

The Herald.

VOL. IV.

CHARLOTTETOWN, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, JUNE 24, 1868.

NO. 36.

THE HERALD
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BY
EDWARD REILLY,
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR,
at his Office, Queen Street.
TERMS FOR THE "HERALD."
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" " " half-yearly in advance, 0 10 0
Advertisements inserted at the usual rates.

JOB PRINTING
Of every description, performed with neatness and despatch
and on moderate terms, at the HERALD OFFICE.

ALMANACK FOR JUNE.
MOON'S PHASES.
Full Moon, 5th day, 2h. 43m., morn., S. W.
Last Quarter, 13th day, 6h. 1m., morn., N.
New Moon, 20th day, 10h. 33m., morn., S. E.
First Quarter, 27th day, 1h. 38m., morn., S. E.

DAY	MONTH	DAY WEEK	SUN	High	Moon	DAY'S
			rises/sets	Water	sets.	LENGTH
1	Monday	4	17 37	7 30	2 31	15 20
2	Tuesday	17	38 8	26 3	3	21
3	Wednesday	16	39 9	17 3	36	23
4	Thursday	16	40 10	6 rises.		24
5	Friday	16	41 10	54 7	54	26
6	Saturday	15	42 11	35 8	45	27
7	Sunday	14	42 even.	9 33	28	
8	Monday	14	43 1	0 10	16	29
9	Tuesday	14	44 1	41 10	31	30
10	Wednesday	14	45 2	23 11	21	31
11	Thursday	14	45 3	5 11	55	32
12	Friday	13	46 3	49 morn.	33	
13	Saturday	13	46 4	36 0	20	33
14	Sunday	13	47 5	25 0	46	34
15	Monday	13	47 6	19 1	15	34
16	Tuesday	13	47 7	14 1	42	34
17	Wednesday	13	48 8	9 2	23	35
18	Thursday	13	49 9	5 3	0	36
19	Friday	13	49 9	59 3	43	36
20	Saturday	13	49 10	55 sets.	36	
21	Sunday	13	50 11	46 8	44	37
22	Monday	14	50 morn.	9 28	37	
23	Tuesday	14	49 0	33 10	22	36
24	Wednesday	15	49 1	29 10	59	35
25	Thursday	15	49 2	21 11	31	34
26	Friday	16	49 3	12 morn.	34	
27	Saturday	17	49 4	5 0	6	33
28	Sunday	17	49 5	1 0	39	32
29	Monday	17	49 5	50 1	6	32
30	Tuesday	18	49 6	55 1	40	32

Prices Current.
CHARLOTTETOWN, June 19, 1868.

Provisions.	
Beef, (small) per lb.	6d to 1s
Do by the quarter.	6d to 9d
Pork, (carcase)	3s 1d to 5s 1d
Do (small)	5d to 8d
Mutton, per lb.	5d to 9d
Lamb per quarter.	4s to 5s
Veal, per lb.	3d to 5d
Ham, per lb.	6d to 7d
Butter, (fresh)	9d to 1s
Do by the tub.	
Cheese, per lb.	3d to 5d
Tallow, per lb.	9d to 10d
Lard, per lb.	
Flour, per lb.	3s 1d to 3s 4d
Oatmeal, per 100 lbs.	20s to 22s
Eggs, per dozen.	7d to 9d
Grain.	
Barley, per bushel.	5s to 6s 6d
Oats per do.,	3s
Vegetables.	
Peas, per quart	2s 3d to 3s
Potatoes, per bushel.	1s 6d to 1s 9d
Turnips per bush	
Poultry.	
Geese,	none
Turkeys, each,	4s to 7s 6d
Fowls, each,	1s to 1s 8d
Chickens per pair,	
Ducks,	1s 3d to 1s 6d
Fish.	
Codfish, per qtl.	20s to 30s
Herrings, per barrel,	25s to 40s
Mackerel, per dozen,	
Lumber.	
Boards (Hemlock)	4s
Do (Spruce)	4s to 5s
Do (Pine)	7s to 9s
Shingles, per M	13s to 18s
Sundries.	
Hay, per ton,	120s
Straw, per cwt	2s
Timothy Seed,	14s to 17s
Clover Seed, per lb.,	1s 6d
Homespun, per yard,	4s to 6s
Califkins, per lb.,	6d to 9d
Hides, per lb.,	4d
Wool,	1s to 1s 6d
Sheepskins,	
Apples, per doz.,	5s to 7s.
Partridges,	

