Summary of Legislative Proceedings.

SATURDAY, March 30.

Hon. Mr Yeo presented a petition from different parties at Bedeque, Summerside, St. Eleanor's, &c., stating that the Act passed last Session abolishing imprisonment for debt, has a most disastrous effect on the trade of the Colony, and praying for a repeal of certain clauses in the law relating to the recovery of small debts. Hon. Mr Perry presented a road petition from inhabitants of Miscouche. Hon. Mr Longworth presented a petition from inhabitants of Lots 23 and 24, praying for the establishment of a Ferry at Hunter River, &c. The Bill to incorporate the Gulf Express and Telegraph Company was read a third time and passed. The Bill for revising and re-printing the laws, was read a second time and committed to a Committee of the whole House. Mr Cooper presented the report of the Committee appointed to examine and report on the plan and specification of the proposed wharf at Red Point, which was received, and the House resolved that Mr Cooper, Hon. Mr Coles, and the hon. Mr Hensley be a Committee to prepare an Address to His Excellency, requesting him to appoint a Commission in order that the recommendations of the report might be carried into effect. A petition was then presented to the House by Hon. Mr Hensley, from Neill M'Phee, praying aid for a loss sustained by fire. Hon. Mr Haviland presented a petition of Thomas Robson, of Sackville, N. B., setting forth that he had obtained Letters Patent under the great seal of this Island bearing date Nov. 21, 1854; which secured to him the exclusive right of making, using and vending the invention of a Fog-bell and Horizontal Windmill, till the 3 April, 1862, and praying for an Act to authorize the grant to him of Letters Patent for a further period, which petition was ordered to be withdrawn. Hon. Mr Longworth presented a petition from members of the Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces, Covehead, praying for an act of incorporation. It was then moved that the House go into a Committee of the whole to consider the petitions which had been presented, praying the House to take some action to prevent distraints for arrears of rents till the award of the Land Commissioners be made known. In amendment Hon. Mr Coles moved an adjournment. For the amendment, 8; against it, 12. Mr Beer was appointed Chairman of the Committee. The remainder of the day was taken up in discussing the resolution previously submitted by the Hon. Mr Coles, and an amendment to it moved by Mr Howat. The following is Mr Coles' resolution :—

"Whereas on the 1st day of October, 1861, at the closing of the Court of Her Majesty's High Commissioners, appointed for the settlement of all differences existing between Landlord and Tenant in this Island, they, the said commissioners, unanimously recommended the Proprietors of land to abstain from both proceedings on the collection of rents, and to practise forbearance and moderation towards their Tenantry; while the latter were enjoined to pay the then accruing year's rent, the Commissioners having, on that occasion, expressed a very decided opinion that it would be a misfortune to the Colony if the rents and arrears were harshly and hastily collected by the Proprietors:

"And whereas it has come to the knowledge of the House of Assembly that the recommendation thus addressed to the Proprietors has been, in many instances, disregarded by them—proceedings at law having been instituted in many cases for the recovery of arrears of rent, by which great hardship and suffering have been brought upon the Tenantry, who were generally disposed to comply with the recommendation of the Commissioners as regards the payment of one year's rent.

"And whereas numerous petitions have been presented to the House of Assembly during the present Session, praying that some measure may be devised by the Legislature of this Island to prevent further proceedings at law for the recovery of the arrears of rent pending the award of the Land Commissioners; and it is the opinion of this Committee that a hope has been generally entertained that the award of the Commissioners would be shortly made known, and relief thereby afforded to the Tenantry; but it is evident from the tenor of a Despatch from His Grace the Duke of Newcastle to His Excellency the Lieut. Governor, bearing date 2d January, 1861, published subsequently to the signing of the aforesaid petitions, that the Act passed last Session for giving effect to the award of the Commissioners will not be submitted for the Royal assent, it being considered too general in its character, in consequence of which objection it will be necessary for the Legislature to pass another Act in its next Session, should the award be given in the course of the ensuing Summer, and thus the settlement of the Land Question will be necessarily postponed to a late period of the year 1862, when a second Act may receive the Royal allowance, if the award be such as to meet with the approval of the Crown,

"It is therefore resolved, That the House of Assembly be recommended to pass a short Act embracing or carrying out the spirit of the recommendation of the Royal Commissioners, above referred to, with the view of preventing distraints or executions to issue for arrears of rents, until the Land Commissioners shall make their award, and the same be ratified by such a law as many receive the assent of Her Majesty the Queen."

The following is Mr Howat's amendment :—

"*Whereas* this Committee is of opinion that it would not promote the welfare of the tenants of this Island to pass a Bill, at the present time, to suspend the collection of rents, but on the contrary would bring ruin and distress on many of the said tenants; *And whereas* this Committee are desirous to protect the true interests of the tenantry in a legitimate and constitutional manner.

