

publish and carry on the trade there, had not been able, even at that price, to obtain the necessary land. He thought the least thing the House could then do in the matter, was to take off the duties on all articles consumed, or required, in the prosecution of the Fisheries. Mr. McDonald moved, in conformity to this opinion, the following resolution, which was lost.

*Resolved*, That it be recommended to the House when in committee on Ways and Means, to take off the duties now imposed on fishing gear, and on tea and molasses, when imported for the use of the fisheries.

The hon. *Speaker*. Why does not the hon. member advise the representative of the Government in this House, to make the throwing open of the Fishery Reserves, a Government measure: If he will cause it to be so introduced, he shall have my support.

The debate was continued with much spirit beyond the usual hour of adjournment. It was in the end terminated by the unanimous adoption of the following Resolution, submitted by Mr. Whelan, as an amendment to that moved by Mr. J. Longworth.

*Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this Committee, that encouragement ought to be given toward the establishment of a fishery in this Island; and that a Special Committee be appointed to report by Bill or otherwise, as to the expediency of making the Fishery Reserves available for that purpose, and otherwise assisting the prosecution of that branch of trade.

Messrs. Whelan, D. McDonald, Mooney, McIntosh, Fraser, LeLachur, and the Hon. George Coles were appointed a Committee accordingly.

THURSDAY, MARCH 9th.

The Immigrant, and the Georgetown and Royalty Roads Bills were severally read a third time, and passed.

Mr. Palmer's Bill to prevent forestalling was read a first time. It appears this Bill will meet with considerable opposition.

Nothing came under notice, this day, to cause a debate. The greater part of it was taken up in the consideration of Petitions.

FRIDAY, MARCH 10.

*Controverted Elections*.—Mr. J. Longworth's Bill to amend this Act, was read a third time and passed.

*Schools and Education*.—Mr. J. Longworth, as Chairman of a Special Committee, to whom was referred all Petitions relating to Schools and Education, moved a report be read, and on further motion, it was made an order of the day for the House to go into Committee on the same, on Monday next.

*Crown Lands*.—The House have been debating in Committee, the whole of the afternoon sitting, on the Report of the Committee on Crown Lands; on the latter part of the report treating of the late Governor drawing money to pay his expenses to Canada, Mr. Rae moved to strike it out, which was lost by a majority of 11 to 9. The House having resumed, the hon. member again moved the same resolution; to which Mr. Palmer moved an amendment, that it do remain part of the report; the House divided, ayes 10; nays 10—the *Speaker* declared the ayes to have it, and then the question on the main motion was put and carried.

SATURDAY, MARCH 11.

*Forestalling Bill*.—On Mr. Palmer moving the order of the day, that the above Bill be read a second time, Mr. D. Macdonald moved that the House go into the order of the day that day three months. Ayes 14, nays 2.

*Public Accounts*.—The House then went into Committee on the report of the Special Committee on Public Accounts. Mr. J. Longworth took the chair, and having spent some time therein, reported progress, and asked leave to sit again.

MONDAY, MARCH 13.

Mr. Fraser as Chairman of a Special Committee, to whom was referred all matters, whether by Petition or otherwise, relative to Paupers, presented to the House the second Report of the Committee, which having been read, was adopted by the House.

*Public Accounts*.—The House in Committee on Public Accounts, Report of Special Committee agreed to, with several amendments.

*Vacating Seats of Members*.—Mr. Thornton moved a resolution to amend the Act for vacating seats of members, so as to clearly define what offices should be considered offices of emolument, the acceptance of which by members of Assembly should cause their seats to become vacated.

The order of the day for the House to go into Committee on the consideration of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor's Message of Friday last, on the subject of the destitution of some settlers in some sections of the country, being read, the House accordingly resolved itself into the said Committee, Mr. N. Conroy in the chair.—A spirited debate ensued, when the following resolution, submitted by the Hon. Mr. Coles, was reported agreed to:—

*Resolved*, That in order to meet the distress set forth in the Message submitted by His Excellency, and the several Petitions before the House on the same subject, a portion of the moneys to be appropriated for the service of Roads and Bridges this year, be made available for that purpose, by giving daily employment, or by affording opportunity for taking the public works in small con-

tracts to such destitute persons, on the roads, in the different Road Districts throughout the Island.

