

committee, and if it was shown to be necessary no doubt it would be adopted.

Mr. LEVESQUE thought that the law was most unjust in the case referred to by the introducer of the bill.

Mr. S. McDONNELL again pointed out that the law in this respect had a retrospective operation.

BILLS REPORTED.

Hon. Mr. SHANNON, chairman of committee on private bills, reported up the following:—To incorporate the New Glasgow Marine Insurance company; to incorporate Miré Bay Harbor company; to incorporate Sydney and Bras d'Or Steamboat company; to authorize the sale of Parsonage lot and house at North West Lunenburg; to alter the time of holding sessions in Barrington; to amend the act to incorporate the Glace Bay mining company.

RIVER FISHERIES.

Mr. BLANCHARD stated that he had introduced on a previous day a petition from a number of the inhabitants of Margaree, Inverness, complaining that the act passed last session on "river fisheries," bore hardly upon the fishermen, and was only for the benefit of "gentlemen sportsmen." Sec. 5 of chap. 95, R. S., provides that no net should be set for the catching of salmon within a mile from the mouth of the river. The bill he now introduced in accordance with the prayer of the petition in question, was intended simply to reduce the distance in the county from one mile to a quarter.

The bill was read a second time by consent, and referred to the committee on River Fisheries.

CITY BILL.

Mr. PRYOR, chairman of committee on city bills, reported up a bill, entitled "An Act to authorize the city to borrow money to pay off the debt upon the market house."

PETITIONS.

Mr. G. S. BROWN presented a petition from Yarmouth in reference to the school act.

Mr. PRYOR presented two petitions—one from Lower Prospect, and another from Terence Bay, against the Union of the Provinces.

Mr. MILLER presented two petitions from Richmond on the same subject.

Mr. DONALD FRASER presented a petition from the town of Pictou, asking for amendment in the license law.

Mr. ROBICHEAU presented a petition from Weymouth, praying for an alteration in the present school law.

BILLS.

Mr. DONALD FRASER introduced a bill in accordance with the prayer of the petition previously referred to, "to provide for the expenditure of duties arising from the sale of licenses for intoxicating liquors in the town of Pictou."

Mr. BOURINOT introduced an act to confirm certain grants, and authorize further grants of land in the island of Cape Breton.

THE SCHOOL ACT.

Hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL said—I rise for the purpose of asking leave of the house to present a bill entitled "An act in addition to chap. 53 of the third series of the R. S. of public instruction, and ratifying and confirming proceedings therein." I may mention what is well known to gentlemen around these benches that in accordance with the act that was passed last session proceedings were taken to establish schools in all parts of the country,

and in some places parties neglected to adopt any of the provisions of the chapter. No provision was made, therefore, to enable persons to obtain the means of education and, at the same time, receive a share of the legislative grant for the remaining half of the present year. The principal object of this bill is to enable parties throughout the country who wish to adopt the provisions of the school act to have the means of doing so on the same principles as were in force last year. A bill has been already introduced by the government which will be of course considered at a future day, but it will not go, if passed, into operation until the first day of November next. It has been, therefore, found advisable to bring in the bill I now hold in my hand to provide for the term up to that date. Whatever may be the opinion of the legislature, whatever may be its action in reference to the bill on the general subject of education, I take it for granted that the house will see the necessity of making provision for all sections where schools do not now exist. I have now stated the main object of the bill, but nevertheless I shall briefly run over its different clauses for the information of the house. The first clause provides for holding meetings in May, which are to be called by the Inspector. The Inspector will decide what time in the month of May he will call that meeting. Under that clause therefore, the inhabitants will have an opportunity of appointing trustees and of deciding whether they shall adopt the school act or not. The second clause provides for the appointment of three trustees, either at any of these meetings called by the Inspector, or, if necessary, at any adjourned meeting. The third clause provides that, if the meeting decide to support a school for the period of five months, and adopt assessment as the principle upon which that school is to be maintained, the trustees can assess for the sum which is to be collected by their secretary from the roll of 1864—the last made up, and therefore the more likely to be correct. The fourth clause provides that when subscription is adopted and fails, the amount can be raised by assessment, which is the principle of the old law. By this means the trustees who have entered into contracts with schoolmasters will be able to indemnify themselves. The fifth clause imposes a penalty of \$20 on a trustee or collector refusing to act, or failing in his duty, and provides the machinery by which it may be collected. The sixth clause empowers the trustees to borrow money for the erection of a school-house. If the new bill is to come into operation in November next, it is obvious that the necessary steps should be taken to make provisions for carrying it out satisfactorily. The seventh clause provides that in all cases up to the time of the passing of the act, where trustees have estimated too small a sum, they may have an opportunity of refunding themselves by assessment. There were some cases which had been brought to the notice of the Superintendent of Education where parties, by mistake, had estimated too small an amount—in some cases by as much as \$100. The trustees, knowing nothing of the mistake entered into arrangements with the teachers and brought the schools into operation. In none of these cases is there any opposition to the assessment principle. The eighth clause defines the duty of trustees. It incorporates several provisions that are