

Hon. Mr. HENDERSON.—In regard to adopted children, the person who takes care of them may be very poor, but the question arises as persons justifiable in taking charge of children if they cannot support them.

Hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL.—I think the proper way would be to make the person with whom the child resides, responsible for the amount which is required for fuel and books. I think furniture should be put in the same list as the building of school houses, as it is a permanent thing, and may last for years.

Hon. Mr. LAIRD.—Schools should be provided with better seats for the constitutions of children are injured by being forced to sit for a length of time on seats without backs, the stooping posture in which they are obliged to sit is often the cause of consumption. If we get better seats they will cost more than the common ones, and this is one reason why all the householders should be assessed to pay for them.

Mr. ARSENAULT.—I think it would be well for the Board of Education to draw out a plan for the building of new schoolhouses, and in many places, the people do not understand how to build a convenient one. I think there is a necessity for a better style of schoolhouse, than most of those we have at present. I would not make it compulsory on any district to adopt the plan laid out by the Board, but to those who choose to avail themselves of it, it might be beneficial.

After some further remarks from several hon. members, on motion of hon. Attorney General, the clause was altered so that books, fuel and things required for every day use should be paid for by those having children, and the expense of furniture, repairs, &c., be borne by all the householders in a district, and the clause was amended as agreed to.

The clause relating to voluntary subscriptions for teachers was read.

Mr. ARSENAULT.—According to that clause, as I understand it, only those who agree to pay anything to a teacher can be compelled to do so. I think that if the inhabitants of a district wish to secure the services of a good teacher, if two-thirds of them are willing to pay him a certain amount, the rest should be compelled to pay an equitable share.

Hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL.—That would be going back to the old system. The Teachers are now paid wholly out of the Treasury, but any wealthy persons who wish to get a teacher of high attainments are allowed to subscribe any amount they may think proper towards his salary, and this clause points out how this may be recovered, but the poorer people cannot be assessed for anything.

Mr. ARSENAULT.—It is very often those who are best able to pay who are least willing, and I think it is hard when two-thirds are willing to pay, that they should lose the services of a good teacher because the other one-third are unwilling to pay anything. I do not wish to make it compulsory on the people to subscribe any amount only when two-thirds of them agree to do so.

Hon. Mr. CALLECK.—That would be making it compulsory on the part of the one-third who were opposed to paying anything. I do not think there is anything in the Act to prevent the people from supplementing a teachers salary, if they wish to get a gentleman of higher than ordinary attainments.

Clause agreed to.

The clause relating to the appointment of Trustees was read.

Mr. PROWSE.—I think it would be well to have something inserted in that clause to make it compulsory on persons to act as Trustees, for in some districts it is very hard to get persons to serve.

Hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL.—This clause will give the Board of Education power to call a new election of trustees if those appointed refuse to act. Many feel themselves incapable of performing the duties of a Trustee properly, and I do not think the cause of Education would be forwarded by having unwilling trustees. If such a law was passed we would have to provide machinery to punish refractory trustees, we would have to inflict fines and penalties. It is impossible to make an Act that will meet every case.

Hon. Mr. LAIRD.—I think it was when the fifteen pounds of the teachers salary had to be made up by the people, that persons were so averse to taking the office of trustee, but now I think there will not be such objections. I think it would be much better to get men to act without compelling them to do so.

Hon. Mr. HENDERSON.—The old proverb applies here that one volunteer is as good as a great many pressed men. We will find that the cause of Education will progress in proportion to the interest which influential men take in it.

Mr. MCNEILL.—I quite agree with the hon. member from Murray Harbor (Mr. Prowse) that there has been a difficulty in getting persons to serve as trustees, not only when a part of the teachers salary had to be raised by assessment, but when the whole of it was paid out of the Treasury, but I do not think it would be advisable to compel them to do so, for if persons were forced to take the office against their will, I think the people would be glad when their term expired.

Mr. BELL.—Every inhabitant of a district should consider it his duty and privilege to act as a school trustee, but if men are found who are unwilling to act some pressure should be brought to bear to compel them to do so. I think it would be a good idea to impose a small fine on every person who would refuse to serve as a trustee.

