

COLONIAL LEGISLATURE.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY, Saturday, March 3.

Several petitions were presented. In supply, several resolutions for the public services were passed. The committee on the bill for the new Act assigned to the Controller of Customs and Navigation Laws and Registrar of Shipping, was deferred until the Colonial Council meeting. Among other appropriations, £1500 were voted for summer and winter mails, £500 for inland mails, and £1000 at the disposal of the Government for the purchase of the contents of the Colonial Building; £45 for public postage; £281 9s 7d for the gas fittings, painting, &c., of the new Building; £2000 for the purchase of the water-mills between Georgetown and Picton during the time the navigation is open; £30 for maintenance of Jails; £650 for 20 additional road labourers; £1000 for the purchase of land and alterations at Government House, a despatch convention took place, and a variety of opinions were expressed by the several members who attended the House. Hon. Mr. Palmer suggested the propriety of Government receiving tenders for a lease of a house for the residence of the Lieutenant Governor, and the letting the present one for about ten years, or converting it to some public use, such as a Lunatic Asylum or a House of Industry, for that purpose, and that it might be pulled down and a new one erected with the amount saved by the adoption of his plan; and a report was drawn up on the petition of Mr. Cole to the property of the Government purchasing a piece of ground near the Government House, for the site of a School, £1000 was granted, and £3000 were voted for expenses of Crown prosecutions; £60 for the three High Sheriffs.

The consideration of the Lieutenant Governor's message, and the despatch on the Bank Bill, were both made the orders of the day for Friday next.

MONDAY, March 5.

Several petitions were presented to the House. By Mr. McIntosh—Petition of R. Barry

By Mr. Wightman—For Wharf—Peter MacCallum for remission of duty on damaged goods. Inhabitants of the Islands, Quinon, a Certificate for building a wharf.—David McLeod, Murray Harbour, for payment of a bridge carried away.—Wm. Stewart—Trustees of the Government School, Georgetown, for the purchase of a house, site of which was altered by the new Act.

By Mr. Wightman—Sundry Mill rates, and the House to impose a toll of 4d per ton on all logs, &c., floated through Mill Dams. By do—Duncan Stewart for payment of commission on his salary.—Hon. Mr. Cole this petition was withdrawn. By do—for Wharf at South side, Murray Harbour also withdrawn, on motion Mr. Warburton.

By do—Hugh M'Donald, Esq., controller of navigation laws for an office or means to rent the same. Hon. Mr. Longworth, Mr. Cooper, and Mr. McIntosh thought that the granting of this petition would be a precedent for other controllers to demand the same. The Members stated that although the salary was only £15 the commission was £100.

By Mr. Wightman—Inhabitants of Georgetown for an additional Block or to their Wharf and for a Bonded Warehouse.

Hon. Members seemed agreed that it might be granted a Warehouse if it is kept in Charlottetown. But Hon. Mr. Cole did not think a Bonded Warehouse such as is in other places, would be so beneficial as the system of grants for duties.

By Mr. Haviland—Inhabitants of Georgetown for a Fire Engine, some Hon. Members said it might be had previously, but Hon. Mr. Cole stated that had a precedent already the first Fire Engine for Charlottetown was paid for by Government.

By Mr. Peter McPhee and Hibernian for repairing Roads and Bridges. Hon. Mr. Whelan moved for a call of the House on Tuesday, and the House adjourned to consider the paying of Legislative Councilors.

Hon. Mr. Whelan in moving that the Bill for regulating the proceedings in controversy should be read the first time, proposed that it was principally a consolidation of the two Acts 7th and 11th Victoria, except that the time was intended to be extended, and there were a few verbal alterations.

