and one of these gentlemen being absent from Charlottetown, it was necessary to get assistance. The hon. member from Cascumpec had taken the impost accounts of Georgetown for one year, but he would find that the accounts of the revenue received at that port during, say, the last five years, would show that the salary proposed was not unreasonable.

Hon. Mr. POPE was not particular as to the sum proposed to be assigned to the Collector at Georgetown. The resolution had reference only to the shire towns of Prince and King's Counties, and the consideration which induced the Government to propose the specific amounts was, that in the ports of Georgetown and Bedeque, although the business might and doubtless would fluctuate, the Collectors had to devote their whole time to it. They should, therefore, be reasonably compensated for the time which they would otherwise employ in private business. With reference to the observation on political honesty which had fallen from his hon. colleague (Mr. Howat), he claimed to be as honest as that gentleman. He had never pledged himself to particular details, nor would he do so. If that hon. member were in the present, or any other Government, he would find it difficult to carry it on, if they who had been elected as its supporters should be constantly harping at every vote proposed. If the hon. member was prepared to sacrifice the Government, let him avow his intention to do so. He could assure him that he was not trusted by the Opposition, nor did he believe in any man clearing his skirts at the expense of his party. He (Hon. Mr. Pope) had always been willing to assume the responsibilities of his position without reference to consequences personal to himself.

Mr. HOWAT had not, in the observations he had made, intended to cast any reflections upon hon. members who might differ in opinion from himself. He had merely expressed his own views, and in doing so he was but doing his duty to himself and his constituents. He felt bound to adhere to his public pledges, and he had been elected to support the Government, but only as far as he considered their policy to be right. He had objected to the revival of the office of Solicitor General, which seemed to indicate an intention of increasing the number of officials.

Hon. Mr. COLES approved of the course adopted by the Government in paying specific salaries to the Collectors at Summerside and Georgetown. He had no objection to the amount proposed for the Collector at Summerside, but thought £175 too much for the officer at Georgetown. He suggested that £150 would be sufficient.

Hon. Mr. POPE had no objection.

Mr. BRECKEN explained that the unusual amount paid to Queen's Counsel last year was caused by the absence of the hon. Attorney General in England. The renewal of public contracts, the preparation of those between the Government and the Steam Navigation Company, and those relative to the construction of important public works, had occupied so much of his time that he was of opinion that he had not charged enough.

Hon. Mr. COLES.—As the Attorney General, while absent, had been in receipt of his full salary, and had his expenses defrayed by the Government, he should have paid for the work alluded to.

Hon. Mr. LAIRD.—If the salary of any officer should be increased it was that of the Controller at Charlottetown. With reference to the appointment of Solicitor General, I had no objection to the gentleman on whom the office had been conferred, but for four years there had been no official on the floor of the House. He considered £100 quite enough for the office, and not having been consulted on the subject, he had no idea that it was intended to give more than that amount.

Hon. Mr. LONGWORTH.—It could not be expected that any Government could fill the principal offices of a country without affixing to them salaries proportionate to the time to be occupied in the duties of the office, and the talents requisite for the proper discharge of those duties. As a member of the legal profession, it might be supposed that his views were tinged with a shade of self-interest in dealing with the subject of the salary of the Solicitor General. Such, however, was not the case; and if the necessity of having a law officer in the House were admitted, and the acceptance of the office imposed upon a member the necessity of reelection, it must be evident that £100 was too small remuneration for the services of a gentleman whose office required the possession of talents and education, which, he was happy to say, were combined in the present Solicitor General in a very high degree.

The resolution was carried, giving to the Collector at Summerside £175, to that at Georgetown £150 per annum.

SUMMARY OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

SATURDAY, March 25.

Mr. McLennan, Chairman of the Committee to whom were referred sundry petitions relating to the opening of new roads, submitted a report, which was received and read, and ordered to be submitted to a Committee of the whole House on Monday next.

On motion of the Hon. Solicitor General, the Bill to amend the Land Purchase Act was submitted to a Committee of the whole House—Mr. Howlan in the chair.

Hon. Solicitor General explained that the object of the Bill was to abolish the restrictions in regard to the minimum prices fixed by the Act on the wilderness land of the Worrell Estate. It was, therefore, necessary to amend the law so as to authrize the Government to lessen the prices of said lands which could not be sold at the present fixed rates. Portions, at all events, of those waste lands, he said, would be sold, provided the prices were lowered.

Hons. Messrs. Coles, Hensley, Colonial Secretary, Davies, Laird, Longworth, Pope, Gray, and Messrs. Sinclair and Sutheland, addressed the Committee on the object of the Bill.

During the debate, it was considered advisable to retain the clause in the Act limiting the quantity of land sold to any one person to 300 acres. After which the Bill was reported agreed to.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Davies, the House resolved itself into a Committee of the whole to resume the consideration of Supply.

Several Resolutions were then reported from Supply and agreed to.

Hon. Solicitor General presented a petition from divers inhabitants of Georgetown asking permission to erect a Pound on the public square of that Town.

Said petition was referred to the following special Committee to report thereon, viz: Hons. Solicitor General, Longworth, Kaye.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Laird, the House resumed the debate on the subject of Colonial Confederation.

Hon. Col. Gray opened the debate by delivering a long speech in favor of Confederation.

He was followed by the Hon. Mr. Warburton, who spoke in opposition to the proposed Union. After which that important debate was again adjourned till Monday next.

Hon. Mr. Pope then introduced a Bill by which to assist Tenants to purchase the fee simple of their farms. He said the object of the Bill was to advance money to Tenants to the extent of one half the purchase money necessary to obtain the fee simple of their farms. The money, thus advanced, to be secured on the property and repaid with interest, by annual instalments, extending to a term of ten years. To accomplish that object, he said the Bill authorized the Government to issue debentures to the extent of £50,000 currency, which amount might hereafter be increased, if necessary, for the purpose of finally abolishing that leasehold system which had retarded the progress and prosperity of the Colony.

The Bill was then received and read, and ordered to be read a second time on Monday next. House adjourned.

MONDAY, March 27.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Pope, the House went into Committee on the appropriation for Roads and Bridges.

