will see it to be for their advantage that this House should exercise its free and calm judgment upon such matters; not, perhaps, to originate money votes, but to exercise their judgment upon each item separately. For instance, there may be an item in the appropriation bill which may be very objectionable to every one of your honors—which you deem obnoxious to the whole community—and yet we must either assent to it or reject the whole bill, and leave the Island without any appropriation for the year. There might be one-third of the appropriation highly objectionable, and yet we have not power to reject a single item. It is not with a view to amend the bill that I speak, but to let the people see that we are not blind to those alterations which I think do not work with equity and advantage to all classes.

Hon. the PRESIDENT: As long as all Money Grants are initiated by the Government, which is represented, and has a majority in both branches of the Legislature, I do not see that there can be any great disadvantage. I do not rise to oppose the additional duty, but I do not think it is good policy to impose a high duty upon liquor. When so many parts of the country are so easy of access, and when the duty is high, there is great inducement to smuggling. I remember that a few years ago, the duty on rum was very high, and it was thought, that a large quantity of a very inferior and injurious quality was smuggled; consequently the duty was reduced, then we had a larger revenue from it, and a better article brought into the country. If spirituous liquors are to be imported at all, we should encourage the best quality. I believe that for the last few years, there has been very little of that inferior article, brought into the country. I do not think the Government will derive any advantage from the additional duty, as it is a bounty to smuggling.

Hon. Mr. MUIRHEAD: I cannot altogether agree with his honor the President, for while rum is imported from the West Indies we will have the duty paid upon it though it is higher. One reason why we have not more of that inferior rum imported from the United States is, that they have raised their excise duty. It is now 75 cents per gallon on rum, so that it cannot now be brought here at so cheap a rate as formerly, consequently we have more imported from the West Indies.

Hon. Mr. DINGWELL: The additional duty upon rum and tea will be of very little consequence to the part of the country which I represent, and I will not find fault with it. It is probable that the Government have in view to raise a larger amount of revenue from this source, but I doubt very much if it will have that effect; for I believe that lowering the duty before had the effect of raising the revenue. When the duty was high it induced parties to smuggle, and it is very likely that it will have the same effect again. I would be very glad if the Government had seen themselves in a position to take the duty off flour. That article is now at a very high price, and the duty of 1s 6d per barrel is a very considerable tax. Nearly £3,000 were derived from this source last year, and the poor have had to pay a large part of it. But, in view of the large expenditure of last year, I suppose the Government did not see their way clear to take the duty off. I agree with his honor from the city (Mr. Palmer), that, as we are now an elective body, we have certain rights and duties to perform which we might not have had in former days. The last speaker but one (the President) alluded to the Government having a majority in this House, but that may or may not be the case at any time, and whether they have or not party feelings should not be allowed to interfere with the interests of the people, which we are here to protect and advance. It should not be a party question to obtain our rights in this House, and I hope the day is not far distant when we will have this privilege which his honor from the city (Mr. Palmer) has spoken of. A good deal is sometimes said about encouraging home manufacture, and if the duty on liquor manufactured from grain were reduced it would, perhaps, have the effect of raising the price of the farmers' produce; but I would not object to taxing the article which is manufactured from molasses.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

MONDAY AFTERNOON, April 22.

Debate on the Draft Address in answer to His Excellency's Speech (continued.)

Mr. BRECKEN.—I am sorry, Mr. Chairman, that Mr. Whelan is not present. I have always had too high an opinion of that gentleman to think that he would sell himself and his opinions for an office, and, if he were now in the House, he would not, I think, thank the hon. member who has just sat down for the character which he has given him, that of a political hireling. I have never seen his abandonment of his opinions, and I do not think such was ever made. The hon. member thinks there is a vast difference between the appointment of Mr. Whelan and that of Mr. Haviland. If he objects to the Opposition being led by the latter gentleman, why was he so anxious to place him in the Speaker's Chair? If he is bent upon betraying the interests of his native country, was that the reward to give him, —make him first Commoner of the land? I believe Mr. Whelan is as much a Confederate as ever, and he was placed in office by the present *composite* Government, for that is its character. There are in it fragments of the old Liberal party, some of the Tenant League element I believe, and some Conservatives. The position of the present hon. Leader of the Opposition is before the country. He is, we know, a stanch Confederate; and, since his avowal of his opinions on this matter, he has been returned by his constituents. Regarding the delay in the Elections, Mr. Chairman, as I said before, I do not think that the Conservative party delayed them, in order to sell the people, or that they had the power or inclination to do so. Surely the House of Assembly that passed the "No terms Resolution" would not be willing to sell the country. There was, I think, as much integrity in the late House, as in the present one; and I consider it right that the Elections were delayed, in order that the people might be better informed upon the subject of Confederation, and the wishes of the Imperial Government.

Hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL.—I did not, Mr. Chairman, think that the Tenant League and Confederation would be brought up for discussion, when I moved the clause now under consideration. Nothing of the sort was mentioned in the clause; and, in moving it, I merely stated that no blame was cast upon the late Government, as they were probably able to give good reasons for their acts. It was reported that the late Government desired to sacrifice the Island on the altar of Confederation, and therefore delayed the dissolution of the Assembly; but, as a proof that this could not be the case, I alluded to the fact that the hon. members opposite, for Belfast and Murray Harbor, both strong anti-Confederates, were in the Executive up to and after the time at which the dissolution would ordinarily have taken place. But, if the dissolution was delayed to enable the people to obtain more information on Confederation, that they might thereby form a more correct opinion on the subject, I am willing to concede the wisdom of the delay. Regarding the case of the hon. Leader of the Opposition, and that of the present Queen's Printer, I consider that, if any person thinks proper to cover his views on a subject, and to say that he will not press them upon the attention of the House, I am perfectly at liberty to accept him as an officer, either of the Government or of this House. I look upon the hon. member for Georgetown as pledged not to support Confederation, until he shall again appeal to his constituents on the subject. It was not at all unparliamentary for the Government to offer him the Speaker's Chair. In the British Parliament, the Speaker is chosen simply with regard to his merits, leaving his political opinions out of the question; and why could not we do the same? The hon. member for Charlottetown also stated that he believed that the dissolution of the late House was probably delayed, in order to afford time to receive despatches from the Home Government on the subject of Confederation. It was probably of advantage to the people, that, at the time the Elections took place, the question, in all its bearings, and all its fulness, should be before them, giving them an opportunity of forming their own opinions on the matter, and taking these opinions as a guide for their actions; and I consider that no compulsion that could be brought to bear would prevent them doing so. The hon. member for Georgetown (Mr. McAulay) has accused me of acting in an unparliamentary manner. That gentleman occupied the Speaker's Chair for some time, in the late House, and, of course, his statements will carry great weight. It sounded very well for him to say that I had departed from Parliamentary practice; but I am unable to see in what respect I did so. If asking for an explanation, to enlighten this hon. Committee, is unparliamentary, I must, I confess, plead guilty. Much has been said about Departmental and Responsible Government. Lately read, in a Halifax newspaper, an article on this subject, which defined Responsible Government to be a government according to the well-understood wishes of the people, as expressed through a majority of their Representatives. We, then, have Responsible Government in its pure form, so long as we have a majority of the Representatives carrying out their wishes. The hon. member for the City also stated that there was nothing in His Excellency's Speech,—that in the Speech the Government merely followed the policy of the late Administration. What an example the Tories have set, certainly! They laid aside the Land Purchase Bill, which was a Liberal measure, and tried other measures for the purchase of the Lands; but, these failing, they finally returned to the original Bill. Does the hon. member think that, because the Conservatives adopted the policy of the Liberals, that that party, in its return to power, is to throw aside that policy, and adopt a new one? We do not, Sir, follow the Conservative Party, but merely support a measure brought forward by ourselves,—a measure the best adapted to settle the Land Question, and which has done so to a very great extent. But, Sir, the present Government have been blamed, by some hon. members of the Opposition, for not having waited until the House had risen, before appointing its officers from that body. It was impossible for the Government to work until its principal officers, such as the Colonial Secretary, were appointed; and I think that my hon. friend, the Leader of the Opposition, would have been rather surprised had the Government asked him to remain in office after the defeat of his party. I trust that the hon. member for Georgetown (Mr. McAulay) will see fit to withdraw the charge of being unparliamentary, which he has brought against me.

Hon. Mr. McAULAY.—If the hon. member expects me to retract, his hopes, Mr. Chairman, will end in disappointment. When I charged him with being unparliamentary, I did not speak unadvisedly; and there are now, or were lately, before him, authorities to prove the correctness of what I said. If he is not too indolent to peruse these authorities, he will find that references in censure are not allowed in the Imperial Parliament.

Hon. Mr. HAVILAND.—If I had been in my place at the commencement of this debate much discussion might have been saved. The debate, Mr. Chairman, should have been confined to the paragraph now before you, instead of which, we have subjects brought up and discussed which do not even appear in the Address. The hon. member for Charlottetown was right in saying that Confederation was the cause of the delay in holding the late General Election. Her Majesty's Representative, together with his advisers, considered that it was for the interest of the Island to defer the Election as late as possible, that all the information which could be received might be laid before the people at the polls, that they might know the result of the Conference in London, and the principles of the Confederation Bill before the Imperial Parliament. We expected some despatch in answer to the Address sent from this House last year which would contain more than the usual announcement that Her Majesty had received it graciously. On the day of nomination such a despatch was received, and immediately published that the people might read it; and had the Election taken place in the autumn the country would have been in ignorance of many of the facts concerning Confederation. Very probably the reason why some hon. members object to the late Government's having delayed the Election, is that they were then anxiously waiting to get into the House, and were therefore impatient of any delay. Some insinuation has been thrown out that the late Government were waiting to sell the country. I can tell hon. members,—and my word will, I think, have some weight, for I am pretty well known,—that I was returned by my constituents pledged not to commit the Island to any scheme of Confederation, without first appealing to the people, and I would as soon cut off my hand as allow it to be done. I only hope that hon. members opposite will be as well able to clear their skirts when they go out of power as I am. I never, Mr. Chairman, heard on the floor of this House such an extraordinary admission as that made by the hon. member for Belfast (Mr. Davies) regarding the Queen's Printer's appointment. He actually seemed to me to sing a pean of joy over that gentleman's defeat. If the hon. member was unwilling to see him in office, he should, I think, have resigned his position as a member of the Executive. By the principles of Responsible Government every member of that body is individually responsible for every appointment, and it is the duty of each of them to defend that appointment when made.

