

tion, and if their hours thought...
...to give a small sum to each of the papers, he would not object to it. It appeared that the country would not get the decision upon their publication were paid for out of the public funds.
Hon. Mr. Anderson observed that there were six papers published in Charlottetown, and even if they were to pay five for publishing the same, still some part of the Island might be deprived of the privilege of seeing them. He would like to see the papers all put upon the same footing.
Hon. Attorney-General observed that he was not present at the commencement of this discussion, but the arrangement for the publication of the debate, as far as it had been arranged, was that one of the papers had been accepted, and it was agreed to give a small sum to the other papers who had tendered. It would not be fair to say that the papers had been published in his paper. It had been mentioned by some of our hon. members that they did not deem it necessary to give anything to the proprietors of papers who did not consider it worth while to tender for their publication. It seemed pretty much with the proprietors of the papers themselves whether they would publish the debate or not. He was not sure that they would appear to be of that character that would induce the proprietors of papers to publish them without being paid for doing so out of the public funds. It did not seem to him that it would appear to be of that character that would induce the proprietors of papers to publish them without being paid for doing so out of the public funds. It did not seem to him that it would appear to be of that character that would induce the proprietors of papers to publish them without being paid for doing so out of the public funds.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Beer, a committee was appointed to report on the above petition by bill or otherwise. Committee—Hon. Messrs. Beer, Arty. Gen. Digby and McDonnell. Adjourned till to-morrow at eleven o'clock.
THURSDAY, March 9th.
Hon. Mr. McDonald obtained leave of absence till Monday next.
Hon. Mr. McLaren, a member of the Government by commission, His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, presented to the House a number of public despatches, which were read by the Clerk and ordered to be laid on the table.—Read a first time.
Hon. Mr. Ramsay presented a petition of Charles Lord, Tryon, praying for remuneration for expenses incurred in defending a Crown prosecution, the Supreme Court having decided that there was no ground for the action.—Read and ordered to be laid on the table.
A bill to continue the seduction Act was read a second time, passed through committee, and agreed to without any amendment.
Hon. Mr. McLaren presented the Colonial Treasurer's Accounts for the past year.—Received and laid on the table.
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Adjourned till Tuesday next at three o'clock.
FIRST TALK OF THE SEASON.—Our readers will observe by advertisement in another column that the Boston & Colonial line of Steamships will recommence their weekly trips between Boston, Halifax and this Port next month. We learn that the "Commerce" has been thoroughly refitted and greatly improved in many respects; and that the "Greyhound" is a fine, fast Iron boat of some 900 tons burthen, fitted with four water-tight compartments. She has accommodations for 120 passengers.—*Examiner.*

Between 2 and 3 o'clock this morning our citizens were aroused from their slumbers by the alarm of fire, which was found to proceed from an old unshakable building in the West End, near the scene of last year's conflagration in that vicinity. The engines were promptly on the spot, and the flames soon subdued; not, however, until the building was almost totally destroyed. The efficient manner in which Capt. McKinnon's company worked their engine is deserving of notice. It is unknown how the fire originated, but suspicion says it was an act of incendiarism. The frequent recurrence of fires in the city should impress upon the "powers that be" the necessity of immediate steps being taken to render the fire department thoroughly efficient, and to furnish the companies with all the facilities requisite for prompt action on such occasions.—*Prof.*

CATHOLIC Y. M. C. INSTITUTE.—The Very Rev. Dr. McDonald delivered a highly interesting and instructive Lecture at this Institute, on Wednesday evening last, on "Progress." It touched on a great variety of topics in religion, science, literature and general politics, and in each the learned lecturer was accurate in his facts and happy in his illustrations. The whole time usually devoted to the weekly meeting of the Institute having been occupied by the lecturer, it was found necessary to forego the usual discussion. Richard Beakie, Esq. will lecture this (Wednesday) evening: Subject—"Oliver Goldsmith."—*Advertiser.*
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SECTION FOR ALTERATION IN LICENSE LAW.
Hon. Mr. Beer presented the following petition:
"To the Honourable the Legislative Council of P. E. Island, in Colonial Parliament assembled."
The Petition of the undersigned Inhabitants of P. E. Island humbly sheweth:
That the present License Act, for regulating the sale of Spirituous Liquors, provides that no person shall procure a Tavern License without the consent of a majority of the Household in the School District in which it is proposed to be procured. But as the present Act allows the party to renew his License before the year for which it was taken has expired, without again consulting the wishes of the householders in the District, through their votes in regard to it, they have materially