While in Committee on this subject, Mr Conroy remarked that the Road Commissioners had not always expended the grants of that House in accordance with the Road Scales put into their hands. There was, he said, a lack of attention on this point which he hoped would be remedied in future. If the Commissioner at any time departed from his instructions, he should state his reasons for doing so.

Hon. Mr. Pope observed that the remarks made by the hon. member (Mr. Conroy) were called for. He observed by the Road Returns of some of the Road Commissioners, that moneys had not always been appropriated as directed by the Road Scales of that House. It would, therefore, be necessary that instructions be given to such Commissioners, through the Road Correspondent, not to expend money for any other purpose than that for which it was appropriated by that House.

On motion of the Hon. Solicitor General, the Bill relating to Wills, Legacies and Executors, was committed to a Committee of the whole House. Mr. McLennan in the chair.

The principal feature of this Bill is to provide that if, after the death of a father, any of his children shall die intestate, without wife or children, during the lifetime of the mother, every brother and sister, and the representative of them, shall have an equal share, with the said mother of the deceased, of the property of such intestate. Executors of Wills are also vested with certain powers and interests over the estates committed to their charge.

The Bill was reported agreed to.

The Bill to amend the Law of Real Estate was read a third time and passed.

The Bill to compel Masters of Vessels to exhibit a light while in harbour, during the night-time, was also read a third time and passed.

On motion of Mr. McLennan, the House went into Committee on the report of the special committee on new roads. Mr. Sinclair in the chair.

Said Report was then read, during which objections were taken to the recommendations of the Committee relative to the opening of some new roads, a compliance with which would be contrary to the established principles of that House.

Mr. Howat explained the peculiarly embarrassing situation of the parties alluded to in the report, especially those resident on Lot 28, and contended that the road asked for by such would prove a general benefit to the travelling public. A counter-petition, however, was presented, objecting to the road in question.

The Report was then amended, and progress reported thereon.

AFTERNOON.

On motion of the Hon Mr. Pope, the Revenue Bill was read a third time and passed.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Longworth, the Bill relating to the Estate of the late J. H. Winsloe, by which tenants on that Estate can secure the titles of their farms, was also read a third time and passed.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Davies, the Bill to amend the Union Bank Act, for the purpose of altering the time for holding the annual meetings of that Institution, was read a second time and agreed to.

Mr. Brecken moved that the House go into Committee on a Bill to amend the Incorporation Act of the City of Charlottetown; and in doing so explained the principal alterations recommended by the said Bill.

Hon. Mr. Laird moved an amendment, that the House go into Committee thereon this day three months.

The said amendment having been negatived, progress was reported.

Hon. Col. Gray presented a petition from the Rev. Alexander McLean, and other inhabitants of Eldon, praying for the establishment of a Grammar School at that place.

The hon. member, in recommending the petition to the favorable consideration of the House, said that a great many young men, in that rising place, were anxious to acquire a knowledge of the higher branches of education, preparatory to their entering College. The laudable object of the petition he therefore hoped would be favorably supported.

Owing, however, to the established rule of the House, which provides that all petitions praying for money grants should be forwarded to the office of the Col. Secretary, previously to the opening of the Legislature, the said petition was ordered to be withdrawn, the remedy being with the Executive Council or the Board of Education.

Hon. Col. Gray then presented a petition praying for the Incorporation of a Presbyterian Church at Woodville and Little Sands; which petition was received and read, and referred to a Committee to report thereon.

Hon. Col. Gray, chairman of the said Committee, submitted a Bill, which was received and read, and ordered to be referred to the Private Bill Committee to report thereon.

On motion of the Hon. J. C. Pope, seconded by the Hon. Solicitor General, the Bill to enable tenants to purchase the fee simple of their farms, was submitted to a Committee of the whole House.

The principles of that important Bill received the general approval of hon members on both sides of the House; the object of which was to aid and assist tenants to purchase the freehold interest of their farms, by advancing them one-half the purchase money, limiting the same to 16s 8d per acre, currency; one-half of which, namely, 8s 4d per acre, to be loaned by the Government for a period of ten years, payable by instalments, and bearing interest at 6 per cent. The money to be obtained, for the accomplishment of that object, by the issue of Debentures amounting, for the present, to £50,000.

Hon. Mr. Coles said it was not his intention to oppose the Bill, but he had hoped that two-thirds of the purchase money might, with all propriety, be advanced to tenants for the purchase of their farms, and not confine them to one-half, as proposed in the Bill.

The Bill, after some further discussion, was read clause by clause, and reported agreed to.

When the Hon. Mr. Coles moved that it be recommitted, for the purpose of amending the same by a Resolution, which he then submitted, to the effect that two-thirds, and not one-half, the purchase money be advanced; and also to allow for any instalments paid by tenants, who might produce a receipt for the same, to the Commissioner of Public Lands, said receipt being for the payment of one-third of said purchase money of their farms. He said that he was desirous to have that amendment inserted in the Bill, that Mr. Haythorne's offer might be carried out, which he had read to the House previously to going into Committee; for he thought that if the tenants on the estate of that gentleman could get rid of all their back rents, by the Government advancing three-fifths, that amount should be paid by the Government.

In reply to that Resolution, the Hon. Leader of the Government remarked that the suggestions therein contained received due consideration before the Bill was submitted to the House, which, if carried out, would necessarily involve a heavy loss, as all Proprietors, who had a number of the very poorest class of tenants from whom no rent could be received, would willingly give such tenants a receipt for one-third the purchase money for the sake of getting the other two-thirds from the Government. To prevent that, the Bill contemplated that all the purchase money should pass through the hands of the Land Commissioner. As for the tenants on Mr. Haythorne's estate, it could not be expected that the House could legislate exclusively for their benefit; and if the agreements entered into between those tenants and their landlord were as advantageous to them as had been represented by the hon. leader of the Opposition, he did not see that they required any special aid.

The question was then put on the amendment of the Hon. Mr. Coles, and negatived on the following division, viz:

For the amendment—Hons. Messrs. Coles, Whelan, Warburton, Hensley, Thornton, Kelly, Beaton; Messrs. Howlan, Sinclair, Walker and Conroy—11.

Against it—Hons. Messrs Pope, Longworth, Col. Secretary, Laird, Sol. General, Davies, Kaye; Messrs. Haslam, Montgomery, Yeo, Green, McLennan, Howat, Brecken, Ramsay and Duncan—16.

