The Protestant

EXTRA.

Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Saturday, April 13, 1861.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS IN ANSWER TO HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH.

[Continued from our fourth page.]

AFTERNOON SITTING.

Hon. Mr KELLY said when he endeavored to form a company of Volunteers he was refused permission, and told there were no arms. Since that time he learned that other companies had been provided with arms. He considered his standing in the Militia entitled him to some consideration; for he had the honor of serving as a Captain in the Militia 20 years under Governor Fitz Roy; and also under Sir John Harvey. Taking these things into consideration, he (Mr Kelly) thought he ought not to have been refused the honor of forming a small company of Volunteers.

Mr SINCLAIR.—On seeing hon. gentlemen rise one after another who had been officers in the Militia, or were officers in Volunteer corps, and reflecting that I was but a poor civilian, I felt contented to remain silent and allow the military gentlemen to discuss the question. But, though only a civilian, I feel proud of my country, take an interest in my countrymen, and have much confidence in the bravery of its inhabitants. I think the Volunteer movement is a laudable one, if properly carried out; and, looking at the disturbed state of the world at present, this military organization is absolutely necessary. I am of opinion it is our duty to assist and encourage this movement. But, sir, I must say that if this force, which was intended for laudable purposes, is to be converted into an engine of terror to a portion of the community, it will be the worst thing which ever happened our country. I hope, however, such is not the case. What position, I ask, would any people find themselves in, if one portion of the community was armed and the other defenceless? I for one, if in the latter class, would feel myself in a dangerous position. In legislating on this matter, then, we should be cautious. At present I do not feel that I am called upon to pledge myself to pursue any particular course, but I shall wait till I see the completion of the Bill which will be introduced. I may say I think it is unfair that Companies in Charlottetown should have their drill Sergeants paid for, while others in the country are compelled to pay their own expenses. I understood that the Government were to pay one half of the expense. I would have no objection to vote a small sum for drill Sergeants, but I do not pledge myself. With these remarks I support the amendment, as I see nothing in it to which I can object. It promises to take the subject into consideration when the time comes to legislate upon it.