Mr. PROWSE.—I think if persons were threatened with a fine in case of refusal to act they would take the office as a matter of course.

Mr. P. SINCLAIR.—I think it would be as well to leave this matter as it is, for if you make it compulsory on persons to act as school trustees, you will have to impose fines and penalties, which will be attended with considerable trouble. You will find in all school districts some men whom it is no use to appoint trustees. It is better to have every thing work harmoniously.

Clause agreed to.

BALDERSTON, Reporter.

The Committee then rose, the Chairman reported progress and asked for leave to sit again. Mr. Speaker in the Chair.

Hon. Mr. Hensley presented a Bill for raising a Revenue, which was read a first time and ordered to be read a second time to-morrow.

Hon. LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT.—It is with feelings of deep regret that I have to announce to this House the sad news reported by telegraph, that the Hon. T. D'Arcy McGee was assassinated at Ottawa, on the morning of the 7th instant. There are few hon. members present who have not seen him, and those who have not, have heard of his patriotic movements in Canada, before the Provinces were united, and from all they know, they must feel as I do, a deep regret that so worthy a man should be assassinated by his fellow-man. I do not intend to enter into a long display of words upon this occasion, but I admired the man who was a co-delegate at the late Conference on Confederation, and who always showed a feeling to do justice to the Lower Provinces, as well as to his adopted country. I can bear willing testimony to the love of justice and fair play which actuated the noble heart and able mind of this distinguished statesman and orator. I have always held him in high esteem, and nothing has given me a greater shake than to hear that this worthy and noble man has been assassinated for speaking the truth, and uttering the sentiments of his mind. All hon. members present must feel that an assassin could deprive them of life, and might do so if they merely speak the simple truth, and therefore it behooves all public men to deprecate this atrocious act. Having had the honor of an acquaintance with Mrs. McGee, I deeply sympathize, as I believe the whole House does with her in her bereavement. It is with a deep feeling of sorrow that I move the following:—

The assassination of the Hon. T. D'Arcy McGee, of the Dominion of Canada, having been reported by telegraph.

Resolved, That this House regards with horror and detestation the atrocious and blood-thirsty act; that it sympathizes with the bereaved widow and orphans, and sincerely regrets that the Dominion Government should have lost such an able and patriotic statesman.

This, I believe, expresses the sentiments of this hon. House.

Hon. LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION.—As the Leader of the Opposition, I have the painful satisfaction of seconding the resolution which has just been moved by the hon. Leader of the Government on the death of the Hon. T. D'Arcy McGee. I had the pleasure of his acquaintance in 1864 while attending the Quebec Conference, and from what I saw of him then, both in public and private, I came to the conclusion, Sir, that he was one of the

greatest men of which British North America could boast. I have never altered the conclusion I then came to, and day by day, and year by year, subsequently, I have been more convinced than ever, that he was a bright and shining light. As a public man in British America, and one who had at heart the welfare and prosperity of all the inhabitants of these Provinces, he stood in the front ranks, and I am certain, however hon. members in this House may differ with him as regards the means of carrying out his great object, yet he must all be convinced that he had no selfish purpose to serve in it, and that the Union of British America; because, if he would have made himself popular for the moment, he had large constituencies and could speak with greater weight upon that topic than any other man, because in his early days, before his judgment was matured, he was tinged strongly with republican principles, and firmly believed that the republican country could never prosper unless under the republican system of government. When that unfortunate crisis arrived, in his native country in 1848, he took up his abode in the United States, believing that he could there enjoy greater liberty than under the flag of England; but he did not remain there many years before he saw that what at first seemed to him very beautiful and fair was far from sound and correct in principle. He crossed the line and found the people of Canada enjoying more real liberty than their neighbors in the United States. After experiencing the various forms of oligarchy, he came to the conclusion in his matured judgment, that there was more liberty as regards action and the rights of conscience under a constitutional monarchy, than could be enjoyed under a republican government. From that time to the day of his sudden and cruel death, he devoted himself to the cause of his country, and after leaving the Legislative Hall of the Dominion on the morning of the 7th instant, having just delivered a very able speech, he was sent to eternity by the shots of an assassin, without a moment's warning. He is not the first statesman who has fallen in this manner; a Prime Minister of England was sent into eternity in the same way within the present century, and again the late President of the United States fell also by the brutal assassin's hand. We cannot find words, for the tongue refuses to perform its functions, when we contemplate the fearful end of the great Canadian statesman. A great and noble man has fallen in the zenith of his political power; and, therefore, I am sure there will not be a dissentient voice to the resolution. In meditating upon the sad death of this true patriot, we are reminded of the language of the poet Longfellow, when he said:—

"The lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time."

