider, C. S. S. R.

BURNING OF A CATHOLIC CHURCH IN BROOKLYN.—The Roman Catholic Church of St. Charles Borromeo, situated on Sydney Place, near the corner of Livingston street, Brooklyn, was destroyed by fire on Sunday morning. The origin of the fire, it appears, was accidental, caused by a defect in one of the heaters in the basement. Loss estimated at \$10,000.

THE GOLD COINAGE.—Mr. Frelinghuysen introduced a bill in the Senate which was referred to the Finance Committee, which provides that the amount of pure gold, in one-half of an eagle, or five dollar pieces, shall hereafter be 113 grains. They weight, to correspond with the amount of pure gold contained in the English sovereign or pound sterling, and all other gold coin of the United States, shall contain pure gold in like proportion.

DESTRUCTION OF BARNUM'S MUSEUM BY FIRE.—At two o'clock, on Tuesday morning, fire was discovered in the third story of Barnum's Museum. The fire was first discovered in the southeast corner of the building, occupied by Van Amburgh's menagerie. The flames had attained such headway before they were seen that with the limited means at hand it was found impossible to extinguish them, and attention was at once turned to the task of rescuing those in the building and getting out whatever property could be readily moved. The fat woman and fat boy, giants and other monstrosities, together with the janitor's family, were rescued from their slumbers and safely conducted from the burning building.

So rapidly did the flames spread that it was found impossible to save any of the larger animals in the fine collection known as Van Amburgh's menagerie. The yells of the animals as the flames reached them were appalling, and they bounced from side to side or dashed madly against the bars in vain efforts to free themselves. A few of the animals on the Broadway side, among them a kangaroo, a small leopard and monkey, together with pelicans, and a variety of other small birds, were got out. On the Mercer Street side the police and others were more successful. A giraffe, two camels, a pair of Japanese hogs, a Burmese cow, a llama and a variety of small animals were got out.

Owing to the fact that the fire apparatus was absent at a fire at Spring and Varick streets, it was over ten minutes from the time the alarm sounded before a steamer arrived upon the ground, and by that time the fire had worked into the floor above and into the main portion of the building, and when sufficient force had arrived the fire had attained such headway that it was utterly impossible to save the building, the flames raging with a force and fury that rendered the dozen streams directed into the building apparently useless.

In a comparatively short space of time the interior was burned out and the adjoining buildings seriously damaged. The side of the Prescott House was on fire at one time, but was saved by extraordinary exertions. The guests aroused from their slumbers, hurriedly rushed down stairs, many of them in their night gear, and carrying some of their property. Trunks were pitched headlong down stairs and carried in adjoining houses or piled up in the hall ready for removal.

The loss on the Museum and contents, including Van Amburgh's menagerie, will amount to about \$500,000. Insured, but to what amount, or in what companies, could not be ascertained. One of the proprietors of the Museum gives the following account of the narrow escape of Ann Swann, the giantess:—"When the fire had gained such headway, as to arouse the persons on the upper floor, a rush was made for the stairway by all except the giantess, who was still asleep. The women and children did not wait to dress themselves, but went into the street in their night dresses and bare feet. Miss Swann was awakened by the smell of smoke, and was surprised to find herself alone. She arose, but was so stifled by the smoke that she had scarcely strength to force open the door. A policeman assisted her in breaking open the door, when she hastily dressed herself and gathering up her money and diamonds in the folds of her dress, started for the street. On the stairs she met a policeman, who, in the excitement of the moment, thinking that the woman, who was unknown to him, was carrying something in her dress not her own, dragged down the garment, and the money, diamonds and a gold watch fell on the stairs. At this time the smoke was so dense and her fears so great that she did not attempt to find the valuables, but groped her way to the Broadway entrance, leaving all that she possessed of value to burn."