Hon. Mr. WHELAN having read his own amendment said—This amendment, Mr. Chairman, does not pledge this House to any specified course of action. I am not going to retain my position in this Legislature and ask the people of P. E. Island to contribute money for the support of an organization which I shall show is entirely uncalled for. From time to time we have been told of the distressed state of this Colony, and of the deficiency of the revenue to meet the expenses of the current year. We have been reminded of our limited resources, and of the amount of the public debt. Since the present session of the Legislature opened, we have been frequently reminded of the distress—to which hon. members cannot close their eyes—among an overwhelming majority of the people of this Island, on account of the leasehold tenure, which the Government expressed so much anxiety to set aside. And, further, we know it to be a fact which cannot be controverted, that the revenue of 1860 is by no means commensurate to the expenses of this year. By and by we will be told when called upon to vote what is absolutely necessary for roads and bridges, and also a sum for the relief of a large class of our fellow subjects who pass under the name of paupers, and to whose circumstances we must give some consideration, that we have built the grant for these purposes, to enable us to devote a portion of the revenue to other objects, and that our means are not adequate to all demands. I would like to know, too, what propriety there was in the suggestion of a supporter of the Government who expressed his willingness to take from the hard-earned salaries of Schoolmasters £1000 for the military education of our youth. Is this the kind of patriotism we should expect from the supporters of Her Majesty's Government? For my own part when the Volunteer movement was first proposed, I was not opposed to it; nor would I be opposed to it now were it carried out in the same spirit in which it was commenced. But from the indications given, as I shall soon show, I am positive it was a party, political movement, ever since this Government was organized. On several occasions in this House I voted for a grant in aid of the Volunteer guards which now bear the high sounding title of the Prince of Wales Rifle Company. Now, I would be opposed to voting one sixpence of the public money, in any form, to aid this movement. Look at the disclosures made to-day respecting the partizan character of this organization! And if we want another proof of the partizan character given to the whole of this movement, it is in connection with the attempt made last summer to organize a Company under the name of the "Celtic Volunteers." When His Grace the Duke of Newcastle was here he expressed his views respecting the necessity of making the movement as general as possible. In the presence of many, His Grace said if the Colony had not a sufficient number of rifles to equip additional companies, more would be forwarded from Britain. Sir Fenwick Williams, too, a short time previous, in this very room, expatiated on the necessity of forming Volunteer Companies—saying every inducement should be held out to young men to get them to enrol. Moreover, there was such a desire on the part of Her Majesty's Government, and such an example set by the Lieutenant Governors of the other Provinces, that there could not have been the slightest objection to their formation in this Colony. Then, I ask, why was the application of the Celtic Volunteers rejected by His Excellency and his advisers? Why should 60 young men, of irreproachable character, who were anxious to serve their country, be treated in such a manner? And, yet, hon. members will defend the acts of the Commander-in-Chief. But had he been desirous of carrying out the instructions of the Duke of Newcastle, his superior in command, or the injunctions of General Williams, he would not have rejected the application of the Celtic Volunteers in the manner he did. It showed a desire on his part to favor those only who play the lackeys of the Government. Subsequently, at a public meeting, these young men, in resolutions which they passed, justly found fault with the Commander-in-Chief. Though the terms in which they did this may have been strong, yet, had I been in their situation I would have expressed my sense of the injustice in terms much stronger. They charged him with unjustly and impolitically refusing to accede to their request. Then followed a correspondence between the gentlemen proposed as Captain, who also presided at the meeting, and the Adjutant General, which resulted in causing the former to lose his commission as Major in the Militia. Subsequently that gentleman had the manliness to express his views respecting the conduct of the Commander-in-Chief towards him, and he (the speaker) had as strong as I would have employed—because he had the courage and independence to express his opinions in a manly, fair, and decorous manner. The gentleman in question, in addition, has been deprived of the emoluments in the Militia, and of his office as Commissioner of the Peace. Allowance may be made for no abolition of fighting, but that is no reason why wrongs should have been inflicted on him. The judicial office, too, shows all others should be kept free from party feeling or political bias. But, now, if a man chooses to dissent from the conduct of the Lieut. Governor or his advisers, he is stripped of the paltry office of Justice of the Peace. Yet, God forbid that the class of men should exist who possess the subservient tools of the Government, in the opinion I charge the Commander-in-Chief with having exercised in a most impolitic act. I will go further, and say, in repeating the words of their speeches, that they only did in a literary sense—not which, even of third rate talent, would not have perpetrated; they did a most despotic and arbitrary deed, and one contrary to Her Majesty's command, when they proposed Major McGill from the Commission of the Peace. I have here the correct from Her Majesty's Instructions to the Lieutenant Governor in 1858. Will the gentleman on the other side say the terms of this clause have been carried out in the case just mentioned? No; and prove this beyond contradiction that guilt attaches to the Lieutenant Governor in reference to the action to which I refer. A man who presumes to exercise his rights as a citizen must be, forsooth, suspended from a Captaincy in the Militia. This is the way to encourage the Volunteer movement by giving vent to party spleen, as in the instance just noticed! In this manner was Major McGill treated because he resented an indignity offered him. Something was said about Orangeism as being an auxiliary to the Volunteer movement—an organization which was so emphatically rebuked in Canada last summer on the occasion of the Prince's visit. I believe Orange Lodges have afforded more encouragement to this movement than has been derived from any other quarter. Not far from Lot 49, I have been given to understand that meetings of Orange Societies and Volunteer Companies take place simultaneously. Could I, desirous as I am to promote the peace and happiness of this country, give my support to an organization so eminently calculated to disturb the peace of this Island, and break up our social relations? Can I be asked to give my support to it when the strongest partizan feelings are exhibited by the Commander-in-Chief? I regard the Orange organization as the most hellish which ever disgraced God's earth. Asked to support the Volunteer movement when not required by circumstances of a local or extraordinary character! In the address to His Excellency from the people of Belfast, there is a plain intimation that they will, if necessary, employ physical force to put down the tenantry. Are we to put arms in their hands on the pretext of a foreign invasion, but in reality to make them the mercenaries of the Government? I have heard much of 6 foreign invasion; but, I presume, we are supposed to be men of intelligent minds. Many of us, at least, know what has transpired abroad; and, to hear the hon. leader of the Government threaten us with this bug-bear, as the only excuse for the organization of military companies, is certainly astonishing. He, too, know right well there was not the slightest occasion for the apprehension of an invasion from a foreign quarter. We are on the eve of a war with France, said he.