The resolution was here again read at the Clerk's table.

Hon. Mr. McCAULAY.—There is no individual, Sir, in whose breast the tender feeling of humanity exists, but who has formed a favorable opinion of the hon. gentleman whose career has been so suddenly cut short in the midst of youth. Although he died in the prime of his life, when young, experience calmed him down, and he repented in maturer years. I am not aware that a greater man exists in these Colonies; although I have never seen his person, I have read his writings and his speeches with profound admiration. When we think of his patriotism, his love of constitutional liberty and his superior attainments, we must, under these circumstances, conclude that the world has lost a great man. We have lost a traitor to "a great man who has fallen in Israel." We must deeply regret that any community should shelter in its bosom a person capable of perpetrating such an atrocious crime, and must sincerely hope that he will be brought to justice.

Hon. Mr. HOWLAND.—I am sorry that we should be called upon to pass a resolution of this kind. When we see a man of such a stamp as the Hon. T. D'Arcy McGee, who had one of the noblest and most cultivated minds the world has ever seen, and the largest heart that has ever throbbled in sympathy with his fellow creatures, cut down in the prime of life, the least is made sore at the thought that any man could launch such a noble soul into eternity. This great and honorable man occupied a position and earned a name in his adopted country which cannot be forgotten; and though he erred in his early days, there was an ample excuse for him when we take into consideration the views and prevailing opinions which actuated his native country at the time. His experience afterwards taught him the folly of the course which he had pursued, and he took the side of justice and true liberty; while little minds would have followed on in their foolish course, and would have carried the errors of youth into middle age, he saw the right path and walked in it. While smaller minds would have taken credit to themselves if they had acted as he did in 1848, in his adopted country, he was not the man to do so. He thought that he had thrown away his early days, that he had some recompense to make, and that he could do it better in the new country than in the old one. He might have occupied an enviable position in the United States, but he thought that in this new country he could be of some use; that his soul would find some rest, and that he would yet be able to make some recompense to his native land, his America and to the Mother Country for the errors of his youth. I have never seen him, nor do I agree with him on the great question of Confederation; but in view of the events which are now taking place, every British subject in America must feel that we have lost one of the greatest minds that have ever been amongst us. I believe that as a poet he was unequalled in these Colonies, and I hoped that in his old age he would be rested from his political labors, and settled down in some quiet retreat with his mind richly stored; and thus to have an opportunity of adding considerably to our British American literature. He might have written a history of the events which have lately taken place in these Colonies. I trust that the Dominion of Canada, to which he has given the best years of his valuable life, will not forget his family; they should not be forgotten in the annals of a world-wide fame. His name and his eloquence have resounded throughout all the Lower Provinces, and when we hear all tongues full of his praise for his generosity, patriotism, ability and attainments, I think we can only come to the one conclusion, that British America and British interests have lost one of the greatest friends they have ever had in these Provinces.

