

*Private Bills*—Shannon, Jno. Campbell, Lawrence, Blackwood, Donkin, S. McDonnell, Pryor.

*Penitentiary*—Hill, Heffernan, Cowie, Parker, Churchill, McKay, Allison.

*City of Halifax Bills*—Pryor, Blanchard, Donkin, Annand, Miller.

*Indian Affairs*—McKinnon, Ross, Bill, Robertson, Smyth, C. J. Campbell, D. Fraser.

*Land Damages*—G. S. Brown, Whitman, Balcom, Churchill, King.

*Contingencies*—Financial Secretary, Parker, Hatfield.

*Crown Lands*—S. McDonnell, Blanchard, Whitman, Miller, Moore, G. S. Brown, J. Campbell.

*Reporting and Printing*—Sol. Genl, Longley, Provincial Secretary, Locke, Tobin, Annand, Caldwell.

*Militia*—Pryor, Parker, Jost, Heffernan, Sol. General, Blanchard, Colin Campbell, Bourinot.

Mr. CALDWELL proposed that Mr. C. J. Campbell be put on the Committee of Mines and Minerals.

Some discussion ensued as to the propriety of appointing gentlemen engaged in mining operations to the committee. The majority seemed to think that it was preferable that no one should be appointed who was interested in such operations. The committee was accordingly left as it was reported up.

The SOL. GEN'L submitted a copy of the joint address to Her Majesty.

The PROV. SEC'Y laid on the table a lengthy correspondence on the subject of the Intercolonial Railway, the reading of which occupied about an hour.

Mr. TOBIN and other gentlemen advocated the printing of this correspondence.

Hon. PROV. SEC. in answer to an enquiry, stated that this correspondence contained all the information in the possession of the Government respecting the railway.

He then laid on the table the Provincial Statutes as revised by the Commission appointed last year. He expressed his satisfaction at being able to present the Statutes in such a shape as the House could at once take them up and deal with them.

A Committee was appointed to revise the rules of the House, namely—Provincial Secretary, Mr. Archibald, Solicitor General, Mr. Blanchard, Mr. Tobin, Mr. Stewart Campbell, and Mr. Bourinot.

The House then adjourned until 3 o'clock, on Monday.

MONDAY, 8th February, 1864.

The House met at three o'clock.

Mr. BLANCHARD asked for certain returns of articles imported into this Province, free of duty, for the army and navy.

On motion of Hon. ATTY. GEN'L the bill for the consolidation of the Statutes was read a second time.

The House then went into Committee on the bill. Some desultory discussion took place on the wording of several clauses, and a few amendments were made.

#### THE REVISED STATUTES.

Dr. HAMILTON thought there must have been a good many errors in the last Revised Statutes, or they would not again require a revision. The Index to the first edition was a very bad one, in the second edition it was better, but there was still great room for improvement. Legal gentlemen were not, in his opinion, the best persons to revise Statutes. A lawyer would occupy two or three sheets with what a layman would state in half a sheet. The House had an instance of that the other day. The Sheriff of Shelburne returned a man in five words, another Sheriff, who happened to be a lawyer occupied two or three pages in doing the same thing. Speaking of legal gentlemen, he was reminded of an anecdote he had once heard. A man had cut down an oak tree, and an action for damages was brought against him. The lawyer made out the declaration charging him with clandestinely, wilfully, and maliciously cutting away the tree, and finally charged him with cutting and carrying away twenty thousand spruce trees, twenty thousand maple trees, twenty thousand hemlock trees, twenty thousand pine trees, and twenty thousand other trees. When the declaration was served on the man, he said, "I cut one great big oak tree, sartin." (Laughter.)

Mr. BLANCHARD thought that any gentleman who tried to make the Statutes so plain that every farmer in the land could understand them, would find that he had assumed a Herculean task. If the hon. member for the North Riding of Kings would recollect that every amendment of the Revised Statutes was an amendment of the laws, as all the Statute Law was embodied in them, he would not be surprised that they were so often amended. The duty of the Commissioners for Revising the Statutes was not so much to *simplify* as to *consolidate* the Statutes—He invited any gentleman in the House, whether of the legal profession or not, to offer any suggestions or amendments. Any suggestion from the hon. member from the North Riding of Kings would receive attention.

Dr. HAMILTON observed that very few of the Members had examined the statutes carefully. They were read over pretty rapidly by the clerk, and it was impossible for any one carefully to consider their purport while they were being read. Some of them contained a hundred clauses and upwards, and how was it possible for him or any one else to give them careful consideration while being hurriedly read over. The best way was to tie all the Statutes up in a bundle, and say the House passed them.

Hon. PROV. SECRETARY remarked that perhaps he should have explained to the hon. member for the North Riding of Kings, that the present revision was rendered necessary in consequence of a large number of the last edition being destroyed by fire. He knew not where a single copy of the Revised Statutes could now be obtained. It was very important that not only legal gentlemen, but lay gentlemen who had legal minds adapted to perceive where valuable amendments and improvement could be made should aid in the revision of the statutes. He took this opportunity of apologizing for not