Hon. Col. GRAY begged the hon. member's pardon and said he did not say so.

Hon. Mr. WHELAN—But I beg his pardon and say he did.

Hon. Col. GRAY—The hon. member says "he did," which means—he did not.

Hon. Mr. WHELAN—What did he mean by his allusion to St. Pierre and Miquelon? But I am not to be humbugged by such an absurd notion, that even if an invasion came from France, we could be injured by it. Look at the complicated affairs of Italy, and the menacing aspect of the powers of Europe. The French Emperor has quite enough work to perform on the Continent. Even supposing he should attempt to emulate the conduct of the First Napoleon—should he harbor the idea which Napoleon I. did not carry into effect—to land on the shores of Albion,—should he put in requisition those powerful armaments of war—those great military equipments which he has accumulated around him—should he launch these against England—and I trust I shall gain your concurrence in the opinion which I am about to enunciate—England, unaided by any European power, is yet able to compete with France. (Hear.) But, forsooth, when England and France wage war, according to the gloomy apprehensions of the leader of the Government, we are to have a corvette of 16 guns come upon us, bringing destruction to the poor defenceless inhabitants of Charlottetown by taking our notes out of the Bank. But supposing such a war should arise, what, I ask, could 1500 or 1600 men do in repelling a foreign invasion? The thing is manifestly absurd. In speaking in this manner I do not cast the reflection on the courage or efficiency of our Volunteers. We know, however, that a line-of-battle ship might come into this port, and in spite of all the efforts of the Volunteers, lay this City in ruins in a few hours. I add no more in reference to this subject, but will remark concerning the exclusion of Roman Catholics from public offices, that since the present Government came into power 152 Magistrates have been appointed, of these only 4 were Roman Catholics; 65 Commissioners of Small Debts, but only 5 Catholics; 33 Road Commissioners, and only 3 Roman Catholics. We can easily understand the propriety of these gentlemen prescribing this class in the community, and then standing up in Parliament and at public meetings and saying it was because they dissented from the principles of the present Government. Had they been actuated by a spirit of fair play they could have found scores and hundreds of Roman Catholics who never manifested hostile feelings towards the Government, many of whom, too, are quite as competent to fill these offices as a great number of the 152, 65 and 33, whom they choose. I am sorry to be obliged to say I believe the Lieutenant Governor has descended from his high position, and sullied the honor entrusted to him, by associating himself with the party feeling of those who surround him, as his advisers.

The amendment was then put, and lost on the same division as the preceding.

When the eleventh paragraph in the Address was read—

Hon. Mr. WHELAN rose and spoke as follows:—I am sure, Mr. Chairman, no gentleman will say for a moment that I have manifested any disposition but that of the most respectful attachment to Her Majesty's person and Government in this Colony, though my acts have been frequently misrepresented by my political enemies; but I care not for that. Notwithstanding the slights cast upon me, and that my fellow-colonists have been dealt with unfairly; still I have only one feeling, and that is, profound attachment both to Her Majesty and Constitution. Yet, while I entertain these feelings, I am not going to manifest any slavish subserviency, nor humble myself in the dust before the Sovereign of England, nor am I going to bow down my head and kiss the dust on which the Prince of Wales walked, or that on which any of Her Majesty's heirs may tread. I shall assert my rights to equal privileges and immunities as any of the Queen's subjects; and I shall do so before her or any of the potentates of the earth. I think the people of this Colony have no great reason to be proud or to boast that they are a portion of the great British people, since the privileges to which they are entitled have been denied them, and they have been left to be the victims of proprietory despotism. Will you tell me they have any great reason to be proud of the British Government, when they are kicked about like a ball by the proprietory party? Still, I am not sorry we gave expression to our feelings of loyalty on the occasion of the Prince's visit last summer; but, as to the beneficial results to this Colony, which may be derived from that visit, in my opinion, they will be very trifling. The young gentleman himself was respected on account of his mother; for many years may elapse before he ascends the throne of Britain, if indeed, he ever sits on the British throne. The respect shown him was not on account of his own merits, for of these we had no knowledge. It was owing to a knowledge of the private and domestic virtues of his mother—the respect shown the Prince was on account of the virtues which adorned the Queen herself. I may just add that I think those entrusted with the management of affairs in preparing for the reception of the Prince did not very well perform the duties assigned them. For one thing there was not proper accommodation for the people who came from the Country. I think, too, those entrusted with that service neglected their duty in not treating more courteously the gentlemen who were the representatives of the foreign Press. In the public journals other places attracted notice, but scarcely one word was said about us but what was discreditable.