A. HERMANS,
GUN-SMITH,
BELL-HANGER AND TIN-SMITH.
BEGS to inform his friends, and the public generally,
that he has again commenced business on Dorchester
Street, next door to the Reading Room Building,
where he is prepared to execute all orders in his line
with neatness and despatch.
ON HAND,
A neat assortment of Tinware,
Kitchen Utensils, &c. &c.
Including the patent BON TON COFFEE POT, which received
the Gold Medal Prize, at the Paris Exposition
of 1867. Also, BON TON LANTERNS, which will
surpass everything in the Market, and suitable for either
Farm use or on board Vessels.
A few WATER COOLERS on hand, which together with
a large variety of other Stock will be sold cheap for
Cash.
Mr. HERMANS is Agent for SAWYER'S CRYSTAL
BLUE, a new, economical and superior article used in
washing, whereby a saving of fifty per cent is guaranteed,
and for which he begs to solicit the patronage of
Laundry Maids, &c.
Ch'town, July 24, 1867.

CORNS & WARTS
Are Permanently and Effectually Cured by the use of
ROBINSON'S
PATENT CORN SOLVENT.
For Sale by
W. R. WATSON.
City Drug Store, Dec. 13, 1867.

RONALD McDONALD,
Commission Merchant, Auctioneer,
AND
COLLECTING AGENT.
Souris, Jan'y 2, 1868. 1v

R. REDDIN,
Attorney and Barrister at Law,
CONVAYNCER, &c.
Office,--Great-George St., Charlottetown.
(Near the Catholic Cathedral.)
August 22, 1866. E t f

W. ROUGHAN,
(Late of the Customs Department)
SHIP BROKER, &c.,
Having rented the SCALES on
Queen's Wharf,

He will attend to the weighing of COAL, OATS
HAY, &c.
Charlottetown, P. E. Island.

Co-Partnership Notice.
THE SUBSCRIBERS have this day entered into
CO-PARTNERSHIP as BARRISTERS and AT-
TORNIES-AT-LAW, under the name, style and firm of
ALLEY & DAVIES,
Office --- O'Halloran's Building,
Great George Street.
GEORGE ALLEY,
LOUIS H. DAVIES.
Oct. 23, 1867. t f

SHOP TO LET.
TO LET, one of the Shops in REDDIN'S NEW
BUILDING, immediately adjoining the Drug Store
of W. R. Watson, Esq., Lower Queen Street. For a
business stand this shop is not surpassed in the city.
Possession can be given about the 1st of April next.
Enquire of
B. D. REDDIN.
Ch'town, Feb. 26, 1868.

CHARLOTTETOWN MUTUAL
Fire Insurance Company.
Board of Directors for the current year:
Hon. GEORGE BEEB, President.
William Brown, Esq., Mark Butcher, Esq.,
Hon. George Coles, Mr. Thomas Esery,
Hon. H. J. Calbeck, John Scott, Esq.,
Bertram Moore, Esq., Thos. W. Dodd, Esq.,
William Dodd, Esq., Hon. W. W. Lord,
Artemus Lord, Esq., Wm. Heard, Esq.
Office hours from 10 a. m. to 4 p. m.
H. PALMER, Secretary.
Mutual Fire Insurance Office, Kent St.,
Charlottetown, 1st Feb., 1868. } p i

PACKET
BETWEEN
SOURIS & CHARLOTTETOWN.
THE FAST-SAILING and COMMODIOUS Schooner "A. R.
McDONALD," will run between Souris & Charlottetown,
calling at the intermediate ports, as soon as the
navigation permits.
DOMINICK DEAGLE, Master.
January 29, 1868. 1y

ON HAND,
NOTE of HAND Books, Blank Forms of Sheriff's
Sales, Executions, Summonses, &c., &c., at the
QUEEN STREET BOOKSTORE.
E. REILLY.