"*Resolved, therefore*, that an Address be presented to His Excellency the Lieut. Governor, requesting him to use his influence with all the proprietors of this Colony and their agents, in order to induce them to suspend the collection of all arrears of rent until the Royal Commissioners on the Land Question have made their award."

MONDAY, April 1.

Several petitions were presented. Mr Beer presented a Bill to amend the Act to incorporate the Town of Charlottetown, by increasing the amount which may be assessed for. The House again resolved itself into Committee on the petitions relating to arrears of rent, and after a very lengthy debate on the resolution and amendment in reference to the prayer of said petitions, previously submitted, the question was put on Mr Howat's amendment, when there appeared for it—Messrs. Howat, Gray, Yeo, Pope, Haviland, Longworth, Laird, Speaker, Ramsay, Montgomery, Holm, Davies, Owen, M'Neill—14. Against it—Messrs. Coles, Whelan, Hensley, Perry, Cooper, Sinclair, Sutherland, Doyle, Conroy, Kelly—10. So the amendment was carried, and Mr Coles' resolution lost. Mr Cooper then moved that the following be substituted for Mr Howat's amendment:—

Whereas His Grace the Duke of Newcastle has said that whil assuring proprietors that the award of the Commissioners will no be enforced against proprietors who have not consented to refer their claims to arbitration, (which was intended to define the rights of proprietors and tenants,) yet they should bear in mind that such refusal may materially influence the conduct of Her Majesty's Government, if called upon to support them in any future dispute with their tenants. And whereas there is no Act or bond to bind either party to abide by the award of the Commissioners, or any security given that the award will be put in operation: and the tenantry should be equally protected until their rights are defined either by the award of the Commissioners by law.

Be it and, Therefore, that proprietors shall claim no more than the one year's rent, as recommended by the Commissioners until the rights of proprietors and tenants are defined and confirmed by the award of the Commissioners or by due course of law.

On the question being put on Mr Cooper's motions, it was lost, hon. members voting as in the foregoing division, reversing the order of the *pros.* and *cons.* The Committee then rose and the Chairman reported that a resolution had been come to (that submitted by Mr Howat), and as the Speaker was about to put the question thereon, Mr Coles and Mr Cooper severally moved their resolutions in amendment, which were lost on the same division as in Committee, substituting the name of Mr Beer, the Chairman, for that of the Speaker.

TUESDAY, April 2.

Two or three petitions were presented. The Charlottetown Incorporation Act amendment Bill was read a second time, and passed through Committee. The House again went into Committee on the report of the Commissioners for revising the laws, and after some time spent therein the Chairman reported a resolution to the effect that it is expedient to consolidate and amend the several Acts relating to Education. The resolution was agreed to, and Hon. Mr Longworth introduced a Bill in accordance therewith.

WEDNESDAY, April 3.

On motion of Mr Owen, it was ordered that the rule adopted this Session limiting the time for the sitting of the House to 6 o'clock be amended, and that the House do rise at 7 o'clock during the remainder of the Session. The House then went into the order of the day, viz., the consideration of the petitions lying on the table. After several were disposed of, on motion of Mr M'Aulay, the further consideration of petitions was deferred. The hon. member then, after some explanation, moved that the House do come to a resolution as followeth :—

WHEREAS during the debate in this House on the afternoon of the 20th February last, the Hon. George Coles, member of the Third Electoral District of Queen's County, did rise in his place and there and there made use of words to the following effect: "what shall we say when we find Her Majesty's Representative descending from his high position, and degrading his commission by penning a false despatch, in plain English writing a lie to the Secretary of State; and allowing himself to be instigated thereto by his constitutional advisers."

And Whereas in the published report of this debate, the expressions thus made use of are not set forth in their proper order and form, as spoken by the Hon. George Coles aforesaid; therefore Resolved, that the Reporter be called to the Bar of this House to give his explanation of the said omission.

Hon. Mr Whelan moved to amend the said Resolution by striking out all after the word "despatch" in the first preamble thereof to the end of said preamble, and substituting the following :—

But the Lieutenant Governor is not so much to be blamed or held responsible for the statement in the Despatch as the members of the Government, or those from whom he received the information, for it cannot be expected that His Excellency can be otherwise acquainted on any particular evening with the proceedings of the Legislature during that day than from the members of his Council.

The House divided on the motion of amendment.

Yeas: Hon. Messrs. Whelan, Coles, Perry, Kelly; Messrs. Cooper, Sinclair, Sutherland, Conroy, Doyle—9.

Nays: Hon. Messrs. M'Aulay, Longworth, Haviland, Laird, Yeo, Gray; Messrs. Owen, Holm, Davies, Howat, Montgomery, Ramsay, M'Neill, Beer, J. Yeo—15.

The question being then put on Mr M'Aulay's resolution, it was carried on the same division, reversing the order. The afternoon sitting was taken up in hearing the evidence of the Reporters with respect to the matter referred to in said resolution.

THURSDAY, April 4.