Hon. Mr. COLES—I may remark upon the subject under discussion, that we put the revenue at the disposal of the Government, to enable them to give a hearty welcome to the Prince of Wales; and I think we did give him a very hearty reception. I think the heart of every man, woman and child felt warm on the occasion of the visit of His Royal Highness. So far as Charlottetown is concerned, I believe the reception which the Prince received was second to no one. So far as our limited resources extended, I have from good authority it was the best. I did not agree with the hon. member who spoke last, when he gave it as his opinion, that the visit of the Prince of Wales could be of little or no benefit to this Island. I think it will at least have the effect of turning attention to this Colony in such a manner as was never done before. The day on which the Prince visited His Majesty's Colonial possessions was the proudest the colonists ever saw. There may have been some mismanagement on the part of the managers, but we know they had a great deal to do, and it was not easy to know how it should be done. I think, however, the time when the Prince was to ride out from Government House might have been made known, that the people might have enjoyed the pleasure of seeing him, as it would have been gratifying to those who visited the City on that occasion for that purpose. Respecting the Gentlemen of the Press, I regret very much they wrote as they did. It was certainly a libel upon us to write in such general terms, and it may have originated in the circumstance of our not providing a house for their special accommodation. Upon the whole, however, I think those entrusted with the management of affairs did as well as could reasonably have been expected.

Hon. Mr. LONGWORTH—Mr. Chairman, in reference to the subject of the Prince's visit, I may say, as a member of this House, that I was delighted last Session at seeing the feeling which was manifested; and when the Resolution for a grant was introduced, I was pleased to witness the promptitude of the hon. member the Leader of the Opposition, and the liberality of the House in voting an unlimited sum to make necessary preparations for the reception of His Royal Highness. I give the Leader of the Opposition credit for his conduct then, and for the frank avowal of his opinion now. I think the hon. member from King's County might have put the matter before the House in a somewhat different manner. Though he professes to sanction the reception, still it is evident he does not approve of it very heartily. From the manner in which he has given expression to his sentiments just now, he has shown it was not the spontaneous wish of his heart that the proposed reception to be given to the Prince of Wales should have been so well received by this House last Session, and if he were pleased with the reception, he would not have given that forced assent to it which he has just expressed. In no circumstance would he bow down or humble himself before the Queen of England, or a son of the Queen.

Hon. Mr. WHELAN—I beg the hon. member not to misinterpret my words. I said I would not humble myself in the dust before the Queen of England, but would assert my rights before all the Sovereigns of the world.

Hon. Mr. LONGWORTH—That expression of the hon. member's sentiments was certainly quite uncalled for. There was not the least occasion to bring in that matter by way of contrast to the subject under discussion. I will say that the visit of the son of our Sovereign to our shores was looked forward to, and was fitted, as it did, to gladden the hearts of the subjects of Queen Victoria in these Colonies. His visit, in my opinion, will be productive of much good to this Colony; and in this I agree with the honorable Leader of the Opposition, who, in this whole matter, has been consistent. We know how difficult it is to please all parties. The present Government endeavored to expend the money placed at their disposal to make preparations for the reception of His Royal Highness, in the best possible manner, and in accordance with the wishes of the people generally; and, when the accounts are presented, I think the Government will not be censured for acting parsimoniously. I am happy in being able to say, that both political parties acted in concert on that occasion. I was glad to see, too, that there were counterparts to the statements put forth respecting us, by the correspondent of the *Times*, and some of the American journals. The *New York Herald*, one of the leading papers in America, came out in a quite different strain, and passed some high encomiums on us. As for the Gentlemen of the Press, cards were courteously presented to them to be present at the entertainment prepared for the Prince.

Hon. Mr. WHELAN—At 8 o'clock.