The Bill was accordingly agreed to.

The debate on the question of Colonial Confederation was then resumed, and kept up till a very late hour.

Hon. Mr. Hensley and Mr. Brecken spoke in opposition to the proposed Union scheme of the Quebec Conference.

Hon. Mr. Davies said he was in favour of the main principles of Confederation, but was of opinion that the details of the scheme, as contained in the Report of the Quebec Conference, were not just and liberal to the Island. After which the debate was again adjourned. House adjourned.

TUESDAY, March 28.

The Hon. Leader of the Government submitted a message from His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, transmitting the Report of the Adjutant General of Militia for the year 1864.

The House in Committee on Pauper Scales reported several resolutions agreed to, after which progress was reported.

The House in Committee on matters relating to Roads, Bridges and Wharfs, and after some time spent therein, progress was reported.

The House then again spent some time in Committee on the report of the Committee on new Roads.

Objection was taken to the opening of a road at Bay Fortune, as recommended by said Report, on the grounds that the law in such cases would not authorise the House in opening said road.

Hon. Mr. Beaton moved that the report of the Committee, touching the opening of that road, be adopted; and explained the desirability and advantages of extending the road in question to the sea shore.

A counter petition against the completion of that road, was then alluded to; after which it was resolved that the Government be authorized to appoint a Commmission to examine into the real merits of the case, with the view of ascertaining the necessity or otherwise of completing the road in question.

It was also resolved that a similar Commission be appointed to report on the road asked for on Lot 20. After some further discussion, relating to the opening of new roads in different other localities alluded to, the Report was agreed to with amendments.

Hon. Solicitor General submitted a Bill to amend the Militia Laws of the Island, which was received and read, and ordered to be read a second time to-morrow.

Hon. Mr. Longworth, Chairman of the Committee appointed to bring in a bill relating to the appointment of Clerks of Magistrates Courts throughout the Island. The hon. member then explained the object of this Bill, and the duties imposed on Clerks so appointed, relative to forwarding returns to the Prothonotary's Office previous to the meetings of the terms of the Supreme Courts of the Island; after which the Bill was received and read, and ordered to be read a second time to-morrow.

On motion of the Hon. Solicitor General, the House went into Committee on the Bill to amend the Land Purchase Act. Mr. Howlan in the Chair.

The Bill was then read by the Chairman, clause by clause, and agreed to with certain amendments.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Davies, the Bill to amend the Union Bank Act was read a third time and passed.

On motion of the Hon. Leader of the Government, the Bill to assist Leaseholders in the purchase of the fee simple of their farms, was read a third time and passed.

House adjourned.

AFTERNOON.

On motion of the Hon Solicitor General, the Bill relative to Wills, Legacies, and Testators, was read a third time and passed.

Hon. Mr. Longworth, Chairman of the Committee on Private Bills, recommended that the Bill to incorporate the Presbyterian Church at Woodville and Little Sands be exempt from the charge of fees payable thereon.

Hon. Col. Gray then moved that the House go into Committee on the Bill to incorporpte the Church at Woodville, &c. Mr. Green in the chair.

The said Bill was then read, clause by clause, and reported agreed to.

The Pauper Scales were then again taken up in Committee and disposed of.

The House then in Committee, resumed the consideration of the appropriation for Roads, Bridges and Wharfs, and reported the same agreed to.

On motion of the Hon. Solicitor General, the Bill to amend the laws relating to the better administration of Justice, was committed. Mr. Yeo in the chair.

Hon. Sol. General explained the changes in the practice sought to be introduced by the Bill, which specified the particular form of Writ to be served upon corporate bodies, and also designated the parties on whom such Writ should be served, and enable the plaintiff to file common bail in suits against incorporate Companies, in accordance with the present practice in suits between individuals. Another provision in the Bill was for the relief of parties sued by executors or administrators, rendering them liable to the consequences of litigation in the same manner as were private individuals. The Bill also provided for liability to pay interest on open accounts after demand and notice. It also authorized the adoption of legal proceedings, in the form of signature, used by any defendant in subscribing to any contract. Rights of action in cases of *tort*, were, by the Bill, reserved to the personal representatives of deceased individuals. It also provided that in the case of Notes drawn, payable in specific articles, the plaintiff should not be compelled to prove value received, and gave the privilege of paying money into Court in cases of *tort*. It also abolished the necessity of applying for an order for leave to plead more than one plea in suits in the Supreme Court.

After some time spent in Committee, during which several hon. members spoke on the principles of the Bill,

Mr. Montgomery objected to that clause rendering parties liable to the payment of interest on accounts, as he considered it would tend to encourage litigation, and be productive of no benefit to the debtor.

Mr. Howat also offered some objections to that clause.

Progress thereon was then reported.

The adjourned debate on the subject of Colonial Confederation was then resumed.

Hon. Mr. Hensley continued his speech of the previous evening, expressive of his views on that subject. He said he would not go so far as to say he was against Union altogether, but was of opinion that the dearest interests of the Island would be injured by the adoption of the principles of the Quebec Convention. He spoke at considerable length, and was followed by the Hon. Solicitor General, who entered fully into the whole question, in defence of the Union side of the subject.

Mr. Howlan followed and delivered a long address in opposition to the views held by the advocates of Confederation.

The debate was then again adjourned, and at a late hour the House adjourned till 10 o'clock to-morrow.

WEDNESDAY, March 29.

Hon. Mr. Pope submitted the account of sales of the Stock imported to this Island last year, which was received and read.

The Report of the Adjutant General of Militia, which had been previously submitted, was also read.

Mr. Brecken moved that the House go into Committee on the petition of divers inhabitants of Charlottetown, asking the House to appropriate part of Government House Grounds for a Military Parade Ground, and a Park for recreation of Citizens and other inhabitants of P. E. Island.

After some discussion on the subject of the petition, it was submitted to a Committee of the whole House. Mr. Yeo in the chair.

The petition was then received and read, and after some further discussion, during which the desirability of procuring a portion of the domain attached to Government House grounds as a place for a Parade and Recreation ground, was generally admitted by hon. members.

Mr. Brecken then submitted a resolution to the effect that, in the opinion of that Committee, it was expedient that a Bill should be passed, authorizing the dedication of a portion of the Government House farm to the purposes of a Parade ground for the Militia and Volunteers, and as a Park or place of recreation; and also that an address be presented to Her Majesty the Queen, praying that she will be graciously pleased to give her royal sanction to such dedication. After which progress was reported.