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

MONDAY, March 15. Hon. Atty. General presented the petition of divers settlers on the Selkirk Estate, asking for that said petitioners be allowed to purchase from the Government of the Colony their lots on said Selkirk Estate, and that many of them had regularly paid their accruing instalments of the amounts charged them for the freehold of their farms, and praying that the Government do cause an account of the said Estates to be made up, with the view of releasing said petitioners from the payment of any further sum than was necessary to repay the Government for the capital advanced for the purchase of said Estate from the late Proprietor thereof, together with all lawful charges respecting said Estates.

Ordered, that said Petition, together with the report of the Law Officers of the Crown which accompanied it, be laid on the table.

Hon. Atty. General, pursuant to notice, also introduced a Bill to amend and explain the Land Purchase Act.

Received and read. The object of the said Bill was to amend the Act only in its relation to Estates purchased under its provisions, which had or might hereafter prove self-sustaining. The bill provides that when it shall appear from the books kept by the Commissioner of Public Lands, that any estate purchased by the Government under the Land Purchase Act has proved self-sustaining, it shall be the duty of the said Commissioner to give notice in writing thereof to the Government, who shall by such means as shall appear most proper and effectual, cause a full investigation to be made into the matter, and an accurate statement of the position of the Estate to be drawn up; and if it shall appear that the Estate in question has proved self-sustaining, the Lieutenant Governor in Council shall issue an order to said Commissioner of Public Lands requiring him to exact any further instalments from those occupants of the Estate who have paid up their full proportion or share of the sum required to make the said Estate self-sustaining. The Commissioner of Public Lands shall still continue and proceed to collect from those occupants who shall not have paid up their full share until they shall have paid their proportion. When the Government shall have been fully reimbursed and sustained in regard to the purchase of such Estate, it shall be lawful for them to order the return to such occupants as may have paid the same, any sum they may have paid in excess of their own due share or proportion necessary to make the Estate self-sustaining. The provisions of the bill extend to all Estates already purchased, as well as to those which may hereafter be bought by the Government of the Colony.

Ordered, that said bill be read a second time to-morrow. Hon. Attorney General then introduced a Bill to repeal the Act now in force relating to Interest, which was received and read. He (Hon. Attorney General) remarked that the laws relating to the rate of interest had of late years been materially relaxed in their relation to loans upon all other securities, excepting lands, tenements, &c. He could see no reason why the distinction between the rates of interest allowed to be taken upon landed securities and those tolerated in other branches of trade, should be kept up. In England, the Australian Colonies, and in Canada, no such distinction existed. A similar bill to that now submitted had passed the House in previous years, but was rejected by the Upper Branch of the Legislature. He believed that now, however, the measure would receive the sanction of that honorable body. It was desirable to remove every restriction from the law relating to rates of interest, in order to induce as much as possible the influx of capital into the Colony. Money was as much a matter of trade as any other commodity, and the time had come when the various restrictions hitherto placed upon it were abolished. The bill provides that no more than 6 per cent interest be recovered in any Court of Law, on any account or contract, unless it shall appear that any different rate was agreed to, in writing, between the parties concerned; and that the bill shall not prejudice the right, or alter the liabilities, of any party in respect to any transactions entered into previously to the passing of the measure under consideration.

Ordered, that said bill be read a second time to-morrow. Hon. Atty. General gave notice that to-morrow he would move for supply.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Hon. Col. Secretary presented the Report of the Commissioners for the encouragement of Agriculture and Local Industry, relating to the Industrial Exhibition held at Charlottetown in October last. Received and read. Ordered to be laid on the table.

Hon. Col. Secretary also presented the Surveyor General's Report on a new line of road leading from Murray River Bridge to Montague Bridge.

Hon. Atty. General introduced a Bill to amend the Law relating to the Militia and Volunteer forces of the Colony. The object of said bill is to alter the time for attending drill, by exempting from attending or performing Militia duty or training all persons liable to perform such duty, excepting from the 1st to the 25th day of July, and from the 1st of December to the 1st of April in each year, provided always, that in case of war, invasion or insurrection, all such persons shall be liable to perform Militia duty at any period of the year.