Hon. Mr. DAVIES.—I think I may be allowed to explain my statement in regard to Mr. Whelan's appointment as Queen's Printer. I would have been opposed to his appointment, had I not been aware that, before his first Election, he publicly renounced his opinions on Confederation. When I said that I was glad that the people had now rejected him, I merely meant that I was glad they had done so, if they did not consider him sincere in the pledges which he had given.

Hon. Mr. DUNCAN:—I omitted, Mr. Chairman, to remind my hon. colleague, who so strongly condemned the action of the late Government in sending for the troops, that the Opposition of last Session, with the exception of two hon. members, approved of the step taken by the Conservative Administration in that matter.

Hon. Mr HENDERSON.—During the debate reference has been made to me personally, as a member of the late Government, and an insinuation has been made against that Government, for which I consider it my duty to demand something more than an assertion. The hon. member for Belfast (Mr. Davies) has stated that the late Government had called the soldiers into the Island, with the intention of forcing the Island into Confederation. Can he produce any proof—anything like proof—for that statement? Does he mean to say that his Honor the Chief Justice, who was at that time Administrator of the Government, would consent to anything like that? I repudiate the statement, and hand it back to *the gentleman for proof*. I admit that, perhaps, preliminary steps, on the part of the civil power, were not used in time, and I will give you no opinion now contrary to the opinions which I held when in the Government. I do not wish to occupy the time of this hon. Committee; but when the integrity of the late Government is called in question, I consider it my duty to defend them. I say, then, that the hon. member for Belfast (Mr. Davies) has given no proof—except his bare assertion—that such was the motive of the late Government in calling in the troops. I regret that this subject has been brought forward. I would be one of the last to mention it. Some gentlemen have referred to the fact that my hon and learned friend, the member for Georgetown, has been chosen as Leader by the Opposition. We were in this act, Sir, as consistent as were the Government in offering him the Speaker's chair. The fact of their having done this only proves that we have made a wise choice. I myself heard that gentleman, when addressing his constituents in Georgetown, say, if ever that crisis came, when his vote could put this Island into Confederation without the consent of the people, God forbid that he should give it. Take this fact in connection with the well-known character of the hon. member for Georgetown, and we have, I think, as good a guarantee for his conduct as can be required.

Hon Mr HOWLAN.—I did not, Mr. Chairman, intend to speak at this stage of the proceedings; but, certainly, I did not expect that any hon. gentleman would have made such statements as the hon. member for Belfast (Mr. Duncan) has done. He said that all the Opposition of last year were in favor of bringing the troops here, except two—the hon. member for New Galsgow, and the hon. member for Tryon. All the members of the minority of last year, with the exception of two, were not in favor of the action of the late Government in that matter; and, therefore, Sir, his statement is incorrect. There was a Resolution brought in by the Government, to which the hon. member for Tryon moved an amendment, and eight members voted for it—which amendment I will now read:—

"That the House of Assembly regret the disturbances and troubles which occurred in this Colony in the past year, but the House, at the same time, are of opinion that the alleged open and systematic defiance of the law might have been set aside by a further recourse to the aid of the civil power at the *disposal of the local authorities*, before calling in the aid of Her Majesty's troops."

Now, Sir, I find that eight voted for this amendment, and this is an important fact. I did not intend to go into this question. I am sorry, and I think every hon. member in this House is sorry, that the Hon. Mr. Whelan has not been returned, —sorry that he was so unfortunate. There have been other matters brought up which, I think, we had better now pass by, as we shall have ample opportunity, hereafter, to speak to them. I will only say that I was surprised at the explanation given by the hon. member, with respect to the *delay in holding the Election*.

Hon. Mr HAVILAND.—Does the hon. member refer to me?

Hon Mr. HOWLAN.—I referred to the hon. member for Belfast (Mr. Duncan)

Mr. HOWAT.—Mr. Chairman, I was the one who moved the resolution in the House last year which has just been read by the hon. member. I believe that law and order should be maintained; and I believe that all classes are liable to become excited at times; but I do think that the Government should have used the meanest their disposal before they brought the troops here. Had they done so, they would have had no occasion for the troops to put down any disturbance. But now that they are here, I am glad to see them. It is admitted by all that this Session was called too late, and both sides of the House seem to try to get clear of the blame. Now, is there cause for complaint? I, for one, believe that there is blame, and I wish that blame to rest upon those on whom it should. If the present Government, as explained by the Hon. the Atty. Gen., had no more time than was required by law for calling the Legislature, then the blame must rest with the late Government. I am at a loss to understand the hon member for Charlottetown (Mr. Brecken) when he gave as a reason that they were waiting for fuller information on Confederation. Now, Sir, if he was sincere last year in the *no terms resolution*, there was no necessity to wait for any further information on the subject of Confederation; and the Election should have been held at the proper time, and the country not put to the inconvenience of calling the Legislature so late.

