

which would have to come up for adoption or rejection in the House.

The Hon. ATTORNEY GEN'L. said that he was under the impression that the rule adopted in the constitution of the Court, was to select the senior Colonel from each county. He himself, as senior Colonel for the county of Sydney had been chosen, but as he deemed it incompatible with his position as a member of the government, he had declined the honor of a seat at the Board. It seemed to be generally admitted, that in order to keep pace with our sister colonies, some advancement should be made in our militia system and he presumed that the Commander-in-Chief being anxious to obtain the best advice on the subject, had summoned the Court for that purpose.

After some further discussion the matter dropped, and the House adjourned until the next day at 3 o'clock.

FRIDAY, February 17.

The House met at 3 o'clock.

TRADE PATTERNS.

Hon. PROV. SEC. laid on the table correspondence relative to the transmission of trade patterns by post.

CONFEDERATION.

Mr. MILLER presented a petition from inhabitants of Arichat, another from Red Islands, and another from River Inhabitants—all in opposition to Confederation.

Mr. P. SMYTH presented a petition from the county of Inverness on the same subject.

ENQUIRY.

Mr. ROSS asked the Financial Secretary to lay on the table of the House certain road returns from the county of Victoria, and copy of returns for money advanced on Kelly's Cove road. Mr. ROSS also asked the Provincial Secretary to lay on the table of the House the petition of the trustees of the Presbyterian Church at Middle River, and all papers connected therewith. The said petition was over twelve months in the hands of the government, and as no action was taken on it, it was his desire that the petition and all papers connected therewith should be referred to the committee on crown lands.

THE SCHOOL ACT.

Mr. BILL presented a petition from the county of Kings, against the school act.

ACT OF NATURALIZATION.

Mr. DONKIN presented a petition of W. H. Mitchell, asking for an act of naturalization.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Hon. PRO. SEC. laid on the table copy of correspondence relative to the appointment of additional members to the Legislative Council.

THE MILITIA CONVENTION.

The PRO. SEC. laid on the table a reply from the Adjutant General giving the names of the gentlemen composing the militia convention, as asked for by the hon. member for Guysboro. The following is a list of the members of the Court:—

PRESIDENT.

- Lieut. Col. H. Pryor, 3rd (Queens) Halifax.
- Lieut. Col. J. J. Marshall, 1st Guysborough.
- " " P. S. Archibald, 3rd Colchester.
- " " H. S. Jost, 3rd Lunenburg.
- " " A. G. Jones, 1st Halifax.
- " " E. Tremain, Hx. Mil. Art. B.

Lieut. Col. R. Starr, 2nd Kings.

" " C. J. Stewart, 1st Cumberland.

" " W. B. Vail, 2nd Digby.

" " J. Bourinot, 1st Cape Breton.

" " I. LeVesconte, 1st Richmond.

" " P. S. Hamilton, 11th Halifax.

" " W. F. Starratt, 3rd Annapolis.

" " J. W. Carmichael 5th Pictou.

Major L. W. Hill, 2nd Hants.

Capt. C. Allison, 3rd Queens.

Capt. A. K. Mackinlay, Scottish Vol., Halifax,

Lieut. O'Chran, Chebucto Greys, Hx,

Colonel Sinclair, Adjutant General.

Colonel Laurie, I. F. O.

Lieut. Colonel T. Milson, I. F. O.

Lieut. Colonel C. Sawyer, I. F. O.

RAILWAYS IN CAPE BRETON.

Mr. BOURINOT introduced a bill entitled an act to amend the act incorporating the Louisbourg Railway company. In reference to this bill he stated that several wealthy and prominent American gentlemen had arrived by the steamer that day—men of large capital, representing such persons as John Jacob Astor, Robert Converse; General Strong—and intended to proceed immediately with the construction of a railway to Sydney and Louisbourg, in order that they might be enabled to ship coal with greater facility. He trusted that the house would afford every facility to these gentlemen in the prosecution of this great undertaking.

The bill was read a first and second time, and referred to the committee on private bills.

ACTS OF INCORPORATION.

Mr. BOURINOT introduced a bill to incorporate the Caledonia Coal Mining Company in the county of Cape Breton.

Mr. TOBIN introduced a bill to incorporate the Stonecutters and Masons Association of Halifax.

THE FRANCHISE ACT.

Mr. ANNAND then said—I wish to call the attention of the Government to a matter of considerable importance—to the act which will come into operation on the 24th June, 1865, relative to the election of members in the House of Assembly. It has come to my knowledge that in one county—if not in two—the requirements of that act have not been fulfilled. In Guysborough the magistrates not only neglected to appoint revisors, but actually refused by a majority to take any action on the premises. I would like to know from the Government what action they intend to take in reference to a matter of such magnitude.

Hon. PROV. SECRETARY.—The Government have never had this matter brought officially under their notice, that I am aware of. I remember seeing something about it in the newspapers, but that certainly is not an authentic mode of bringing the matter to the notice of the government. I may state for the information of the house, however, that I have addressed a circular to the Custos of every county, asking him to furnish the Government with information with regard to the steps that have been taken to apply the law.

Mr. JOST.—The county of Lunenburg is in the same state. There is nothing in the law to compel Grand Juries to recommend revisors, and that at Lunenburg, I presume, exercised their own discretion in the matter.

Mr. ARCHIBALD.—We are expressly ordered in the act to comply with its requisition; and any Grand Jury or Sessions that failed to do so, acted in contravention of the law. It is time