SUMMARY OF NEWS.

The ship Vanguard had arrived at London with a cargo of rice from Madagascar, being the first importation of the kind direct from that Island.

A company has been formed to work the Iron mines of Nova-Scotia, to be called the Acadian Iron Company, with a capital of £200,000, in £5 shares. The mines have been worked for some time by an association, and the quality of their iron and steel, in consequence of its being manufactured with charcoal, is favourably known. Among the directors are persons connected with the trade at Sheffield.

FRANCE.—The article in the Assemblee Nationale touching the defensive work being constructed at Portsmouth, England, has elicited some remark, and is looked upon as an exhibition of French jealousy.

AUSTRIA.—Some additional particulars of the forthcoming Austrian amnesty have transpired. It will, with few exceptions, be unconditional, and be made known immediately individually to those concerned. Those who choose can resume the citizenship at once, and be put in possession of their property; those who choose to return immediately, may return; those who do neither, will be considered dead, and their property will be handed over to their legal heirs.

ASIA.—On the 5th January, six battalions of Russians surprised a battalion of the Turks near Sengdiks.—the latter retired, leaving their guns and baggage. The Russians subsequently burnt the Pacha's palace and several villages.

RUSSIA.—The Emperor's brother, the Grand Duke Nicholas, is married to the Princess of Oldenburg, Alexandrina Petrowna.

THE BALLOT DEFEATED IN NOVA SCOTIA.—A resolution brought forward in the Nova Scotia Assembly on the 26th ult., by Mr. M'Lellan, for the purpose of testing the feeling of the House upon the Ballot system at elections, was rejected, on a division, 23 to 19. Mr. Johnston ex-Attorney General, spoke in favour of the measure, which was opposed by Mr. Tobin, Mr. Wier and other liberals.

MILITARY.—It is stated, that the 36th Regiment, now on service in the West Indies, is ordered to Canada, and will replace the 16th Foot at Quebec. The head quarters of the latter regiment, it is expected, will be transferred to Kingston.—Kingston News.

COMPRESSED FORAGE; EXCELLENT INVENTION.—Mr. Penrose Julyan, an officer in the Commissariat service, has recently introduced a new method of preparing field forage, which besides its advantage in other respects, is likely to prove of much importance in facilitating the mobilisation of the army. He mixes up the hay, bruised oats, and bran or whatever other descriptions of food are considered desirable, in certain proportions, and then subjects the whole mass to so enormous a pressure as to get the ton weight into fifty cubic feet of space. It then becomes so solid, that it can be cut like wood by a circular saw into square blocks of a given size without any trouble. Each block contains half a day's ration for a horse, and not only is an immense economy in freight and land transport effected, but, being at once fit for use, it does away with all the waste and inconvenience attendant on the old system.

NOVA SCOTIA IRON FOR WAR PURPOSES.—A late English Journal says:—An experiment has been tried at the proof but in the royal Arsenal, Woolwich, to test the strength of a six-pounder gun, made entirely of iron from the mines of Nova Scotia. It has been fired with a charge of 2 lb. of pow[illegible]nd cylinders equal to the weight of 12lb. or [illegible]8lb. or three shots; up to 30lb or five [illegible]iment is to test the resisting pro[illegible]or which object it will be tried [illegible] the charge reaches 90lb. of an

[illegible] the festival of the Provin[illegible]on Friday, Sir A. Alison [illegible]on the Redan, an Eng[illegible]diers up to one of the [illegible]an, and most of the [illegible]th which they were [illegible]y a body of Rus[illegible]to be bayonneted, [illegible]Russian officer, [illegible]im a masonic [illegible]the bayonet [illegible]ther to the [illegible]a Mason.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

FRIDAY, February 29.

On the reading of the resolution that £300 be granted and placed at the disposal of the Government, for repairs and painting of the Colonial Building.

Hon. COL. SECRETARY made some remarks in reference to that expenditure, and stated that he thought it was time to take into consideration the railing in of the Colonial Building, and the planting of some trees around it for ornamental purposes. He considered that the railing ought to extend as far as the railing of the Market house in that direction, that building to be removed, and to a similar distance in the opposite direction; he, however, did not propose any measure, rather preferring delay this year, until it was seen what the Corporation of Charlottetown would do in relation to the building of a Market House.

Hon. Mr. WIGHTMAN fully concurred with the remarks of the Hon Colonial Secretary, respecting the propriety of railing in the Colonial Building, and observed that strangers coming from other countries took notice of the exposed condition of that building; but he was not aware that the Revenue of the Colony was sufficiently large to warrant such an undertaking the present year.

