

doubt this had some weight with the authorities in disbanding some of the companies. He would make enquiry as to the reasons why so many companies had been disbanded, and he had no doubt that satisfactory explanations would be given.

Mr. KAULBACK expressed his opinion that the volunteers had not received proper encouragement. The impression had got abroad that having served their purpose they were not wanted any more, and that idea no doubt had operated largely in causing the disorganization of so many companies. He had particular reference to the volunteers in his own county. As regards the state of the militia there—he was pleased to find that the Adj. General referred in complimentary terms to the regiment he had the honor to command. He was bound in honor to say, however, that that efficiency was due in a great measure to the volunteer companies at that place. He agreed with the member for Halifax, that in view of complications that might arise with our neighbours, it was necessary that the militia should be armed. If any trouble should unhappily arise with that country, no doubt Lunenburg would be specially favored, as it would be remembered that during the last American war that place was taken by the enemy, and a bond given by the inhabitants by way of ransom, which had never been redeemed.

Mr. LEVESCONTE enquired whether the government considered that in the case of invasion all persons found in the possession of arms were liable to be shot, not being in uniform.

Hon. PROV. SEC. was rather inclined to doubt the policy of a small province like ours arming the few men we had to prepare for an invasion from such a force as could be brought to bear upon us. In the meantime a great deal had been done, and could yet be done, without arms; the primary thing was to get the men enrolled, and instructed in the rudiments of drill, and to get the officers qualified for their duties. The subject, however, was now engaging the attention of the Commander-in-Chief, and would soon be brought under the notice of the house.

Dr. BROWN presented two petitions from North Kings' against Confederation.

Mr. SHANNON presented a petition from the Educational Association of Nova Scotia. Also introduced a bill to add an electoral district in Western Halifax.

ENQUIRY, &c.

Mr. MCLLHAN requested the government to inform the house whether any Provincial Debentures had been sold, for the purpose of raising money for the construction of the Pictou Railway, and if any, the amount—the rate of interest they bear—the premium obtained, if any—the names of purchasers, and the mode of disposal.

Mr. BALCOM presented a petition from Sheet Harbour, praying aid to remove obstructions from the East River.

Mr. KAULBACK handed in the returns submitted by the government in answer to a request of the member for Shelburne relative to lunatics chargeable in the county of Lunenburg. He might find it necessary to refer to them at a future day.

The House then adjourned until 3 o'clock, next day.

THURSDAY, March 9, 1865.

The house met at 3 o'clock.

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

Hon. PRO. SEC. laid on the table the report of a geological survey made by Rev. Dr. Honeyman. In reference to the report, the hon. gentleman stated that when Dr. Honeyman was in England he read a paper before the Royal Geological Society on the geology of Arisaig; and subsequently called the attention of the government to the fact that some investigations which he had made whilst preparing for the International Exhibition, could be extended at a comparatively small expense. Measures would have been taken by the Government for an efficient geological survey, but for causes to which he need not now particularly refer. It was considered not improbable that the subject would be dealt with in a more efficient manner under different arrangements that might be made. The government, however, thought they would be acting in the interests of the Province if they authorized the prosecution of the work commenced by Dr. Honeyman, and assumed the responsibility of making an advance, in the first instance of \$20, to obtain a number of copies of the paper read by that gentleman in London; and in the second place, a further sum of \$400 to enable him to continue his researches, which were attended with most interesting results in connection with the geology of this Province.

A number of copies of the report were ordered to be printed.

LICENSE LAW.

Mr. S. McDONNELL introduced an act to amend the law relative to licenses. The law, as it at present stood, rendered void notes, agreements, specialties, and all documents given in whole or part payment for intoxicating liquors. It was, however, most unfair, since it had an *ex post facto* operation. This object was to remedy this defect. He considered that some provisions in the license law were most tyrannical, and did not reflect much credit upon the legislature that passed them. He was afraid some gentlemen were influenced by their zeal for temperance to go too far and try impossibilities.

Dr. HAMILTON said the question might arise whether it was wise to adopt any license law at all. If we admitted the sale of spirituous liquors, he did not see why we should tie it up. The hon. member for Inverness had said the house had dealt injudiciously with the subject, but he would like that hon. member to say why we should deal with it at all.

Hon. Mr. MCFARLANE said that the provisions of license laws were sometimes so exceedingly stringent that in many instances it was found impossible to carry them out. He was desirous of aiding temperance whenever it was practicable, but he did not think it was wise to go to such extremes as some would.

Mr. BLANCHARD said that it had become fashionable to say that license laws were tyrannical, but he would undertake to say that, with the exception of one section, our law was not more oppressive than was any other municipal regulation. The section of which he spoke had been brought to the notice of the committee to whom the subject of the license law had been referred, and it would probably be amended. He thought that the bill of his hon. colleague might be submitted to the same