Hon. Mr. LONGWORTH—I am not aware a house was provided for them in Halifax or elsewhere. With us the difficulty was to be forehanded in every respect. I may state, too, that when the Prince rode out in Halifax no one knew of his intention about doing so, but those at Government House, as it is not desirable to distinguished personages to be watched in all their movements. I think the Government is not to blame in this or in any other particular, in connection with the visit of His Royal Highness.

Hon. Mr. HAVILAND—It has been stated, Mr. Chairman, that the Correspondents of the foreign Press did not receive their cards till night; but I may state that on the very afternoon of the day on which the Prince arrived, Thursday, inquiry was made to ascertain where they lodged, and enquiry was especially made to find the Correspondent of the *Times*. Though this was done, still, it so happened they were not found till 4 o'clock in the afternoon of the day on which the entertainment was given, because they took up lodging in private houses. When I met Mr. Woods, the *Times'* Correspondent, in the afternoon, I gave him an explanation of the circumstance, because even for personal reasons I would be the last to offer a slight to the Correspondent of the Times. As regards giving them free quarters at an Hotel, such was not done either in Nova Scotia or Canada. These men receive large salaries. Probably Mr. Woods receives not less that £1,000, or £1,200 a year, and so were quite able to pay their own way. I give the Leader of the Opposition great credit for the straightforward manner in which he has spoken of this matter. It is to be regretted we came under the lash of the Times' Correspondent. It shows us, however, one can place very little dependence in what we sometimes read under the head of "Foreign correspondence." It ill became the Correspondent of the Times to write in terms so general about these Colonies, considering the hearty reception His Royal Highness received at the hands of the Colonists.

Hon. Col. GRAY—When he had given an explanation about some misunderstanding which arose about the time of the Prince' landing, said—Respecting the ride which the Prince of Wales took into the country, His Royal Highness, before he set out, gave positive instructions to the gentleman who was to be his guide, to take him into the parts of the country where he would not be likely to meet many people, as his object was to see the country. When it was mentioned to the Prince that there was a gentleman who was anxious he should see some of the aborigines of the Colony, His Royal Highness refused to go, saying, there would be too many people standing about. His Royal Highness, however, was pleased to say he was exceedingly gratified with the hospitable reception which he met, and with the loyalty manifested by the people of Prince Edward Island. As regards the articles written by foreign Correspondents, I may state that nothing appeared in the *Illustrated London News*, unfavorable to us. The gist of the malice exhibited by the Correspondent of the *Times*, consisted in his accusing us of drunkenness, which may go for what it is worth. We can afford to be quite indifferent about his accusation. I think the diligence of the Committee appointed to make suitable preparation for the reception of the Prince of Wales, was worthy of all commendation, and that no person can reasonably reflect on the conduct of the Government in reference to the reception given to His Royal Highness.

Hon. the SPEAKER—In reference to the visit of the Prince of Wales, Mr. Chairman, I may state that I never heard any of the people from country districts complain about their reception in this City on the occasion of the visit of His Royal Highness last summer. On the contrary they appeared to be delighted with the manner in which affairs were conducted, and if they were satisfied, I think we should not make any complaint. As regards the manner in which they were received, they spoke in the highest terms; and my impression is that they did not expect to be entertained at the public expense. I think the Committee did all in their power, on that occasion, to make the Prince's reception as acceptable to his Office, satisfactory to all parties, and as correspondent to the dignity of His Royal Highness, as possible.

Hon. Mr. THORNTON—While speaking about the reception given to the Prince of Wales, I may say I received a ticket to attend the Ball given in honor of His Royal Highness. The Committee sent us tickets at 30s each, but I considered the members of the Legislature should have gone at their own expense. I was under the impression each would have been the case when I, for one, voted a sum sufficient to make suitable preparation for receiving the Heir apparent to the British Throne. When I received a ticket I looked at it and said—"Well, I am not going to be a public beggar." However desirous I might have been to have seen my illustrious namesake, still I concluded not to go to the Ball as a public beggar. On arriving at the door I could have presented my ticket, but if my wife or daughter were with me, my partner would have been addressed—"fifteen shillings, if you please, Madam!" I think, Sir, the £75 spent in furnishing the members of the Legislature with tickets might have been laid out to much better advantage. It would have been much better to have used it in making preparation for the reception of the public generally. Another reason why I did not come was this:—I know only *tall* men would have the pleasure of seeing the Prince, and that *small* man like me would not have got a sight of His Royal Highness at all.