Hon. Mr. Coles read, in his place, a petition from divers inhabitants of Marshfield School District, Lot 34, complaining of some of the provisions of the present School Act, and suggested certain amendments. The hon. member observed that he was aware he could not ask for any action to be taken on the petition, which had only been very recently handed to him. He would, however, ask if it were the intention of the Government to amend the School Act during the present Session?

Mr. Haslam said he had a petition on the same subject, which he was about to present, when the

Hon. Mr. Longworth replied, that it was not the intention of the Government to entertain any action on the subject of Education, during the present Session, in consequence of the short time that had elapsed since the present amended law had been in operation, the merits of which had not yet been fairly tested.

AFTERNOON.

On motion of the Hon. Col. Gray, the Bill to incorporate the Minister and Trustees of the Presbyterian Congregation at Woodville and Little Sands, was read a third time and passed.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Davies, the Supplementary Estimates for the current year were submitted, and referred to the House when in Committee on Supply.

Hon. Mr. Coles asked for returns of the number of acres of land purchased by the Government last year, and the price paid for the same.

Hon. Mr. Davies said he thought that the Accounts and Returns from the Land Office, already before the House, furnished the necessary information.

The Hon. Leader of the Government, shortly afterwards, produced from the Office of the Land Commissioner the paper asked for.

On motion of the Hon. Solicitor General, the Militia Bill was read a second time and committed. Mr. Yeo in the chair.

The Hon. Solicitor General explained the Bill, and said that it repealed the Act 14 Vic. cap 6, and thereby revived certain Acts therein mentioned. The repeal of said Act, he said, would enable the Commander-in-Chief to call out the Militia, if occasion required.

After some debate on the subject, the Bill was agreed to without any amendment.

The House resumed Committee on Supply, and reported several Resolutions agreed to.

Mr. Yeo, Chairman of the Committee appointed to examine the Public Accounts, presented their Report, which was ordered to be committed to a Committee of the whole House to-morrow.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Longworth, the Bill relating to the appointment of Clerks of Justices of the Peace, was submitted to a Committee of the whole House. Hon. Mr. Beaton in the chair.

Hon. Mr. Longworth then explained the object of the Bill, which authorizes Justices of the Peace, in any district of the Island, if they think proper, to appoint a Clerk, for whose acts the said Justices should be responsible. The duties of such Clerk should be to make a Return to the Office of the Prothonotary of the Supreme Court of the County in which he shall hold his office; such Returns to be forwarded to said office at least four days previous to the holding of the respective Sessions of the said Supreme Court. Those Returns to contain a record of all convictions before such Justices of the Peace from whom he may hold his appointment, together with the amount of fines ordered by such Justices, and the manner in which they might have been levied and distributed.

On motion of Mr. McLennan, a Resolution was adopted, to the effect that an address be presented to His Excellency the Lieut. Governor on the subject of the report of the Committee.

Hon. Solicitor General, agreeably to notice, introduced a Bill to amend the law relating to the Agricultural Society, so as to alter the time for holding the annual meeting of that Society.

The House in Committee thereon. Mr. Yeo in the chair.

Several hon. members then spoke of the necessity of resuscitating that institution, with the view of rendering it more generally useful to the Agricultural interests of the Colony.

Progress was then reported.

The adjourned question on the subject of Colonial Confederation was then resumed; the debate was opened by

The Hon. Mr Longworth, who delivered a long speech condemnatory of the principles upon which were based the Report of the Quebec Conference, the adoption of which, he said, would be subversive of the best rights and liberties of the people of this Colony.

He was followed by Messrs. Sinclair and Howat, both of whom spoke against Union, and condemned the scheme propounded by the Constitution agreed upon at the Quebec Conference.

The debate was then adjourned till to-morrow afternoon. After which the House adjourned till 10 o'clock to-morrow.

THURSDAY, March 30.

On motion of the Hon. Solicitor General, the House in Committee resumed the consideration of the Bill to amend the laws for the better administration of Justice.

After some remarks from Messrs Howat, Duncan, Montgomery, and the Hons Messrs Hensley, Beaton and the Solicitor General, the Bill was amended, on motion of Mr Montgomery, by striking out the clause authorizing Executors or Administrators to destrain for rent due deceased landlords. After which it was reported agreed to.

The Resolutions last reported from Supply were received, and the following gentlemen appointed a Committee to bring in the Appropriation Bill, viz: Hon Mr Davies and Messrs McLennan and Yeo.

The Bill to appoint Clerks to Justices of the Peace, and to regulate proceedings had before them, was read a third time and passed.

The Bill relating to Militia was also read a third time and passed.

Hon. Solicitor General, having obtained leave, introduced a Bill to amend the Act passed during the present Session, relative to Pickled Fish. He explained that certain restrictions were placed by the Bill recently passed to which strong objections were taken by gentlemen extensively engaged in the Fisheries of the Island. He, therefore, felt it to be his duty to bring the matter under the consideration of the House, in order that the Act in question might be repealed or amended so as to offer every facility to those engaged in that important branch of industry.

Mr Howlan opposed the views taken on the matter by the Hon Solicitor General, and contended that the provisions of the Bill, which had just received the sanction of that House, were calculated to give a character to our trade in the article of Fish, and would also foster and encourage our Fisheries.

Hon. Mr. Beaton also defended the Inspection Law, which had for its object, by the adoption of a Government Brand, the securing of the trade of the Island a "status," the want of which has hitherto been a serious loss to those engaged in the Fishery trade.

Hon. Mr. Davies said that he would not support any restrictive policy on that subject; the object of the Bill, recently passed, was to give a character to our Fish in markets abroad—an object highly necessary. He would, however, support any measure that would facilitate trade, and remove any unnecessary restrictions that may have been imposed by the Act.

The House then went into Committee on the Bill. Mr. Yeo in the chair.

Hons Messrs. Coles, J. C. Pope, Davies, Solicitor General, and Messrs. Duncan, Howlan and McLennan, addressed the Committee on the subject of the Bill, during which hon. members on both sides concurred in the propriety of offering every encouragement and facility to the trade of the Island with the United States, by the removal of any obstruction which might be deemed inexpedient.