A few additional observations were also offered on the subject.

Some conversational discussion arose respecting the proper parties on whose recommendation sums should be granted to the Indians, out of the £40 appropriated for their relief. It was agreed to grant such sums, on the recommendation of the Clergy.

On account of improper expenditure at Light Houses, the Light afforded not being sufficient, some opposition was made to the appropriation of £600 to defray the expences of their maintenance. After some remarks and explanations had been offered, and some statements made respecting the steps which have been taken for obtaining superior Lamps for the Light Houses, the resolution was agreed to.

When a number of other resolutions had been agreed to, the Speaker resumed the Chair, and the Chairman reported that the Committee had agreed to several resolutions, which he was directed to submit to the House whenever it shall be pleased to receive them; he also asked leave to sit again, which was agreed to. It was also agreed to receive the report of the Committee to-morrow.

The Hon. COL. SECRETARY presented to the House the Road Correspondent's account on the expenditure of roads, bridges and wharfs, in the past year; also the report of the Road Commissioner for the Twelfth District of Queen's County, embracing his expenditure in the road service during the past year,—which were laid on the table.

The House adjourned till to-morrow.

SATURDAY, March 1.

The following petitions were presented to the House, and the same were received and read, viz:—

By Mr. Yeo,—From Lauchlan McKinnon, Township 14, praying remuneration for repairing a scow, and also for ferrying the mail carrier semi-weekly.

By Mr. Perry,—From John McIntosh, mail carrier, praying remuneration for his labour and expenses in performing extra trips in the mail service in Prince County.

By Mr. Clark,—From William Chappel, Bay Verte, praying a grant to aid him in running a sailing packet between that port and Charlottetown.

By Mr. Macgill,—From divers householders of Townships 23 and 29, praying relief from the land assessment imposed in the Free Education Act; also, from divers inhabitants of Township 30, in relation to that Township, as, in their opinion, a large portion of it does not belong to Mr. Stewart, and praying the consideration of the House.

By Mr. Clark,—From John McGregor and others, Township 16; from divers inhabitants of Townships 17 and 15; also, from divers inhabitants of Townships 18 and 20.

By Mr. Douse, from divers inhabitants of Townships 48 and 49.

By Hon. Mr. Mooney,—From divers inhabitants of Township 37.

The six last petitions were praying aid to improve roads.

The eleven preceding petitions were laid on the table.

Mr Clark presented to the House a petition of divers inhabitants of Summerside, praying for an enactment to prevent the running at large of swine; also, a petition of divers inhabitants of St. Eleanor's, praying for a similar measure. He then moved that a special Committee be appointed to examine the same, and report thereon by Bill or otherwise. The following Committee was appointed:—Hon Mr. Longworth, Messrs. Clark, Perry, Yeo and Dingwell, and the petitions were referred to it.

Mr. Douse presented to the House a petition of divers inhabitants of the Southern District of Queen's County, praying for the transmission of the mails, semi-weekly, to their respective districts. The petition was referred to the Post Office Committee. He also presented to the House a petition of divers inhabitants of Village Green, Township 49, and Monaghan Settlement, praying for a grant to open a road. The petition was referred to the proper Committee.

Hon. Col. SECRETARY presented to the House a Bill to facilitate the performance of the duties of Justices of the Peace, with respect to summary convictions and orders. The Bill was read a first time, and ordered to be read a second time on Monday next.

Hon. Col. TREASURER, from the Committee appointed to prepare and bring in a Bill to consolidate and amend the several Acts regulating the sale by license of spirituous and other liquors, presented to the House a Bill, as prepared by the Committee; and the same was read the first time, and ordered to be read a second time on Monday next.

House went into Committee of Supply.

SALARY OF SCHOOL VISITOR.

Hon. Mr. MONTGOMERY objected to one or two items contained in the preceding report; one of these was the salary of the School Visitor. In consequence of the Royal Agricultural Society having dispensed with the services of that gentleman as as a Lecturer on Agricultural Chemistry, and because the Free Education Act provided only £200 for his services as School Visitor, for these reasons he moved that his salary be reduced from £300 to £200.

