

tained in the Public Accounts of Canada, which were within the reach of every gentleman. He saw some difficulty, however, in reference to Newfoundland.

THE SCHOOL ACT.

Mr. JOHN CAMPBELL presented a petition from Port Medway, and another from Lower Port Medway, against the School Bill.

FREE GRANTS TO AGED TEACHERS.

Mr. PARKER presented a petition from T. Ryan, an aged school teacher, asking for a free grant of land. This person, he stated, had been a teacher for 40 years, and was every way deserving of this favor.

Hon. PROV. SEC. called attention to the fact that the House had, at the close of last session, declared by a vote of 22 to 11 against the policy of free grants, and that the subject could not now be properly brought up.

Mr. LONGLEY said that if the House wished to prevent other petitions of the same nature coming up, it was advisable to shut out the present one at once.

Mr. KAULBACK was in favor of allowing the reception of the petition, and stated that he had one himself to present, which, through some inadvertency of his own, he had not presented last session.

Hon. PROV. SEC. thought much inconvenience would result if such petitions were allowed to come in after the House had declared against the policy of free grants.

Mr. ARCHIBALD said that the petitioner in the present case was a very respectable person, and thought it hard to shut him out. He thought it might be as well to receive the petition, and see if the Committee on Education would continue the policy it advised last session.

Hon. Mr. SHANNON expressed himself against allowing the question to be opened up again, after it had once been decided.

Mr. ARCHIBALD suggested that the petition lie on the table for the present, in order that it might be seen whether any others of a similar character would come up.

Mr. S. CAMPBELL said that he did not think it wise to contravene a policy adopted by the House by a large majority, and he moved that the petition be not received.

Mr. TOBIN thought it hard treatment to shut out a worthy petitioner. Many things considered by the House unwise at one time, were differently considered by the House at a subsequent period. He was in favor of donating free grants of land to worthy individuals, and in that way opening up our waste tracts.

Hon. J. McDONALD was always in favor of granting free grants of land to aged school-teachers, and had not yet changed his mind; but it would be seen that the House had declared against the policy, and therefore he did not see how the question could now be revived with propriety.

Hon. ATTY. GENERAL alluded to the fact that he had moved the following resolution against the adoption of the recommendation of the Education Committee, which had carried: "Resolved, that that portion of the Report which refers to free grants of land, be not received; but that the grants as heretofore be made, the petitioners to pay the expense of survey; but that owing to the largely increasing number of applicants it is unwise to continue the policy of making free grants here-

after." Hence it would be seen that the reason given for discontinuing the grants was the large number of applicants, and if it existed now of course the House would be bound to continue the policy. Therefore he thought it would be best to allow the petition to lay on the table in order that it might be seen whether any number of applicants would appear. If only a few appeared, then it might be favorably considered.

Mr. S. McDONNELL thought it would be wrong policy to repeal the action of last year.

Mr. BOURNOUT was in favor of giving aged teachers these free grants as some return for their services to the country. It was well enough for the hon. gentlemen in whose counties all the aged teachers were already supplied to declare now against the policy, but it should be remembered that there were other counties that might be differently situated.

The amendment moved by Mr. Stewart Campbell was put to the House and carried on a division by—yeas 20, nays 18.

Mr. PARKER gave notice to rescind.

DALHOUSIE COLLEGE.

Mr. LONGLEY presented a petition from the Baptist Convention, on the subject of Dalhousie College.

Mr. PARKER objected to the reception of the petition on the ground that it dealt with a matter already disposed of by the House.

The petition was, read, and allowed to lie on the table.

The House adjourned until 3 o'clock the next day.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 15.

The House met at 3 o'clock.

FREE GRANTS OF LAND.

Mr. Kaulback presented a petition from J. Dowley, an aged school-teacher, asking for a free grant of land.

Mr. DONKIN presented a petition from Mr. Desbrisay, of Cumberland, on the same subject.

VICE-ADMIRALTY COURT.

Hon. ATTY. GEN. laid on the table copies of correspondence relative to the appointment of officers of the Court of Vice-Admiralty.

ST. PETER'S CANAL.

Mr. LEVESCONTE asked the Government to lay on the table the report of the engineer on the St. Peter's Canal, and if they intended to make provision for the completion of that work.

Hon. PRO. SEC. replied that the report was now under the consideration of the government, who would be prepared to give the hon. gentleman the information he required in a few days.

THE MILITIA CONVENTION.

Mr. STEWART CAMPBELL then said:—When the Militia Committee was under consideration yesterday, I referred to the fact that a body of gentlemen were meeting daily, in this city, in connection with militia affairs. How this body has been appointed—for what purpose, it is constituted—how it is to be paid—what are its functions, are questions I cannot answer. I only gather from information outside the walls of this House, that there is such a body in existence. I consider that this Legislature, constituted as it is, is fully able, and fully autho-