changed, your Petitioners would humbly pray your Honourable House to amend the Act so as to provide that no Tavern License be granted, or as any time renewed, without the consent of a majority of the Household in the School District in which the License may be sought. Your Petitioners would also humbly pray, that in order to avoid all litigation in the matter, said majority be required to subscribe the application for License at a Public Meeting legally called for the purpose, and of which due notice must be given. Your Petitioners would also beg to call the attention of your Honourable House to the fact, that Store Licenses to retail intoxicating Liquors are granted free of most of the restrictions imposed upon those applying for Tavern Licenses, the consequence of which is, that in some Districts where a Tavern License is allowed to be obtained, a Store License is taken, and that the evil sought to be remedied is often continued in another form. Your Petitioners would, therefore, humbly pray, that applicants for the latter be required to submit to the same restrictions as the former in procuring Licenses.
(Signed) DAVID FITZGERALD,
DAVID LAIRD,
JOHN SCOTT,
AND OTHERS.

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EXAMINATION OF MOUNT MARY SCHOOL.
On Thursday, the 23rd of Feb., Mount Mary School that had been taught by James MacVarish for about a year and a half, was examined, when the pupils acquitted themselves well, and gave abundant evidence of the tact and diligence with which their teacher had discharged his duty while teaching at this school. The Trustees afterwards presented the Teacher with the following—
ADDRESS.
To Mr. James MacVarish, Teacher.
We, the undersigned Trustees of Mount Mary School, having enjoyed your labors as a teacher for about a year and a half, now that you are about to leave us, we feel that we would not be doing justice either to you or to our own feelings were we to allow you to depart without assuring you of our high appreciation of your conduct as a teacher, and of your prudent, urbane and conciliatory intercourse with us since you became our teacher. Your co-operation with the friends of Temperance in this place has deserved the highest approbation, and your efforts for the promotion of education have been attended with gratifying success. The impartiality with which you have conducted this school, composed as it is of pupils connected with different denominations of religion, merits the highest commendation, and nothing put the hope that your circumstances may be improved by the change, could reconcile us to the idea of being deprived of your valuable services. Be assured, then, that while we bid you an affectionate adieu wherever you may go, in your future life, a pleasant remembrance of your intercourse with us will be cherished by us, and you will be followed by our wishes for your welfare in time and in eternity.
HERBY CRAWFORD, Presby. Minister,
JOSEPH MACVARIH, J. P.,
JOHN B. COX, J. P.,
KEMBLE COPPIN,
WILLIAM STEWART,
JOHN McGUIRE.

To the Rev. Henry Crawford, Joseph MacVarish, John B. Cox, Kemble Coffin, William Stewart, John McGuire, Esquires.
Gentlemen, I must cordially thank you for your kind address. I know it is a full appreciation of my services could induce you to give expression to such sentiments as it contains, and my success is due as much to the valuable assistance which I have at all times received from you and the unremitting obedience of the pupils, as to my own efforts, and I feel most thankful to you for your cordial co-operation with me. And if it is a source of much pleasure and gratification to me to know that you so highly appreciate my humble efforts in the promotion of the cause of Temperance, I assure my sister and brother Tempelars that a happy remembrance of my intercourse with them will ever have a place in my memory. I feel thankful for the kind allusion which you have made to the impartiality with which I have governed the school composed of pupils of different denominations of religion, and now as I am about to leave this land for a time, I hope to see, on my return, those pupils enjoying the benefits of the close application to which I have subjected them.
Be assured, then, that I must cordially accept your kind wishes, for my happiness and prosperity in time and in eternity, and now permit me to thank you for the unbounded kindness and hospitality which you have extended to me, and now while I bid you an affectionate adieu, be assured that you will always have a place in my memory.
Your dutiful servant,
JAMES MACVARIH.
St. Peter's, Feb., 1865.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY.
BY HENRY A. BERNETT.
"An' 'tis St. Patrick's Day."
Again greet the hearing sounds, sweet and endearing,
True Irish hearts cheering, the loud-piping bell;
Join ye all in the merriment, with music's swell,
The season of sadness, caused by Jewish madness,
Gives way to bright gladness with honest display;
The Old and Young, your twigs moments beguiling,
As innocent pleasure diffuses her treasure
To all, in good measure, so artless and gay.
Friends meeting and greeting, with hearts kindly beating,
And voices repeating—SANT PATRICK'S DAY.

