HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS.

Mr. McNeil said that the amount required under the present Act, to be subscribed by the people, was, in many cases, made up by few. Had not the law, when the Free School system was first introduced, provided for the payment of the whole of the teachers' salary the case might be different; but after that, the people felt it a greater hardship than ever to have to contribute towards the teachers' pay. Many, especially in winter, are not able to send their children to school. He would not therefore support a compulsory system.

Mr. Arsenault—Teachers, holding licenses alike, was deserving of the same salary. Young men, just from the Normal School, who have obtained license as Teachers from the Board of Education, were entitled to the same pay, and as competent to perform their duties as many old Teachers.

Hon. Mr. Laird would suffer no wrong impression to go abroad relative to his remarks on the question of Compulsory Education. The matter required to be carefully approached. The circumstances of those who might be unable to send their children to school would, doubtless, be considered.

Hon. Mr. Callbeck read from Statistics of Canadian Schools of Canada in 1859, and said that, in comparing the salaries of teachers in that country at that time with those of the teachers of this Island he found they differed but very little. It was the duty of the state to educate the people. A large portion of the people could only afford to impart to their children the ordinary branches of a sound and practical English education. It was, therefore, the more necessary to give them every facility for the acquirement of that inestimable blessing. The mechanic and agriculturist require a practical education, in order to enable them to take their places and contend for their rights in the various walks and pursuits of life. The parent who educates his child confers upon him that which is more endearing than gold or silver. An eminent statesman said that 'work on marble would perish, upon brass time would efface; temples reared would crumble into dust; but work upon immortal mind would engrave that which would brighten to all eternity.'

Hon. Mr. Howlan read extracts from a report of Schools in the State of Massachusetts, United States, showing the method pursued in that country. He recommended the gradation system, and said that four different classes would be preferable to two classes. That would give teachers of high attainments advantages denied them under our present system. It would also open up a more general employment for Female teachers. He then proceeded to explain the principles by which the system called the Model system of Education in the States was conducted—as set forth in the report before him—and to which he directed the attention of hon. Members. He contended for the principle of reward by merit, showing that some Teachers were better qualified for the profession than others, and should be rewarded proportionately. There were those who made teaching a business for life, others only used it as stepping stone to lead them to other employments. The question of Education was of the greatest importance, and demanded the best attention of every lover of his country.

The Chairman then reported that the Committee had come to three Resolutions. The same were then read from the Clerk's Table and are to the following effect, viz:—

1st. That the salaries of the Teachers be paid in full out of the Treasury on the basis of the salaries allowed by 26 Victoria, cap. 5, instead of partly by the Treasury and partly by the people. Teachers of each class until they have taught for three years, shall receive Five pounds a year less salary than those who have taught for upwards of that time.

2d. That the payment in full from the Treasury shall commence from the end of the now current quarter of their engagement.

3d. That the average attendance of the Scholars shall be calculated at the end of each half year, instead of at the end of each quarter, as now required under the said Act.

The said Resolutions were severally agreed to, and a Committee appointed to prepare and present a bill in accordance therewith. Ordered that the Hon. Attorney General, Hon. Mr. Callbeck, and Hon. Mr. Davies be said Committee.

Mr. Frowse asked if the Government intended to make provision for a Wharf for the landing of a Steamer at Murray Harbor. Hon. Leader of the Government replied that he feared, owing to the large sum that such a work would require, the question could hardly be entertained this Session.

Hon. Mr. Kelly, Chairman of the Committee to whom were referred petitions praying for the establishment of new Post Offices, presented to the House the report of said Committee, which report was ordered to be committed to a Committee of the whole House on Saturday next.

House adjourned.

FRIDAY, May 3.

House in Committee of Supply reported several Resolutions agreed to.

Hon. Attorney General presented a bill to amend the Act relating to Land Assessment. Received and read, and ordered to be read a second time to-morrow.

