

## ACT OF INCORPORATION.

Mr. JAMES McDONALD asked leave to introduce an act to incorporate the Pictou Steam Ferry Boat Company.

Hon. Mr. McFARLANE enquired if the resolution of the House, requiring that all private bills should pay \$0 each, had been complied with.

Mr. McDONALD doubted if the bill was of a private character; it alluded to a great public work.

The bill was not received.

## POSTAL MATTERS.

Hon. PROV. SEC'Y. laid on the table the Report of the Postmaster General, along with other papers of the Postal department.

He read a statement from which it appears that the number of post offices remain the same as in 1863, namely, 73; way offices have increased by 20, the number being 240; no post or way office in existence in 1862 was closed in 1863. Six rides have been added, and seven have been extended, the whole number being 212. The cost of carriage of mails has been \$39,802 40; the number of miles travelled, 971,688, exhibiting an increase of travel of 11,544; 19,304 registered letters have been received, of which 9 have been missing; number of newspapers carried, 3,644,322, showing an increase of 93,656; letters transmitted, 1,467,720, whilst those in 1862 only amounted to 1,388,773; revenue from stamps, \$43,344 36, exceeding the number sold in 1862 by \$5,538 31. The gross revenue from all sources is 56,508 23; after deducting dead letters and other services, the net revenue is \$48,174 71, being an increase of \$3,074 for the year. The total disbursements amount to \$70,389 80, being an increase of \$2,033 36. In consequence, however, of the increase of revenue, this deficiency is about \$1000 less than in 1862. The increase in the disbursements was caused mainly by carrying out the instructions of the Post Office Committee report of last year, and some additional expenditure in connection with clerks.

Two clerks, it appears, had been obliged during the year to leave in consequence of their eye sight being seriously impaired, which circumstance was connected with some increase of expenditure. The number of dead letters was 14,600. Seven additional money-order offices had been established, in compliance with the order of the Post Office Committee. The money order system had been extended to Canada and Great Britain, and was found to work satisfactorily. The commissions on money orders amounted to \$364 74. The report is up to the end of September, 1863.

The papers were referred to the Post Office Committee.

## ENQUIRY.

In answer to an enquiry of Mr. Locke, Hon. Prov. Sec'y stated that it was represented to the Government that by an expenditure of £5, and a change in the situation of a certain way-office in Shelburne county, a very great convenience would be conferred upon the inhabitants in that section. The matter was referred to the Postmaster General, and subsequently adopted.

Mr. LOCKE was understood to complain that the whole matter had been done without the knowledge of the members of the county.

Hon. PROV. SEC'Y. said that he could point to many cases where the late government had acted without consulting the Post Office Committee or anybody else. He could bring to the House the evidence that the leader of the late government had gone into a certain County and put on a new route without any consultation with the members.

Mr. ARCHIBALD said that it made no difference what was the amount, if the principle was wrong.

Hon. PROV. SEC. said that he was quite ready to bring down all the papers which would show that the Government was justified in taking the course it did.

Mr. LONGLEY said that he knew by experience what must be the feelings of the members for Shelburne. Although the circumstances might be such as to vindicate the course of the Government, yet he could not but believe that the present case was analogous to some which he had heard the hon. Provincial Secretary himself condemn.

## GOVERNOR'S SECRETARY.

Hon. PROV. SEC., by command of His Excellency the Administrator of the Government, laid before the House a Despatch Dated 10th, Decr., 1863, from the Administrator of the Government to the Colonial Secretary enclosing a minute of the Executive Council relative to the salary of the Private Secretary of the Lieut. Governor — also the Colonial Secretary's reply thereto, dated 9th January, 1864.

(His Excellency states that it has been decided by the members of Government to withdraw the salary of the Private Secretary of the Lieut. Governor from the Estimates, though he does not see how the Lieut. Governor can perform his duties without such Secretary. The Executive Council in their minute state that the salary of the Lieut. Governor is fixed by the Civil List at £3000 sterling, that the public rooms at Government House are furnished from the revenues of the Colony, and that a vote of £200 additional is generally passed every year to defray the expenses of fuel and light. They also state that the further appropriation by special vote of £200 sterling for the salary of the Private Secretary of the Lieut. Governor is always the subject of acrimonious discussion in the Assembly, and they do not propose to submit it in the estimates after the term of office of the present Lieut. Governor has expired. The Colonial Secretary in his despatch of 9th Jan'y, 1864, regrets that the Executive Council have taken a course which will either deprive the Lieut. Governor of a Private Secretary, or else effect a diminution in his salary. He thinks, however, that they may have been led to do this by a misapprehension, supposing that a Secretary was merely required by the Lt. Governor for private purposes, whereas he is necessary to him from his public position.)

## MR. CREED'S CLAIM.

Hon. PROV. SEC'Y by like command laid on the table an application from Mr. Creed to the