Hon. Col. TREASURER remarked, that when Mr. Stark was engaged by Government as a School Visitor, £300 was the stipulated salary, and in addition to visiting the schools of the Island, he was required to lecture on Agricultural Chemistry; but now, on account of the increase of the schools, it was impossible for that gentleman to deliver those lectures, and likewise visit the schools twice a year, a duty which no individual, however active, could possibly perform. Since Mr. Stark had been induced to come to the Island, in the expectation of receiving a salary of £300 a year, it would be quite unfair to withhold a part of that sum, and he (Hon. Col. Treasurer) would object to the proposed reduction. He also alluded to the prices of provisions as being now much higher than they were lately, and for that reason regarded it impossible for any person to travel throughout the country and maintain himself on a small salary.

Mr. MCDONALD had certainly considered that by dispensing with the lectures on Agricultural Chemistry, the House would have effected a saving of £100 a year for the Colony. If that sum had been expended in the purchase and distribution of books on Agricultural Chemistry, he thought it would have effected much more benefit than had been accomplished by the lectures which had been delivered on that subject. He regarded £200 as a sufficient salary for Mr. Stark.

Mr. MCINTOSH believed that when it was thought necessary to engage the services of a School Visitor, £200 was considered a sufficient salary for the person filling that situation, but that if the services of a gentleman could be obtained, who was qualified to lecture on Agricultural Chemistry, the Royal Agricultural Society would grant him £100, in consideration of his services as a lecturer on that subject. After the arrival of Mr. Stark in the Island, the schools had increased so much that it would be impossible for him to perform all the duties expected of him, and last year the House considered it prudent to release him of a part of his duties as Visitor of Schools, still requiring him to continue the lectures. But since he had neither visited the schools twice a year, nor delivered the lectures as was proposed, he (Mr. McIntosh) was now disposed to lower his salary £100. He also thought that if £100 were appropriated in obtaining books on Agricultural Chemistry it would be beneficial to the country.

Hon. Mr. WIGHTMAN did not doubt but that Mr. Stark would have continued his lectures on Agricultural Chemistry had not the additional labour in visiting schools been required. But when there were 268 schools in operation, more than double the number that was at the time when he arrived in the Colony, what time had that gentleman either to prepare agricultural lectures or to deliver them! Allowing him one day to visit each school, his whole time would be consumed in travelling throughout the country. He supposed that if the number of schools had not increased Mr. Stark would have performed all the duties which had been expected of him. He believed that popular opinion was against that gentleman, yet he (Hon. Mr. W.) was not aware that he was incapable of filling the situation of School Visitor. In consideration of the expenses which he must necessarily incur in providing a horse and other requisites in travelling, the hon. member was of opinion that £300 was not too high a salary; and he did not regard it as an improper course for the House to appropriate £100 less than formerly to the Royal Agricultural Society, and augment the salary of the School Visitor with it.

Mr. COOPER said that if the schools had increased twofold, Mr. Stark was now required to visit them only once a year; but there was an extra duty, namely lecturing on Agricultural chemistry, for which, as he did not now deliver those Lectures, he might be said to be paid without rendering any equivalent. It was also said that the prices were now higher than they were when he arrived in the colony, but still £200 was the sum engaged to be paid him for his services, as School Visitor; to make a reduction of £100 in his salary might affect him injuriously, yet such a course was quite in accordance with his agreement.

Hon. Col. SECRETARY explained that Government had not restricted Mr. Stark to any particular number of visits to the Schools, during the year, but had allowed him to visit as many as he could, requiring him the following year to begin at the place which he had previously reached; but the number of schools had increased very much, and the duty of visiting them once a year, would nearly occupy all his time. He (Hon. Col. Secy.) was well aware that when the proposal of obtaining a School Visitor, was first made, the additional £100 was offered with the view of obtaining a competent person to fill that situation. If the number of Schools had increased, the house ought to be gratified at that circumstance, and should not reduce the salary of the Visitor, to the extent of £100, during the last year of his engagement; should Government require him to continue the lectures on agricultural chemistry, he undoubtedly would again engage in their delivery. During the two past years, the sum of £500 had been appropriated to the Royal Agricultural Society, and only £200 to the School Visitor, an additional £100 to be paid out of the grant to the Royal Agricultural Society, but this year the Government considered it most advisable to grant £300 for the services of the School Visitor, and only £400 to the Agricultural Society.

Mr. MCINTOSH replied that the grant was not justifiable, for if the number of schools had increased, Mr. Stark visited them only once in the course of a year, and the country was neither benefited to the extent contemplated, by the visitation of schools, nor by the delivery of agricultural lectures. He highly respected Mr. Stark, but since that gentleman had undertaken the duties of School Visitor, knowing that changes might possibly occur in the circumstances of the colony, he was only in a similar condition with other parties entering into agreements, and he (Mr. M.) did not think that the House were under any obligation to augment his salary.