

Board of Works.

Province of Nova Scotia in account current with Board of Works :
DR.—To Board of Works, cash paid for balances due, 1852, to ex-
 Commissioners of Public Buildings, 394*l.* 3*s.* 9*d.*, and Sable Island,
 56*l.* 13*s.* 7*d.* ; to ditto, for Light House service, Public Buildings, Sable
 Island, Penitentiary, Salaries and charges of the Board of Works,
 3157*l.* 16*s.* 10*d.*

CR.—By cash from Receiver General, for balances due 1852 : To ex-
 Commissioners Public Buildings, Sable Island, Board of Works, 3157*l.*
 16*s.* 10*d.*

Expenditure, 1853—To amount paid sundries : Owners of Brigantine
 "Ottoman," Fishery Protection, Lunatic Asylum, Penitentiary, Sable
 Island, Schr. Daring, Light House service, including St. Paul's and
 Scattarie, Public Buildings, Board of Works—Salaries, Advertising, Post
 Office, Stationery, and other services, 18,594*l.* 18*s.* 1*d.*

CR.—By cash from Receiver General, and sundries, 14,761*l.* 16*s.* 6*d.*,
 shewing a balance due Board of Works, 3833*l.* 1*s.* 7*d.*—making a total
 of 18,594*l.* 18*s.* 1*d.*

To the Honorable Chairman of the Board of Works Report, submitted
 to His Excellency Sir John Gaspard LeMarchant, Lieutenant Governor,
 we are indebted for a few interesting facts :

The Penitentiary.

"This Institution has continued nearly the same as when last reported.
 Indeed very little change can take place, either in its expenses or in its
 earnings, until the prison is finished, which will require a considerable
 time yet to accomplish, unless a large appropriation is made for that pur-
 pose, or a much greater number of criminals are sent there. The latter is
 certainly not desirable, and the former not necessary, inasmuch as sufficient
 is finished for those that are there, and their labour as usefully employed
 in work as any other. The expenses are perhaps as little as can reason-
 ably be expected. * * * Several of the prisoners are acquiring me-
 chanical skill, whereby to support themselves hereafter. Three men, who
 were discharged during the last year, there learned the art of stone cutting,
 and are now earning good wages and conducting themselves creditably.
 A young boy who is still in the prison, has acquired, in the blacksmith's
 shop, and exhibited in several articles manufactured by him, considerable
 skill in making tools, and is now learning to cut stone, and, at the expira-
 tion of his imprisonment, will probably commence the world with a know-
 ledge of two trades. With a view to economy in regard to fuel, which is
 a costly item in the annual expenditure, a hot air apparatus on a small
 scale, has been introduced into one part of the building, by which several
 rooms are warmed. If it be found, on sufficient trial, to answer the purpose
 intended, the principle may be extended to other parts of the establishment.
 —The expenses of the past year have been £1080 11*s.* 3*d.*, which
 includes the building of a barn and piggery, and a balance due the previous
 year for granite (£100). There will be required for the current year £950.
 —The causes above stated have increased the outlay in the year past, but
 £950 will probably suffice for this year, which is inclusive of £249 2*s.*
 undrawn from former grants."

During the year 1853, twenty-six prisoners were received, and twenty-
 three discharged. Grant for 1854, to cover expenses, £700 18*s.* 0*d.*

Public Buildings.

"The extensive repairs for the preservation of the public buildings ren-
 dered necessary a large expenditure. All the floors of the public offices