Hon Attorney General also presented a Bill in accordance with the Resolution adopted from the Committee of the whole yesterday—to continue and amend certain Acts therein mentioned, relating to Education, and the same was received, read, and ordered to be read a second time to-morrow.

The greater portion of the day was occupied by hon. members preparing the Road Scales for their respective districts.

House adjourned.

SATURDAY, May 4.

House in Committe of Supply. The Chairman reported several Resolutions agreed to, and progress was reported.

The Bill to amend the Act relating to Land Assessment was read a second time, agreed to, and ordered to be engrossed.

House in Committee on matters relating to Roads, Bridges and Wharfs. After some time spent in Committee, progress was reported.

Mr. Cameron presented a petition from Donald McSwain, and others, inhabitants of Lots 65 and 30, praying for the adoption of measures to compel the removal of a gate obstructing a road, or right of way, from the settlement road of Argyle rear to the shore on the boundary between Lots 30 and 65, adjoining the farm of Coun. McKinnon.

Ordered, that said petition be referred to the following Committee to examine the same and report thereon, viz:—Mr. Cameron, Hon. Attorney General and Mr. P. Sinclair.

Hon. Leader of the Opposition presented a Bill relating to practice and pleading in the Supreme Court. Said Bill was received, read, and ordered to be read a second time on Monday next.

Hon. Mr. Kelly presented a petition from divers inhabitants of Lots Nos. 35, 36, 37 and 48, praying that the Act passed in the year 1776, for regulating the fees of certain officers, and others, connected with the administration of Justice in this Island, and also the Act 26th George III., cap. 13, be re-enacted, amended, revised and consolidated.

Ordered that the said petition be referred to a Committee to examine the same, and report thereon next Session by bill or otherwise.

Said Committee appointed is as follows, viz:—Hon. Mr. Kelly, Mr. Reilly, Hon. Attorney General, Mr. Brecken, Mr. Howatt.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Kelly, the House went into Committee on the Report relating to the establishment of new Post Offices. The Chairman reported the said Report agreed to with amendments.

Said Report recommends the opening of 22 new Post Offices, as follows, viz:

1. At or near Paquid Bridge, Lot 37.
2. Johnston's River Bridge, Lot 35.
3. Corran Ban Bridge, Grand Tracadie.
4. Montague Cross Roads.
5. Belle Creek, Lot 62.
6. Wood Island Road.
7. Marie Bridge, Lot 40.
8. On road from Tryon to Bedeque.
9. John Walsh's, Lot 27.
10. P. Traynor's, Old Tryon Road, Lot 30.
11. Darnley, Lot 18.
12. Cross Road, Lower Newton.
13. At James Doyle's, Skinner's Pond.
14. Alex Beaton's, East Point.
15. Joseph Davison's, Lot 20.
16. R. McLennan's, West Line Road.
17. G. Foster's, 9 Mile Creek.
18. Peter's Road, Lot 63.
19. Hugh McLean's, De Gros' Marsh.
20. Edmond's, Lot 56.
21. Angus McDonald's, Scotch Fort.
22. James Curtis', Winsloe Road.

The said Report also recommended that the weekly allowance paid Couriers for carrying mails to Wisener's Post Office by the inhabitants, be paid in future by the Government.

Ordered, that the Committee who prepared said Report be a Committee to prepare an address to His Excellency, asking him to give effect to the recommendations of said Report.

Hon. Leader of the Opposition, agreeably to notice in the Order Book, asked if the Benjamin Balderston whose name was published in the Journals of the last Session of that House, as Secretary to a Branch of the Tenant League at Lot 31, over whose signature certain proceedings appeared in said Journals, was the same Benjamin Balderston recently appointed to the office of Registrar of Deeds of this Island.

Hon. Leader of the Government, in reply, said that a Mr. Benjamin Balderston was appointed Registrar of Deeds, but the Government had no proof before them that he was the same person whose name was published as referred to by the hon. the Leader of the Opposition.