The Bill for the establishment of a Normal School, and in amendment of the Free Education Act, and the petition of Mr. Longworth, and Hon. Mr. Palmer spoke of the necessity of some regulation being made to secure the payment of the fees to teachers. That, under the present system, parents were liable to pay for their children merely for the winter, and before the expiration of the time when the fees would become payable, resorting to the children of the quarter, would remove their children from one school to another, and thus evade their obligations, to the pecuniary loss of the teachers. The proposed settlement of the pupils, who could not improve under such circumstances; and suggested that the Bill be over till to-morrow, when some measure could be adopted to obviate the evil.

Hon. Col. Secretary had no objection to the Bill for deferring till to-morrow, and was of opinion that the petitioners would be satisfied with the payment of the fees. When the Bill was first introduced, it was his intention to have brought forward a measure for the establishment of schools on aged schools in operation in England. Such institutions were of very great benefit, but the Secretary of the Colonies was of opinion that the introduction of such difficulties in the way. If we cannot, however, have ragged schools, he thought that those children whose parents had no power to support them, should be sent to some place of education, on the certificate of a clergyman or magistrate, and that the Government should be made to bear the fees from the Treasury. By this means, the children would be removed from the streets, where at present they spend the worst of their time, and be educated in a healthy and useful way. The Bill was deferred till to-morrow.

The Bill regulating the proceedings on controverted Elections was read a third time, and passed with some trifling amendments.

The following sums were voted in supply, viz.—£20 to Messenger of Executive Council; £50 for Comptrol of Buys and Payments; £00 for Bonds of Health; £300 on account on Warrants, £1400 interest on £20000 loan; £40 to the Controller of Public Works; £5 to Market Clerk in Georgetown; £400 contingent expenses of the Government; £1000 for the purchase of land for the public pews in the different churches—Mr. Muishied wished to know why it was that £14 were demanded for the English Church, which other denominations were not asked for, and the members of that communion were in a very small minority. Mr. Haviland, and others, explained that the money was not for the pews, but for the church that they were not the property of the Colony. Hon. Col. Secretary suggested that, as the Roman Catholic Church had set apart separate pews, the accommodation of the Lieutenant Governor and family, in addition to the one for the members of the Legislature, the sum of £14 be granted to the Roman Catholic Church, and the independent of surveys under Land Purchase Act, £30 for destruction of Bears and Louping leopards, and £100 for the relief of the old condition, £35 to indentured Indians.

Hon. Col. Secretary proposed a vote of £100 to reimburse Sir Alexander Bannerman, that he might be enabled to pay the salary of the Visitor of Schools, for the purchase of a horse, wagon and sleigh. He stated that, from an error in the Accounts of the Secretary, requesting that a competent person be sent out to the Island, an impression was conveyed that Mr. Stark was to receive his travelling expenses in addition to his salary. Mr. Cole, however, discovered that such was not to be the case; and then Sir Alexander considered himself bound to resign his office, and the Secretary had £100 in lieu of travelling fees. And the (Hon. Col. Secretary) had no doubt that the House would not allow the late Lieutenant Governor to receive his salary and travelling expenses. He received the amount, on Sir Alexander's orders, from W. R. Watson, Esq., and paid it over to Mr. Stark.

In answer to a question of the Hon. Mr. Longworth, it appeared that Mr. Stark's salary commenced from the time of his engagement in Scotland, and that his passage out had been paid by the public.

Mr. Haviland was anxious to elicit the opinions of the members of the Government as it was a Government measure, and he introduced, and the Hon. Col. Secretary explained that the reason for the matter not having been brought to the notice of the House was that the money was paid in addition to his salary, and he was unwilling to support it.

Hon. Col. Secretary and the Hon. Mr. Wightman were of opinion that sufficient information was not produced to the House, and consequently he would suspend his opinion, and reserve his right to oppose the resolution, if more satisfactory information should be produced.

Hon. Mr. Montgomery was opposed to the vote. If Sir Alexander Bannerman chose to make a present to Mr. Stark, he might do so—The House adjourned till Tuesday next, at 10 o'clock.

TUESDAY, March 6.