Hon. Mr. HENDERSON.—If an individual in the most obscure position in the land were hurried into eternity in the same manner as the Hon. T. D'Arcy McGee has been, I believe that every member in this House would at once, with a natural impulse, express their indignation and abhorrence at the unnatural and cruel act. But how much we value the assassination of a man whose life has been so devoted to the people of British America, and who was so remarkable for his patriotism and his attainments. It is a lamentable fact that these tardy acts have not been frequent of late, for it is no longer since the President of the neighboring Republic was cut down, and now the Hon. T. D'Arcy McGee is the victim. I have not been so well acquainted with the latter gentleman as the hon. Leader of the Government and the hon. Leader of the Opposition were, but I know him by his speeches, his writings and his actions; and if ever there was a statesman for whom I had respect, it was for the Hon. Mr. McGee. I recollect the part he took in the troubles of 1848, as well as his subsequent change of opinion on these events; and I have admired the path which he has taken since that time. He went into a country where there was a different form of government and judged its merits for himself; he afterwards returned to that country to which his allegiance was first given. In spite of the opinion of those who had declared openly that there was no form of government to be compared with a limited monarchy, such as that of Great Britain, and that no government afforded such freedom to its subjects or citizens. His country was justly proud of his talents, and indeed the whole United Kingdom was proud of him as an orator, and as one who threw himself into the patriotic movement with heart and soul. The atrocious crime which has been perpetrated, has deprived the country to which he belongs of an able statesman, and there must be to him a feeling of detestation and horror at the blood-thirsty act. I am glad to hear that this resolution will not only be communicated to the Speaker of the Dominion Parliament, but to the poor widow, though it will be but a small tribute.

Mr. BRIDGES.—I have a sort of melancholy gratification in hearing the hon. Leader of the Government move this resolution. It is but a tribute of respect due to the memory of that great man who has lately been removed from life by the ruthless hand of the assassin. From what little I have heard and read of his career, I believe that he was one of the most valuable men that Her Majesty had on this side of the Atlantic. He was a gentleman remarkable for his great talents, large soul and high attainments; and as a statesman he was eminently successful in carrying out his designs, the first of which was the union of the North American Provinces. D'Arcy McGee was a literary man of the first order, and his abilities as a journalist, as well as the able articles he wrote, attracted the notice of the great Daniel O'Connell, the famous Irish agitator. We know that he had in his youth no love nor admiration for the institutions of our mother country, as he had in his later days, but having worked out the political problem on the subject of our institutions, his unflinching integrity, and the cause of these principles which he then adopted, rendered him one of the most useful men in British North America.

No man has done more for his country than D'Arcy McGee, and no man was more beloved by his countrymen than he. No man has been more deservedly popular in Canada for his unflinching labors in behalf of the cause of constitutional liberty, and the welfare and prosperity of his adopted country. In the prime of life he has been sent to his long home through the malice of his cruel enemies, for opposing all which would retard his country's progress, and for advancing its true interests. He has left a widow and children behind him, but they will not be allowed to remain unprotected. In his efforts to be a good citizen, he was true to his duty, and he will be remembered as a patriot, integrity, and true patriotism, characterized by fairness. I can imagine the desolation that will not only weigh down his own family, but his political friends, as well as all whose hearts were full of hope for the future progress and prosperity of the New Dominion. I am glad that this small tribute has been awarded to his memory by this hon. House.

Hon. Mr. HENDERSON.—I believe, Sir, that no hon. member of this House can approach this subject without feelings of deep emotion—at least I cannot. I had not the honor nor the pleasure of being personally acquainted with the departed, whose melancholy end has been the subject of discussion, but I have carefully perused his speeches and pamphlets. I speak from my heart, and express it as my honest conviction, that what that gentleman was in his youth he was to the last day of his life—a sincere patriot. What I mean to say is, that what he believed to be his duty, he did with transparent honesty and purity of motive. When he walked in the path which he afterwards found to be not that of Wisdom, he gave the clearest proofs that he acted from unselfish motives, and when he saw his error, he made ample reparation for all his former mistakes. He reviewed his past conduct, which is certainly the best of teachers, and gave utterance to what he believed to be his duty. We must cheerfully admit that what he believed to be his duty he pursued, whether that course was under the frowns or the smiles of his fellow-countrymen; and although they sometimes thought he was in error and opposed to them, he was at all times their true friend and protector; this is the conviction of my mind. And now under present circumstances, I cannot but sympathize deeply with all that has been expressed by hon. members in regard to that gentleman. He, from the depths of his warm and noble heart, gave utterance to beautiful and patriotic language, when he apprehended no danger from speaking freely in the House of the Dominion Parliament, but on his way home he fell by the hand of the treacherous assassin. I can fancy to myself that if Mr. McGee's late prototype were in this House to-day, he would deliver a speech upon this sad event, equal in power and effect to the noble speech which he delivered on the patriotic fund, for his large and warm heart was warm to sympathize in cases of this kind. If the Hon. T. D'Arcy McGee had fallen in the Crimea, while advancing in the great charge near Balaklava, my mind would be possessed of very different feelings from what it is to-day, for then he would have died as a noble warrior, by the hand of a brutal assassin. All high-minded and far-seeing statesmen will agree with me that he died in the cause of liberty, as well as those who fell in the Crimea, while doing battle for their country. I certainly concur with every sentiment of regard and sympathy, that has been expressed by the hon. members who have preceded me in their remarks for the relatives and friends of the mourning widow, and her family, Prince Edward Island will not be behindhand in their sympathy, for it should be deemed a duty to support the bereaved family.