Hon. Solicitor General then moved an amendment to the Act, to the effect that all Pickled Fish landed on the Island, from on board any vessel belonging to any Foreign country, which Fish have been caught for, and belong to, any Foreigner, and are not to be used or consumed on the Island, but all intended to be re-shipped for exportation to any Foreign country, shall be exempt from the provisions of the Act passed during the present Session of the Legislature of the Island, intituled "An Act for regulating the Inspection of Pickled Fish for exportation from this Island."

Which amendment was agreed to; after which the Bill, as amended, was agreed to.

House adjourned.

AFTERNOON.

The House resumed the adjourned debate on the Union of the Colonies.

Hon. Mr. Kelly opened the debate in opposition to Colonial Union of any kind, and on any terms, believing that it would retard, rather than advance the prosperity of this country in every point of view.

He was followed by Messrs Conroy, Haslam and Montgomery, all whom recorded their opposition to Confederation.

A few remarks was also offered by Mr McLennan, relative to the appointment of the Delegation to Quebec.

Hon Mr Whelan then rose, and occupied two hours and a half in delivering a speech in favor of the principles adopted at the Quebec Conference.

Mr Duncan next spoke in opposition to the proposed scheme, which, he said, would be ruinous to the general interests of the Colony.

The debate was then, at a very late hour, adjourned till to-morrow.

Hon Mr. Pope, a member of the Executive Council, presented the annual Report of the Visitor of Schools for the Eastern Section of the Island, accompanied by an Extract from the minutes of a meeting of the Board of Education, held that day, regretting that the said Report was not received in time to be transmitted to the Legislature at an early period. Which documents were then ordered to be laid on the table.

House adjourned.

A. McNEILL, Reporter.

CORRESPONDENCE.

CANADA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Toronto, C. W., March 14th, 1864.

THE HOUSE.

The news of the defeat of the Confederation candidates in New Brunswick, was the most fortunate thing for the Canadian Government which have happened. The Hon. Attorney General McDonald rose in his place in the House, on Monday, the 6th instant, and explained that so far from the Canadian Government giving up the scheme because New Brunswick was going against it, would have the effect of making them act more promptly and vigorously than they had intended to do. The Government did not consider that it afforded any cause for the abandonment or postponement of the question submitted in the resolution before the House. "One great reason," said he, "for promptness on the part of the Canadian Legislature in adopting the resolutions was, to avoid the necessary reaction which would pervade England from one end to the other, if it were thought that this project was abandoned. He believed what more than anything else had raised British America, or at least Canada—its chief component part—in the estimation of England, was that by this scheme we offered a means by which these colonies would cease to be a source of embarrassment, and be in fact a source of strength. That feeling pervaded England, and the reaction that would follow its disappointment would be very great. He called therefore on hon. gentlemen not to allow Canada and British America to lose the vantage ground they had gained by showing any signs of receding on this question. Another reason why this matter should be dealt with promptly was because of its connection with the question of defence—one which must at once be considered in view of the present position of affairs on this continent. As had already been frequently stated, this question had engaged the anxious attention of this Government, and they had been in continuous correspondence with the Home Government as to the best means of organizing an efficient defence against every hostile pressure, from whatever source it might come. They had hoped that the Confederation scheme would soon have assumed such an aspect that that question would have been dealt with by these Provinces as a whole. They could not disguise from themselves that the course of events in New Brunswick would prevent the early united action of these Provinces on this subject. The question of defence therefore came up now as between Canada and England, and the Government felt it was one which could no longer be postponed. (Hear, hear.) Then there was a third question which also called for immediate action, and that was the commercial relations between Canada and the United States. The fact of the consummation of union being protracted or postponed, and therefore the construction of the Intercolonial Railway being postponed, called on the Imperial Government for immediate action on that subject. He would now state to the House the policy the Government proposed, in view of these circumstances, to pursue, and for which they sought the support of the House and country. First, they desired that this debate should be brought to an end with all convenient speed, and that the House should, as soon as possible, vote yes or no on these resolutions. Then, so soon as the address was carried, the Government intended to ask a vote of credit from the House, and prorogue Parliament on the earliest day possible thereafter. Unfinished business would be taken up next session at the point at which it had reached this. Some members of the Government would proceed to England for the purpose of discussing and arranging with the Imperial Government the question of Confederation in its present aspect, the question of defence, and the other important matters to which he had alluded, and the result of that mission would be submitted to this House at an early summer session. (Hear, hear.)"

As it may be supposed, this bomb-shell thrown into the Opposition camp, rather took them by surprise, and the leaders were up in arms at once, and accused the Government of trying to coerce them, and to put a stop to the debate. They were very wrathy and protested against the movement of the "previous question." Their indignation was very amusing when one considers the fact that they had been talking for a whole month, and had not advanced one single argument, or given an amendment during the whole course of the debate. The friends of the scheme combatted these statements, and applauded the energy and the determination of the Government to pursue their policy. This cross fire was kept up by both sections until Friday night, or rather Saturday morning, when a vote was taken. The House divided on the previous question, which was carried, Yeas, 85; Nays, 39.

The motion for the address on Confederation was then put and carried on the following vote:

YEAS—Messrs. Alleyn, Archambault, Ault, Beaubien, Bell, Bellerose, Blanchet, Bowman, Bown, Brousseau, Brown, Burwell, Cameron (Peel), Carling, Cartier, Cartwright, Cauchon, Chambers, Chapais, Cockburn, Cornellier, Cowan, Currier, DeBoucherville, Denis, DeNiverville, Dickson, Dufresne (Montcalm), Dunsford, Evanturel, Ferguson (Frontenac), Ferguson (South Simcoe), Galt, Gaucher, Gaudet, Gibbs, Harwood, Haultain, Higgonson, Howland, Huot, Irvine, Jackson, Jones (South Leeds), Jones (North Leeds), Knight, Langevin, LeBoutillier, Atty. Gen. Macdonald, Macfarlane, Mackenzie (Lambton), Mackenzie (North Oxford), McConkey, McDougall, McGee, McGiverin, McIntyre, McKellar, Magill, Morris, Morrison, Parker, Pope, Poulan, Poupore, Powell, Rankin, Raymond, Remillard, Robitaille, Rose, Ross (Champlain), Ross (Dundas), Ross (Prince Edward), Scoble, Shanly, Smith (Durham), Smith (Toronto), Somerville, Stirton, Street, Sylvain, Thompson, Walsh, Webb, Wells, White, Wilson, Wood, Wright (East York), Wright (Ottawa)—91.