DAWSON'S ESTATE.
Important Notice!
THE SUBSCRIBERS have been instructed by the
TRUSTEES of W. B. DAWSON'S ESTATE, to
SUE all parties, without any distinction, whose un-
settled Accounts or Notes of Hand, to W. B. DAWSON
or GEORGE NICOLL, are not immediately paid,
ALLEY & DAVIES,
Att'y for Trustees of Dawson's Estate.
Ch'town, Feb. 26, 1868.

MAILS.
Summer Arrangement.
THE Mails for the United Kingdom, the neighboring
Provinces, the United States, &c., will, until further
notice, be closed at the General Post Office, Charlottetown,
as follows, viz:—
For Canada, New Brunswick and the United States,
via Shediac, every Tuesday and Friday evening, at 7
o'clock.
For Nova Scotia, via Pictou, every Monday, Wednes-
day and Friday evening, at 7 o'clock.
Mails for Great Britain, Newfoundland and the West
Indies, every alternate Monday and Wednesday evening,
at 7 o'clock, as follows, viz:—
Monday, May 18, Monday, September 7,
Wednesday, do 20, Wednesday, do 9,
Monday, June 1, Monday, do 21,
Wednesday, do 3, Wednesday, do 23,
Monday, do 15, Monday, October, 5,
Wednesday, do 17, Wednesday, do 7,
Monday, do 29, Monday, do 19,
Wednesday, July, 1, Wednesday, do 21,
Monday, do 13, Monday, November 2,
Wednesday, do 15, Wednesday, do 4,
Monday, do 27, Monday, do 16,
Wednesday, do 29, Wednesday, do 18,
Monday, Aug. 10, Monday, do 30,
Wednesday, do 12, Wednesday, Dec. 2,
Monday, do 24, Monday, do 14,
Wednesday, do 26, Wednesday, do 16.

Mails for Summerside, St. Eleanor's and Bedouque,
to be forwarded per Steamer, will be closed every Tuesday
and Friday evening, at 7 o'clock.
And Mails for Georgetown and Souris, per Steamer,
every Friday evening, at 7 o'clock.
Letters to be registered and newspapers must be post-
ed half an hour before the time of closing the Mails.
THOMAS OWEN,
Postmaster General.
General Post Office,
Ch'town, May 4th, 1868.

DEBATES AND PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

(Continued.)
Hon. Mr. HAYTHORNE: I wish to call
the attention of your honors to a subject
which has been brought to my notice
this morning, relative to the mode of
paying teachers. It appears that a very
cumbersome piece of machinery has to be
set in motion, and every Council day a
large number of warrants has to be issued.
They have all to run their course, be en-
tered in the Treasurer's books, the war-
rant books, &c., and considerable expendi-
ture is also incurred in printing, which
it is thought might be obviated. It has
been thought advisable to offer a sugges-
tion to the House of Assembly, with a view
of rendering the mode of paying teachers
more simple, and, as I am not acquainted
with drawing up Acts, I obtained the val-
uable assistance of his honor the member
for Charlottetown. I therefore propose
the following suggestion:—

"Warrants for the payment of the sala-
ries of school teachers shall be issued not
often than two days in each month through-
out the year, such days to be named by His
Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, and
the aggregate amount due and to be issued
each day, in order to avoid a multiplicity of
Treasury warrants, shall be included in
three or more warrants, as in the estimation
of the Lieutenant Governor in Council
shall appear convenient, and shall be drawn
payable to one or more of the public or in-
corporated Banks established in Charlottetown,
and each school teacher shall be en-
titled to receive, at any such Bank, being
so provided with such funds, the amount
ordered for him when in Council and which
shall be paid at said Bank, on the produc-
tion of such voucher as heretofore would
entitle such teacher to receive his or her
Treasury warrant from the Clerk of the
Executive Council."