Oh! bright was the morning, sweet Erin adorning,
When Darkness had warning and Light was obtained,
When Faith was so cheerful, and nobleness flourished,
That darkness forever that long had reigned,
Bright glories the blessing, a people possessing
High souls, in professing the true holy way,
The Golden rule, and the Trinity naming,
Where power and grandeur, and beauty and splendour,
To Truth did surrender in Shamrock display.—
That sweet devotion that aided persuasion,
And gives animation—SANT PATRICK'S DAY.
Ye true Irish-hearted! who never departing
Since Saint Patrick started that soul-guiding line,
Your faiths could be chosen from song or from story,
Shone over Old Ocean the more Divine;
When jealous division and alien detraction,
And bribing corruption, attempted to sway
Your faithful adherents and pure perseverance,
Through war's deadly thunder, caused Nations to wonder
And eyes to ponder at such a display
Of firmness, when powder and sword-clash rang loud,
Your banner waved prouder—SANT PATRICK'S DAY.

Oh! Erin, fair Island, from valley and high land,
Your offspring may smile and look back with delight,
When Faith was so cheerful, and nobleness flourished,
While envy was nourished by craft and might,
The grand situation and rich vegetation,
Whose strong admiration were availing lay,
With treacherous strangers, who planned all the dangers
Of keen resolution, dire mortification,
And sad emigration to lands far away;
LET, in all directions, for Creed and connections,
They breathe their affection—SANT PATRICK'S DAY.
St. Patrick's Day.
Come join in a chorus to old Erin's glory,
The patron and genius of that charmed land—
Whose name could be chosen from song or from story,
So worthy this day of O'Connell's young band,
Breath forth in low strains the pains and woes;
Endured through long ages of sorrow and weep;
Preserved by virtue and pure perseverance,
Oh! these good, all her own, are the pride of that nation
Whose sons and fair daughters you meet in the way—
Are moved by these visions in every strain,
And know how to honour St. Patrick's day.

To the said that these verses that held full possession
Of Erin's green hills, were bewitched outright;
But the old deadly serpent attempted oppression
On the faith of St. Patrick, with cunning and might,
Her temples were burned, her staves extinguished,
Her priests hanged down like beasts of the chase,
Her Irish made a crime by the laws of the time,
And to-day in old Erin the spirit is hoarse
In the hearts of a people still gallant and gay;
And to-day in old Erin the spirit is hoarse
To the soul-stirring tune of St. Patrick's day.