On motion of the Leader of the Government, the House went into Committee to consider the subdivision of the grants for the relief of paupers.

After some time spent in Committee, progress was reported and the House adjourned.

MONDAY, May 6.

Mr. Kickham presented a petition from Alex. Leslie, Esq., of Souris, setting forth certain grievances touching letters mailed by him at the Post Office in that place, containing money and an endorsed note, addressed to Wm. Cundall, Esq., Cashier of Bank of P. E. Island, Charlottetown, which letters were never received. That petitioner addressed His Excellency in Council on the subject, to which he received a reply to the effect that the Postmaster General at Charlottetown was questioned on the subject, and that that officer stated the letters in question were never seen by him. That your petitioner was not aware of the rule relative to the Registry of letters, and praying that the hon House would institute a strict investigation of the matter, with the view, if possible, to discover the fraud and prevent a repetition of the same; and also asking the House to grant him the sum of £11 17s. 6d., being the amount in cash contained in said letters, for the loss of which the petitioner is the sufferer.

Said petition was received and read, and on motion of Mr. Kickham, to the effect that the House go into Committee on the subject—

His Honor the Speaker declined to receive the motion, on the ground that the prayer of the petition conflicted with the standing rule of the House touching the principle of initiation of money votes.

Dr. Jenkins moved that the House go into Committee to take into consideration the propriety of establishing an Hospital for Seamen, and other destitute persons. Motion carried.

Mr P Sinclair in the chair.

Dr. Jenkins having spoken on the necessity of a Hospital for destitute Seamen, and pointing out the hardships endured by the disabled poor when thrown penniless among strangers, and the danger to which the community was exposed relative to the spread of contageous diseases from the arrival of vessels, submitted a resolution, to the effect, that provison be made for the establishment of an Hospital for Seamen, and other destitute persons, suffering from accidents and ordinary diseases, not of a malignant or infectious character; and that a scale of hospital dues be levied upon all vessels entering the Port of Charlottetown, said dues to be applied towards the support of said institution.

The subject was then debated in Committee.

Hons. Haviland, Henderson, Hensley, McAulay, Messrs Reilly and McNeill favored the establishment of an Hospital on the principle of the above resolution.

Hons Coles, Howlan and Mr G Sinclair were of opinion that such an institution should be under the supervision of the City Corporation. In Boston, and other cities of the United States, hospitals of that character were under the management of such Cities, and not provided for by the state at large.

Hon Mr Davies and Mr Howatt alluded to the hospital once erected on Government farm, and which had been removed by the authority of the late Government.

Dr. Jenkins said that the site on which that Hospital was erected was too near Government House, as well as in other respects a very improper position for an institution of that kind.

The Chairman reported the Resolution agreed to.

Ordered, that the following Committee be appointed to bring in a Bill in conformity therewith, viz:—Dr. Jenkins, Messrs Bell, McNeill, Owen and Brecken.

On motion of Hon Mr Haviland, the Bill relating to practice and pleading in the Supreme Court was read a second time and committed to a Committee of the whole House. Mr G Sinclair in the chair.

The first clause of said Bill was again read from the Clerk's table, and is to the effect that gold and silver coin may be taken in execution and paid to as money collected; and also that Government Debentures, Treasury Warrants, Bank Notes, etc., may be taken in Execution and paid at par value if he accepts such, otherwise the said Debentures, Warrants, etc., may be sold the same as any other goods or chattels.

That clause called forth considerable debate. Hons. Davies, Howlan and Henderson contended that in the absence of the more general principles of a Bankruptcy Law, the provisions of the Bill, they feared, would lead to partial and injurious tendencies.

Hons Haviland, Hensley, McAulay and Duncan supported the clause in question.

After some time spent in Committee, progress was reported.

The Bill to amend the Education Act was then read a second time and agreed to.

When the sum paid the Female School Teacher at Georgetown was read, Hon Mr Haviland said that that Teacher should be placed on the same footing as those in Charlottetown. His remarks were supported by the Hon Mr McAulay.