I am confident that the plan suggested
is just the one to meet the contingency,
and I am aware that the attention of the
public officers has been directed to it.
To lessen the labor of public officers is
the principal object in view, and if this
suggestion will have that effect, an im-
portant point will be gained.

Hon. Mr. BEER: I have much pleasure
in seconding the suggestion, for I think
it will have the effect of lessening the
labor of the public officers, and it will
lessen expense also.

Hon. Mr. DINGWELL: If it will lessen
the labor of the public officers, I think it
will increase the inconvenience of the teachers.

Hon. Mr. PALMER: I do not see that
it can produce any additional inconve-
nience to the teacher. If he has his certi-
ficate that he is entitled to receive his
warrant, he has only to carry it to the
Bank to receive his pay. I believe the
signature of the Secretary of the Board
of Education is now required, and it
would still be required. The officers at
the Bank would be as conversant with
that signature as the Treasurer is now.
I cannot therefore see that there would
be any inconvenience, unless the distance
between this building and the Bank is
considered such. It would lie in the
power of the Governor in Council to
issue the aggregate amount in £200, £300
or £500 warrants as they could dispose
of them. The only question upon my
mind is, whether the Banks would attend
to this business without some remunera-
tion.

The question was then put on the sug-
gestion, and it passed in the affirmative.
House resumed and further progress
reported.

Adjourned till to-morrow at ten o'clock.

WEDNESDAY, April 22nd.
EDUCATION BILL.

Hon. Mr. McDONALD, on rising to
move that the committee on the Education
Bill be resumed, said: I wish to
make two or three observations in refer-
ence to some remarks which were made
upon the Bill yesterday. His honor on
my right (Mr. Walker) expressed his
disappointment and said the Bill was
not such as he expected, and I am will-
ing to admit, that it is not such a Bill
as he and his co-religionists might expect
from the Government. But it should be
remembered that there may be strong
reasons for bringing in this Bill as it is.
We must look at the history of this ques-
tion for past years, and at the agitation
which has gone through the length and
breadth of the Island in reference to
Education. The action, and indeed the
Legislative action of the late Government
appeared to have been to educate public
opinion against giving any religious, or
what are called sectarian grants, and
the feeling of a great portion of the
Protestant part of the community has
been in opposition to such grants.
Therefore, I think it would have been
bad policy in any party or any Govern-
ment, no matter how desirable it may
have been, to have introduced a Bill of
that kind, when public opinion is so gen-
erally against sectarian grants as it has
been for some years past. But I be-
lieve the education which is being dis-
seminated throughout the Island, the
very effect of the free education
system, will enlighten the public mind;
prejudices which warp people's judg-
ment will be removed by education; then
it will be seen that in order to give a
sound education to youth, the foundation
should be religious instruction. In

course of time public opinion will change,
and the Government will then come to
the aid of those who have taken the edu-
cation of a portion of the youth of the
colony in hand, and are giving them in-
struction which they would not receive
under the Act as it stood. I am of op-
inion that those who take a part of the
duty of the State, in educating the
youth, and do that better than the Gov-
ernment could do it without their assist-
ance, have a right to expect that the
Government will help them so far as to
devote the same amount from the public
funds as those children would cost the
Government, if they were instructed in
the ordinary schools of the colony. But
public opinion has not arrived at such a
state as to demand such a change, and
therefore, I do not think it would
have been good policy to have intro-
duced anything of that kind at present.
My colleague (Mr. Gordon) also said
he was disappointed with the Bill, and
of course it is easy to express disappoint-
ment with any measure, much easier
than to propose a change which would
make the working of it more efficient.
His honor, though he found fault with
the bill, has not proposed any amend-
ment. He would not go for compulsory edu-
cation, but he thought more inducement
should be given to the parents to send
their children to school. Well, it may
be easy enough to propose something of
that kind, but not so easy to carry it
out, and till he does show how it can be
carried out, perhaps it is not worth while
to say more about it. He also said it
was an unfounded charge against the
Conservative party, that they had re-
duced the salaries of the teachers. I
was surprised at that statement, for if he
will search the public records, he will see
that it was not an unfounded charge. In
1863 the Conservative party was in
power, and in a summary of the Pro-
ceedings of the Session of that year,
published in the Examiner of the 13th
April, I find the following:

