

naming gentlemen of his own political views; but other gentlemen would have nothing to do with it, and should they be appointed, it would be said at once that the Government wanted to buy them over. In this manner it was scarcely possible to get gentlemen there opposed to the liberal policy of the day; but he thought if there were gentlemen of different views in the Council, it might work well, if elected in a gradual way. He differed from his friend on his right, Hon. Mr. Whelan, that the House had no right to interfere with the constitution of the Legislative Council; for a change had already been effected in the constitution of that body, when the Legislative and Executive Council were constituted separate bodies. Perhaps no petitions had been before the House praying for a change in the constitution of the Council; but he thought the people had not had an opportunity of discussing the matter; and they sent hon. members to the House to concoct measures, and not to wait till the people brought them before the House. Upon mature consideration he did not doubt that it would have been better to have moved that the further consideration of the subject be postponed till next session. With the leave of the House, the hon. member then withdrew his former motion, and made a motion in accordance with the opinion he had just expressed, which was agreed to without a division.

The order of the day for the second reading of the bill to define the boundaries of the streets and squares of Charlottetown having been read, Mr. Perry, who thought the bill wholly unnecessary, moved that it be read "this day three months," which was carried without any discussion. Yeas 14—Nays—Hons. Palmer, Longworth, Col. Secretary and Lord, and Mr. Cooper—5. So the bill was lost.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.

On motion of Mr. Perry, the House went into committee of the whole on the further consideration of the Report of the Special Committee on Public Accounts. Mr. Muirhead in the chair.

The Hon. SPEAKER said it would be rather a satisfaction to the public to know the consumption of the various principal articles which were imported into the Colony the past year. He had prepared a statement of the several articles on which the consumption was the greatest, which, by permission of the Committee, he would submit as an addition to the report. The consumption of tea, which was the principal article, was 300,659 lbs. Many persons who consumed it, could form very little idea of the sum raised from the duty on it. He regretted very much that a few years ago there was a reduction made of 1d. per lb. on tea; for his maximum was, that if duties were reduced, they should be reduced largely, otherwise it would be no benefit to the consumer. Some years ago they had anticipated that the school fund would be increased; and this year they had to increase *ad valorem* duty, which was rendered necessary on account of the increase in the number of schools. They had then also taken off the duty on molasses to the extent of 1d. per gallon. The quantity of that article on which duty had been paid the past year, was 106,549 gallons; besides which it was likely that a large quantity had been smuggled. The quantity of tobacco on which duty had been paid amounted to 90,685 lb., wine 3,100 gallons gin 20,279, a very great increase in that article; brandy 3,853 gallons, and home distilled 3,197 gallons. Adding the quantities of the several kinds of spirits together, there had been a consumption of the rate of one gallon to every inhabitant of the Island; but he was pleased to see that the consumption of tea was about 4 lbs. to each individual, showing a vast increase in that article. As he had said before, he thought it might be satisfactory to the public; and therefore he submitted that as an amendment to the report.

The amendment was then adopted.

Hon. COL. SECRETARY offered some explanations respecting the charges for coal to which allusion had been made when the subject was previously discussed, showing that the auditors had not carried out the full explanation of the different items, and that the amount charged for hauling the coal also included payment for claiming out the cellar and stowing away the coal.

Hon. T. H. HAVILAND directed the attention of the Committee to several items in the accounts exhibiting a discrepancy

between the different amounts, and yet the auditors had given no explanation respecting the way in which the discrepancy occurred. The only way to arrive at a correct knowledge of the facts as stated by the Committee on public accounts, was to request that the documents referred to might be laid before the House in order to prove if there was so great a discrepancy as there appeared to be. He moved a resolution in accordance with the opinion he had expressed.

Hon. COL. SECRETARY entered into some explanations respecting the items referred to by the hon. member, Hon. T. H. Haviland, showing the manner in which the apparent discrepancy had originated in not carrying some of the balances to their proper places; but not blaming the auditors for any neglect of duty. At his suggestion the items in question were changed in a satisfactory manner.

After Hon. Mr. Palmer had offered a few remarks on the subject, only wishing to see the accounts corrected, and Hon. Col. Secretary had made some further explanations, Hon. T. H. Haviland withdrew his resolution. R. LAIRD, Rep.

Mr. PERRY.—The amount paid to the Surveyor General is large. Would it not be as well to embody a paragraph in the report, that if in want of the Surveyor General's services the commissioner should be instructed to notify him of the same; but not to employ him unless his services are actually required.

Hon. Mr. PALMER said the views of the hon. member who spoke last were good, and it would be well to abolish the office of Surveyor General altogether, for, he said, would not one Surveyor be enough; and even his services would not be required all the time if more land was not added to the public estate. He stated the fact that many land proprietors, employ only Surveyor, and then only for a portion of the time, as they should need his services.

Hon. COL. SECRETARY said the hon. member should bear in mind that many who had farms before the Government became possessed of the Public Lands, were found to be in possession of more land than they were entitled to, not to speak of the constant applications of purchasers, whose lands required to be surveyed. The Surveyor General had been employed in re-surveying the Worrell Estate, and laying out new roads, the making out of plans and surveying, which has kept him employed for over two years. He agreed with the Hon. Mr. Palmer that there was no need of employing a Surveyor all the time, and thought if his services were required twenty shillings a day would pay him well enough; and when the new roads were completed there would be no necessity of paying him a fixed salary; but employ him by the day.

Hon. Mr. PALMER alluded to the accounts of the Road Commissioner for the twelfth district of Queen's County (Charlottetown and Royalty) from which it appeared that the Commissioner (Mr. John Williams) charged for the hire of his own horse and servant man for the period of 123 days, at 10s. per day, for which there was no other voucher than the team-driver. He (Hon. Mr. Palmer) thought that labor on the roads might and ought to be put up at public contract. The hon. member then proceeded at some length to disapprove of the mode of working his own team on the public roads to the exclusion of others, as pursued by the Commissioner, and submitted a resolution censuring, in view of these facts, the Commissioner for so doing.

Hon. Mr. LORD did not see why the Commissioner had not a right to employ his own team, as to hire others; besides, it had this advantage, that his team was always on hand. If, however, Mr. Williams charged more for his team than was paid by the City Corporation of Charlottetown, it ought to be deducted from his account, because fixed prices are brought in by the City.

Mr. YEO said the general rule was for the Commissioner to let the work out on contract; but if he were allowed to keep his own accounts, how was it known that they were correct? Who was to keep an account against him?

Hon. Mr. LORD thought that complaints were brought in by the minority against persons, on no other grounds than that they were liberals. He mentioned a case where a former Commissioner was compelled to turn out his own teams on account of the party tendering failing to appear.