Hon Attorney General said that the present Government made no change in the proportion of said salaries, but left the scale of fees the same as adopted by the late Government.

Mr Prowse thought Charlottetown had more than its share in that respect, and also proposed that the clause requiring the attendance of Trustees in the presence of each other, before a Magistrate, to sign Teachers' papers, be amended.

Hon Attorney General then submitted an amendment to said clause, to the effect that Trustees shall only be required to sign, individually, the Teachers' certificates in the presence of a Magistrate, and not be called upon to sign the same collectively, at one and the same time as heretofore.

Said amendment was then adopted.

The principle alterations in the School Act, as amended, are

1st. Teachers's salaries to be paid in full from the Treasury. Those who have not taught three years to be paid £5 a year less than others for that time.

2nd. Said alterations to commence at the current quarter of Teachers' engagements.

3rd. Average attendance to be calculated at the end of each half year instead of each quarter.

Hon Leader of the Opposition said that he would now move that the House resolve itself into a Committee of the whole on the state of the Colony, to take into consideration the recent appointment by His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, in Council, of Mr. Benjamin Balderston, junr., to the highly important office of Registrar of Deeds and Keeper of Plans; he the said Mr. Balderston, having taken an active part as Secretary of an illegal combination called the Tenant Union Meeting, held at Fowle's Mills, Lot 31, in June, 1865, contrary to the Proclamation issued on that subject by His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor on the 22nd March 1865; the proceedings of which meeting appeared in the Appendix of the Journals of that House for year 1866; and also to take into consideration the recent appointment of Mr. Charles Dickieson to the office of Road Commissioner for the Third District of Queen's County, he the said Mr. Dickieson having been tried in the Supreme Court for assaulting the Deputy Sheriff of Queen's County in the execution of his duty, and for which offence he was sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment and fined in the sum of £50. He (Hon. Leader of the Opposition) then addressed the House on the subject in question, and commented upon the principles enunciated by the Tenant Union organization, touching their resistance to the laws of the country, their adoption of exclusive dealing, by refusing to hold business relations with those in the community who differed with them in their views relative to the payment of rents, and the disloyal tendency of their movements; and contended that he would be recreant to the duties which devolved upon him were he to treat with indifference and silence the course pursued by the Government in appointing to offices of trust persons holding views so dangerous to the peace and well-being of the community as those enunciated by the Tenant Union organization. Such appointments, he said, were calculated to prejudice the interests of the Colony abroad, as it would lead to distrust and want of confidence in the Government of the country.

Hon Mr McAulay supported the views of the hon leader of the Opposition, and seconded his motion.

Hon. Leader of the Government, in reply, contended that it was a resolution, and not a motion, which the hon. leader of the Opposition had submitted, and therefore should, in accordance with the Standing Rules of that House, be tabled at least 24 hours before action could be taken thereon. It came with bad grace from a member of the late Government to find fault with the appointment to office of one who, as a Licensed Teacher, had been drawing his Warrants from the Treasury of the Colony regularly every quarter, since the meeting of the Tenant Union alluded to was held. His certificates, as Teacher, were approved of by the Board of Education and his salary was paid in Warrants from the hands of the Treasurer of the late Government. Why then tolerate him in the important capacity of teacher of youth, if his principles were calculated to endanger the peace of the community. It was well known that those holding Tenant Union views had seen that they were mislead, and had doubtless regretted the extreme course which, in some instances, they were lead to adopt. It was also currently reported that the Publisher of the organ of the Tenant Union had been very materially aided in his work by the gentleman who held the office of Registrar of Deeds under the late Government, and the fact that the said Publisher had, at the request of that officer, gone to Georgetown at the last Election, and there recorded his vote in favor of the hon. leader of the Opposition and his colleague, would show that all the influence of the supporters of Tenant Union principles was not given to the present Government. The way to secure peace and quietness was to place those misguided people in the same position with others, and not to frown them down as a disloyal band of ruffians. He alluded to a gentleman who was tried for treason in this country some years ago, because he made use of some harsh expressions against land jobbers, and he was by the Conservative, or Tory, party appointed afterwards to one of the most lucrative and important offices of the Colony. He was, however, free to admit that had it been known that Mr. Balderston was the Secretary of the meeting in question, the proceedings of which had been brought to the notice of the Colonial Minister, the Government would have considered the matter previously to his appointment to the office of Registrar of Deeds. In regard to Mr. Charles Dickieson, a petition numerously signed was presented to His Excellency praying for his release, to which His Excellency, in the exercise of his prerogative, acceded. He concluded by observing that no alarm need be apprehended from those appointments, relative to the peace or credit of the country. He would oppose the House going into Committee on the subject of what he termed the Resolution, and not the Motion, of the hon. leader of the Opposition.