Mr. BRECKEN.—In the absence of the Leader of the Opposition, I suggested what I thought probably was the reason why the late Election did not take place at an earlier date, that the Government were waiting the result of the deliberations of the delegates of the other Provinces, in London, on the subject of Confederation. If such was their reason, it appears to me a sufficient one; for who could tell to what extent our position might have been effected by the policy of the Imperial Government? Some persons predicted that we would be coerced into union; others, that certain terms would be offered for the acceptance or rejection of the people of this Colony, and with that object a dissolution would have to take place. The hon. member for Belfast (Mr. Davies) will surely admit that it was of consequence that all doubts in this important matter should be removed before the Electors were called upon to choose their representatives. The hon. member charges me, as one of the supporters of the celebrated no terms resolution, with inconsistency in excusing this delay; but Sir, the hon. member knows very well that, although I voted for these resolutions, I did not agree with the wording of them; and if he refers to the report of my speech on that occasion, he will find that I stated that they went too far, that to say that no terms of union that would prove advantageous to our interests and the well-being of the people could be offered was going too far. My reasons for voting for these resolutions were, that I believed that no other terms were in store for us other than those offered by the Quebec Scheme—terms which I believed then, and still do, were neither just nor liberal to the Island; and that in a union on such terms, our material interests would be most seriously depressed. That looking at what was then taking place in the neighboring Province of Nova Scotia, the very great dissatisfaction that appeared to exist there, and the protests that were being made against the policy of the Government going into Confederation without first appealing to the people, I considered it would have been dangerous for us to admit the principle in the abstract, until there was a prospect of getting fair terms, such as the people of this Colony would be prepared to accept. If the hon. member (Mr. Davies) will take the trouble to refer to my speech, when these resolutions were under discussion last Session, he will find that I have not changed my opinions. That I then said that terms might be offered which it would be to our interest to accept. Not that I think it any discredit to a man to change his opinions, on political as well as other subjects. The man who never changes his opinion, never corrects his errors. Since last Session Confederation has undergone a material change. The union of Canada, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick has been accomplished; besides the terms of the compact have also been materially changed. With us, Sir, I think it is only a question of time. I have never thought that we can stand alone and keep out of the union. If I thought we could without imperilling our various interests, I would say in the words of Shakspeare, "better bear those ills we have than fly to others we know not of." Our position now is such that it becomes the duty of every public man to look the question fairly in the face, not in a party spirit with the object of making political stock out of it. It is time we made up our minds on this great question, as to the most beneficial course to be pursued, and having done so to stand or fall by those opinions

Hon. Mr. DAVIES.—I look at members who have pledged themselves.

Mr. BRE KEN.—The hon. member need not alarm himself about my inconsistency. I am not going to play with the question. I have pledged myself in common, I believe, with every hon member of this House, not to commit the country to Confederation until the question is first submitted to the people at the polls. This pledge was most distinctly given, and I intend to keep it strictly.

Hon. Mr. DAVIES.—I understood the hon. member for Charlottetown.

Mr BRECKEN.—I consider myself bound by a pledge to hand back to my constituents the power they entrusted me with undiminished. I do not feel myself precluded from discussing the question. For, if the present Government were to open negociations with the Confederate Colonies, for the purpose of joining the Union—a course that would not very much surprise me—and obtain an offer on favorable terms, I should consider myself bound to vote against closing with that offer, and vote for referring the question to the people. I am surprised at the coolness of the hon member, twitting me with inconsistency on the subject of Confederation. I ask him, what candidate did he support at the recent Election for Charlottetown,—my hon. colleague, a prominent supporter of Confederation, one of the celebrated "ninety-four." If, Sir, the hon member and his party, well knowing my colleague's views on that question, supported, and, with the assistance of some Confederates in the city, returned him to this House; but—strange and inconsistent—having placed him in that responsible position, they are afraid, I understand, to trust him as a member of the Executive Council, and resolutely refuse to appoint him to that position, although he has as resolutely insisted on his right to be there. Looking at the fact that he is one of the representatives of the capital of the Colony, and the only one who is in harmony with the Government, if there is anything of that element amongst them, which I much doubt, and considering that his constituents are the most wealthy, and certainly as intelligent as any in the Island, and that the greater portion of the mercantile, mechanical, and many other of our important interests are centred in the Town and Royalty, I do think my colleague, and those who sent him here, have a right to see him at the Executive Council Board. I understand the Government distrusts him on account of his Confederate opinions. It cannot be that his qualifications and position, in other respects, do not justify the appointment. Strange inconsistency, voting for a gentleman, returning him to this House, and still afraid to trust him as a member of the Government. But, Sir, for another piece of inconsistency on the part of the hon member (Mr. Davies) and his party. How does he defend the appointment to the office of Queen's Printer of a gentleman, one of the most ardent and talented (and on that account the most dangerous) advocates of Confederation. The hon. member designates Confederates as traitors. Is this his mode of punishing treachery by appointing the offender to the most lucrative office in the gift of the Government?