The House was occupied during the greater part of the day in consideration of the petitions lying on the table. Mr Perry from the Committee on petitions on all matters relating to Education, presented their report, which was made the order of the day for to-morrow.

FRIDAY, April 5.

The Indian Commissioner, Theophilus Stewart, Esq., was heard at the Bar of the House for about an hour, on behalf of the Micmacs of this Colony. The House resolved into Committee on the report of the Special Committee on all matters relating to Teachers and Education, and considerable time was taken up in discussing whether the recommendation of the report that certain sums be paid to Teachers therein mentioned, who had not come up to the requirements of the Education Act should be adopted. The report after being amended was agreed to, with the understanding that after this Session, the petitions of such Teachers should not be entertained by the House. Hon. Mr Haviland presented a report of the Superintendent of Public Works, on the state of Panmure Island Lighthouse.

D. LAIRD, Reporter.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Hon. Col. GRAY—The question before this hon. Committee is this—Shall we have a Volunteer force in this Island similar to that which has been organised in the neighboring Provinces and Great Britain? If we resolve to organize such a force it must be apparent to all we shall require a law for the purpose of securing their better government. Are we then willing to give any pecuniary support to Volunteer Companies out of the funds of this Colony? The organization of military corps, and the management of all matters connected with military affairs is under the control of the Commander-in-chief. With the exception of procuring money for their support all else is the prerogative of the Lieut. Governor, as given under the Royal instructions. So far as military matters are concerned, I may say I am not in the confidence of His Excellency. That privilege belongs to the Adjutant General, who is the adviser of the Commander-in-Chief on military affairs. Neither am I versed in matters connected with Volunteer Companies; nor did I know, till informed by the hon. member who has just spoken, that it was imperative on Volunteers to be Orangemen. I remember that I called the attention of the Duke of Newcastle, who was condescending enough to converse with me on the subject, to the Volunteers. His Grace referred particularly to one company; and I may state that I did feel proud of that company, and would be glad to be their Leader, and to have an opportunity of shewing them in Hyde Park; and their Captain is anything but an Orangeman.

Hon. Mr. COLES—I did not say they were all Orangemen.