Hon. Kelly, Davies, Laird, and Calbeck; and Messrs. Reilly, McNeill, and Bell, then severally expressed their approval of the sentiments conveyed in the resolution before the House, and their deep and unfeigned sympathy with the lamentable death of the distinguished statesman.

The resolution was then unanimously agreed to.

Hon. LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT.—Mr. Speaker, I wish this resolution to be sent to the widow, as well as to the Speaker of the Dominion Parliament, through your hands.

This motion was also carried.

House adjourned.

I OXENHAM, Reporter.

Tuesday, April 14

House in Committee on the Pauper Grant.

Mr. Bell in the Chair.

Several resolutions were passed and reported agreed to, when the House resolved itself into a Committee for the further consideration of the Bill relating to

EDUCATION.

Mr. G. Sinclair in the Chair.

When the clause relating to New School Houses was read.

Hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL said: By the law, as now proposed, the Trustees of a School District can build a School House larger than the law specifies, whereas, under the old law, it is doubtful if this could be done; and if suits had arisen to enforce payment for assessments so small, perhaps such actions could not have been sustained.

A short desultory discussion took place on some minor parts of the Bill, which was interrupted by messages from the Legislative Council, one of which asked for a conference, at the termination of which the House adjourned until the afternoon.

House adjourned for one hour.

R. GORDON, Reporter.

Afternoon Session.

Hon. Mr. HENDERSON.—Mr. Speaker, in accordance with the notice I placed in the Order Book, I now ask the Government what action they intend to take, relative to the petitions praying for the opening of a new road from St. Mary's Road, Lot 61, to Burnt Point Bridge, Lot 63.

Hon. LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT.—The Government have not determined upon any course of action, relative to the petitions alluded to.

Hon. Mr. HENDERSON.—That being the case, Mr. Speaker, I feel constrained to bring two facts to the notice of the House, in connection with this question. One is that the plan drawn out by the Surveyor General, comprehending and tracing the different lines of new roads petitioned for, had that portion of it which embraced the line which I am now enquiring about, cut out; and the second fact is, that separate plans of the part drawn out were placed in the hands of certain hon. members, who were personally unacquainted with the locality in question, or the condition of the people living in it. Now, Sir, I do not believe that the Government, as such, had recourse to means like these; but, I have reason to believe that parties who have not the people's interests, but their own selfish ends in view, have been unduly meddling with this question. I know that there are a few individuals at Montague Bridge who are eagerly pressing for a long central line of road, which might be begun, but would not be completed without very extraordinary grants for twenty years to come. On the other hand, there is a portion of the road, so earnestly petitioned for, already opened from the Sturgeon to the St. Mary's Road, and the remaining portion of it could be opened at a very reasonable rate, and when opened could be easily kept in repair. I therefore now give notice that I will, to-morrow, move for a special committee to report on the aforesaid petitions.

Mr. YEO.—Mr. Speaker, some time ago there was a petition laid before this House, respecting a Wharf at West Point. I now move that there be a Committee appointed to report on this petition.

Ordered that Messrs. Yeo, Prowse, and Bell do compose said Committee.

On motion of Hon. Attorney General the House resolved itself into a Committee of the whole on the further consideration of the Bill relating to Education.

Mr. G. Sinclair in the Chair.

Hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL.—A remark was made this morning in reference to the very inadequate accommodation afforded by the School Houses in this City, and I believe this is the fault of the Trustees, who do not take sufficient interest in the School, to see that they are kept in proper repair. As I was coming towards the City, not long since, I observed two little boys walking along, and was particularly struck with the remark one of them made to his companion. He said, we had better make haste or we will not have the water bailed out of the school house before school time. On speaking to them, I found it was quite common for them to be obliged to bail out the water which had flowed over the floor of the school room. This is a strange state for our School Houses to be in, especially at a season of the year when it is very dangerous to the health of the children. I intend to move a clause, in which it is made incumbent on the members of the Board of Education to inspect the Schools.

town; and, in case they shall find the accommodation to be insufficient, they shall have power to order the school to be removed to some other building. I also intend to move an amendment that the Board have power to raise the quarterly fees as high as five shillings, if required.

The Amendments were submitted, and the clause, as amended, agreed to.

Several more clauses were read and agreed to.

The Committee rose and reported progress.

A message was received from the Legislative Council, desiring a conference on the Bill to amend the Incorporation Act of Charlottetown.

House again in Committee to resume the consideration of the Education Bill.

Several clauses were agreed to.

BALDERSTON, Reporter.

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

The Chairman reported progress and asked for leave to sit again, which the House agreed to.

A message was received from the Legislative Council, through their Clerk, desiring a further conference with the House of Assembly, on the Bill to amend the Charlottetown Incorporation Act.

This was agreed to, and the same Committee who managed the former Conference were appointed to manage this one.

House again in Committee of the whole on the Education Bill.

Mr. G. Sinclair in the Chair.

The clause in the Bill allowing these Teachers who instruct a class of ten pupils in the French language, the sum of £5 from the Treasury and £5 from the Trustees of a School District, was read and agreed to.

A clause exempting all Clergymen and School District Teachers from taxation for building new School Houses, repairs, &c., was read.

Hon. LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION.—I do not object to the exemption of all clergymen who are actually in charge of a congregation, but there are examples of clergymen who have given up the spiritual calling, and who are living upon their property, who should not be exempted more than any other class. When a clergyman has given up his calling, he should pay this tax as well as others.

Hon. Mr. CALLECK.—Would it not be right to exempt a clergyman who is superannuated, and not able to attend to a pastor's duties?

Hon. Mr. HENLEY moved that the words "having charge of a congregation" be inserted after the word "Minister," in this clause.

This motion was carried and the clause was then agreed to.

The clause relating to the area of Grammar and other School Houses, was then read.

Mr. McLENNAN.—When there are to be only two or three Grammar Schools in each County, in what localities are they to be situated? If it is a good thing to have three of such schools, it would be better to have more of them. It would be better to have a good teacher, although some of the children go a little further to school than usual.

Hon. LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT.—All teachers who are qualified, and who teach Greek and Latin, shall have the full allowance for teachers of their class.

Mr. P. SINCLAIR moved that the blank be filled up with the words "six hundred square feet."

This motion was carried, and the clause was then agreed to.

The Speaker then took the Chair; the Chairman reported progress, and asked for leave to sit again.

The House then went into Committee of the whole on the second reading of the Bill for raising a Revenue.

Mr. Bell in the Chair.

The first and second clauses were read and agreed to.

I OXENHAM, Reporter.

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair; progress was reported, and leave granted to sit again.

House then resolved itself into a Committee of the whole on the further consideration of the Pauper Grant.

Mr. Bell in the Chair.

Several Resolutions were agreed to, when,

On motion of the hon. Leader of the Government Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair; these were reported agreed to, and leave granted to sit again.

House then went into the further consideration of the Alewives Fishery Bill.

Mr. Reilly in the Chair.

And having spent some time in its consideration, Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair, the Bill reported agreed to, and ordered to be engrossed.

House adjourned until ten o'clock to-morrow.