Hon. Mr. HAVILAND—The hon. member from Cardigan says he would not come to see the Heir apparent to the British Throne, because he would not come as a "public beggar;" and, also, because his ticket would not admit of him taking a *lady*. In that event, however, there was another course open for the hon. member,—he might have sent back his ticket, and paid his own way, and not have remained at home in the dumps. Certainly the Committee were quite justified in not presenting the ladies in the families of legislators with free tickets. Such a course was not adopted in Nova Scotia, nor in Canada, and it is not done in England. As legislators we hold a certain position in which we have been placed by the people; but that is no reason why our wives and daughters should receive more attention than the members of the families of those who do not stand in the same relation to the people. Had they been invited, then, no doubt, the cry would have been "you crammed the Ball-room full of the wives and daughters of the Legislators." It is impossible to please all parties, as is well shown in the fable of the "old man and his ass." I, for one, came and enjoyed myself and was well pleased with the entertainment.

Hon. Mr. PERRY.—When the accounts shall be presented, Mr. Chairman, I presume it will appear evident that the amount expended in making preparations for giving a reception to the Prince of Wales, suited to the dignity of that personage, will not be beyond that to which we can reasonably object. In reference to this matter I do not see that the Government are to be blamed. The revenue of the Colony was placed at their disposal on that occasion, for the purpose of making suitable preparations, and the services of the Committee of management were performed, not merely for one side of the House, but for both. (Hear.)

The eleventh paragraph was now read and agreed to. The twelfth paragraph was then read and agreed to also; after which the Speaker took the chair, and the Chairman reported the Address agreed to without amendment. Upon the question being then put on the several paragraphs in the Address, those from the first to the fifth inclusive were passed without amendment. When the question was severally put on the paragraphs between the sixth and tenth inclusive, Mr. Whelan proposed the several amendments which were moved in Committee, and which were lost on this same division as in Committee—11 to 14, by interchanging the name of the Chairman for that of the Speaker. It was next agreed that the Address be presented to His Excellency by the whole House.

The following members then received leave of absence—Hon. Mr. Thornton, till Monday next. Hons. Messrs. Wightman and Whelan, till Tuesday next. Messrs. Owen and McNeill, till Wednesday next.

Adjourned till 10 o'clock on Monday.

J. D. GORDON, Reporter.

MONDAY, March 4.

The following petitions were presented to the House, viz.—By Hon. Col. Gray, from John M'Dougall, Lot 60, praying an allowance for his services as an unlicensed teacher in that locality. By Mr Conroy, from Thomas O'Brian, praying an allowance for a similar service at West Point, Lot 8. By Mr Doyle, a petition of John G. Murphy, teacher, Kildare, for a similar object. By Mr J. Yeo, a petition of trustees of School at Lot 10, praying remuneration to Isabella Forsyth for her services as teacher of said school. These petitions were referred to the Special Committee on Teacher's petitions.

Mr DAVIES from the Committee appointed to wait on His Excellency to know his pleasure when he will be attended by the House, reported that His Excellency had been pleased to appoint this day at one o'clock, in the Legislative Library.

The following petitions were then presented, viz.—By Mr J. Yeo, from inhabitants of Lot 11, &c., praying a grant to complete the Bridge over Lot 10 River; and from inhabitants of Lot 11, praying a grant to render passable the road from Main Post Road on that Township to Western Road. By Mr Sutherland, 2 petitions of inhabitants of Lots 31, 38, and 39,—both praying aid to improve their road communications. By Hon. Mr Haviland, a petition of Hugh Logan, praying compensation in consideration of his prolonged services as Jailer of King's County Jail. By Hon. Mr Longworth a petition of John Hunter, Hermesweed, Prince County, praying an Act to enable him to take the additional name of Duvar. By Hon. Mr Perry, a petition of Ewen Morrison, praying remuneration for ferrying Mail Carrier across Ellis River Ferry.

The House then went to wait on His Excellency with their Address in answer to his Speech, and having returned, His Excellency's reply was read, and the House adjourned.

TUESDAY, March 5.