Hon. Atty. General introduced a Bill to amend the laws establishing the salaries payable to the Attorney and Solicitor General. The object of the said Bill is to explain and amend the law as to persons to whom the Government owes the offices above named, recovering from the Government on any account whatever, any greater amount than the Salary allowed him or them under the statute.

Hon. Atty. General presented the Report of the Committee of the Executive Council appointed to enquire into the purchase, classification, results of sale, &c., of the Selkirk Estate. Said Report states that the Estate in question cost the Government £9,918 9s. 9d., that it was priced to realize £1,875 7s. 6d., including 20 per cent. on the arrears of £15,145 7s. 6d. Subsequent to the purchase the price realized £15,145 7s. 6d., independently of the returns realized from 20,000 acres of wilderness land, sold by the former proprietor. That on 21st January, 1867, the sum paid by the purchasers into the hands of the Commissioner amounted to £11,889 17s. 10d. That the Commissioner of Public Lands is of opinion that at the present time money enough has been paid in to make the Selkirk Estate self-sustaining, and that the settlers have been overcharged. That officer therefore thinks, that the seventh instalment should be waived, and that the outlay for the purchase, interest, and working expenses of the Estate, and that those purchasers who have paid over the seventh instalment should have the surplus returned to them.

The said Report goes on to state that the object of the bill was accomplished when the seventh instalment was paid up; and endorses the opinion of the Land Commissioner in recommending that not more than the seventh instalment be exacted from such purchasers; and that those who have paid more than that amount, shall have the more liberal terms be offered to them. The Report also recommends that the Government, when settlers on the Wilderness lands, should be granted, so as to ensure the settlement and cultivation of said lands.

House adjourned.

TUESDAY, March 17.

On motion of the Hon. Col. Secretary, a supply was granted to Her Majesty.

Hon. Col. Secretary also presented the Public Accounts as classified by the Auditors, for the year ending July 31st, 1868.

Ordered, that said Accounts be referred to the special Committee appointed to examine and report thereon. The said Accounts show that the receipts of the past year were £78,025 18s. 9d., and the expenditure, £79,962 15s. 10d. The total paid for Public Education for the past year was £15,727 10s. 1d.; Road Service, including the salaries of Commissioners, £13,475 8s. 2d.; Military Department, including transport of Troops, £3,763 2s. 2d.; Mail Service, inland and foreign, £6,656 2s. 3d.; Lightships, £2,175 7s. 5d.; Buoys and Beacons, £247 6s. 7d.; Jails, £1,232 3s. 6d.; Crown Prosecutions, &c., £2,205 2s. 1d.; Lunatic Asylum, £1,612 19s.; Public Lands, £1,073 10s. 6d.; Agriculture, £935 17s. 11d.; Impost, Excise and Customs Department, £1,524 16s. 1d.; Legislation, £3,620 7s. 6d.; Public Printing, £1,537 1s. 5d.; Papers, £1,014 10s.; Deputation to England to procure Loan, £332 3s. 1d.; and Elections, £555 5s. 2d. The Impost Accounts show a falling off in Tea of 42,113 lbs. refined Sugar, 27,966 lbs.; Brown Sugar, 2,254 cwt.; Molasses, 23,495 gallons; and Kerosene, 3,196 gallons; and also a decrease in the quantity of Spirits imported, and an increase in Home-manufactured Whiskey.

House adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, March 18.

Mr. P. Sinclair introduced a bill to amend the Act relating to the due observance of the Lord's Day. In explaining the object of the Bill, he (Mr. Sinclair) observed that the Law as it now stood permitted the sale of fresh fish before the hours of nine o'clock, forenoon, and after five o'clock, in the afternoon, on the Sabbath. It was therefore necessary to amend the Act, so as to prevent the selling or vending of fresh fish of any description on the Lord's Day, as provided by the bill then received and read a second time to-morrow.