Hon Mr. KELLY.—Mr Davies was not appointed to the Executive until after Mr. Whelan was appointed Queen's Printer.

Mr BRECKEN.—So much the worse for him, if such was the fact, for, by accepting a seat in the Government, he endorsed and approved of the act; but the fact is Mr Davies was a member of the Government at the time the appointment was made. The hon. member (Mr. Davies) jeers us for having a red-hot Unionist as Leader of the Opposition. It is within the knowledge of this hon. House, that that hon. member and the Government proposed to punish the Leader of the Opposition for his red-hot Confederate ideas, by making him first Commoner of the land, placing him in the Speaker's Chair. Strange method this of marking the people's and the hon. member's disapprobation of the Leader of the Opposition's unsound and traitorous opinions on a question so vitally affecting our interests. The fact is, the Government is a mass of inconsistency; there are scarcely two of them who profess the same principles. Their Leader, who has not at present a seat in this House, always contended, (and no later than a few days ago, on the hustings in Charlottetown,) that the departmental system of Responsible Government was the only true system. How often have we, on this side of the House, been denunciated as traitors for departing from it, by excluding office-holders from the Legislature. Now, we find this composite Government following the course laid down by the Conservatives, without having the honesty or candor to confess that they have seen the error of their way, or to assign reasons for changing their minds. No, Sir; rather than admit that it was honorable for their opponents to do anything right, they prefer pursuing a course which they have denounced as deceptive. They tell us that all political parties must make compromises. To a certain extent this is true,—but in matters of detail, there is a point at which compromises must stop. There are certain vital principles, which admit of no compromise, unless they wish to be, as this Government are, compromised from head to foot, without any distinctive principle, composed of a remnant of the old Liberal party, an infusion of Tenant Leaguers, and a few calling themselves moderate Conservatives. Look at some of their recent and most important appointments. What principle of Responsible Government was respected in the appointment of the Colonial Treasurer—a gentleman who, a few weeks ago, was rejected, at the Legislative Council Election by an overwhelming majority: and, as to the appointment to the head of the Customs Department, I cannot say what known rule of the Constitution has been invaded, as the framers of that system of government, wide and comprehensive as they made it, never contemplated such a case of unblushing political jobbery occurring: this was reserved for the ingenuity of Prince Edward Island Liberals. And bear in mind, Mr. Chairman, that the Government, by making this appointment, endorses its propriety collectively and individually, otherwise they would insist on the Controller of Customs obtaining the approval of his constituents. I can picture to myself that gentleman, when on the hustings, dilating on the grievances and wrongs perpetuated by those ruthless and grinding Tories, and assuring the people that, if they would only return him to Parliament, he would put his shoulder to the wheel, and ease them of all their burdens and wrongs. They do so. He, on his part, accept a lucrative office, makes his bow to his oppressed constituency, and takes final leave of them and their grievances. I have always looked upon Responsible Government as a very elastic thing; it may be compared to an Indian rubber bag, *capable of being squeezed* into a variety of shapes and forms; and, provided you keep it inflated with the breath of the well-understood wishes of the people for the time, all well; but the present composite Government seem disposed to squeeze that very breath out of it, and *hold it up to the people* as an empty and meaningless thing. So much, Sir, for the consistency of the hon member for Belfast and his new-found friends.

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS IN THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

TUESDAY, April 30.

Hon. Col. Secretary laid on the table the Sheriff's Return to the Writ of Election, issued for the return of two members for the Second District of King's County, in room of Hon. E. Whelan, Queen's Printer, and W. E. Clark, Esq., Collector of Excise, whose acceptance of office vacated their seats.

Edward Reilly and Anthony McCormack, Esquires, elected members of said District, appeared at the Bar, and having been introduced, took the usual oaths and their seats.

Mr. Bell, from Committee of Supply, reported several Resolutions agreed to; upon which the question of concurrence was severally put and agreed to.

The Bill to incorporate the Masonic Hall Company at Alberton, was read a second time and committed to a Committee of the whole House. Mr. P. Sinclair in the chair.

The Bill was then read by the Chairman, in Committee, clause by clause, and reported agreed to without any amendment, and ordered to be engrossed.

Mr. Owen presented a petition from divers inhabitants of Cardigan, against the opening of a new Road through certain lands North of Cardigan River.

Referred to Committee on new Roads.

Dr. Jenkins presented petitions from certain Fire Engine Companies in Charlottetown, praying exemption from Militia duty.