TUESDAY, MARCH 14.

*Schools and Education*.—On motion of Mr. J. Longworth the House went into Committee on the consideration of the report of the Special Committee, to whom was referred all matters relative to Schools and Education, and the same was, subsequently to some little discussion, referred to the Committee when in supply.

*Public Accounts*.—Mr. Rae moved the report of the Committee of the whole House, on the Public Accounts be now received, some slight amendments were moved, and the report was agreed to.

*Roads, Bridges and Wharves*.—On motion of Mr. Thornton, the House went into Committee of the whole, relative to the appropriation for Roads, Bridges and Wharves. Hon. member said, however desirous the Committee might feel to grant a large sum for this service—a service that relieves so many of the destitute—still the prospects and supposed capabilities of the Island ought to be considered; he, therefore, would propose the sum of £3,000, to be divided as follows:—£1,000 to Queen's, £950 to Prince, and 950 to King's Counties.

The Hon. Mr. Coles cheerfully seconded the motion; because, as he said, the hon. member had moved a liberal and just division.

An attempt was made to increase the grant £50 each to King's and Prince Counties, which did not succeed. 150l. to be divided equally between the Counties, was also proposed, and agreed to for contingencies.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15.

*Election Laws*.—On motion of Mr. Palmer, the House went into Committee on that part of his Excellency's Speech relative to the Election Laws.

Hon. Mr. Coles said the question was mooted last Session, he then, as now, approved of an alteration so far as to embrace simultaneous polling. Had such been the law, previous to the riot at Belfast last year, that much to be regretted and unfortunate affair might not have happened; he thought the House were almost unanimous in opinion, that the laws required amendment, and if no hon. member had been engaged in the matter, he would move for a Committee to prepare and bring in a Bill. He thought the ground work should be taken from the law of Elections in the neighbouring Provinces, which had been tried and found to work well.

Mr. Palmer said his attention had been turned to the subject, and considered it would be well to amend and consolidate the laws, there being no less than five acts on our Statute Book relative to Elections. He approved of the principle Simultaneous Polling for which purpose, though it may not be necessary to make any alteration in the present districts, a greater number of polling places must be created, and this he expected would be the main point of discussion. The hon. member having explained the alterations that were made in the Election Laws of Nova Scotia, then submitted a resolution, having for its object the appointment of a Committee to prepare and bring in a Bill to consolidate and amend the present Election Laws, which was agreed to, and a Committee appointed. The House then resolved itself into a Committee of the whole on

*Supply*.—Nothing to cause a debate ensued, excepting on a motion to reduce the salary of the assayer of weights and measures, and another to increase the salary of the keeper of the Colonial Building, both of which were lost.

THURSDAY, MARCH 16th.

*Treasury Affairs*.—During nearly the whole of the morning sitting, the House was in Committee of supply; previously to the adjournment, the hon. Mr. Coles submitted the draft of an Address to his Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, requesting to be laid before the House copies of all Despatches which have been received since April, 1847, relatively to the Treasury of this Island.

Mr. Palmer wished to know why this matter was brought before the House, and thought the hon. Mr. Coles was bound to explain his reasons.

The hon. Mr. Coles did not think he was bound to give any explanation; but if hon. members pressed for explanation, he would give it, however unpleasant the task might be to himself.

Mr. Rae agreed with Mr. Coles, that he (Mr. Coles) was not bound to give any reasons for the step he took on that occasion; and he considered the demand made by the member for Charlottetown a very novel one, and wholly without precedent; indeed, he would think it improper for the hon. member who moved the Address, being an Executive Councillor, to explain any reasons for asking for the Despatches alluded to.

Mr. Coles, Mr. Whelan, and other members expressed their opinions at considerable length, when the address finally passed without a division, and a Committee was appointed to wait upon His Excellency with it.

FRIDAY, MARCH 17th.

*Assistant Judge*.—House in Committee on His Excellency's Message, relative to the appointment of an Assistant Judge.