Hon. Mr. Howland introduced a bill to encourage the settlement and cultivation of the Public Wilderness Lands of the Island. The object of said bill is to facilitate the settlement and cultivation of the Wilderness lands on the Estates purchased by the Government, by selling the same on advantageous terms to persons desirous of settling on said lands. Hon. Mr. Howland in introducing the Bill, explained its provisions, and said that it was desirable to place within the reach of the yeomanry of the country, those lands now lying waste, by offering them on such terms as might be an inducement, and prove advantageous both to the settler and the Government. In many parts of the country, farms of 100 acres of land had been divided and subdivided into small portions, for the purpose of affording means of support, however inadequate, to different members of families. If inducements were held out to parties thus situated, they would sell their small holdings and cultivate new farms; others, in addition to their small holdings, would purchase woodlands, and thereby, not only improve their own condition, but also advance the general interests of the Colony. It was therefore desirable to cause a survey of those wilderness lands, in farms or locations of from 50 to 100 acres each, for the purpose of selling the same to persons desirous of purchasing under the provisions of the bill.

Hon. Mr. Kelly presented a petition from divers inhabitants of Townships Nos. 35, 36, and 37, praying to have the law relating to the Alewives Fishery on the North Shore of the Island, in order to prevent the setting of nets in the lower ponds of Tracadie, to the prejudice and loss of the petitioners.

Received and read, and ordered to be referred to a Committee to examine the same and report thereon.—Hons. Kelly, Howland, Messrs. Reilly, McNeill and McCormack were appointed said Committee.

Hon. Atty. General presented a petition from divers inhabitants of said Townships, setting forth the contrary opinions to those expressed by former petitioners, which said latter petition was also referred to the Committee appointed as above.

House in Committee on the bill to amend the law relating to the salaries payable to the Attorney and Solicitor General. Mr. George Sinclair in the chair. Said bill was then read, clause by clause, and reported agreed to.

On motion of the Hon. Atty. General the bill to amend and explain the Land Purchase Act was read a second time.

Hon. Leader of the Opposition said the bill under consideration effected the interests of all parties purchasing lands under the Land Purchase Act no matter whether they were settlers on Selkirk, Worrell, Cuard, or any other Estate purchased by Government. He did not wish it to be understood that he was opposed to the bill, but that strong arguments could be adduced on both sides of the question, was undeniable. Much might be said as to the construction of that clause in the Land Purchase Act, relating to its self-sustaining principle. Whether each Estate was to be considered in its isolated position, or the whole collectively, with the view of causing loss in one case to be made up by gain on the other, appeared to be one of the principal points, which might be disputed. There were other features in the bill which, no doubt, would call forth a discussion. He would not oppose going into a Committee of the whole on the Bill.

Hon. Leader of the Government said it would be unfair to charge the settlers on Selkirk Estate with losses on other Estates, they had to share in common with others such losses.

Hon. Atty. General.—It was intended that each separate Estate should be self-sustaining, any other construction would be unjust and lead to endless confusion in the working of the bill.

Hon. Leader of the Opposition.—Had the words, "each Estate purchased," been inserted in the 9th clause of the Land Purchase Act, no doubt could have existed on the point.

Hon. Mr. Davies said the original intention of that Act was to adopt the purchase principle in lieu of each estate. The advocates of that measure contemplated making each separate Estate self-sustaining. It would not be fair to make money out of one Estate to pay for another. The report of the Attorney General was clear on that point. The construction put on the Act by the bill under consideration, would, he felt confident, give satisfaction, not only to his constituents, but also to the general public.

Mr. Howland referred to the unfortunate position of those tenants on estates the owners of which refused to sell. He could not see how the Government could close upon the question of the Selkirk Estate until the wilderness lands thereon were sold, and would like to hear further arguments before he would give his vote on the question.