Hon. Leader of the Opposition—It is simply a motion to go into Committee.

Hon. Attorney General said the object of the hon. leader of the Opposition doubtless was to get the House needlessly into a Committee of the whole, with the view of censuring the Government. He had no desire to avoid the question, but was prepared to defend the action of the Government relative to the appointment of Mr. Balderston to the office of Registrar of Deeds. As to the gentleman appointed Road Commissioner, he was of opinion that he was not the person implicated in the Tenant League movement, but his brother. The late Government, of whom the hon. leader of the Opposition was a member, should have brought those people to the Bar of the Supreme Court; that was the proper place to ascertain whether they were guilty or not of any intraction of the laws. He (Hon. Attorney General) was Counsel for those unfortunate Leaguers, and therefore knew perhaps more of the circumstances in which they were placed than many hon. members of that House. Prosecutions against several of them were issued, but for purposes best known to the late Government, proceedings were hushed up previously to the late General Election, for what purpose he would leave the public to judge. Those accused should have a fair trial before the tribunals of justice before being condemned. Are they to be forever kept under a stigma, without a trial? He (Hon. Attorney General) then alluded to persons holding honorable positions abroad, who were once not only accused, but found guilty of having most flagrantly violated the laws of their country, yet they had been forgiven and placed in offices of trust and emolument.

Mr. Brecken replied to the hon. leader of the Government, and also reviewed the adress of the Hon. Attorney General. His objection to the appointment to the office of Registrar of Deeds, and Road Commissioner of those persons alluded to, was not made on any personal grounds; but he was of opinion, that the political morality of the Colony was at stake on this question, and therefore he felt it to be his duty to disapprove of the appointments in question, which in his opinion, appeared like a reward for the political services of those people who had so notoriously set the laws of their country at defiance. He then replied to the different points alluded to by the Hon. Attorney General, and concluded by observing that the conferring the office of Registrar of Deeds on Mr. Balderston, was an act of expediency unworthy of any Government.

Hon. Mr. Duncan—The Government owed their political existence to the Tenant Leaguers. There were no less than five hon. members of that House supporters, and some members of the Government, whose elections were secured through the influence of the league movement, he therefore was surprised to find them so very quiet on that subject now that they had got into power. Why not now vindicate the conduct of the league and justify their own connection with the movement? Are these hon. members ashamed of the people who placed them in their seats in this hon. House? He was surprised and indeed disappointed in not hearing those hon. members now stand up in defence of those men whose appointment to office was the subject under consideration. It appeared, however, that the poor leaguers were now forgotten by the very party whom they placed in power.

Mr. McNeill rose to reply, but his honor the Speaker having declined to receive the motion of the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, on the ground that it was not in accordance with a Standing Rule of the House, did then on motion adjourn the House.

Correspondence.

[FOR THE HERALD.]

TO THE LIBERAL AND INDEPENDENT ELECTORS OF THE FOURTH DISTRICT OF KING'S COUNTY.