Hon. Col. GRAY—In my opinion, Mr. Chairman, this House, in regard to military matters, should be guided by the rules of the military commanders at Home. For the information of any hon. members who may not be aware of the fact, I may state that in Great Britain there are three distinct bodies of Troops,—the Regular Army, Militia and Volunteers; the Regular Army is divided into Cavalry, Artillery, Engineers, and Infantry; in the Cavalry again we have Guards and line Regiments—in the Artillery Horse and Foot—while in the Infantry, there are Guards, Rifles, Fusileers, Light Infantry, and line Regiments. The guards have many privileges over the others, such as the Commissioned Officers having certain rights in the presence of the Sovereign. The regular Militia is a splendid body of men, who did good service in the Mediterranean during the late war with Russia. The Volunteers have not been long organized, but promises to be a valuable arm in defence of the homes of Britain, as well as the Colonies also. The Regular Army is governed by the Mutiny Act and articles of War, which applies also to the Militia, with slight exceptions, the Militia not being liable to corporal punishment. The troops of the Regular Army are enlisted for terms of 7, 14, 21 years, and for life. The Militia is in a measure a levy en masse, called out by the Lord Lieutenants of Counties; they are not bound to quit Britain unless they choose to Volunteer. Parliament cannot order them out of their own Country. Allusion has been made by the hon. member who spoke last, to the Commanding Officers of the Militia of the line in these Provinces being liable, with their men, to be called upon to perform certain duties not devolving upon them in their military capacity. I remember that once in a Country where we were at that time, soldiers of the line were called upon to make roads and bridges. For this purpose they volunteered, and for two years they performed this duty, and then they went back to their respective regiments. These, however, were officers and soldiers of the line, and *not* Volunteers. For these reasons I cannot admit that the Militia Act, which empowers Militia Colonels to call out certain men and officers to perform certain services, apart from their military duties, has any bearing on the question before this hon. Committee. The real question is, do we require Volunteers? If this House answers in the affirmative, then it is apparent a law will be necessary for their regulation, because it would be a serious matter to put arms in the hands of any body of men unless under restrictions. We must admit, too, I think, that such a force is absolutely necessary. War is probably near our doors; the Emperor of France has 780,000 men at present bearing arms. His language, too, is defiant, for he speaks to the effect that he is not to be dictated to by any nation—that the French are going to stand upon their own ground. This bold language and defiant attitude of the French Emperor almost makes Europe tremble. Any hour in the day we may have a Privateer upon us from St. Pierre or Miquelon, and in such an emergency what could private men do towards defending themselves or their country? A Corvette having 100 men on board might run into this port on any morning, their crews might march to the Bank and say—"We will thank you for what your coffers contain"—then they might proceed to the various stores, demand anything they choose, and before sunset leave with a cargo worth £20,000; and could men in a private capacity resist them successfully? I leave this House to answer. We are not so safe as some imagine. True, the Commander-in-Chief might call out the Militia, but what could they do without arms? His Grace the Duke of Newcastle expressly alluded to the Volunteers, and said "arm *them*, not the Militia." To call out the Militia would not be agreeable to many. Old men of sixty years would not like to be pressed into service. But, Sir, it is different with the Volunteers. They are enrolled *willingly*, and are delighted with the thoughts of seeking glory at the cannon's mouth. Militiamen would prefer their quiet firesides rather than the field of battle with all its privations. The service performed by Volunteers is one grave and solemn, and quite different from that required of the Militia. During the last twelve months, Mr. Chairman, I may say I was delighted with the young men in our Volunteer Corps; and they certainly reflected great credit upon His Excellency the Lieut. Governor. They are the ground work of a noble force. I would be glad to be at their head when an armed force from St. Pierre or Miquelon would cover this city. Let 50 determined men, with a couple of light field guns, meet each boat as it lands, and I am much mistaken in our Volunteers if they would not soon and easily dispose of them. (Hear.) I hold then that the Volunteer force, when properly established, will do as much good, for there would always be difficulty in organising the Militia in a Colony such as this. Respecting the appointment of Militia Officers to serve in Volunteer Corps, it is inadmissable. I remember having occasion last year to complain to His Excellency on this subject, as I had heard a Captain of the 2nd Queen's County Regiment in Lot 49 had been appointed Captain of a Volunteer Corps, and I should have had his commission vacated in the Regiment and given to another, but it turned out to be the Captain's son. Mr. Chairman, we may be told the Laws for the better Government of the Militia are good, but the question arises will the Volunteers submit to come under these Laws? I think not—the Mutiny Act is very severe. I cast no reflections upon any, but I may state that I heard of the conduct of certain officers and men of a Volunteer Corps in this Island—I say not where—on account of which they rendered themselves liable to the punishment of death according to the provisions of this Act. I would ask then, do the Volunteers wish to come under this Statute, which punishes with death disrespect to a superior officer? Disrespect to a superior officer is a heinous crime. I once saw a fine soldier shot for this offence. His Corporal said to him "go," and he answered "I will not." A Corporal, too, is the lowest non-commissioned officer in the army. I think it is obvious, then, that our young men will not consent to come under the Militia Law. We must have a milder one by which they shall be governed. In reference to the Volunteer movement let us imitate Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Canada and Great Britain itself. If Volunteers are to be enrolled they should have their Sergeant-Majors or Adjutants. Do this hon. Committee want to have the rifles we already possess preserved? These stand of arms are worth £10,000, but if they are not looked after, in the course of three years they will not be worth £5000. A young man on taking up a rifle for the first time is not supposed to know how to take the lock to pieces, or to clean the piece. Sergeant-Majors should be appointed in each Company to look after all these things. It remains for this House then to vote a small sum, if hon. members wish to further the efficiency of this force. If we do so His Grace the Duke of Newcastle will send us more rifles, and then applicants will stand a better chance of being supplied. The hon. the leader of the Opposition referred to the appointment of my hon. colleague to be Major of Volunteers for Queen's County. In England the rule obtaining is, when a Corps is first organized, officers are selected indiscriminately. An officer who has served in the regular army may go in as a private, a Major who has served in the regular army be appointed Captain of Volunteers, while a civilian may at once be appointed Colonel; therefore when the Commander-in-Chief appointed a gentlemen of standing and position in the community to be Major, none should complain, and certainly not officers commanding independent Corps, for in this country Captains commanding Companies are, in point of status, Lieutenant Colonels. If, after a Company is organized a vacancy in its command occurs, and a civilian is brought in, then the senior Lieutenant might reasonably complain. I know many officers, formerly in the army, and who did distinguished service there, who are serving in Volunteer Corps at home *under* civilians. Many of the nobility serve in very junior positions. But the question for this Committee to decide is—do we need a Volunteer organization to protect our hearths, our homes, and our country, or do we not? If we do need them, then in my judgment we must have a Law for the purpose of regulating that force. The next question is—will the representatives of the people vote a sum of money to supply their actual necessities? This is *the question*. I am sorry, Sir, I have detained the Committee so long in the discussion of this subject.

Mr. DAVIES—There are two questions before this hon. Committee, Mr. Chairman, which must be decided. The first is, shall we pass a Law authorizing the organization of Volunteer Corps? and, secondly, shall we vote a sum of money to render these Corps more efficient? I for one answer and say I am willing to vote a small sum for their assistance. In the reply to the Speech of His Excellency, we do not pledge ourselves to any particular course, but only say we are willing to grant a small sum for the encouragement of the Volunteers. For my own part, I may say I have no experience in military affairs. All I can do is to hit a target. I do not wish to detain the Committee by making many remarks. As far as giving encouragement to the Volunteers is concerned, I may state that I would willingly take £1000 for the purpose of giving our young men a better education in military science. I think it would be quite as desirable to grant a sum of money for this object as for any other, in order to render this force more efficient. It has been well remarked by the hon. leader of the Government, that we do not know how soon war may be at our doors; but apart from that consideration, it would be well to cherish a military spirit. I only regret that the limited amount of money at our disposal will not admit of our voting a sum sufficiently large towards this object.