Our own dear little Island has also its beauty,
Though now few a season in the future bound;
And to make it more lovely and more sacred day,
By virtue and charity all the year round.
Our fathers have seen a richer green,
That decked in its verdure their own native hills,
But the ground of our hills, a pie-licking time
Oh! what beauty can equal our woodland and meadow,
And bright morning eyes, as we strew down the bay,
On board of the *Hecla*, steam, go ahead, ho!
To the heart-thrilling notes of St. Patrick's day.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Longworth, the Bill to amend the Law relating to the Savings' Bank of this Island, was read a second time. Committed and reported agreed to. House adjourned.
ATTEST:
On motion of Hon. Mr. Howat, the House went into Committee to take into consideration the Report submitted by the Special Committee, appointed last Session, relative to the Liquor License Law. Mr. Green in the Chair.
Mr. Howat then addressed the Committee, and explained the principal alterations proposed to be made in the present Act regulating licensed Taverns located within the boundaries of School Districts in this Island. He proceeded to show that the Law, as now in force, empowered a majority of the householders resident in the School District, in which a Tavern was situated, to grant a certificate to obtain License. The Report, he said, recommended an amendment of the Act, by granting two-thirds of the householders, of any School District, power to prevent the renewal of Tavern Licenses annually; as at present provided, the said householders consider it necessary to exercise such power. The Hon. gentleman also said that it was considered advisable to amend the Law regulating Store Licenses for the sale of Spirituous Liquors, by refusing to grant Licenses for the sale of less quantities than one quart, instead of one pint, as allowed by the Law as at present in force.
The Hon. Messrs. Hensley, Davies, Longworth, and Messrs. Howat, Courty, Brecken, Haslam and Sinclair, supported the prayer of the petitioners for the sale of Spirituous Liquors, and might, in many instances, deprive the travelling public of the necessary accommodations to be had at legally established Taverns, as no man would be disposed to invest his means in a business which might be closed in twelve months.
After considerable discussion, relative to the necessity of adopting the most stringent measures for the suppression of the evils of intemperance, Mr. Howat moved that the Report be agreed to.
Hon. Mr. Hensley moved an amendment that the Speaker take the Chair, which amendment was negatived on the following division: Yeas, 11; Nays, 14.
The Report was accordingly agreed to, and the following gentlemen appointed a Committee to bring in a Bill in conformity thereto, viz: Messrs. Howat, Hensley and Davies. House adjourned.

FRIDAY, March 10.
On motion of Hon. Mr. Longworth, the Bill to amend the Savings Bank Act was read a third time and passed.
On motion of Mr. Haslam, the Bill to authorize the appointment of Hog Reeves, and to prevent the going at large of swine, was also read a third time and passed.
On motion of Hon. Mr. Davies, the Hon. Solicitor General and the Hon. Mr. Hensley were added to the Committee appointed to bring in a Bill relative to Merchant Seamen.
Hon. Col. Secretary moved that the Bill relating to the Oyster fisheries in this Island be read a second time.
Hon. Mr. Coles moved an amendment, that said Bill be read this day three months. He (Hon. Mr. Coles) said he could not see the necessity of legislation on this subject; he was of opinion that it might be truly said the time had not arrived for the enactment of laws to carry out the speculative theories of the Col. Secretary. The Bill was calculated to cause trouble and litigation, and he would oppose it.
Hon. Mr. Laird and Mr. Howat supported the amendment proposed by the Hon. Mr. Coles, believing, as they did, that it would be inexpedient to legislate on this matter, on the grounds that, under the provisions of the Bill, privileges would be granted to parties obtaining license for the prosecution of this new branch of trade, which would, in their opinion, very materially interfere with public rights, and in many cases would operate against the existing interests of the country, by encroaching on the rights of farmers to procure mussel and for murrine purposes. They would, therefore, oppose the Bill going into Committee.
Hon. Mr. Coles moved an amendment, that said Bill be read this day three months, and should be for ever. He alluded to the necessity of following the artificial cultivation of the Salmon fishery in Australia, and contended that the principles of the Bill should be recognized. He would, therefore, support the motion for going into Committee.
Hon. Mr. Howat said this was an important Bill, and every means should be employed to encourage this branch of industry, which, even now, formed a considerable item in the exports of the Colony.
Hon. Mr. Hensley supported the Oyster Bill of last Session, and saw no reason to change his views on the subject. The privileges, which would be granted by the Bill, he contended, would not in any way interfere with private rights.
Mr. Brecken said the object of the hon. member for Tryon, (Mr. Howat) being the protection of Mussel beds, it would be well to remark that Oysters would not exist in Mussel beds, and would therefore, never be planted where such beds for murrine purposes were to be found, consequently the interests of farmers would not be interfered with in the manner anticipated by that hon. member.
Hon. Mr. Davies was of opinion that the time had arrived for taking action on this subject. The price of Oysters advanced last Summer from 7s 6d to 15s per barrel. In France, he said, millions of bushels of Oysters were produced by artificial cultivation; the Government of that country took the matter up, and it now became a profitable speculation. True, the cultivation of the soil is of more importance than Oyster fisheries, and he would never support any measure that would interfere with the privileges of farmers to collect sea manure; but unless protection be given to persons disposed to embark in this branch of trade, no beds would be planted for the propagation of Oysters; already, Oysters exported were worth per barrel \$21, and so great was the demand for them that it was not unusual to see in Saloons and Hotels in the Provinces, P. E. Island Oysters advertised, when frequently none could be had in each place.
Hon. Mr. Longworth would not for one moment support this Bill if he considered that it was restrictive farming operations, or prevented the facilities afforded to farmers in procuring manure and sea manure of any description. This, however, he did not apprehend, as care would be taken to prevent any encroachment on the rights of farmers. Formerly, he said, Oysters were very plentiful in different localities on this Island, and formed a staple article of food for its inhabitants. At Wharfedale River and Rastice, there was at one time immense beds of Oysters, and the banks of the river in those places still bore testimony to that fact. Encouragement should be given to persons wishing to