Mr. Rae suggested the appointment of a Special Committee to examine the Prothonotary and other competent witnesses, in order to ascertain whether the business of the Supreme Court has so increased as to render the ap-

pointment of an Assistant Judge necessary, and a consequent burden to the Colony of 500l a year.

The debate continued till about 8 o'clock, the hon. *Speaker* and Mr. Palmer addressed the Committee at considerable length, both of whom complained that the application for an Assistant Judge did not come before the House in the shape of a Government measure. The latter gentleman—in closing the debate, pointing out the necessity for another professional Judge, contrasted the provision made in the neighbouring colonies for this department of the public service, with that made in this Island.

SATURDAY, MARCH 18.

In the afternoon sitting, the question of providing for the appointment of a professional assistant Judge was again discussed at great length, by members on both sides,—finally a resolution passed, appointing a special committee to ascertain the amount and progress of business in the Supreme Court within the last three years, and to report as to the expediency of providing for the appointment of an Assistant Judge and Master of the Rolls.

THE EXAMINER.

MONDAY, MARCH 20, 1848.

Latest News from Europe.

The English Mail which arrived in Halifax on the 2d, brought by the Britannia in 18 1/2 days, reached Charlottetown late on Saturday night the 11th inst. We have space only for the following paragraphs, which embrace, however, the most important part of the news:—

STATE OF TRADE IN ENGLAND.

The position and prospects of commercial affairs continue to improve. It is indeed true that the progress is only slow; still, as we before intimated, there are valid reasons to expect that we have passed the worst point of the crisis. The failures of the last two weeks are not extensive, and will entail but little inconvenience among commercial circles. Money continues to be had on easier terms. In the markets for Foreign and Colonial Produce a good business has been transacted, and at rather better prices.

LOSS OF THE WHALING SHIP BRITISH SOVEREIGN, AND MURDER OF THE CREW.

Letters were received at Lloyd's, dated Sydney, August 17, communicating the total loss of the barque British Sovereign, a whaling ship, Captain W. H. Jones, master, on the eastern side of the Sandwich Islands, and the reported horrible massacre by the natives of nearly the whole of the ship's crew. The vessel left Sydney on the 18th day of January last, for New Zealand, and thence to the South Sea Islands. In the course of the passage she called at the Island of Thanna, where she shipped about twenty of the natives, to assist in procuring sandal wood. The captain then determined to make for Sandwich, first sending back the natives to Thanna in the ship's boat, in charge of the chief mate, and several of the men. The ship left Erromanga on the evening of the 23d of April, and at day-break the next morning, the 24th, she was found to be close in upon the eastern coast of Sandwich.—She was immediately hauled on a wind, and two boats were lowered for the purpose of keeping her off the land, but being within the influence of the ground swell, the boats had no effect upon her, and she soon struck on a rock, within a cable's length of the shore. She then fell on her broadside, and though her masts were cut, and every means adopted to save the vessel, she in a few hours broke up and became a total wreck. For three days the crew remained near the wreck, in the hope of saving some of the stores, the natives behaving in the kindest manner. The captain and the crew, it should be observed, were rescued from the rock by the natives, who threw ropes to them from the shore. They wished them to remain, but it was considered expedient by the captain to make to the leeward harbour, to which vessels resort in visiting the Island.—After about four day's travelling they came to a bay on the south side of the Island, where the natives appeared on the same friendly terms. They gave them sugar-canes and cocoa-nuts to eat, and the chief to whom they were introduced, took great liking to a child, a fine little boy, who was along with the captain. Amidst this apparent good feeling, a tumult broke out among the natives, who fell upon the unfortunate crew, who were off their guard, and most of them were brutally slaughtered. The captain endeavoured to escape and retreated into the water. They were, however, too close upon him, and his skull was smashed in. A man named Wier, and three others, succeeded in getting clear by springing forward into the sea, and swimming to a canoe, with which they reached an adjacent Island. The natives pursued them, and Wier's companions were overtaken, but their fates were unknown, Wier contriving to conceal himself in the bush, where he remained for several days. Fortunately, the first day he ventured out to the beach, the Isabella Anna hove in sight, when he swam off, and was picked up. The number supposed to have been massacred is twenty-nine.

IRELAND.

The Special Commission has been adjourned, after having passed the most severe sentences upon all the