

a most extraordinary argument to use, and he could not see how the House could accede to the application of the petitioners without endorsing the doctrine of Escheat so prominently set forth in the petition. At the same time he would express his conviction that either the petitioners had not carefully read over the petition to which they had attached their names, or they had not maturely considered the nature of the arguments employed by them in support of its prayer.

After some further discussion on the subject of the petition, it was submitted to a Committee of the whole House. Mr. Yeo in the chair.

The petition was then received and read, and after some further discussion, during which the desirability of procuring a portion of the domain attached to Government House grounds as a place for a Parade and Recreation ground, was generally admitted by hon. members.

Mr. Brecken then submitted a Resolution to the effect that, in the opinion of that Committee, it was expedient that a Bill should be passed, authorizing the dedication of a portion of the Government House farm for the purposes of a Parade ground for the Militia and Volunteers, and as a Park or place of recreation; and also that an address be presented to Her Majesty the Queen, praying that she will be graciously pleased to give her Royal sanction to such dedication. After which Progress was reported.

Hon. Mr. Coles read, in his place, a petition from divers inhabitants of Marshfield School District, L.N. 34, complaining of some of the provisions of the present School Act, and suggesting certain amendments. The hon. member observed that he was aware he could not ask for any action to be taken on the petition, which had only been very recently handed to him. He would, however, ask if it were the intention of the Government to amend the School Act during the present Session.

Mr. Haslam said that he had a petition on the same subject, which he was about to present, when the

Hon. Mr. Longworth replied, that it was not the intention of the Government to entertain any action on the subject of Education, during the present Session, in consequence of the short time that had elapsed since the present amended law had been in operation, the merits of which had not yet been fairly tested.

House adjourned.

#### AFTERNOON.

On motion of the Hon. Col. Gray, the Bill to incorporate the Minister and Trustees of the Presbyterian Congregation at Woodville and Little Sands, was read a third time and passed.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Davies, the Supplementary Estimates for the current year were submitted, and referred to the House when in Committee on Supply.

Hon. Mr. Coles asked for returns of the number of acres of land purchased by the Government last year, and the price paid for the same.

Hon. Mr. Davies said he thought that the Accounts and Returns from the Land Office, already before the House, furnished the necessary information.

The Hon. Leader of the Government, shortly afterwards produced from the Office of the Land Commissioner the paper asked for.

On motion of the Hon. Solicitor General, the Militia Bill was read a second time and committed. Mr. Yeo in the chair.

The Hon. Solicitor General explained the Bill, and said that it repealed the Act 14 Vic., cap. 6, and thereby revived certain Acts therein mentioned. The repeal of said Act, he said, would enable the Commander-in-Chief to call out the Militia, if occasion required.

After some debate on this subject, the Bill was agreed to without any amendment.

The House resumed Committee on Supply, and reported several Resolutions agreed to.

Mr. Yeo, Chairman of the Committee appointed to examine the Public Accounts, presented their Report, which was ordered to be submitted to a Committee of the whole House to-morrow.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Longworth, the Bill relating to the appointment of Clerks of Justices of the Peace, was submitted to a Committee of the whole House.

Hon. Mr. Longworth then explained the object of the Bill, which authorizes Justices of the Peace, in any district of the Island, if they think proper, to appoint a Clerk, for whose acts the said Justices should be responsible. The duties of such Clerk should be to make a Return to the Office of the Prothonotary of the Supreme Court of the Colony in which he shall hold his office; such Returns to be forwarded to said Office at least four days previous to the holding of the respective Sessions of the said Supreme Court. These Returns to contain a record of all convictions before such Justices of the Peace from whom he may hold his appointment, together with the amount of fines ordered by such Justices, and the manner in which they might have been levied and distributed.

On motion of Mr. McEneaney, a Resolution was adopted, to the effect that an address be presented to His Excellency the Lieut. Governor on the subject of the report of the Committee on New Roads.

Hon. Solicitor General, agreeably to notice, introduced a Bill to amend the law relating to the Agricultural Society, so as to alter the time for holding the annual meeting of that Society.

The House in Committee thereon. Mr. Yeo in the chair.

Several hon. members then spoke of the necessity of reconstituting that institution, with the view of rendering it more generally useful to the Agricultural interests of the Colony.

Progress was then reported.

Debate on the Union of the Colonies resumed and adjourned.

#### FRIDAY, March 31.

On motion of the Hon. Colonial Secretary, the House went into Committee on the Despatch from the Secretary for the Colonies, intimating the withdrawal, at no distant period, of the Imperial grant for the payment of the salary of the Lieutenant Governor of the Island. Mr. Howland in the chair.

The Despatch was received and read.

Hon. Col. Secretary remarked upon the injustice done to the Island by the alienation of all its territories, during the reign of the late George the Third of England, and, consequently, the hardship of subjecting its people to the payment of the salary of the Lieutenant Governor. He also alluded to the terms on which the Legislature of the Colony undertook to pay the Civil List Bill, by which it was not intended that the salary of the Lieutenant Governor should be paid from the Colonial Treasury.

Hon. Messrs. Longworth and Hensley also remarked on the strong claims the Island had to that annual Imperial grant for the payment of the salary of the Lieutenant Governor, and the necessity of taking immediate steps to prevent, if possible, the people of the Island having to pay that salary, and expressed the hope that the Home Government would be induced to continue that annual grant as usual.

The Hon. Colonial Secretary then submitted a Resolution, to the effect that a Committee be appointed to join a Committee of the Legislative Council, for the purpose of preparing an address to Her Majesty the Queen, praying that Her Majesty would be pleased, in consideration of the peculiar circumstances in which the Island was placed, by reason of the alienation, by His Majesty George the Third, of the entire lands of the Colony, to recommend to the Imperial Parliament the propriety of continuing the usual grant heretofore made for the payment of the salary of the Lieutenant Governor of the Island.

The Resolution was then agreed to, and the following gentlemen were appointed to prepare an address in con-