NAYS—Bigger, Bourassa, Cameron, Caron, Coupal, Dorion (Hochelaga), Dorion (Arthabaska), Duckett, Dufresne (Iberville), Fortier, Gagnon, Geoffrion, Holton, Houde, Huntington, Joly, Labreche-Viger, Lafromboise, Lajoie, McDonald (Cornwall), McDonald (Glengarry), McDonald (Toronto), O'Halloran, Paquet, Perrault, Pinsonneault, Pouliot, Eymai, Scatchered, Taschereau, Thibaudeau, Tremblay, Wallbridge (North Hastings)—33.

Messrs. Powell, Parker, Gibbs, Huot, Evanturel, and Gaudet, who voted against the previous question, voted yea on the main motion.

The House adjourned at half-past four—members immediately joining in chorus, "God save the Queen."

By referring to the above, it will be seen that only nine Upper Canadian members voted against it. The vote was the largest that ever was taken in the House on any question, and never was the attendance of members so good as during this debate; knowing that the majority would have been so overwhelming, it reflects great credit upon the members to see that they were so much interested in the result as to sit out so tiresome a debate in purpose to have their names recorded on the scroll of fame. Business is being wound up with alacrity, and I don't think that the House will sit longer than the present week; then Delegates will go to England to lay their plans before the House of Parliament, and get their support to do something with the Provinces that still hold out. There is no doubt but that the passage of the scheme here will affect the elections still to come off in New Brunswick, in Nova Scotia, and with you. The result of the negotiations with the Court of St. James will be anxiously looked for, and on it the future greatness of the British North American Provinces will in a great measure depend.

THE ST. ALBANS RAIDERS

Are still in jail. Since I last wrote to you their case has not advanced a stage, owing to the continued illness of Judge Smith.

SILVER.

Canada is flooded just now with American Silver, which is used to the detriment of the Banks of the Province. Bills have to a great extent disappeared, and the Directors of the Banks are making loud outcries about the nuisance. The Board of Trade met to-day and passed a resolution recommending store-keepers to put a discount of four per cent upon it. The recommendation has not been adopted by over two-thirds of the retail dealers, and a war is being waged. Placards adorn the windows of the shop in which the silver is taken at par, and a rivalry exists as to who will get the most customers. The opinion is beginning to prevail that those who take it at par add the per centage on the goods. There is little doubt but that this is really the case; and if it is found to be so, trade will be withdrawn from these shops.

THE PASSPORT SYSTEM

Is now abolished as far as Canada is concerned, and now the trade of passenger travel over the Railways is being resumed. When the order was promulgated the people on the frontier had great rejoicing. Hand-shaking and mutual interchange of public opinion was the order of the day. The enforcement of the system is not unattended with good results. It has shewn the good feeling which does really exist between the people of both countries; and, in fact, the Americans were more demonstrative than the Canadians. They hope that from this time out good feeling and brotherly love will reign supreme.

CRIMPING

Is being carried on in Canada to a great extent, and hundreds of British subjects are being taken to the other side to fight the battles of the North. Legal measures are taken to try to stop this exodus, but few arrests are made. Bounty jumpers are getting well posted in the manner of evading the law and few corrections are made.

THE WINTER

Has this year been the longest that has been known for very many years. Snow storm follows snow storm in quick succession. Many are benefitted by it, whilst others suffer very much. Fodder for cattle is very scarce, and many of the farmers in the back townships are necessitated to kill off their cattle to prevent them dying from starvation. The roads are good, and had prices of grain been equal to what was expected, a large business would have been done; but as it is, few farmers can do more than clear expenses, while others have an account on the wrong side of the book. All look anxiously forward for Spring to open, so that they may see how the wheat crop looks. March came in like a lamb, but the second day ushered in a storm of great severity.

COAL OIL

Is all the rage now, and any one who has land adjacent to the present oil wells is holding on so as to get large prices. New York speculators are very busy, and they are buying up all the land that the people will sell. Several persons who could scarcely eke out a miserable pittance, have suddenly found themselves rich, far beyond their most sanguine expectations. The Hon. George Brown has, it is said, disposed of 5000 acres of his estate at Bothwell for the sum of $280,000 in gold.

PEAT.

Large deposits of peat have been found in different parts of Canada, and companies are being formed to prepare the commodity for market. It would be a great gain to Canadians if it could be found in sufficiently large quantities to replace wood as fuel, as the latter is now getting very scarce in the vicinity of large towns.

FROM OUR CANADIAN CORRESPONDENT.

Toronto, C. W., March 21st, 1865.

THE CONFEDERATION SCHEME.

In my last letter I informed you that Confederation had been carried by a sweeping majority. Since then, the Government have hurried up matters, and the Houses were prorogued on Saturday last. On Monday last, on motion that an address should be made to Her Majesty, the Opposition got off some of their spleen, which they had been nursing so long against the Government, and which they had not the courage to do whilst the debate was going on. Mr. John H. Cameron (Peel) was the chosen scape-goat, and he made himself very ridiculous before the eyes of the country and his constituents, by moving in amendment that an address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General, praying that His Excellency, in view of the magnitude of the interests involved in a measure of such momentous importance, which changes the whole of the existing constitution of the Province, will direct an appeal to be made to the people before any action is taken for its confirmation or enactment by the Imperial Parliament. Mr. M. C. Cameron seconded this amendment, but neither of these gentlemen have anything to brag about by doing as they have done, more especially when the Confederation scheme was passed, and the debate closed upon it altogether. As may be expected, their amendment was defeated by an immense majority. During this debate a great deal was said about annexation; and Mr. Eric Dorion (Rouge) spoke strongly in favour of cutting away the apron strings which bind Canada to England. Coming from the man it did, there is no pretence that he speaks with the consent or the will of his party. Some men like to do or say something which will bring them prominently before the public; notoriety is what they want, and if they only get it, they care not by what means it is accomplished. Mr. E. Dorion has chosen this questionable mode, and has got himself well talked about for his pains. Since his speech on the subject, a few other members, who have always been satisfied to be silent on any and every occasion, have deigned to give vent to their disloyal sentiments, and annexation is now the principal topic of conversation throughout the country. The people of the Maritime Provinces may thank themselves for this; and if Canada should, in a year or two, advocate Annexation, the Maritime Provinces will, of necessity, require to follow suit. The points at issue are very grave, and I can scarcely imagine that the anti-Confederationists ever dreamt of such a turn of events. On Tuesday the House resolved itself into a Committee of Supply, and Mr. Galt (Finance Minister) explained most clearly and elaborately the necessity that existed for a speedy action in granting supplies. As may be expected, his explanations were not received without being questioned by the Opposition; but the Hon. Finance Minister explained everything to even their satisfaction, although some of the members had not the manliness to admit it. After a lengthy debate, $1,000,000 was granted for the purposes of defence. It is proposed to extend the period during which the Volunteers will remain in the field until September; and it is not improbable that should the struggle on the American continent still be prolonged after that date, that the volunteers will still be required to mount guard upon the frontier. On Thursday the Committee of Supply rose, and reported that the Supply Bill, granting $3,380,000, had been adopted. Friday was devoted to the winding up of the business, which was far enough advanced to be treated in that way; and, as stated above, on Saturday the House was prorogued. His Excellency, in doing so, spoke as follows:—