In presenting those petitions, the hon. member (Dr. Jenkins), in explaining the prayer of the petition, remarked that in other countries Fire Companies were exempt, not only from Militia duty but also from the payment of taxes, and from serving as Jurors. It was, therefore, but fair to place petitioners on a similar footing with their fellow Colonists of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and other places. It must be plain to all that it would be impossible for the members of Fire Engine Companies to attend Drill, as by law specified, and alluded to in the petitions, and at the same time attend properly to their Engine Rooms, and be ready at a moment's notice in case of an alarm of fire. He, therefore, would strongly urge the claims of petitioners to the exemption prayed for.

Ordered that said petitions be laid on the table.

Hon. Attorney General presented several petitions on Roads, Bridges and Wharfs; all of which were read, and ordered to be referred to the members of the several Districts.

On motion of the Hon. Colonial Secretary, the petitions relating to the opening of new Roads were severally read, and ordered to be laid on the table.

The petition of divers inhabitants of Cardigan, concerning the opening of a new road through the lands of John Parker, and others, was ordered to be withdrawn, on the ground that the prayer of said petition could not be entertained by the House, the remedy, according to Statute, being an appeal to the Supreme Court.

Hon. Mr. Duncan gave notice that, to-morrow, he would ask the Government if they intended to make any alterations relative to the manner in which the Hillsboro' Ferry was conducted, and if they contemplated any improvements in the running of the Ferry Boat.

Hon. Mr. Coles, Leader of the Government, in reply, asked what improvements were expected? No petitions being before the House, the Government, as such, had not been made aware of what improvements were required. In order, therefore, to answer the questions of the Hon. Mr. Duncan, it would be necesary to inform the Government of what alterations or improvements were sought for.

Hon. Mr. Duncan alluded to the unnecessary delay at breakfast and dinner hours, and also frequently at low tide. He had expected that the Leader of the Government, or his colleague, would have some complaints made to them about the matter. He might also state that the Contractor had informed him of his willingness to give up his contract, at a loss, owing to the many complaints that had been made against him.

Hon. Mr. Davies said, that in regard to information respecting the Ferry, the constituents whom he had the honor to represent had so frequently petitioned the Legislature touching their grievances on that subject, that they almost despaired of redress. It was strange that his hon. colleague should now expect improvements to be made, that had been neglected by the late Government, of which that hon. gentleman had been a member. It was not his constituency alone that were interested in the Ferry accommodation; other sections of that portion of the Island were also affected, as as great a quantity of agricultural products were brought to market by that Ferry as came on any of the other thoroughfares leading to Charlottetown.

Hon. Leader of the Opposition said it was time to put a stop to that discussion, which was quite irregular and contrary to Parliamentary rule. The proper time to discuss the question would be when it was regularly submitted to the House.

Hon. Leader of the Government did not object to the irregularity of the proceeding, on the ground that he was anxious to obtain information relative to the grievances complained of. The late Government had the matter before them last session, and went to some trouble collecting information on the point. It appeared that one Boat was not sufficient for the work required from the increased traffic. The Government would do all in their power consistent with justice to the Contractors.

Hon. Mr. Davies congratulated the House on the unanimity which had prevailed up to this period of the Session, no counter resolutions having been submitted in opposition to any question of importance.

Hon. Leader of the Government supposed that matters had been so well conducted that no room was left for censure.

Hon. Leader of the Opposition would correct the Hon. Mr. Davies, and inform that hon. member that two counter resolutions had been submitted of considerable importance, the one being to recommitt the Revenue Bill, with the view of lowering the duties on certain liquors imported to this Colony—the other relative to the grant for Steam communication with Souris, &c. How such resolutions could have escaped the notice of the Hon. Mr. Davies, if he were in his seat, he was at a loss to know.

Hon. Mr. Hensley said that the matter must have escaped the memory of his hon. colleague in the Government.

House adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, May 1.

Hon. Attorney General presented to the House a Bill for the continuance of certain expiring laws, which was received, read and committed to a Committee of the whole. Hon. Mr. Laird in the chair.

Reported agreed to.

On motion of the Hon. Attorney General, the time limited for the reception of new matter was extended to Wednesday next, the 8th inst., in so far as relates to matters of a public nature.

Hon. Colonial Secretary presented to the House a memorandum of the Stock now on the Government Stock Farm.

Hon. Attorney General presented a Bill to enable George C. Stiles, of Westmorland County, New Brunswick, to obtain Letters Patent for the invention of a new and useful improvement in the construction of Spinning Wheels.

The said Bill was received, read and ordered to be referred to the Special Committee to report thereon.

The Bill to diminish the delay and expense of proceedings in the Court of Chancery was read a third time and passed.

Hon. Attorney General presented to the House the Reports of the Visitors of Schools for the Eastern and Western Sections of the Island for the past year, as transmitted by the Board of Education.