Hon. Mr. Henderson said the best intentions of Legislatures were frequently found to prove unsatisfactory to some; the principle sought to be established should be, as near as possible, self-sustaining. On motion of the Hon. Atty. General, the bill was committed to a Committee of the whole House to-morrow. House adjourned.

THURSDAY, March 19.

Hon. Attorney General moved that the House go into Committee on the Bill to amend the law relating to the rate of interest. He (Hon. Atty. General) said that the principle of the Bill was well known, and required but little explanation. The tendency of the present day was to remove all restrictions from articles of trade and commerce, and no sound reason could be offered in defence of restrictions on money more than on any other commodity.

Hon. Leader of the Opposition supported the principle of the bill, and concurred with the sentiments expressed by the Hon. Atty. General. He could see no just reason why a capitalist should be restricted from making profit on £100 in gold, any more than upon the value of that sum in any other article of trade, such as flour, fish, or any other commodity. He alluded to measures introduced by him some years since, upon the principles of which was based the present bill submitted by the Hon. Atty. General. Because of the restrictive nature of the law of the Colony on the subject, capital was sent to a sister colony, where no such law existed, and to his own personal knowledge, was invested. The spirit of the age was against such restrictive restrictions as that existing on the Statute Books of this Colony on the subject.

Mr. Howland would like to know whether the bill would benefit the borrower, or serve the interest of the lender? It would in his opinion raise the rate of interest generally charged, and would therefore move to go into Committee thereon that day three months.

Hon. Mr. Laird said the principle upon which the bill was based might be sound, but it was too sweeping. The change sought to be effected, should be gradual, and he would therefore suggest the propriety of inserting a clause in the bill, suspending its operations for 12 months from the time of its being passed.

Hon. Mr. Henderson explained the nature of the objections offered to the measure in the Legislative Council when he had the honor of a seat in that branch of the Legislature. His opposition to the measure was then based on the possibility of attempting on the one hand to relieve the people, and on the other hand, throw them into the grasp of the money lender.

Hon. Mr. Kelly remarked upon the reprehensible conduct of those unscrupulous money lenders who charged extravagant rates of interest. The poor man who had to pay 20 per cent. for the use of money to pay for his farm, would soon lose farm and all.

Mr. Prowse agreed with the Hon. Mr. Laird's views on the subject. He also alluded to the high rates charged for registering documents in the public offices, and said that those charges added some two or three per cent. to the amount which farmers had to pay when borrowing money on landed security.

Mr. P. Sinclair said that it appeared that those capitalists who were too scrupulous to exact any higher rate of interest than the law allowed, sent their money to another market for investment. He was therefore of opinion that all restrictions should be abolished.

Mr. McNeill.—The bill was based on the principles of free trade, and he would not, therefore, oppose it. He was however of opinion, and as to it might effect present engagements, it would be better to do any immediate action on the subject.

Hon. Mr. Davies remarked on the general principles of trade in relation to the measure under consideration, and said it was very unjust to restrict capital in money, any more than in any other commodity. Money jobbers on a small scale took advantage of the law, and in the absence of that competition which large capitalists could give, were restricted to exorbitant rates of interest. Mr. Brecken observed that capital was not always legal restrictions, preferred investing in Government securities. Experienced capitalists were not always guided as much by the amount of interest which they could get for the use of their money, as by the character and standing of the borrower. They wished to lend to those whom they considered would be punctual in paying interest and principal, according to contract. The very life blood of the community was affect-

ed by the exorbitant rates at which money was borrowed. There were those, however, and he was happy to say he represented such, that would not take from any man a higher rate than six per cent. interest, on loans. Mr. Cameron could see no injury that could be inflicted on any portion of the community by the bill. Money should be as free from legal restrictions as any article of commerce or trade.

Hon. Mr. Coles agreed with the principles of the bill, but to prevent any trouble or difficulty which might arise from any sudden change in the law, it would be well to guard the interest of all classes by suspending for one year the operations of the bill.