The following petitions were presented, viz.—By Mr Cooper, from Lot 47, praying a grant in aid of building a bridge across the mouth of Surveyor's Inlet. By Mr Howat, from George M'Williams, praying a grant of £38—balance due on contract for building two abutments to the wharf on the West side of Tryon River. By Hon. Mr Perry, from Ninian Patterson, setting forth that he was a seaman on board the schooner *Kate*, which was wrecked at Cape George, N. S., on the 4th of January last, whereby he lost all his effects, and praying relief.

Hon. Col. GRAY, having obtained leave, introduced a Bill for taking the Census of Prince Edward Island.

JURY BILL.

Hon. Mr HAVILAND moved that the House go into the order of the day, viz., the second reading of the Bill to consolidate and amend the Laws relating to Grand and Petit Jurors in this Island. He explained that the Bill contained no new principle,—it was introduced in accordance with the report of the Commissioners appointed to revise the laws, which recommended that several of the laws scattered through the Statute Books be collected together and condensed. The only difference in the Bill from the existing laws relating to Jurors was, that the section which required the Act to be read at every opening of the Court was omitted. This reading was only a waste of time, as the duties of Jurors were always on such occasions explained by the Court.

The Bill was then read a second time and committed to a Committee of the whole House.

When the section was read relating to the selection of Jurymen,

Hon. Mr COLES said he did not intend to enter into the details of the Bill, but wished to make a remark on one point. He knew that it was difficult for the Sheriff to select jurymen from all parts of the County, and considered that some persons ought to be authorized to furnish him with a general list of those qualified to serve as such. He thought the Commissioners of Small Debt courts would be proper persons to furnish lists of this kind.

Hon. Mr LONGWORTH said the suggestion of the hon. member was reasonable. The only difficulty he saw with respect to it was, in regard to which of the Commissioners should be called upon to make out the list, as there were so many in each County. It would be invidious to select any particular one of their number to perform the duty.

Hon. Mr COLES remarked that he only meant that the Small Debt Commissioners should furnish the names of persons in different parts of the County to assist the Sheriff in making out their lists, for it could not be expected that the latter would be acquainted with people all over the country.

Hon. Mr HAVILAND had often observed this difficulty in respect to the present method of selecting jurymen, and thought it would be well if it could be avoided. It was frequently the case that the Sheriff chose a number of persons for jurymen just around the part of the County where he himself was acquainted. He (Mr Haviland) thought that some such plan as that suggested by the hon. leader of the Opposition would remedy the evil.

Hon. Mr LAIRD said that this proposed plan might be a little improvement, but as long as the jurymen were chosen by ballot, all the County would seldom be found to be represented; for though there were persons from all parts of it on the list made out by the Sheriff, those drawn by ballot might be all from one part. He thought the Sheriffs might take the road returns, and make out their lists from them.

Hon. Mr LONGWORTH was of opinion that the ballot could not be dispensed with, as suspicion would immediately arise that the jury was packed. There should be a representation from all the parts of a County; but the plan suggested would be very cumbersome, as there were eight Commissioners' Courts in Queen's County, and six or seven in each of the other two Counties. If two or three persons in each County were named to make out lists for the Sheriffs to select from, it would be an advantage.

Hon. Mr KELLY thought the Magistrates would be the most proper persons to make out lists for the Sheriffs. In some cases the Commissioners of Small Debts lived all in one part of the district.

The Committee then rose, and progress was reported.

Hon. Mr LONGWORTH introduced a Bill to protect the Herring and Alewives' fisheries in this Island.

The House then adjourned for one hour.

AFTERNOON SITTING.

Mr MONTGOMERY presented a petition from School Trustees and heads of families, at Graham's Road, New London, in behalf of a Teacher, which was referred to Committee.

Hon. Mr THORNTON requested leave of absence for Hon. Mr Whelan till he recovered from his present indisposition, which was granted.

The House then adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, March 6.

Hon. Col. GRAY.—My attention has been called to a paragraph in the *Examiner* newspaper of this week, in which the hon. member for Tignish (Mr Conroy) is represented to have accused the Government, in the debate on the Address in answer to the Lieut. Governor's Speech, of complicity in regard to the opposition to Roman Catholics entering Volunteer corps. I was under the impression that the hon. member did not impute any blame to the Government in the matter, and I believe that the statement which he made in reference to the Volunteers in his district, is distorted in the newspaper paragraph in question. As I see the hon. member in his place, I would ask him if he meant in the remarks which he offered on that occasion to implicate the Government in the opposition shown to Roman Catholics entering Volunteer Corps, and if he will give the name of the Captain who wrote the letter to which he referred?