R. GORDON, Reporter.

Wednesday, April 15

Hon. LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION.—I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, to be obliged once more to criticize the official Reports of this House. We have official Reporters, two of whom are license school teachers, but I cannot congratulate them on their knowledge of the construction of the English language, if what has appeared in the last issue of the *Examiner* newspaper is to be taken as a specimen. I consider that it is more important that the Reports should be correct in the public press than in our little Parliamentary Reporter, for the latter will be laid up in the archives of the Colony, but the former will go to different parts of the world, even to the Reading Room of the Dominion Parliament, where the most talented men of the Colonies are congregated together; but when they look at these Reports they will come to the conclusion that we are ignorant. In one part of the Report the word she is used instead of they. We would suppose that the Reporters came from Devonshire, for there they call everything she, except a tom cat. There are several other errors; hon. members are reported to have made statements to which they never gave utterance.

Hon. Mr. HOWLAND.—It appears, Mr. Speaker, that the Reporters of the Opposition are in the same predicament as the official Reporters—guilty of misrepresenting hon. members. I have on my desk no less a paper than the *Patriot*, in which the hon. member from St. Peter's (Mr. McCormack) is represented as saying that the people in the district which he represents were in a disolvent condition, and the fact that the word disolvent is italicized shows that it was not done through inadvertence, but purposely, with the intention of bringing the hon. member into ridicule. In other parts of the same paper we find a summary of the proceedings of this House interspersed with editorial comments, in which hon. member's views are ridiculed. The editor of the *Patriot* obtained leave to bring a desk into this House for the purpose of reporting for his paper, and I think he has taken an unfair advantage of his position.

Hon. LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION.—We have nothing to do with the *Patriot* Reporters; it is the official Reporters who are paid with the people's money, of whom I complain.

Hon. LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT.—Mr. Speaker, I would recommend the Reporters to be a little more cautious for the future; as these Reports are to be preserved for future reference, it is important that they should be as free from errors as possible. The Reporters, however, complain that these Reports were printed in the *Examiner* before the proof sheets were corrected. I must certainly condemn the course pursued by the editor of the *Patriot*, for, as he obtained leave to bring a desk into this House, some responsibility attaches to him.

Hon. Mr. DAVIES.—Mr. Speaker, it is quite right for the hon. Leader of the Opposition to bring before your notice any error or irregularities in the Reports of the Debates of this House. It has been stated that in one place the word she was used instead of they. Now it will be easily seen that this is merely a typographical error, as no person of common sense would make such a mistake. These Reporters have a great deal to contend with. They have not only the Opposition, but the Reporters who were displaced to make way for them. It is, no doubt, going to some pains that young men from the country should be taken in preference to those in Charlottetown, who consider it their birthright to monopolize all the offices. Although the Reporters have made some mistakes, yet they have given the sense of what has been said, and they cannot be accused of being *ex parte* Reporters, for it is evident they have been careful with the speeches of members of the Opposition as those of the Government. In regard to the editor of the *Patriot*, I may say he is at liberty to write what he pleases about me, but I hope that hon. gentlemen who delight in making sport of members of this House, will yet have a seat before themselves, so that they may have their turn in being subjected to criticism.

Several other hon. members expressed their opinions on the subject, and some of them protested against these Reports being kept as the records of what had been done in the House.

On motion of the hon. Attorney General, the House went into Committee on the further consideration of the Bill to be entitled an Act for raising a Revenue.

Mr. Bell in the Chair.

After a short time the Committee rose and reported the Bill agreed to with certain amendments.

Ordered to be engrossed.

Mr. Yeo, as Chairman of the Committee to whom was referred the petition of Arthur Ramsey and others, respecting a wharf at West Point, presented the Report of said Committee.

Received and read.

Mr. Yeo moved that the Report be adopted.

Hon. LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT.—The hon. member must be aware that no money is voted for the purpose of building the said wharf. There was a contract entered into by the late Government with certain parties to build a wharf at that place. They commenced the work, but last year a considerable portion of what they built was washed away. The securities thought it hard that the penalties should be demanded, and they made an offer which the Government felt inclined to accept; but, unfortunately, just as they were about entering into a contract, news reached us that the remainder of the work was carried away. The people of that locality have expressed a wish that the wharf should be commenced as the shore, and built out as far as the rest of the money voted for it would pay for, but I think it would be throwing away public money to attempt to build a wharf in that place. I believe it would cost several thousand pounds to build a wharf there of the right description, and during the prevalence of certain winds, it would be impossible for a vessel to lie at the wharf; in fact, it is so bad that people could not work at the wharf at certain times. No doubt a wharf would be a great advantage to the people of that locality, but it will be a question for the Government to consider whether the money which it would cost might not be expended in something else that would be more beneficial.