"*Hon. Gentlemen of the Legislative Council*—

"*Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly*—

"In releasing you for the present from further attendance in Parliament, I rejoice that I am able to congratulate you upon having laid the foundation of a more intimate union of Her Majesty's possessions in British North America. I am also happy to think that the course which you have adopted has been calculated to prove the sincerity and earnestness with which you adhere to the policy of Her Majesty in relation to foreign countries, and your readiness to pass measures which may be found necessary for the enforcement of that policy within the Province.

"*Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly*,—

"I thank you for the provision you have made for carrying on the public service of the Province. The sum which has been entrusted to the Government by your vote, for the permanent defence of the Province, cannot fail to be regarded by our fellow-subjects in England as an earnest that Canadians are ready to accept the responsibility whilst they claim the advantages of British connection.

"*Hon. Gentlemen, and Gentlemen*,—

"It has been considered advisable that a deputation from the Government of Canada should proceed to London to confer with Her Majesty's Ministers on questions of great importance to the Colony. When these gentlemen shall have returned, I shall lose no time in again availing myself of your counsels, and laying before you the result of their mission."

Thus closes one of the most important sessions of the Canadian Parliament that ever was held. The delegates are actively preparing for their trip to the Court of St James, and next week, if all is well, will see Messrs. John A. McDonald, Galt, Cartier and McDougall on the bosom of the broad Atlantic. So soon as they can return it is proposed that Parliament shall again re-assemble and receive the report of the delegates.

SURPLUS OF SILVER.

We, in Upper Canada, are dreadfully annoyed with a surplus of American silver, and the Toronto *Globe* is out against it. The Board of Trade recommended that the Store-keepers should put a discount of four per cent upon it; and many of them adopted the recommendation, whilst others again, who are not troubled with bank accounts, stuck out against the movement, and "silver at par" labels are in the windows of a large number of the shops. It is made public that a good deal of money has been made on American silver. The banks of course do not take it, and when any dealer wishes to make a deposit he has to apply to the money changers, and they charge him from 4 to 6 per cent discount. This silver is again sold by the brokers to establishments where a large number of men are employed, and it is paid to them at par, and thus the American silver has been circulating in Upper Canada for the last three years. There is to be a meeting to-night of the citizens to take action in the matter, and it will be for them to say whether the silver will be taken at par or the rate of discount increased. Many are in favor of releasing the Canadian coinage now lying useless in the bank, by putting a discount of 10 per cent upon it. It seems rather strange to hear so much about refusing to take silver when trade is so dull; but dealers have been compelled to take some action in the matter to save themselves and their customers from the clutches of unprincipled brokers.

SPRING AT LAST.

Since my last letter to you spring has come upon us quickly, and already the snow is fast disappearing; and from what has already been seen of the Fall wheat, the show is a most promising one, and if no severe night frosts follow, we will evidently have a good yield of Fall wheat. This is much to be desired, as for the last four years the crops have not been anything like what they were years ago, and many of the farmers fear that they will not be able to make both ends meet unless there are good crops this season. The winter has been a very severe one, and many farmers had to kill off their stock to keep them from dying from starvation. Freshets are, however, working considerable damage throughout the country, and a large amount of property has been destroyed.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

DEAR SIR;

For the last three sessions of the Legislature I have endeavored to show to the country that the benefits derived from the Prince of Wales College are not at all commensurate with the lavish expenditure required to support it, while the salaries of the district teachers have been reduced one third. I cannot see the justice of subsidising an institution at the expense of the country districts, which are so poorly supported by the country. Last year I made an estimate of the cost to the country, of each scholar attending the Prince of Wales College: independent of the amount paid by parents, it was about £35 for each scholar. During the present session I asked for the returns of the past year, and I find there are 27 scholars attending the College, besides ten which are "exchanged" from the grammar school. The public accounts show that the amount paid for Professors' salaries, rent and other expenses, is £765 17s. 4d, besides six country scholarships of £20 each; total £885 17s 4d. This sum divided by 27, the number of scholars attending the College, is about £32 15s. for each scholars, independent of fees paid by parents for the education of their children. If what I have stated is true, and I believe it is, I ask the taxpayers of the Colony if they are prepared to continue an institution which benefits so small a portion of the community, when an education equally as good is imparted at another College, receiving no public aid, and where order is maintained, which, if the reports are true, is not the case at the *Prince of Wales College*?

It will be for the people to say whether it is advisable to continue the College in its present shape, or whether some arrangement ought not to be made to render it available for the country at large?

I remain yours very truly,

J. WARBURTON.

Charlottetown, March 27, 1866.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

SIR:—Euclid, when asked, by one of his royal pupils if there was not some easier way of learning Geometry than by close study and application, is said to have replied with the simple sentence: "There is no royal road to Geometry." Now, Mr. Editor, this may have been an excellent answer if we consider the time and country in which Euclid lived: but any one can, by reading the *Protestant* of March 18th, see that it is entirely inapplicable to the present day and the *City* of Summerside.