House divided on the motion of amendment, that the bill be read that day three months, as follows: For the amendment—Messrs. Howat, Kichham, McCormack, and Hon. Mr. Kelly.

Against it—Hons. Attorney General, Henderson, Dunan, McAulay, Davies, Colonial Secretary, Howland, Laird, Calbeck, Messrs McLennan, Prowse, Owen, Ramsay, Brecken, Cameron, P. Sinclair, McNeill, G. Sinclair, Arsnauld.—19.

The bill was accordingly committed to a Committee of the whole House. Mr. McNeill in the chair.

Mr. Howat moved that the bill go into operation at the expiration of two years from the date of receiving His Excellency's assent.

After some remarks from several hon. members relative to the question.

Hon. Attorney General said it would be better to insert a definite date, and moved, in amendment, that the bill go into force on the 15th day of April, 1870.

Said amendment was carried, and the bill was then reported agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Henderson presented a petition from inhabitants of Lots 33 and 34, relating to the procuring of Sawweed from the shores below high water mark. He (Mr. Henderson) in explaining the nature and object of the bill, observed that Sawweed and other sea manure was growing more valuable every year, and that, therefore, the interests of agriculture would be materially advanced, were greater facilities afforded the farming portion of the community in securing and collecting Sawweed. The petitioners, he said, complained that persons under whose shore fronts, Sawweed lodged, set up an exclusive right to the same, whether it lodged within or merely opposite and outside their boundaries, and in the exercise of such assumed rights, prevented the parties from collecting and hauling quantities of said manure, and consequently an article of great value was again carried out to sea by the action of the tide, and lost to those anxious to procure it for manuring purposes. He, therefore, urged the prayer of the petition, with the hope that some law would be passed on such basis as would duly respect the just rights of private property, yet, prevent persons assuming rights or claims, the exercise of which, deprived the public of benefits which such persons themselves, could not wholly appropriate to their own use.

The petition was then received and read.

Hon. Leader of the Opposition was of opinion that it would be a difficult matter to legislate on the subject. As the law now stood, the deposits of Sawweed, as left by the tide, was the property of the owner of the land in front of which it was left.

Mr. Howat—the petitioners only claimed the right of taking Sawweed left by the tide below high water mark at ordinary neap tides. Some bounds should be fixed to the extent to which the owners of front farms could claim such Sawweed, or any other article of use to the public.

Hon. Atty. General remarked upon the difficult nature of a question which involved private and public rights, requiring much careful consideration.

Mr. McNeill observed that the question was one of great importance, and becoming increasingly so every day. It was, therefore, absolutely necessary to adopt some means by which the grievance complained of might be remedied.

Mr. Kichham said that persons having large front farms prevented others, not so favourably situated, from taking and using an article which would be of great value to them, and which was thus left on the shore to be washed away by the action of the tide. A monopoly of that kind was very unjust, and some measure should be adopted to abolish it.

Mr. Brecken said the question relative to the rights of owners of shore fronting farms was a very difficult one. He alluded to cases of dispute which came under his own observation, and that had arisen from differences of opinion touching the rights of parties to front farms.

Mr. P. Sinclair remarked that it was a difficult matter to grapple with; yet, it was highly necessary that a law defining the rights and privileges of all parties should be enacted in order to settle the question.

Hon. Mr. Laird was of opinion that any portion of a shore front, which, by actual measurement, had at one time been part of the owner's land, should still be considered the property of such owner, though it might extend a considerable distance beyond high water mark.

Hon. Mr. McAulay observed that ordinary high water mark was taken to be the bounds of the owners of lands fronting on shores. It would be better, however, to refer the petition to a committee.

On motion, it was ordered that said petition be referred to the following committee to report thereon, viz:—Hons. Henderson, Hensley, Messrs Brecken, Sinclair, Cameron.

The Act relating to the salaries of the Attorney and Solicitor General was read a third time and passed.

AFTERNOON.

Hon. Col.