

nets. He thought a general law ought to be framed to apply to the whole province.

Mr. S. McDONNELL hoped that steps would be taken to carry out the prayer of the petition, as it dealt with a matter deserving of the serious consideration of the House.

The petition was referred to the committee on the fisheries.

Mr. BLANCHARD introduced a bill to incorporate the Virgin Lodge of Freemasons.

Mr. P. SMYTH handed to the Financial Secretary a petition from the inhabitants of Malagawash asking for aid to open a boat canal to River Denis Basin.

THE REVISED STATUTES.

Hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL stated to the House that he had the pleasure of informing them that the Revised Statutes were now published, and in the course of a few days would be ready for distribution. He stated that he had looked over the work, and considered it most creditable to all those concerned in getting it up. He alluded especially to the valuable character of the Index that had been prepared after a great deal of trouble, and considered it would compare favorably with similar works in any part of America. He also stated that he would lay the copy he held in his hand on the table for the consideration of gentlemen, and that in a few days it would be declared the law of the land.

Mr. CALDWELL was glad to see the hon. Attorney General so prompt in laying on the table of the House the new Revised Statutes, which he enquired for a few days ago, and only trusted they would meet the requirements of the country. While up he would ask the hon. Attorney General did the government intend to furnish the magistracy of the province with a copy of the new book *gratis*. It was well known to the House that the two last editions were purchased by the magistrates heretofore, and he was of opinion it would be unfair to make them pay for legislative errors which no doubt had caused the revision of the present volume.

Hon. PROV. SECY. said that to carry out the proposition of the hon. gentleman would incur a very large pecuniary outlay.

Mr. ARCHIBALD was understood to allude to the hurried manner in which some of the statutes had been passed last session, and to the probability that some mistakes might be found in this work notwithstanding all the pains taken with it by the gentlemen to whom it had been entrusted. He thought that, perhaps, the work might be referred to a committee of the House for their consideration.

Mr. BLANCHARD said that one or two trifling incongruities might be found in the work arising from gentlemen having introduced amendments to a statute without having considered the whole as it was before. The gentlemen to whom the work was entrusted did not feel at liberty to interfere with what the Legislature had done. Most of the incongruities would be found in the Magistrates Act, which had been a subject of much discussion in the House for several years past. He expressed the feeling of the Committee as to the valuable assistance afforded them in the preparation of the work by the late Mr Chas. Harrington, Q. C. He also alluded to the care exhibited by the printer throughout in the publication of the Statutes. The work would be

found not only to contain the General Revised Statutes, but the legislation of last winter as well. He trusted that the House and country would bear with any trifling inaccuracies that might be found in the work.

Mr. BOURINOT alluded to the opposition which the bill he had introduced to extend the jurisdiction of Magistrates had met from members of the legal profession in the House. The House, however, last year having approved of the principle of the bill, the hon. leader of the opposition promised to do his utmost to perfect its provisions. The hon. gentleman who was now judge in Equity also gave a promise to the same effect. Therefore if the bill was not as perfect as it should be, no one was to blame except the gentlemen of the bar themselves.

Mr. MILLER asked if it was the intention of the Government, this year, to bring in a bill in reference to the collection of debts by Magistrates as the hon. Mr. Johnston had stated last session that he would move in the matter. He did not think the hon. member for Cape Breton could take much credit to himself for this bill, but that it was obnoxious to a majority of the people. If its provisions were to be carried out by men of integrity and knowledge, he would not say anything, but the magistracy contained men who were a disgrace to it.

Mr. BOURINOT said that the same thing could be said of the legal profession.

Mr. MILLER did not deny that such was the case, and went on to say that the hon. gentleman would find that the credit he appeared inclined to take for the bill was altogether premature. He did not consider that the hon. gentleman was entitled to any consideration from members of the legal profession in the House, after his frequent attacks upon them.

Mr. BOURINOT said that it was amusing to notice the air of patronage which the hon. member invariably assumed when he addressed the House. He was satisfied that the country was quite content with the measure—so much so, indeed, that he felt inclined to bring in a bill to increase the jurisdiction to fifty pounds.

Mr. S. CAMPBELL said that the present discussion was altogether premature, and asked for information as to the quantity and price of the edition of the R. S.

Hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL stated that he would willingly lend his aid to perfect any bill in reference to the matter spoken of by the hon. member for Richmond. He hoped the day was not far distant when the whole body of magistrates would be relieved from the duty of collecting debts and some more satisfactory machinery provided than was now in existence. In answer to the question put by the hon. member for Guysborough, the hon. gentleman stated that it was proposed to strike off two thousand copies, and that the price would be \$2 each. He also thought that any magistrate who did not provide himself with a copy, would not be treated very harshly if struck off the roll.

Dr. HAMILTON alluded to the former editions of the Statutes, and to the necessity that arose continually for making amendments in them. Looking at the experience of the past he was inclined to believe that the country would never have a satisfactory edition of the