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.
TUESDAY, March 7.
On motion of Hon. Mr. Longworth, the Bill intituled an Act to continue the Seduction Act, was read a third time and passed.
Hon. Mr. Pope submitted the Public Lands Office Accounts, and also the Colonial Treasurer's Accounts for the past year; which documents were then referred to the Committee on Public Accounts.
On motion of Hon. Mr. Davies, a Supply was granted to Her Majesty.
House adjourned.
WEDNESDAY, March 8.
Hon. Mr. Pope presented the Returns of the Road Commissioners for the past year.
Mr. Howat, from the Committee appointed last Session, to whom were referred certain Petitions relative to the Tavern License Law, submitted a Report. Received and read, and referred to a Committee of the whole House to-morrow.
On motion of Mr. Haslam, the Bill relating to the appointment of Hog Reeves, and to prevent the going at large of swine, was read a second time. Mr. Green in the Chair.
Mr. Haslam having explained the object of the Bill, he remarked that some slight alterations were made to the present Act, one of which was to the effect that a majority of the electors of any School District, and not two-thirds of them as heretofore, shall have power to make application for the appointment of two Hog Reeves annually; also the Hog Reeves, performing their duties in compliance with this Bill, shall be entitled to the sum of four shillings, instead of 2s 6d per head for all Swine seized and taken up by them under the provisions of this Bill.
After some brief remarks from the Hon. Messrs. Hensley, Coles, Longworth, and Warburton, the Bill was agreed to.
Hon. Mr. Hensley, Chairman of the Committee of last Session, appointed to report on the Spirituous Liquor License Law, presented a petition from divers inhabitants of P. E. Island relative to the subject of Liquor License. Petition received and read, and referred to the House when in Committee, on the report submitted by Mr. Howat, on the same subject.
Hon. Mr. Warburton, in accordance with previous notice, asked for Returns of Prince of Wales College, and also Returns of the Grammar Schools at Charlottetown, Summerside, and Georgetown, for the past year.
Hon. Mr. Pope replied that the documents in question were being prepared and would be submitted to the House when in Committee.
Mr. McLennan presented a petition from divers Merchants, and others, praying for a Charter for the purpose of establishing a Bank at Summerside. Said petition was received and read, and the following gentlemen appointed a Committee to bring in a Bill relative thereto, viz: Messrs. McLennan, Hensley, Green, Longworth, and Davies.
Hon. Mr. Hensley said that as he understood the question relative to which he had given notice, would be answered without any further notice, he would not ask for any further instructions which might be given relative thereto, viz: Messrs. McLennan, Hensley, Green, Longworth, and Davies.
Hon. Col. Secretary replied, and said that the delegates who attended the Convention, held at Charlottetown last Autumn, were appointed in pursuance of the Resolutions of this House passed last Session, and that these gentlemen were the same. He said he was desirous to see the list of names, who attended the Quebec Conference. He then submitted and read a copy of a letter which had been forwarded to each of the delegates, notifying them of their appointment. He (the Col. Secy.) was not aware that any other instructions were given to the delegates.
Hon. Mr. Longworth moved that the House go into Committee to take into consideration the Savings Bank Law, with the view of making some slight alterations in the Act of last Session. Mr. Yeo in the Chair.
Hon. Mr. Longworth then submitted a Resolution: to the effect that it is expedient to amend the Law relating to the Savings Bank, with the view of enabling depositors to receive interest for murrine deposited—said interest to commence from the first day of each month subsequent to such deposit, and not from the first day of each quarter as now provided by the Act. Resolution read and agreed to, and the following gentlemen appointed a Committee to bring in a Bill in accordance therewith, viz: Hon. Messrs. Longworth, Pope and Hensley.
ATTEST:
Hon. Mr. Pope, Leader of the Government, submitted the Warrant Book for the past year. Referred to Committee on Public Accounts.
Hon. Leader of the Government submitted certain Despatches and Correspondence relative to the Land Settlement Bill of last session, and the Militia Law of this Island; also Correspondence relating to certain Petitions of Tenants of this Island, praying the disallowance by Her Majesty of the above Bill, for the settlement of difference between Landlord and Tenant.—All of which documents were ordered to be laid on the table.
Hon. Col. Secretary presented the Writ of Election, which the Sheriff's return of the Hon. T. Heath Haslam as Member for Georgetown; after which he was introduced to the Speaker, and having taken the usual oath, resumed his seat, vacated by his acceptance of the office of Solicitor General.
On motion of Hon. Col. Secretary, the House went into Committee to take into consideration the repeal of the Oyster Bill of last Session, with the view of making other provisions in lieu thereof. Mr. Yeo in the Chair.
Hon. Col. Secretary then submitted a Resolution, to the effect that said Bill be repealed, in order that more extensive facilities be given to parties disposed to cultivate Oyster beds, and encourage the growth and production of Oysters. Resolution read and agreed to, and the following gentlemen appointed a Committee to bring in a Bill in accordance therewith, viz:—Hon. Col. Secretary, and Messrs. Green and Howat.
House adjourned.
THURSDAY, March 9.
Hon. Col. Secretary submitted a Bill to repeal the Act regulating the Oyster Fishery of this Island, and to make other provisions in lieu thereof. He then explained the nature of the amendment which he desired to have enacted; the object of the amended Bill would be to prevent the taking of Oysters during the spawning season, and to give persons the right to plant Oysters in certain localities. After which it was ordered that the Bill be read a second time to-morrow.