Hon. Mr. THORNTON—I did not intend, Mr. Chairman, to speak much on the subject now under the consideration of this hon. Committee; but I feel that I ought to say something in favor of the amendment. I think I ought, for the paragraph in the Address binds this House to do what is required in money matters, towards supporting the Volunteers. Now, I for one am not prepared to do anything of the kind till I really know what is to be done. As a military man, and one who has held a commission for many years past, I confess, that on hearing this question discussed my military ardor is being aroused. As a Captain in the Militia, I am becoming afraid if such alterations as are now contemplated be made, that I for one may be left out of the list of officers, and not have another opportunity of handling a sword, or, if required, of fighting for the peace and welfare of P. E. Island. My object in opposing the paragraph is that it is a direct pledge to give the amount required for supporting this new force. I would have said, had they not asked so much, that I was entitled to 14 days pay for services performed in the Militia fourteen years ago. Since that period it has been purloined, and I have not received any thing at all. But here am I now as a plain Captain in the Militia, somewhat amused at seeing myself and others overlooked, and my friend from Murray Harbor, made Captain over our heads. It was, to say the least of it, scarcely fair that I who had been drilled on Charlottetown square, and put through both exercises, should have been treated so unhandsomely. It was hinted to me that were I promoted I would be put in the front ranks and shot down. (Laughter.) In this matter I am prepared to go as far as is necessary, and to give what is fair and reasonable. If my arm can be of any service, I, as Captain in the Militia, will feel bound, if required, at any time to defend my country. If the French and Americans come upon us, of course we must fight. I give my support to the amendment.

Hon. Mr. WIGHTMAN—In reference to what was suggested by the hon. member from Charlottetown, I may say I have no desire to withdraw a sum of money from the Schoolmasters of this Island for the purpose of giving it for the military education of our young men. I think the Volunteers are a credit to our country; still I would be sorry to reduce the pay of the poorly paid Schoolmasters for this object. I would much rather see these praiseworthy gentlemen get £5 a year more than they now receive, than subtract that sum from their salaries to give for the object suggested.

Hon. Mr. HAVILAND—It would ill become me, Mr. Chairman, to remain silent when the Volunteer question is before the House; especially so, when such a tremendous onslaught has been made on myself and the Volunteers by the hon. leader of the Opposition. In that extraordinary address, in the delivery of which he occupied about an hour and a half, I never heard any one speak so inconsistently. One minute he would blow hot, and the next cold. Sometimes the Volunteers were everything, and again he could place no confidence in them as they were sworn members of a secret society. Indeed, so really inconsistent was he, that when he sat down I was doubtful whether he considered it would be advisable to pass a vote of censure on them or not. The Volunteers have taken a secret oath he alleged; but, whether that is the oath of allegiance or not, I am unable to determine. At any rate I can say I have not taken any other oath.

Hon. Mr. COLES—I meant the Orange oath.