Several petitions were presented to the House, among others was one by the Hon. Mr. Mooney, praying an alteration in the law regulating the proceedings on controverted Elections. The Member moved that it be referred to a special committee to report by Bill or otherwise, and stated that the present law operated to the disadvantage of the farmer, as the measure by which

he sold his produce was larger than in Canada. Newnansburgh, New South Wales, and Newfoundland. The captain of a vessel had told him, that one cargo of oatshipped from Inland Island to Boston, measured there 103 bushels more than the quantity as measured in England. That reference to heaped measure, the shorter staves, and used consequently greater width of the measure in the Island, administered by the Hon. Col. Secretary, Hon. Messrs Lord, Wightman, and Longworth, who said that the old system was so defective, that it was necessary to refer to long Bills of lading, that grain was not affected by the present act, which experience had shown to work well. Under the present system, the petition would render useless the standard weights and measures, which had cost much money, so that no change in the law was called for by the people.

Hon. Mr. Lord suggested, that if the hon. member wished to benefit all parties, he should introduce a Bill to provide for the selling of grain and roots by weight.

Mr. Haviland agreed with the Hon. Mr. Lord, and would support such a Bill. New Brunswick and Adelaide.

Mr. McIntosh thought such a course impracticable. Masters of vessels would not be provided with scales, and the Hon. Col. Secretary and Mr. Cooper approved of the suggestion, and hoped that the committee would report in favour of it. Some slight increase might be required to meet the extra charges of weighing, which soon be found in the vicinity of the different shipping places. Hon. Mr. Mooney, Hon. Mr. Montgomery, Messrs Long and Cooper and Laird were then named as the committee.

The Hon. Col. Secretary communicated a letter stating that a pew had been appropriated to the Roman Catholic Church, and the Rev. Baptist Church in Charlottetown, and mentioned that the one-ninth Bill had received the Royal Assent.

Hon. Mr. Wightman presented the report of the Committee on the Lunatic Asylum, and also that of the Trustees and Keeper. The Committee recommended the fitting up of the present unfinished, and considered there was ample space for the comfortable and separate accommodation of the patients. Particulars, which latter should be made to work on the grounds and in the building, which has space for two good working-rooms—one of which should be reserved for the use of the female patients. They also recommended the enclosing of a portion of the grounds for the Lunatic Asylum, and the purchase of the same, for a sum sufficient to carry their recommendations into effect. They further stated their opinion, that the Government should have a more efficient control over the details of the Institution, than at present. The report was adopted by the House.

The Hon. Col. Secretary gave notice of his intention to introduce a Bill to tax the Rent-rolls of Proprietors.

In supply, £250 were voted for the Asylum and House of Industry, exclusive of the amount provided for Statute, and £10 to the B. School.

(Report for Haszard's Gazette.)

WEDNESDAY, March 7.

The following Petitions were presented and referred to committee or laid on the Table.

By the Hon. Mr. Whelan—A petition of the More Road settlers. By Mr. Longworth—Divers inhabitants in the vicinity of the County line between Queen's and Prince Counties.

By the Hon. Mr. Mooney—Inhabitants of New South Wales, and they desired to improve their Road communications.

By the Hon. Mr. Palmer—Petition of the Church of England, praying for an alteration in the Act, relating to the appointment and incorporation of Church Wardens and Vestries connected with the Church.

By Mr. Montgomery—Inhabitants of Princeton-Royal, for a grant to repair Darnley Bridge.—For a small sum of money to complete the work on the building, and to prevent the work from being interrupted by the setting forth of the failure of the Light House, and the Hon. Col. Secretary designed, and alleging that it is calculated as at present constructed and managed, to deceive the mariner and praying a remedy.—Inhabitants of the Island, praying for a balance due on contract for repairing Wharf at Pownal Bay.

By Mr. Wightman—Inhabitants of Lots 51, 52 and 59, praying for a Repeal of the enacted laws of last session relating to stamp measures, referred to Committee.