GENTLEMEN:—You will, no doubt, be somewhat surprised to know that I have not carried out your wish by abandoning the prosecution of the scrutiny between Mr. H. and myself. After protesting against the return of that gentleman, and collecting an amount of evidence amply sufficient to invalidate his claim to the seat he now occupies, my conclusion in the matter may seem strange to many of my well-wishers. I am prompted by many weighty reasons to this course, some of which I shall now lay before you. But before going into this matter, I shall show you, and the public generally, the unmanly and unprincipled means which were made use of to ensure my defeat; and when I have done, I think your verdict will be, that my conscience must be much easier and freer from remorse than that of my opponent, notwithstanding the fact that he is now legislating on the strength of *thirteen bad votes!*

In acceding to your wishes in undertaking to run the Murray Harbor district, I was fully aware of the hard and protracted battle that was before me. I knew the majority of the district held to the Conservative party, but I felt confident that when the actions of the late Government were fully and fairly canvassed, that they would be condemned. In this I was not disappointed. I never for a moment imagined that the stale and artful cry of Catholic ascendancy would be resorted to as an electioneering clap-trap in the "light and blaze" of the latter part of the nineteenth century. But in this I was mistaken. Before I fully determined to contest the election of your district, I called several public meetings. Mr. Prowse—one of my opponents—attended them. Not long after this Messrs. Henderson and Prowse also called a series of meetings, of which I got notice by chance, and was in attendance. They, thinking that my presence and the little I had to say, would have but slight effect on the minds of the Conservative electors, duly made me acquainted with all that followed, amounting, I think, to the number of *fifteen*. I attended them, but before they were concluded, Mr. Henderson realised the truth of Lord Byron's couplet, that I had

"Learn'd to deride the critic's starch decree,
And break him on the wheel he meant for me."

Not many weeks rolled round when the astounding intelligence was heralded over the Murray Harbor district that "the Honorable Kenneth was kicked from Council." There might be read, placarded on every gate post, and paraded on every mantle-piece, that K Henderson—the self-dubbed martyr to Confederation—was shortly to hold another series of public meetings, for what? For the purpose of villifying the character of the Hon. J. C Pope—the man whom he, in former meetings, extolled to the skies—and of proving that he (Mr. H) was the only devoted friend, the only far-seeing statesman to be found in P. E. Island!—save Hon. E. Palmer! But strange as it may appear, those public meetings never took place, or, if they did, they took good care to conceal them from their opponents. Mr. Henderson found that nothing was to be gained by public discussion, consequently, those meetings were called by giving a few hours' notice. But I have learned enough from those who did happen to get in, that I was abused, misrepresented, and cuffed at a great size, first in English, and afterwards, and more effectually too, in gaelic. This language was as powerful a weapon in the hands of the old soldier as was the *lance and medicine box* at the time he led the 93rd up the bloody heights of Alma (?) But after all this, my supporters remained steadfast.

Next came the Nomination Day. After Mr. Hensley had finished his speech, the gallant Sergeant, in his usual uncouth and uncultivated manner, began to thunder forth a reply. A disturbance burst forth. People could not stand still and hear the mild and inoffensive barrister abused by a man who scarcely ever set foot in King's County prior to *the Sacrament which took place last Summer in Dause's Road, and previous to the late General Election!* The speaker waxed warm. He bade defiance to the crowd. The clamor arose louder and louder. Friends interfered. Peace and order were soon restored. But the die was cast Mr. Henderson was furnished with a text. The whole blame was put upon the Irish party. He returned into the district and began his work in earnest. The strongest prejudices of the people, the worst passions of the unthinking, were appealed to and aroused. Discord and religious animosity were engendered. All who would support me were put down as Fenians and renegades. And in order to fan the flame of sectarian bigotry to the utmost, and stir up the worst fears of the timid, an elderly gentleman was imported from somewhere about New London—a gentleman whom the Rev. A. Sutherland turned out of his fold, whose influence in that locality would be like a feather in the balance, but in a strange place would tell immensely—and it did so, for prayer meetings by night and a political religious canvass by day blinded people to their promises and made them overlook even the disgraceful balloting affair at Bonshaw. All this, together with an unmanly, beggarly and persistent canvass—a canvass in which Liberals were haunted and plagued in their houses, in the woods and every where, and that for time after time, was more than any man could hope to work against.