"The Education Act was introduced
by the Hon. Mr. Longworth, and read
a first time. The hon. member explained
that it was proposed, on one hand, to
reduce to some extent the expense of
working the Education Act—an expense
which the country was unable to bear;
and on the other to levy some taxes with
the view of supplying the deficiency in
supporting the system. The bill con-
templated reducing the amount to be
paid to the teachers by the Government
on a certain scale; for example, those
teachers who were entitled to £55 under
the present Act, would receive £40;
those of the highest class who had now
£60, would receive £45, those who had
£50, would receive £35, and those who
had £40 would be reduced to £30. A
proportionate reduction would be made
in the salaries of teachers in Charlottetown
and Georgetown."

Now, I think his honor must have for-
gotten that fact, for we see that the very
member who introduced the Education
Bill at that time, stated that it was to
reduce the salaries of the teachers. If
his honor had been able to show that
at that time, that party had reduced the
taxation of the Colony, he would have
some ground for his statement, but in
the very same year the duty was raised
from two-pence to six-pence per gallon
on molasses, so, they not only increased
the taxation in that way, but they in-
creased it further upon those who had
children to send to school, for they had to
make up a portion of the teachers' salaries.
His honor also contrasted the state of Edu-
cation in various countries of Europe with
this Island, and he said that one-sixth of
the population of Great Britain attended
school, but I do not agree with him, for
the Statistics given by the Commissioners
appointed by the British Government show
that there are 3,500,000 children of the
school age, of whom 2,450,000 are on
the school registers, but the average at-
tendance is only 1,700,000. In many
districts the average was very much be-
low this. The same Commission en-
quired into the state of education in
the town of Birmingham, and it was found
that only about 52 children out of every
hundred could read well, 18 moderately,
and 40 not at all, 84 out of every hun-
dred did not know anything about arith-
metical. In Rome, the population is 215,-
563, children 22,251, attending school
18,864. In Glasgow, also, several thou-
sands did not attend school. In this
Island the number attending school is
not what we might expect, considering
the large amount of money expended for
that service. There must be somewhere
about 22,000 children of the school age
on the Island, perhaps more, and accord-
ing to the Reports of the School Visitors,
as far as I can understand, for it is diffi-
cult to arrive at the exact number from
them, 11,450 children are registered for
school, or not more than half the num-
ber of the school age. It is very true,
these children, after they come up to the
last year of the school age, are useful at
home on the farm and otherwise, and
that may be one reason why there are
not more attending school. But I think
if a certain number of the youth of this
Island were examined they would be
found to compare favourably, as far as
reading and writing is concerned, with
an equal number, of an equal age, in
Great Britain or any other country we
know of. The cost of Education borne
by the Government last year was £15,-

737 10s., which is a large proportion of
the revenue devoted to that service.

Hon. Mr. GORDON: I hope that here,
as in every other place, I will not make
a statement which I am not prepared to
substantiate. The statement I made
with regard to the number of children
attending school in Great Britain, was
taken from a Report of the Education
Commissioners in England, which was
issued in six large volumes. I think
that Report contains the best Statistics I
could refer to. His honor says that the
Conservative party reduced the salaries
of the teachers, but I said, and I say
again, that they did not. They only re-
quired that a part of the amount each
teacher was to receive, was to be paid
by a different mode. The gross amount
was not reduced. If argument were
required to show that there was reason
for making that change, I might refer
to the Report I have already named,
which says that "No system of educa-
tion will be prized, unless the people
contribute directly to the support of the
schools." That was the view held by
the Conservative party, and they tried
the experiment.