Hon. Mr. HAVILAND—I can assure him there is no other oath tendered to them but the oath of allegiance; and, for my own part, I was never in an Orange Lodge. Be that as it may, there are many Orangemen who are very good subjects, and many who are not, who are very bad subjects. Then the hon. member went on to argue that the Statute Laws for the regulation of the Militia are quite sufficient for the Volunteers; and on this point, as a professional man, I am quite at issue with him. Did he not know that there is not one Corps of Volunteers in P. E. Island legally constituted under any Act of this Colony? They are all purely Volunteer Corps, Captain Pollard's not excepted. Before a Volunteer Company can be organized under the Statutes of this Island, it is necessary that the commanding officer in the Militia authorize the Captain of his regiment to call out of his regiment a certain number of men who are willing to enroll as Volunteers. Take up the Statute and you will find that each Captain is to draw from his respective regiment a certain number of men who are willing to volunteer; and, each being the case, who will say that one Company was formed during the last year on that principle? I state now, that out of Captain Pollard's Corps which numbers more than 80 men, rank and file, not 20 belonged to any Militia regiment. So in the Prince of Wales Company, under Capt. Lea, not three of his men belonged to any Militia regiment; and in the same manner I might go through every company in the Island. Let the hon. member show me the Volunteers were organized according to the existing Statute—that they were called out of Militia regiments as the law directs. There is much of a military spirit existing in Nova Scotia. There they have thousands of regular soldiers; yet, will the leader of the Opposition tell us our Militia Laws are more perfect than those of Nova Scotia? or than those of New Brunswick or Canada? It is a new military organization altogether. In England we know they have a Militia Law which has taken centuries to render perfect; but the Volunteers of England have nothing to do with this law. They are organized on totally different principles, as was clearly shown by the gallant Colonel, the leader of the Government. It is unnecessary for me to go into the matter when he has presented it in so clear a light. The hon. leader of the Opposition appears to be anxious to make the Volunteer movement unpopular in the country. He appears anxious to have the information promulgated through the country that the Volunteers are liable to be called out by the Sheriff to enforce executions, collect rents, &c. It was reiterated again and again—for the purpose no doubt of making the movement unpopular in the country—that such was the object for which Volunteer Companies were organized. It can be easily shown, however, that these Companies have not been organized with the view of putting down a civil commotion—a casualty which may never arise—but for purposes of self defence. Look at the gallant Corps of St. Peter's Road and Wheatley River, seven-eighth's of these Companies being composed of *Tenants*, would it not be a monstrous idea to suppose they were organized for any other object than the repelling of foreign arms? Certainly it would; and they are well aware they are not for the defence of our hearths and our homes, if the unfortunate day should dawn when their services would be required for this purpose. We know we live in eventful times, and know not what a day may bring forth. Prince Edward Island, I believe, possesses as much military taste, talent and courage, as the neighboring Colonies; and it would be a singular circumstance should we consider it unnecessary to encourage the Volunteer movement when we have not a single company of soldiers to offer resistance to an aggressive force. In Nova Scotia—the military pet, so to speak, of the British Government—there are two or three thousand regular soldiers stationed all the time, with a citadel which cost thousands, I may say millions of pounds; notwithstanding, in Nova Scotia they have considered it necessary to organize 39 Volunteer Corps, in addition to the regular soldiers stationed in that Province. The Volunteer Companies, too, have been encouraged and supported by their Legislature; for last year the sum of £2000 was voted by the Legislature in Nova Scotia for the purpose of paying drill Sergeants, and procuring necessary accoutrements for the Volunteers in that Colony. But in this Province, where we are in an almost defenceless state, when we urge upon the attention of this House the necessity of adopting measures for rendering more efficient, and extending the Volunteer movement, the subject is laughed at as a joke by some hon. members. But it is more than a joke. The movement has taken hold of the public mind, and the Volunteers will not be alarmed on being informed that they must collect rents with their bayonets! They are aware they were not organized for such a purpose, and know they are not bound by the Militia Laws. I may state, Mr. Chairman, that there are already organized in Prince Edward Island 27 Volunteer Companies, numbering in all 1,542 men. Of these Companies 8 are in King's County, 17 in Queen's County, and 6 in Prince County. According to the population, Prince County has kept pace with Queen's County; and, taking into account the difference of population, Prince Edward Island has exceeded Nova Scotia in organizing Volunteer Corps.

The House then adjourned.

FRIDAY, March 1st, 1861.

The House resumes the consideration of the Address.

Hon. Mr. HAVILAND resumes.—I was shewing, Mr. Chairman, before the hour of adjournment arrived, that our Corps of Volunteers had not been organized under our Militia Laws, and that the Militia and Volunteer forces were quite distinct. I wish now to refer to a different matter; which, though a personal one, I feel called upon to explain. The hon. the leader of the Opposition, and the hon. member from Cardigan, censured His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief for placing me in the position I have the honor to occupy as Major of the Volunteer Corps in Queen's County. The hon. leader of the Opposition appears quite indignant that I occupy that position rather than Captain Rankin, whose experience and standing as an officer he adduced as a reason for his promotion. As far as that is concerned, I would be the last to disparage that gentleman, either as a private member of the community or military officer, or in any respect; still, I do not see what particular claim he had to the Majorship any more than Captains Pollard, Fraser, Murphy or Ross. I may state that I am indebted to His Excellency for the position which I have the honor to occupy as Major, and in placing me in that position he was only exercising his prerogative as Commander-in-Chief in this Colony. It would not do, however, not to attempt to make political stock out of that circumstance. In appointing a Major the Lieut. Governor only exercised his prerogative as Commander-in-Chief, and he did so without consulting his Executive. I will say more—though I dislike to be my own trumpter like the hon. leader of the Opposition when he speaks of the confidence which he possesses in the country.

Hon. Mr. COLES—I never for once boasted of the confidence which the country placed in me.