By the Hon. Mr. Mooney—Inhabitants of Indian River, for a Post Office.

By Mr. Cole—Inhabitants of Green Vale petitioning for a Post Office, referred to Committee.

Mr. Haviland from the Committee appointed to report on a petition presented to him, referred the Bill to naturalize James Seal Munro, reported that they recommend that the Bill be exempted from fees.

THURSDAY, March 8.

The following Petitions were presented: By Mr. Warburton—Inhabitants of Grand River, praying for a Repeal of the Act according to a petition previously presented for altering a new line of Road—referred to Committee. By Mr. Longworth—From Brackley Point Road, middle District, in Charlottetown and Royalty, such another party have obtained registration against them for a School District, and praying a Repeal of the Act.

Hon. Mr. Cole presented a petition of the Royal Agricultural Society praying that the Government impose a tax of 10s per head on each dog in Charlottetown and Royalty, such tax to be collected by the Society and go towards their funds. The Society state, that they have taken pains to improve the breed of sheep, which are kept on farms near Town, for the purpose when they are of the proper age, of disposing them in the several settlements in the Colony. The Society state, that the owners of the dogs, their endeavours are in a great measure thrown away. They state that the present law, which requires the owners to recommend that all dogs be killed, who have not the name of their owners on the collar, or are not accompanied by their owners. Mr. Cole would not give the whole length of the petition, but thought something might be done.

Mr. Mooney would rather see all the dogs in the country shot, than go for this Petition.

Mr. Palmer would wish to see more efficient means taken to prevent dogs running at large, he knew the present law was not enforced, though a higher tax ought to be imposed on dogs in Town, and rigidly enforced.—The Petitioners would not give the whole length of the petition, but thought something might be done. Mr. M'Donald moved that the Bill for amending the Statute Law Act, and for the establishing new Road Districts, be recommitted to a Committee, and that the Government be stated that the Bill allows Commissioners to be appointed out of the District, which he did not concur in.

Mr. Palmer spoke to the same effect.

Mr. Cole said that persons could not be found in the 12th District who understood the provisions of the Statute Law Act, but as that was the reason, that the alteration was made. It was agreed that all Commissioners should reside in their districts except the 12th which was not so provided for.

The Normal School Bill was recommitted to a Committee of the whole.

Mr. Cole moved that while the Bill was before the House, that as many children are orphaned and otherwise unable to pay the fees, a school be established for orphans in Charlottetown.

Hon. the Speaker thought it would be better to pay the fees out of the Treasury than establish a new school in Charlottetown, but as the Education Act would expire, in another year, he would give it a trial, as the expense would only be a trifle.

Mr. Cole was of the same opinion.

Mr. Cole spoke from experience that many poor children could not pay the fees for the public schools, and besides would not attend, he would like to see power given to the Board of Education to compel children to go to school, particularly if such a school was established.

Mr. Longworth felt assured, that the children of Charlottetown did not get their proportion of the assessment paid in Charlottetown and Royalty.

Mr. McIntosh—The poor ought to have a stipend, and to be taken with the children in the public schools.

Mr. Palmer thought the Hon. Member took an erroneous view, as the school was chiefly for the benefit of the poor, and he would not support it.

Mr. McIntosh said, there were not organs enough to require a School.

Mr. Cole moved, that the Charlottetown assessment was assessed at twice the amount of the other Royalties, and the Charlottetown assessment amounted to £400.

Mr. Longworth proposed the opening of another school.

Mr. Longworth—The people of Charlottetown pay 18s for the support of their schools, while the other Royalties pay only 10s, and he would like to see the Board of Education to establish a School in a central place, and the teacher to have a salary of £200.

Teacher not required to qualify under 1st class but receive a certificate of fitness from the Board of Education.

Orphan children to have the preference, from 4 to 10 being the ages, and to have a certificate from a Clergyman and a member of the Board of Education to limit the Number and to decide the preference of children. Free and Charitable Charlottetown schools to be paid in advance.