The Bill was again referred to a com-
mittee of the whole House and further
progress reported.

UNFORTUNATE DEBTORS BILL.

Hon. Mr. McDONALD, on rising to
move for the second reading of a bill for
the relief of unfortunate debtors, said:
I cannot say that I am fully acquainted
with the details, or indeed the principle
of this bill; but I am aware that there is
a necessity for a measure of this kind.
We hear every year loud complaints of
parties who have been unfortunate in
trade as to the difficulties they labor un-
der. Many who, after they have been for
some years embarked in business, find
themselves in that unfortunate position
that they are not able to meet their en-
gagements, and in this Island there is no
alternative but to go to jail and remain
there. That is felt to be a very great
hardship, and with a view of affording
that unfortunate class some relief, this
bill has been introduced. It was pre-
pared, I believe, by a joint committee of
both branches of the Legislature, appointed
last year, who, I understand, have
given a great deal of attention to it, and
no doubt it will meet the requirements of
those who are in need of an Act of this
kind. It is somewhat in this shape: If
a person gives up all he possesses to his
creditors, he is not left at their mercy.
They will not have it in their power to
send him to jail, perhaps for the rest of
his life. If a man is willing to give up
all his property, and to have it fairly di-
vided among his creditors, he should be
at liberty, if he has friends to back him,
to commence business again. That is
the case in nearly all other countries
where they have a measure of this kind
—perhaps a more extensive one than this.
Parties who have been unfortunate in
business, if they give up all they possess,
can start afresh, providing they can show
that they have not been guilty of fraud.
Almost every year a number of persons,
after making preferential assignments of
their property, leave the Island, and per-
haps after defrauding those creditors who
are most justly entitled to receive what
they have advanced. It is often the case
that such an assignment is made, not to
the person who is most equitably entitled
to receive it, but to some friend or family
connection. This is partly brought about
by the way the law stands, for parties,
rather than to go to jail, leave the Island;
and other parties who get into the same
unfortunate position, are debarred from
doing any business. I know an individ-
ual myself who is in that position, owing
to no fault of his own, but to a series of
losses which had the effect of ruining him,
though a good business man, when he
gets enough to set him up in business
again, perhaps in a month or two after-
wards, some old creditor comes down upon
him and he has to sacrifice all he pos-
sesses. Now, if we had a law which
would enable such a person to make over
all he had left to an assignee appointed
by a commission, and let it be divided
among his creditors, leaving him free
from arrest, it would be a benefit, not
only to the individual himself, but to the
country generally; for it would enable
a person having good business talent to
carry on business successfully, which at
present he cannot do. I think the bill
will meet those cases, though it is not a
Bankruptcy Law, but is for the relief of
unfortunate debtors.

Hon. Mr. PALMER: A measure of
this kind is undoubtedly called for.
A bankruptcy law is one which no
well regulated and well governed Colony
should be without; but I doubt very
much whether the Bill now before the
House will come up to what is re-
quired for the relief of such persons
as are looking for a measure of this
kind. It is no doubt a difficult ques-
tion to legislate properly upon. Great
Britain has been legislating upon a
bankruptcy law for perhaps a century—
and they have always kept up a law of
that kind as being indispensable—but
though often amended it has ever proved
defective. It is one which requires
the utmost care to embrace all those re-
quisites deemed necessary to secure the
rights of parties. I was one of the
committee appointed last session, and
although the Bill has emanated from