Hon. Leader of the Government said that from the unreliable manner in which the information given in those reports was collected, the House in previous sessions did not consider them of sufficient importance to be published in the Journals. But, as the Board of Education had transmitted the said papers to that hon. House, it would, perhaps, be as well to publish at least a portion of them, in the Journals.

Mr. Reilly—It appeared that but little importance had been attached to the Reports of School Visitors by that hon. House. When the large amount of the public revenue expended on education would be taken into consideration, it appeared strange indeed that the printing of Reports, which should be of material importance, was considered a waste of public money. He believed, and in fact it could be proven if necessary, that much of the information given in those Reports was from the hearsay of others, and not the result of personal observation on the part of the Visitors. That, however, could not be wondered at, when the small pittance allowed for the School inspection of the whole Colony was but £300 a year —a sum smaller than that given to the Superintendent of Public Works last year as travelling fees alone. He said the office of School Inspector should be non-political, and merit, rather than political favoritism, should influence the appointment of officers, whose duties were so essential to the best interests of education. When the question came before the House in a more general form it could be entered into more fully, and, he hoped, with satisfactory results.

Hon. Attorney General.—When the Education Act would be presented in a few days to the consideration of the House, the views of the Government would be known relative to the appointment of Visitors as well as the general question of Education.

Hon. Leader of the Opposition said he was always of the opinion that the School Visitors were inadequately paid. Clerks in Merchants' establishments, in many cases, had better salaries than were allowed for the inspection of Schools of the whole Colony. He was of opinion that one Superintendent of Schools for the whole Island, properly paid and of superior attainments, would give more general satisfaction than the present mode. He said that Dr. Ryerson, Superintendent of Education in Upper Canada, had held that office for many years, no matter what party had the Government in that country. The office should not be viewed politically, and should be held during good behaviour.

Mr P. Sinclair was happy to hear that there appeared a disposition to make the office of School Visitor non-political. It was high time that a change of some kind was made. He was of opinion that a Visitor for each of the three Counties of the Island would give more general satisfaction. He would be willing to have such officers appointed during good behaviour.

Hon. Mr. Howlan said it was indeed strange that Reports relating to the expenditure of some £16 000 of the Revenue, annually, were so utterly useless, and so unreliable, as not to be worth publishing. The supervision of the educational interests of the whole Colony required a larger sum than had hitherto been voted for that service. He hoped that hon. members on both sides of the House would concur in the necessity of not only increasing the salary, but also of the appointment of gentlemen of superior talents and attainments for the discharge of those onerous duties connected with the office of School Inspector. And he was happy to say that he believed there were those among the young men of this Colony who possessed those required abilities.

Mr. Arseneaux said that, from his own personal knowledge, the School Visitor's Report of certain Schools in parts of the District which he had the honor to represent, was not reliable. In proof of his remarks, he referred to the Report in question, and read its statements touching Schools at Lot 15, said to be unoccupied, and also attributing apathy, in regard to education, to the French population of that part of the country. Such statements, he said, were not true, and only furnished evidence of the fallacious nature of such reports. He then explained the difficulty of procuring licensed Teachers under the revised School Act, which enjoined the imparting instruction in English as well as French. In the absence of such teachers, young ladies were employed and paid by voluntary subscriptions. There being, according to the Visitor's Report, some six or seven School houses in the vicinity to which he alluded, was proof sufficient to show that the inhabitants were not unmindful of the necessity of educating their children.

Mr. Cameron said that merit, and not political bias, should be considered relative to the appointment of School Visitors. From personal knowledge, he could vouch for the correctness of that portion of the Report now before the House, relative to the Schools in his District. He then commended the assiduity of the present Visitor for the Western Section of the Island.

Mr. Bell concurred with the remarks made by the hon. member (Mr. Cameron) relative to the diligent and painstaking conduct of the Visitor alluded to. He (Mr. Bell) urged the necessity of placing the educational system of the Colony on the best possible basis.

Hon. Mr. McAulay could not understand what the question before the House was. Surely it was not contemplated to place restrictions on the thoughts and opinions of men who might hold Government appointments?

Hon. Mr. Davies said that parents generally were more capable of judging the progress made by their children, than were the Visitor, who from a hasty call at a School, could know but very little of the real state of such Schools. The principle amendment which required to be made in the School Act, was the paying the whole of the Teachers' salaries from the Treasury, so as to enable them to make a respectable living, and cause young men of abilities to take a greater and more permanent interest in their profession. Schoolhouses, in some localities, were erected too close to each other. Some settlements appear to be more highly favored in that respect than others. It was, in his opinion, absurd to have eleven or twelve men called together to examine candidates for the office of School Teacher. One person of qualified attainments could perform that duty as efficiently as a whole Board of Education. He alluded to the satisfactory manner in which the Grammar School at Belfast was conducted, and said that high schools of that nature, if more generally established, would be productive of much good. The ordinary Schools could be conducted by Teachers of a lower class, and females might, as in the United States, be more generally employed. In those high, or Grammar Schools, Geography, Mathematics, Navigation, and such other branches of a practical education as were essential to the ordinary pursuits of life, should be imparted; and those parents who desire to give their children the higher attainments of a classical education should not procure the means of acquiring such attainments from the public revenue.