Hon. Mr. HAVILAND—I mean your party, with yourself at their head, for I never supposed the Conservatives had confidence in him. Owing to this attack however, I must for once be my own trumpeter; and I will say, notwithstanding all that has been advanced, that I possess the confidence of at least three-fourths of the Volunteers of Queen's County, and that they would rather have me to be their Major than Captain Rankin. I may state further, that I possess the confidence of all the Volunteers, with the exception of a very few. Some were dissatisfied because I was made Major before they were consulted, but when it was explained to them, they expressed their concurrence. A few thought it was done for a political end, and when they were given to understand such was not the case they expressed their entire satisfaction. The hon. leader of the Opposition endeavored to show that there was no necessity for any new Law for the Volunteers; but it is very singular if the Military Laws of this Colony are so perfect that none other at all is required. If such be the case, Mr. Chairman, our Military Laws are different from those of the other Colonies, and even unlike those of Great Britain itself. In Britain, however, we know the Militia Laws are quite distinct from those by which the Volunteers are governed. Militiamen, whether in the Colonies or in England, are bound to serve in that Arm, if required, and may be balloted for, for this purpose; and, if unable to find substitutes, they must enter the ranks themselves. In the edition of Stephen's Commentaries on the Laws of England, published in 1853, the author shows that two or three regiments of Volunteers have remained in England ever since the French Revolution, and that before the Revolution there were no Volunteers in existence. The Militia were raised in default of enlistment, by a compulsory levy. Then again, we should take into consideration the corps of Yeomanry and Volunteers, which are distinct from the Militia, for though now for the most part laid aside, corps remnants still exist. There is one celebrated Corps in particular, which was the model on which the Volunteer Companies were formed, viz., the Victoria Rifle Corps. Notwithstanding all these facts, the hon. member thinks it is unnecessary to pass such a Law as the one we have in contemplation. Suppose, Mr. Chairman, a member of a Volunteer Company should destroy his rifle, or sell it, there is no provision made in our Militia Laws to meet a case of this description. The only way by which redress could be obtained, would be by appealing to our ordinary local laws. Every circumstance connected with the Volunteer movement shows the insufficiency of the Militia Laws as applicable to the Volunteers. According to the Militia Statutes, the Lieut. Governor must authorize the commanding officers to call out of their respective regiments a specific number of Volunteers, who are afterwards required to assemble for muster and training at least 20 days in the year, &c. Now, where have we a Corps formed according to these directions? If this House think we do not need the Volunteers, that it is sufficient to have a force which may be called out under the Militia Laws as they now stand, then the Volunteer Corps should be disbanded, and we ought to commence again *de novo*. As regards the employment of the Militia by the Sheriff for collecting Rents under certain circumstances, there is no such authority granted him in any Militia Act on our Statute Book. The only force which the Sheriff can employ for this purpose is the *posse comitatus*. I cannot find in any of the Militia Statutes that the Government of the day would be justified in sending out the Militia in any of these Colonies, for any other purpose save for that of repelling a foreign invasion. There is nothing of this nature in any of the earlier Statutes, and I do not find anything bearing on it till I come to a recent Act which was passed by the late Government in 1851, in which we find the words "sufficient emergency" inserted. It rests with the hon. Statute and you will find that each Captain is to draw from member, the Leader of the Opposition, to explain the meaning of these words. These words are not in the Militia Statutes of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, nor of Britain, nor are they found in the Militia Acts of this Province till we come to the one passed by the late Government in 1851. All we desire is to have a Law enacted for the proper regulation of the Volunteers, who are quite distinct from the Militia. As regards the oath of allegiance, I may state, that I have administered it to two Volunteer Corps. But it is not only the Volunteers, strictly speaking, who should take this oath, but every man born under the British flag. It is no trap set by the Government, then, in organizing Volunteer Corps, to place men in such a position that they could be made to set against their fellow Colonists. I know not who enunciated the doctrine that the Volunteers were to be at the control of the Sheriff, if he required their services, to assist him in collecting rents; but at any rate such a doctrine was promulgated, and believed by a few. The explanation, however, which was given to them was quite satisfactory, and dispelled any fears which they entertained on that point. It would be dangerous, as I showed them, to allow any man, whose loyalty was suspected, to have a musket, if he refused to take the oath of allegiance; for should war arise, he might join the enemy. It was stated yesterday by the hon. Leader of the opposition, that the present Government repudiated the idea of Roman Catholics holding office. My opinion why there are so few of them holding office under the present Government is, that it is because they are, as a body, opposed to the principles of the present administration. Would any Government put their political opponents in office? I never heard of one doing so; but any Roman Catholic who supported us at the hustings had our patronage extended to him at once. The brother of the present Bishop, who is a Head Commissioner, is an example of this. To place men in power who were opposed to us would be suicidal, for it would work our own destruction; and this reason is as applicable to Protestants as it is to Roman Catholics.

J. D. GAZZON, Reporter.

WEEKLY CALENDAR—APRIL.

Last Quarter, 2d day, 2h, 12m., morn., S.E.
New Moon, 10th day, 2h. 44m., morn., N.E.
First Quarter, 18th day, 2h. 33m., morn., N.W.
Full Moon, 26th day, 6h. 11m., even., E.

DAY MONTH.	DAY WEEK.	SUN rises	SUN sets	High water	Moon rises	Day's length
		h m	h m	h m	h m	h m
7	Sunday	5 32	6 31	9 57	4 6	12 59
8	Monday	5 30	6 32	10 35	4 24	13 2
9	Tuesday	5 28	6 33	11 19	4 48	13 5
10	Wednesday	5 26	6 35	11 46	sets	13 9
11	Thursday	5 25	6 36	morn	6 30	13 11
12	Friday	5 23	6 37	0 23	9 32	13 14
13	Saturday	5 21	6 39	1 4	10 32	13 18

MAILS.