There is, in the paper referred to, a notice of a quarterly examination of the Summerside Grammar School, taught by one Alexander McRae; and, on reading that notice, I fully realized the stupendous strides that civilization, art, and especially learning, are making in this nineteenth century, which is blessed with the auspicious light of Mr. McRae's countenance. I may venture to say that this century would be remembered as an eventful era in the world's history, merely on account of his having honoured it with his presence, if there were no other causes which would contribute to make it favor us. But enough of McRae; let us see what is said concerning the progress of the pupils under his charge. It is about three months since he was appointed to the Grammar School, and lo! what effects are seen since then. The scholars were examined in Latin, Greek, French (?), Geometry, Geography, English Grammar, Dictation and Mental Arithmetic, and "acquitted themselves well." How astonishing it is that Mr. Monk—generally considered one of the best teachers that the Island ever saw — excepting, of course, the one who now occupies his place—taught the children none of these branches. McRae is perhaps a distant relation of the person spoken of in Butler's Hudibras, of whom it is said:

> Besides, 'tis known he could speak Greek,
> As naturally as PIGS do squeak.

and that may account for his happy mode of teaching what some are inclined to think he never knew.

Wonderful too, is it not? that such proficiency in such varied studies could be obtained in the brief period of three months. There must, Mr. Editor, be some Cape Breton road to learning with which the inhabitants of the rising City of Summerside are being enlightened. It is no matter of surprise that they have applied to Government to have their village incorporated, for if their sons can accomplish so much in three months, what must the older members of society be capable of. Should "the powers that be" pass an Act for incorporating Summerside, McRae will probably be elected Mayor by an unanimous *vox populi*, and forthwith commence to translate the Laws of the City into Greek. There would indeed be some advantages arising from such an act on the part of McRae, for there could not possibly be any dispute concerning the true *meaning* of the Laws—every one, however great his erudition, being equally ignorant.

Some doubt existed at the time that McRae was appointed Master of the School, as to whether it were right to appoint him in preference to either of the other candidates, but now fortunately the minds of all will be set at rest, and the wisdom of the choice which was made acknowledged. The only uneasiness that can henceforth exist will be caused by fear that, on account of his great talents and varied acquirements, he may not live to bless the country in which he resides, for the natural term of three score and ten years. Trusting, however, that such a calamity as his death may be spared the Island,

I am yours, &c.

QUILL.

March 29th, 1865.

ORWELL YOUNG MEN'S INSTITUTE.

On Tuesday, the 14th instant, Mr. Leander G. McNeill, P. W. College, Charlottetown, read a lecture before this Institute on "British Secular Oratory." The lecturer first gave his ideas of eloquence in general, and of secular eloquence in particular. This second object was to give a brief biographical sketch of several of the most prominent orators of British birth. The Earl of Chattam, Wm. Pitt, Edmund Burke, C. J. Fox, R. B. Sheridan, Grattan, Canning, O'Connel, and several others, were treated at some length. Three pieces were recited in an able manner in order to present to the audience some idea of the great powers of Britain's speaking sons, viz: a part of Chattam's speech on Britain's employing mercenary troops in the war with Americans, Burke's impeachment of Warren Hastings, Esq., and one of Grattan's most sarcastic phillipics. The subject was ably treated, occupied about an hour and a half in delivery, and was favourably received by a full house. A spirited discussion ensued on several points advanced in the lecture. And had not the evening been so far spent as to prevent many others from stating their views, the most lively and instructive debate would certainly have followed. The Institute heartily thanked Mr. McNeill, and will be glad to be entertained by him at any future time.

A notion appears to be pretty generally abroad to the effect that Sir Edmund Burke was neither a pre-eminently great man nor a great orator. Many place him, as an orator, beneath Chattam, Pitt, Fox, Sheridan, Grattan and Shiel. This is a mistaken idea. Burke, like every genius, wrote and spoke for a future generation. And it is only in this age that his master mind is being fully appreciated and openly acknowledged. Have not all our leading statesmen, whether they will own to it or not, literally lived upon Edmund Burke? The great mine of constitutional and political wisdom which is stored up in his works, has been a fountain from which all may gain refreshment to day and forever. For political sagacity, soundness of judgment, constitutional knowledge, and majesty of diction, he stands on a summit of his own. And is he not frequently placed in the same category with Shakespere, Milton, Bacon, and Newton? As to his oratory, he stands unrivalled among English Senators. Sheridan has been held forth as a greater orator than Burke. Sheridan certainly was a skillful off-hand disputant. He bent all the powers of his acute mind to shine as a dazzling declaimer. He attended debating clubs, noted every keen thought and witty saying, resorted to theatrical display, and, as a consequence, won the reputation of being the readiest wit and most gorgeous orator of the day. But this kind of reputation never lasts. His speech, on introducing the Begum Charge, in the trial of Hastings, owes its greatest success to display of this nature. And although it was then considered the noblest effort in the annals of British eloquence, yet no sooner had the interest of this great trial passed away, than the chief merits of this famous speech passed with it. And this has been the fate of all poor Sheridan's highest flights. Not so with Burke; Burke's imagination was as gorgeous as ever plumed the wing of eloquence, and, besides, it was enriched by erudition so vast, genius so daring, a judgment so comprehensive, a discourse so boundless, that all his oratorical efforts must ever command the admiration of mankind.

If we are to credit the assertions of Erskine May, in his *Constitutional History*, Burke was scarcely able to command a hearing—was quite inferior to the Pitts, and altogether unfit to be compared to Charles James Fox! Fox once said that "no good speech reads well." This is undoubtedly true of Fox's orations, but it is not a true test of the highest order of eloquence. Let a speech be heated with emotion, let it be delivered with the appliances of the orator's art, and it will be a great speech to both reader and hearer. Fox was a debater of the first order. He gave his hearers the most splendid specimens of impassioned eloquence as ever made St. Stephen's ring. Fox had logic and passion, but little imagination. His wit, his invective, his appeals to the feelings, were perhaps unrivalled. But he lacked the wisdom, the intellect, the knowledge, the imagery and the originality of his "great master." The reason, then, that Burke's style of oratory was not so popular as Fox's, was simply the fact that it was too elaborate, too learned, too philosophical, to be appreciated by