Hon. Mr. Henderson said that, in justice to the gentleman who held the office of School Visitor for the Eastern Section of the Island, he felt bound to state that some of the allusions made to that gentleman were unjust and unfair. It was well known to hon. members on both sides of that House, that the officer to whom allusion was made had, for many years, been a teacher of youth in the Colony, and also master at one time in the principal institution of learning on the Island, in both of which capacities he had done some service to the country. When the small salary allowed him, as Visitor for the whole of the Eastern section of the Island, was considered, and also his advanced years, he thought some allowance should be made for any imperfections that might appear in his Report. He (Hon. Mr. H.) was astonished at the remarks of the hon. member for Belfast (Mr. Davies) comparing the knowledge of parents with that of School Visitors, relative to the improvement made at Schools. It was well known that there were those who cared but little about the Education of their children. It was, therefore, necessary that the Government of the country should protect the children of such parents, even against the neglect of their own parents, especially as such neglect would inevitably lead to dangerous consequences to society.

Hon. Leader of the Government reviewed the different experiments that had been resorted to, relative to the Free School System, with the view of improving it. The Visitors' department had also been changed from one for the whole Island as at first, to the dividing of the work into two sections, and appointing a Visitor for each. The latter mode, it appeared, had not given that general satisfaction which was expected. The whole question would, however, shortly be submitted to the House, when the subject generally might be more fully debated. He hoped, however, that no party feeling would be manifested on that question.

Mr. McNeill—It was impossible to know, from the Reports transmitted, what the state of Education was in the country. Much of the success of teaching was the result of tact on the part of the teacher. Local Boards should be appointed in different localities, the members of which should be competent to examine schools, and they should attend at the visits of the Inspectors.

Ordered, that said Reports be laid on the table.

Hon. Mr. Duncan then asked what alterations or arrangements, if any, the Government contemplated relative to the Hillsboro' Ferry—and at the same time, would correct a remark made by him yesterday, relative to the Ferry Steamer stopping at four o'clock in the fall of the year. He was since informed that they always ran till five o'clock.

Hon. Leader of the Government said, in reply, that there was no time since notice was given, for the Government to investigate the matter. If any material change was required, it was better for the House to consider it in Committee, and come to some resolution on the subject. The Government was prepared to give every possible facility to the public, relative to that Ferry, and he would be willing to hear the subject freely debated by the House in Committee of the whole.

House adjourned.

Mr. Editor:

Can *you* inform the undersigned whether the paragraph which appeared in the editorial columns of the last *Patriot*, respecting the public meetings recently held in Summerside, was written by the ostensible Editor of that paper, or by the well-known *Deputy Sneak*, who is always "on hand" for dirty work? That the paragraph referred to proceeded from the pen of *Deputy Sneak* is the sincere opinion of

Your old friend,

"TONALD."

May 9th, 1867.

The Examiner.

Charlottetown, May 13, 1867.

NEWS BY THE ENGLISH MAIL.

THE Royal Mail Steamship *China* arrived at Halifax on Monday night, 6th inst. Her latest English dates are to the 27th ult. The Mail for this Island reached here on Wednesday afternoon. The *China* had very boisterous weather during nearly the whole of the voyage; and, it is melancholy to state, that a very respectable citizen of Halifax, Mr. J. C. Cogswell, lost his life from the shipping of a very heavy sea; and a short time previously one of the seamen of the ship was washed overboard.

The Hon. Joseph Howe, one of the Delegates from the anti-Union party in Nova Scotia, came passenger in the *China*.

We give below such portions of the European news, in detail, as we can find space for in the present crowded state of our columns.

THE LUXEMBURG QUESTION.

PARIS, Thursday.—The *Constitutionnel* publishes an article, signed by M. Paulin Limaryac, in which it protests against the idea that France desires war. It says:—"The policy of France is a policy of peace and conciliation. The French Government sincerely believed that after her increase of territory Prussia would have made it a point of honor to show moderation and consideration for the rights and interests of her neighbours. The Government of the Emperor has never seen in a settlement of this question, conformably to the interests of France and the wishes of the population of Luxemburg, anything but a guarantee not only of peace, but of a durable peace. The French Government never thought that it could in any way be to the interest of Prussia to maintain a garrison in an independent country—never thought that Germany could claim the same national rights and a common origin with a small country, the population of which, by Count Bismarck's own avowal, entertains a deep repugnance for Germany, and would, if consulted, vote with enthusiasm for re-union with France. And now the Government of the Emperor does not aim at raising a war out of a question in which it had seen but a pledge of peace. France, animated by no ambition, has put aside every claim. As far as she is concerned, the question has become a European one; and, even in this new phase, France holds aloof in order not to embarrass the pacific action of the Powers, and not to involve national susceptibilities. Without fearing war, if a war (though God forbid!) should be unjustly provoked, France desires peace, and is anxious that no doubt should exist with regard to her intent