THE MAILS FOR NEW BRUNSWICK, Nova Scotia, Canada, and the United States, will until further notice, be made up at the General Post Office, Charlottetown, every Tuesday and Friday evening, at 7 o'clock, and forwarded, via Cape Tormentine.

Mails made up for Newfoundland every Friday.

Mails for England and Bermuda will be made up as follows:—

Tuesday, April 9th — Friday, 12th

To Close Consignments.

TEA, TEA!

BY AUCTION,

AT THE SALE ROOM OF THE SUBSCRIBER, on TUESDAY the 11 APRIL, at 11 o'clock,
60 Half Chests English TEA, 10 Half Chests 'Chrysolite' TEA. 24 chests do do. 6 do 'Benefactor,'

—ALSO—

15 Hhds. and Barrels SUGAR,
70 Boxes SOAP, assorted,
60 Kegs NAILS, do.
25 Barrels FLOUR, very choice,
CIGARS, VINEGAR, CHEESE, &c., &c.

TERMS—All sums under £10, Cash; over £10 and under £40, 3 months; and all sums over £40, 6 months Credit on approved Joint Notes of Hand.

J. S. CARVELL, Auctioneer.

Charlottetown, March 26, 1861.

Important Sale of

FARM STOCK, GRAIN, FARMING IMPLEMENTS, &c., &c.

TO BE SOLD AT AUCTION ON THURSDAY, the 11th day of April next, at the hour of 11 o'clock forenoon, at the residence of Mr JAMES LAIRD, Son, New Glasgow,—being part of his valuable Stock, Viz.

2 Horses, 5 years old. — 100 bushels Wheat.
1 Entire Horse, by Warwick 3 years old — 200 do Potatoes,
1 Blood Colt, — 1 Plough, 1 Cart.
6 Superior Milch Cows, — 1 Horse-Rake,
1 Heifer 3 years old, — 1 Turnip-Cutter,
1 Bull, do. do. — 1 Turnip Drill,
2 Heifers, 1 years old, — Hay & Straw,
1 Bull, do. do. — Horse Harness.
14 breeding Ewes,

400 bushels Oats,—and sundry other articles not enumerated.

Terms very liberal, and made known on the day of Sale.

THOS. MACNEILL, Auctioneer.

March 12, 1861 — 3w

SPRING HATS AND CAPS,

Men's, Youth's, and Boy's.

A LARGE STOCK OF FELT & WOOL HATS. Cloth and Tweed Caps of the latest styles. The cheapest and best in the City.

AT BELL'S QUEEN SQUARE.

Charlottetown, March 20, 1861. — Prot. only—tf

SPRING AND SUMMER CLOTHING!

COATS, WAISTCOATS & TROWSERS,

MANUFACTURED BY THE SUBSCRIBER and

Warranted to be the best made up Clothing in the City.

ALSO,

Fancy Shirts, White Shirts, Flannel Shirts, and Shirt Colars, Neck-ties, Scarfs, Gloves, Handkerchiefs, Braces, and under clothing.

Parties in want of any article of Clothing, will please examine the large stock now for sale at this establishment, before making a purchase elsewhere.

CHARLES BELL,
Merchant Tailor.

Queen Square, March 20, 1861. — Prot. only—tf

"NOBLE,"

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION ON SATURDAY the 20th April at 12 o'clock p.m., on the Market Square, the

Entire Blood Horse "Noble."

Terms—One half in 12 months, the balance in two years, on approved joint notes of hand.

ROBERT M'MILLAN,

Warren Farm, April 6, 1861.

TEA! TEA! TEA!

A FEW MORE HALF CHESTS OF Choice TEA—"Benefactor" and "Chrysolite." For sale by.

J. S. CARVELL.

April 6, 1861. — 2w

TIMOTHY SEED.

WANTED, ONE HUNDRED BUSHELS of TIMOTHY SEED, in exchange for cash

J. S. CARVELL.

March 26, 1861. — 2w

SMOKED SALMON.

A LARGE LOT PRIME SMOKED SALMON, which will be sold at a great reduction in price, to close a consignment, by.

WILLIAM SINCLAIR, Auctioneer.

Queen's Street April 6 1861. — 1w

MUSCOVADO SUGAR.

IN HOGSHEADS AND BARRELS. THE cheapest in the market.

J. S. CARVELL.

April 6 1861. — 2w

FLOUR, FLOUR.

IN STORE, A LOT OF VERY CHOICE Family FLOUR.

J. S. CARVELL.

April 6 1861. — 2w

TIMOTHY SEED.

THE HIGHEST PRICE GIVEN FOR Timothy Seed at the Royal Agricultural Society Store.

J. D. HAZZARD, Sec. & Treas.

March 27, 1861.