

## AFTERNOON SITTING.

THURSDAY, March 26.

Hon Mr Pope, a member of Her Majesty's Executive Council, presented to the House the Estimates of the expenditure for the current year, and in reference to the item for public printing, explained that about £900 of the sum mentioned would be required for the printing of the Revised Statutes.

Hon Mr Davies presented a petition of Henry Hoazard, Charles Palmer, and others, praying for an Act to incorporate a Joint Stock Banking Company—petition referred to a special Committee.

## STEAM COMMUNICATION.

The House then went into Committee on the further consideration of the several tenders for the conveyance of the Mails between this Island and the Provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

Mr BRECKEN moved that the hon member for the third district of Prince County have leave to withdraw his amendment, for the purpose of allowing another resolution to be introduced.

Hon Mr WARBURTON had no objections to withdraw the motion, but he might offer another.

Mr MONTGOMERY strongly objected to the tender of Messrs. Hodgson and Burke being accepted, which was for £3000. He was not altogether in favor of Mr. Boultenhouse's tender, as it only specified one boat, when two were asked for. He thought new tenders ought to be advertised, and he saw no occasion for employing two boats, if, as was stated, one was quite sufficient for the service.

Hon. Mr WARBURTON—It was almost agreed the other day that Mr. Boultenhouse's tender should be accepted. He had not the pleasure of an acquaintance with that gentleman, and could not be supposed to be desirous of advocating his interests. But he (Mr. W.) was anxious that the country should save some £1500. He would be glad if the boat was owned on the Island, still what this House should look to was economy. He did not know whether one boat could do the work or not, but when a person who had experience in the gulf said so, he had no reason to doubt the statement.

Mr. DUNCAN said he had moved, when the subject was before the House on a former day, to defer coming to a decision, in order that the other Provinces might be heard from. From the nature of the telegrams received, in reply to the messages sent, he was of opinion that if any tender was now accepted, no grant would be obtained from either Nova Scotia or New Brunswick.

Hon Mr COLES—The late Government entered into an engagement trusting to the Governments of the other Provinces for assistance. He thought there was no doubt but they would continue their grants. The Government did not seem to have the matter matured; he was, therefore, almost inclined to move that the Speaker take the chair.

Hon Mr POPE, like the hon leader of the Opposition, would have been disposed to rely on the generosity of the Governments of the other Provinces, but from the tone of the telegraphic despatches received, he was not now inclined to trust either one or the other. Nova Scotia had always acted rather shabbily in the matter. Their answer in the present case was to the effect that they did not know what would take place in 1864; and New Brunswick could give no satisfactory answer, until the character of the steamers to be employed was known. He (Mr. P.) was not inclined to enter into a contract at all at present, as we would only be laughed at if we afterwards should expect a grant from either of the other Provinces. As to placing one boat on the route, no matter how good she was, he did not believe she could run three trips per week to the different places. Even the hon leader of the Opposition seemed to doubt if it could be done, and thought that two trips a week was as much as one could accomplish. We had run our boat for sometime to Pictou to please the Government of Nova Scotia, but if they would not give a

grant we should look to our own advantage and run direct to Point Brule. It appeared that negotiations would have to be entered into with other Provinces before we could calculate on anything from them. They ought to give liberal grants, as good steam communication between this Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick was for the mutual advantage of the three Provinces. With respect to having only one boat, one thing was certain, that she would have to leave some of the ports irregular, which was a great inconvenience to travellers and those sending freight. He had no hesitation in saying it would pay to arrange that one of the boats should call at Crapaud. The people there had got their harbor deepened, and there was a large extent of country round which required some such means of sending produce to market. As it was at present, small farmers had to sell out to speculators at a loss. He always contended that no money was better spent than that which was applied for facilitating communication. Perhaps the better course for the House to adopt would be to allow the Government a sum sufficient, say £1500 if one boat was employed, and £2000 if it were thought advisable to run two.

Hon Mr COLES thought, as the saying went, that it is was going back to Bagdad. The Government might as well say at once that they were going to place two steamers on the route, for if £2000 were voted, it would at length amount to £3000, as there was no doubt but that the other Provinces would make up £1000. He contended that the small steamer advertised for would not be fit for the service intended, and he thought that one boat would be sufficient for some years. As for going to Point Brule, that had always been a favorite scheme of his own, and he was glad to hear that the Government had taken it up.

Hon Mr LAIRD expressed himself as opposed to the employment of two steamers in the present state of the trade of the Colony. They had given a grant for a steamer between Georgetown, Pictou and Cape Breton, and also for one to come to Cascoupet, but the schemes did not succeed. It was no use to think of raising a trade where there was no material.

Hon Mr DAVIES would be sorry to see Mr. Boultenhouse's tender set aside, but he thought it would be better to wait and ascertain whether the Governments of the other Provinces would give anything or not.

Hon Mr HENSLEY said there was a wide difference between the tenders advertised for and Mr. Boultenhouse's tender. He thought it would be better to throw the tenders open again, and it might be the means of saving money to the country. The House should deal even justice to all. It had been stated that we should vote £1500 if one boat was employed, and £2000 if two. For all the difference between those sums, considering the advantage of having two, he would be in favor of the two.

The resolution proposed by Mr. Warburton was then withdrawn on a vote of 17 to 4.

Mr BRECKEN then moved the following resolution:—

"Resolved, That the Government of this Island be authorized to enter into any arrangement which they may deem most conducive to the public interests for the maintaining good steam communication, not exceeding the period of ten years, commencing from the 1st May, 1864, between this Island, and New Brunswick and Nova Scotia; the sum of money to be given from the Treasury of this Island not to exceed £1500 per annum, in the event of the service of only one boat being secured; if two boats, not to exceed £2000 currency per annum."

He thought this resolution would meet the case. From the fact of Mr. Boultenhouse only tendering for one boat something like this had to be done. The resolution which he had proposed would relieve the Government of responsibility, and enable them to make arrangements with some assurance.