The election day finally arrived. The climax of trickery was capped. The religious element at work in the north and west and the grog and open houses of two worthies at the east and south ends of the district gained "plain, honest, Kenneth" his hard-earned seat. I shall now disclose an affair at Montague. Under Mr Beer's bridge was secreted a large quantity of rum. A few friends of Henderson an Prowse were selected as sentinels. As the voters passed over the bridge, they were called down, and well primed. The question was then asked "Who are you going to vote for." And if any one said "for Fletcher," the most violent threats were made use of.—Indeed one poor old man told me the day after the Election, that if he had not promised them to break his word with me, and vote for Henderson, that he verily believed he would have been waylaid on his return home and illused. This was certainly Christian conduct—a noble method of testing the free suffrages of the people. I shall now pass from this scene to the polling division at Sentneirs, Lot 63.

The presiding officer at this polling division was sworn—as every presiding officer is—to take the Poll fairly and impartially. But what does the Poll Book say? It says that there are *twenty votes* erased which were given in my favor, without one solitary reason being given. When once a vote is recorded, it cannot be expunged from the Poll Book, unless the voter refuses to swear to his qualification. It then becomes the duty of the Presiding Officer to erase it by stating it in the remarks column.—"Refused to swear." But this has only been done in a few instances. And out of those twenty votes which are sponged on the Poll Book twelve of them are as good votes as ever were polled. They had all the qualifications necessary for voters; their votes were duly recorded, they did not refuse to swear, and yet they are expunged! Shall I attribute all this to the ignorance of the Returning Officer! I would most willingly do it, but his poll book tells me that I cannot. For instance:—A young man comes up and votes for Henderson and Prowse. His age is disputed and he is asked to swear to it. He refuses to do so, but observes that his father will. According to law, this vote should now be struck off. But what do we see? The father is called. He is asked if he will swear to his son's age. He too refuses to do so, and assents as a Presbyterian he cannot. He is then asked if he will affirm solemnly to his son's age. He does so and the vote remains recorded and counted! So that we see that this enlightened presiding officer has extended the limits of the law of his own accord, and placed Quakers, Moravians and Presbyterians in the same category. How is it, I would ask, that when a man who votes for Henderson and Prowse and refuses to swear to his qualifications that that vote is left on the Books, and that good and valid votes, which were in favor of Prowse and myself, are expunged, and that without ever tendering them any of the oaths required by the act. On the same Poll Book there can be seen those votes which were given to me on the grounds of being marked "objected," while those which were marked "objected" by my Representative are left recorded so long as Henderson and Prowse received them. This may seem incredible to some, but it is nevertheless true. The Poll Book will show it. The grounds upon which several of these votes were expunged were that the electors refused to take the manufactured oaths put to them by this model presiding officer.

I am, Gentlemen,
Yours as ever,
JAMES HAYDES FLETCHER.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

Happening to be in Georgetown on the First day of May this being the day on which the Assessors and Firewardens of that Town are appointed for the year, I was amazed to see the tenacity of some of the old Tory officials struggling in their last gasp. I was quite tickled to see the little "Bantam" better known as Nather or Wallace looking over, and auditing the assessors account for the past year, with the books and papers turned upside down, with a great air of presumption he not being able to read one letter in the alphabet, also to show the dying grasp of this official. I am informed he made a rush to the Tinsmith's shop, and stamped all his measures to prevent his successor this work to do. It having been previously arranged between this great official and another of his brother officers that bantam should be appointed to the office of Assayer for the Town of Georgetown for the present year but the person who was to propose him having cast his eye around espied a number of American Fishing vessels coming in the Harbor and thinking of the many feasts of Yankee apples and presents got on board those crafts while collecting light-dues lost his motion and Bantam lost his office.