Mr CONROY.—I fancied that I had made myself quite intelligible on that occasion. I gave as nearly as I could remember what was contained in the letter to a gentleman in my district by the Captain of a Volunteer Company. [The hon. member here repeated the words of the letter from memory, nearly as given in the published report of the debate in question.] I never intended to accuse the Government in the matter, for I believe that the feelings or prejudices alluded to in the letter, travelled, with the desire to take part in the Volunteer movement, to Cascumpec from Lot 49, or wherever it originated. This is not the first time I have been misrepresented in the newspapers. I stated on the hustings before I was elected to this Assembly, that I took part with the Government of that day, because I thought they were more likely than the other party to benefit the country; but in the newspapers it was represented that I said I would support the Government because they were favorable to Roman Catholics. It is the habit of newspapers on both sides of politics to distort the expressions of individuals to suit their own purposes. I made no such statement as that the present Government were implicated in the opposition given to Roman Catholics entering Volunteer corps. As I have been asked to give the name of the person who wrote the letter in question I may state that it was Captain John Hunter; (hear, hear!) and that it was put into my hands by the postman, Mr Archibald M'Leilan. That a Captain living amongst us should say that the intention was to exclude so from entering these corps, is what I am unable to understand. I cannot see what we have done that we should be denied the opportunity of taking part in this movement. I do not say that this opposition originates with the Government, but from whatever quarter it comes, it is highly dishonorable to the parties concerned.

Hon Col. GRAY.—Nothing can be more creditable than the explanation of the hon. member. There is another matter to which I wish to refer, and I hope the explanation will be equally satisfactory. In the same paper as the paragraph already alluded to appeared, is published a correspondence between the hon. leader of the Opposition and one of the Reporters of this House, who gives an extract from his speech on the evening of the 26th of February. I would ask that hon. member if by the expression, "such a course as that Her Majesty's Representative should pen a falsehood to the Colonial Office, is dishonorable to one holding his high position. But the Lieut. Governor is not so much to be blamed" &c., he means to refer to Governor Dundas personally, or does he mean to implicate the Government with him?

Hon. Mr COLES.—The question is a very modest one. The Government can take what meaning they like out of the expression. I wrote to the Reporter, and received his reply, one letter of which I did not alter, but just sent it as it was to the *Examiner* office for publication. The Reporter's statement I believe to be substantially correct. I will neither retrench nor retract what I have stated. The hon. member may put that in his pipe and smoke it.

The following petitions were then presented:—By Hon. Mr Yeo, from divers inhabitants of Miminegash, praying for the establishment of a Post Office at Mr Richard Coffin's; and from Caroline Campbell, praying payment of her salary as Teacher at Lot 17, for 3 months; and from Lot 14, praying a grant to repair a road. By Mr Howat, from John Townsend, and others praying a grant to build a bridge across Raynor's Mill Pond; and from Lot 27, praying the House to enact that proprietors shall not be allowed to distrain for rent, until the award of the Land Commissioners be made known. By Mr Conroy, from Lots One and Two, with a similar prayer. By Mr Perry a road petition for Lot 15.

Hon. Mr HAVILAND presented to the House, the Treasurer's, Road Correspondent's, and other accounts for the past year, which were referred to the Committee on the Public Accounts.

JURY BILL.

The House then resolved itself into Committee to further consider the Jury Bill, and the debate on the mode in which jurymen should be selected was resumed.

Hon. Mr LONGWORTH said the more he considered the plan of having persons in different parts of the Counties directed to make out lists for the Sheriffs, the more difficult it appeared. He thought if a clause was inserted in the Bill instructing the Sheriff to select some of the jurymen from each Township of the County, it would be sufficient.

Hon. SPEAKER thought it important that all the jurymen should be able to read and write. Where so much was involved—sometimes complicated accounts having to be settled, those who were called upon to decide in the matter ought at least to possess this qualification. He had seen a jury in which two or three of the number could neither read nor write. He also considered the restriction in the Act was unnecessary, that a person who