Mr. Yeo.—The Committee, in drawing up the Report, did so in such a way as to leave it open to the Government to take what course they thought proper. It may seem hard to make the securities pay the penalty in this case, but I think it is much harder to deprive the people of that place of a wharf which they so much require, when they have been content to let their roads remain in a poor state in order that they might get money to erect it. The part that was built remained all summer exposed to the winds, but it was not disturbed until this winter, when the ice was made around it and lifted it clear of the ballast altogether. With regard to its cost, Mr. Boyd, the Civil Engineer, examined the place, and, according to his opinion, it could be built for nine hundred pounds.

Hon. LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT.—That was in addition to the amount already granted.

Mr. Yeo.—The people of that district subscribed a large amount towards the building of the wharf, and it is a hardship for them to have to lose their money on account of the carelessness of the contractor. The people of that place have to travel a great distance to a shipping place, and this, I think, should be taken into consideration.

Hon. Mr. HOWLAND.—I may state, Mr. Speaker, that I accompanied the engineer, Mr. Boyd, when he went to examine the place recommended for the said wharf, and he spoke very highly of the work, but thought it would be a very expensive undertaking. It was built on a very bad principle—like a tub without a bottom. My own opinion is, that if a wharf is built in the same place, it will be carried away again next year. The way it was carried away was like the ice was forced to one side of it and upset it. I think the Government would be wise in annulling the present contract, and proceeding with the work as far as the remainder of the money will pay for, and after a few years some more might be obtained, and the work extended further.

Hon. Mr. DAVIES.—There is one deficiency in this Report; the great objection to spending money in building a wharf at West Point is the probability of its not standing after it is built, and I think the committee should have pointed out some method of building it, so that it would do so.

Hon. LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION.—I shall support the motion for the adoption of this Report. I do not profess to have any knowledge whether the wharf will stand or not, but the people in that part of the country are in earnest about having one built, for they have petitioned the House year after year, and Mr. Boyd is of opinion that it could be made to stand. I think the prayer of the petitioners should be complied with. Even should it cost two thousand pounds, it would be money well expended, for there is a large section of the country in want of the accommodation which it would supply.

Mr. GREEN.—It appears to me that the great mistake was made in commencing the wharf so far from the shore. If the work had been commenced at the shore and properly done, there would not have been the slightest fear of its being carried away. I think, under the present circumstances, it would be unfair to compel the securities to finish the contract. The best method would be to make a beginning with the portion of the grant which is left, and give some more at a future period. The people in that part of the country are fully entitled to have something done for them.

Hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL.—The Committee have left the matter very open. They have left it optional with the Government either to enforce the old contract or go on with a new one. It was the intention of the Government to go on with the work to connect one of the blocks which was already built with the whole; but a short time ago word came down that the whole of it was carried away by the ice.

Received and adopted.

Hon. Mr. KELLY moved that the Bill to amend the Small Debt Act be read a second time.

Hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL.—I second the motion of the hon. member. Because I think there are some desirable clauses in the Bill. One clause relates to decreasing the number of times of meeting of Small Debt Courts. Under the present arrangement they meet every month, and I think it is desirable to have the matter discussed and see whether it would not be an improvement to have them meet fewer times. There is one clause in that Bill of which I cannot approve. It provides that a suit shall be brought nearest the residence of the defendant, or nearest the place where the cause of action arose. In former times the plaintiff could take the defendant to any part of the Island, but the law was amended a few years ago, and the plaintiff must take the defendant to the court nearest the defendant or the one nearest himself.

Bill read.

Ordered that the House go into committee on it to-morrow.

A message was received from the Legislative Council stating that they had passed the Bill for the better security of the Crown and Government of the United Kingdom; also desiring a conference on the Bill to amend the License Laws of this Island.

House adjourned.

BALDERSTON, Reporter.

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