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On motion of Hon. Mr. Howat, the House went into Committee to take into consideration the Report submitted by the Special Committee, appointed last Session, relative to the Liquor License Law. Mr. Green in the Chair.
Mr. Howat then addressed the Committee, and explained the principal alterations proposed to be made in the present Act regulating licensed Taverns located within the boundaries of School Districts in this Island. He proceeded to show that the Law, as now in force, empowered a majority of the householders resident in the School District, in which a Tavern was situated, to grant a certificate to obtain License. The Report, he said, recommended an amendment of the Act, by granting two-thirds of the householders, of any School District, power to prevent the renewal of Tavern Licenses annually; as at present provided, the said householders consider it necessary to exercise such power. The Hon. gentleman also said that it was considered advisable to amend the Law regulating Store Licenses for the sale of Spirituous Liquors, by refusing to grant Licenses for the sale of less quantities than one quart, instead of one pint, as allowed by the Law as at present in force.
The Hon. Messrs. Hensley, Davies, Longworth, and Messrs. Howat, Courty, Brecken, Haslam and Sinclair, supported the prayer of the petitioners for the sale of Spirituous Liquors, and might, in many instances, deprive the travelling public of the necessary accommodations to be had at legally established Taverns, as no man would be disposed to invest his means in a business which might be closed in twelve months.
After considerable discussion, relative to the necessity of adopting the most stringent measures for the suppression of the evils of intemperance, Mr. Howat moved that the Report be agreed to.
Hon. Mr. Hensley moved an amendment that the Speaker take the Chair, which amendment was negatived on the following division: Yeas, 11; Nays, 14.
The Report was accordingly agreed to, and the following gentlemen appointed a Committee to bring in a Bill in conformity thereto, viz: Messrs. Howat, Hensley and Davies. House adjourned.