TRAVELLER.

Georgetown, May 1st, 1866.

The Herald.

Wednesday, May 22, 1867.

CLOSE OF THE SESSION.

AFTER a sitting of twenty-two days, the Legislature was brought to a close at about five o'clock on the afternoon of Friday, the 17th instant. Notwithstanding the shortness of the session, several measures of much importance to the country have been introduced and passed. The Free Education Act has been amended to the satisfaction of Teachers, and the Small Debt Act has been so remodelled as to enable the Governor in Council to re-organise the Small Debt Courts throughout the Island, and to render them more worthy of public confidence by having both political parties represented among the Commissioners thereof. At present, while most of the Commissioners are the partizans of the Conservative party, few, if any, have been taken from the Liberal ranks. As it cannot be truthfully said that no gentleman holding Liberal views in politics can be found competent to act as Commissioners of Small Debts, we hope this state of affairs will soon be remedied. Our Small Debt Courts have been political engines long enough, and it is a matter of notoriety that many of these Courts are so corrupt that even after sums have been sued and recovered therein, it is often impossible for the creditor to obtain his money from the Clerks.—It is high time that the Government interfered in this matter, and we confidently expect to see a much-needed reform introduced into the Small Debt Courts from the recent action of the Legislature.

The Loan Bill is also a most important measure, which, if successful in securing the object for which it was passed—namely, a Loan to buy out the Proprietory interests in this Island—cannot fail to prove a blessing to all classes of the community. As we have gone into this measure in a previous No., it is unnecessary to say anything further about it, except this, that we have every reason to believe the Loan will be obtained, despite the misrepresentations and factious opposition of the minority in the Legislature and their abettors outside of it. Every Member of the Opposition in the Lower House voted against the Loan Bill, but in justice to the Conservatives in the Upper Chamber, we must say that many of them manifested a liberality of sentiment and a proper regard for the welfare of the Colony by voting for the measure, which is alike creditable to their head and heart.

The Militia Act underwent some important modifications which the experience of the past and the exigencies of the present required. The Legislature exercised a wise discretion in pruning the arbitrary Act submitted by our military authorities, and at the same time it is sufficiently comprehensive to secure efficiency in the militia force. Eighty members of the Charlottetown Fire Companies are exempt from Militia service by this Act, and twenty members each of the Summerside and Georgetown Companies.

During the last days of the Session, the Opposition wasted a good deal of time in long-winded and noisy speeches against the Government and its Tenant League supporters, to which, had the League gentlemen replied in detail, would have kept the Legislature in session for another month. We are glad to know that the Government members had sufficient sense not to interrupt the harmless exhibitions of the Opposition, nor to reply to them except where imperatively required in a disputed point of fact.

His Excellency Lieutenant Governor Dundas was attended by a Guard of Honor, consisting of a Detachment of Her Majesty's 4th Regiment and the Irish and Prince of Wales Volunteer Companies, under the respective commands of Capt. McIntyre and Rankin. The members of the House of Assembly having been summoned to attend at the Bar of the Council Chamber, his Excellency was pleased to prorogue the Legislature with the following

SPEECH:

Mr. President and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

The promptitude with which you have despatched the more urgent business of the Colony enables me to release you from further attendance upon your Legislative duties.

At the commencement of the Session I commended to your special consideration the desire evinced by the Tenantry to obtain the Fee Simple of their land by the purchase of their farms. I earnestly hope that the measure which your have devised in order to provide funds for the purpose of buying out the interest of the remaining Proprietors may realise the object for which it is intended, and that with its aid the benefits of the Land Purchase Act may be extended to all parts of this Island.

I trust, therefore, that all classes interested in the settlement of the land tenures will appreciate and will place entire confidence in the desire you have shown to carry out their wishes, and will cordially unite in effecting that settlement by the instrumentality of the various laws in force for that object.