that Committee, it is different from
what I thought would be necessary and
suited to the Colony. I was anxious
that we should profit by the experience
of other countries, and the judgment of
good sound legislators, as well as practi-
cal judges and lawyers, and I proposed
to the committee to take up the principle
of a bankruptcy law lately passed in the
American Union, which is framed upon
simple and economical principles com-
pared with other systems. It simply
constitutes the Judges of the Supreme
Court in each State a Court of Bank-
ruptcy. The whole law is comprised in
fifty sections, and with a little modifica-
tion it might be adapted to the wants of
this Island. It is said to be copied, in
a great measure, from a law in force in
Canada some years ago. However, the
committee did not concur with me in
that idea, and the Bill now before your
honors has been introduced, which is very
different in its principles, and much
more circumscribed in its advantages
and effects than such a one as I would
like to see passed. I do not think this
Bill is calculated to afford that relief
which is looked for by parties who re-
quire a law of this kind. It is called
"An Act for the relief of unfortunate
Debtors," but it is simply an extension
of our present insolvency law. It is
in fact an insolvency law with addi-
tional provisions. I think it will cause
disappointment on the minds of the public
and perhaps will not be considered a
very safe law for either party. However,
my fellow committee men thought it
well to introduce it in some shape
or form, rather than let the Session pass
without bringing in a bill on the sub-
ject. As it was introduced it was to be
worked by the Supreme Court, or a
Judge of that Court, but I see
the House of Assembly have made an
alteration, and have enacted that it shall
be worked by a commissioner of insolv-
ency. I think that is a mistaken
idea, and I fear the effect of it will be,
that the Act will be frustrated or ineffi-
ciently managed. No doubt a good
bankruptcy law may be of vast import-
ance, both to debtor and creditor.
There is no country where there is greater
regard for the liberty of the subject,
or wherein there can be greater neces-
sity for giving every possible facility for
carrying on trade, than in that great
commercial country Great Britain, and
therefore much attention has been paid
to the bankruptcy law. A law of this
kind should not be entrusted to any but
competent persons. In Great Britain,
the court of bankruptcy is conducted by
men of established reputations—men
who are eminent in their profession—and
it was for that reason I thought we might
with greater advantage adopt the Ameri-
can principle, and we would be per-
fectly safe in entrusting the working of
that Act to the Judges of the Supreme
Court, but the House of Assembly have
thought otherwise; for what reason I
cannot say, nor is it necessary that I
should. I believe the principle reason
was the objection to imposing an onerous
duty upon those Judges, and in place of
that they have authorized the appoint-
ment of a commissioner. Now, if they
had made some provision for the pay-
ment of a commissioner who could be
entrusted with such important duties as
these, there might be some safety for
both debtor and creditor going into such
a court; but I apprehend that if the
bill does pass in its present shape, no
person would be obtained to accept of-
fice to whom it could be safely entrusted
for the paltry fee, will be no inducement
for a well qualified man to accept it.
I dare say a third or fourth rate lawyer
may be found to accept it, for there are
quacks in all professions and it is likely
one may be found in Prince Edward
Island. It is the commercial character
of the country the Legislature should
look to, and in passing such a law great
care should be taken lest it should have
the effect of curtailing or interfering
with the credit of the Colony. If the
Act works against the interests of the
foreign creditor, it will soon be known
abroad, and it will perhaps prevent pa-
ties from giving credit to men in busi-
ness here. In that way it may work
the disadvantage of the trade and com-
merce of the country. It does not pos-
sess many of the requisites of a bank-
ruptcy law, and it leaves the whole a
judication to the commissioner, from
whose decision there will be no appeal
though it may involve hundreds of
thousands of pounds. It may possess
some provisions which may operate favor-
ably in some instances, and do a certain
amount of good, but I fear the good will
be counterbalanced by an equal amount
of evil, for there is nothing worse in
criminal community than an ill devised
bankruptcy law. Some years ago the
passed one in New Brunswick. The
was great pressure for it, for owing
the unfavourable state of trade for so
years, many had become embarrassed
their circumstances. A law was last
passed and there was quite a rush in
the Court, but I believe they were
to repeal it the next Session. What
effects of this bill will be it is impos-
sible to say, but I do not expect much from
I am very much disappointed, for I would
like