FRIDAY, March 10.
On motion of Hon. Mr. Longworth, the Bill to amend the Savings Bank Act was read a third time and passed.
On motion of Mr. Haslam, the Bill to authorize the appointment of Hog Reeves, and to prevent the going at large of swine, was also read a third time and passed.
On motion of Hon. Mr. Davies, the Hon. Solicitor General and the Hon. Mr. Hensley were added to the Committee appointed to bring in a Bill relative to Merchant Seamen.
Hon. Col. Secretary moved that the Bill relating to the Oyster fisheries in this Island be read a second time.
Hon. Mr. Coles moved an amendment, that said Bill be read this day three months. He (Hon. Mr. Coles) said he could not see the necessity of legislation on this subject; he was of opinion that it might be truly said the time had not arrived for the enactment of laws to carry out the speculative theories of the Col. Secretary. The Bill was calculated to cause trouble and litigation, and he would oppose it.
Hon. Mr. Laird and Mr. Howat supported the amendment proposed by the Hon. Mr. Coles, believing, as they did, that it would be inexpedient to legislate on this matter, on the grounds that, under the provisions of the Bill, privileges would be granted to parties obtaining license for the prosecution of this new branch of trade, which would, in their opinion, very materially interfere with public rights, and in many cases would operate against the existing interests of the country, by encroaching on the rights of farmers to procure mussel and for murrine purposes. They would, therefore, oppose the Bill going into Committee.
Hon. Mr. Coles moved an amendment, that said Bill be read this day three months, and should be for ever. He alluded to the necessity of following the artificial cultivation of the Salmon fishery in Australia, and contended that the principles of the Bill should be recognized. He would, therefore, support the motion for going into Committee.
Hon. Mr. Howat said this was an important Bill, and every means should be employed to encourage this branch of industry, which, even now, formed a considerable item in the exports of the Colony.
Hon. Mr. Hensley supported the Oyster Bill of last Session, and saw no reason to change his views on the subject. The privileges, which would be granted by the Bill, he contended, would not in any way interfere with private rights.
Mr. Brecken said the object of the hon. member for Tryon, (Mr. Howat) being the protection of Mussel beds, it would be well to remark that Oysters would not exist in Mussel beds, and would therefore, never be planted where such beds for murrine purposes were to be found, consequently the interests of farmers would not be interfered with in the manner anticipated by that hon. member.
Hon. Mr. Davies was of opinion that the time had arrived for taking action on this subject. The price of Oysters advanced last Summer from 7s 6d to 15s per barrel. In France, he said, millions of bushels of Oysters were produced by artificial cultivation; the Government of that country took the matter up, and it now became a profitable speculation. True, the cultivation of the soil is of more importance than Oyster fisheries, and he would never support any measure that would interfere with the privileges of farmers to collect sea manure; but unless protection be given to persons disposed to embark in this branch of trade, no beds would be planted for the propagation of Oysters; already, Oysters exported were worth per barrel \$21, and so great was the demand for them that it was not unusual to see in Saloons and Hotels in the Provinces, P. E. Island Oysters advertised, when frequently none could be had in each place.
Hon. Mr. Longworth would not for one moment support this Bill if he considered that it was restrictive farming operations, or prevented the facilities afforded to farmers in procuring manure and sea manure of any description. This, however, he did not apprehend, as care would be taken to prevent any encroachment on the rights of farmers. Formerly, he said, Oysters were very plentiful in different localities on this Island, and formed a staple article of food for its inhabitants. At Wharfedale River and Rastice, there was at one time immense beds of Oysters, and the banks of the river in those places still bore testimony to that fact. Encouragement should be given to persons wishing to

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