

ment of that country had no right to levy these taxes. I believe a large majority even of the people of Newfoundland are opposed to this exaction, and that nearly one half of the lower branch also consider it unfavorably.

Hon. Mr. MCFARLANE—I would ask what has been the result during the past season of the attempt to collect the tax?

Mr. KAULBACK—It has been pretty much the same as in the previous year. Those who forcibly resisted got off clear, but those who did not, had to pay.

Mr. LOCKE—The tax of itself is not very burdensome, but the principle of the thing is what has aroused the strong feeling that prevails.

THE RESUSCITATION OF THE APPARENTLY DROWNED.

Hon. PROV. SEC. laid on the table a copy of instructions regarding the treatment that ought to be pursued in the case of persons apparently drowned. These papers were referred to the committee on Humane Institutions, in order that steps might be taken to make the information available to the public.

THE SCHOOL BILL.

Mr. HATFIELD presented a petition from inhabitants of Argyle against the School Act.

THE MILITIA CONVENTION.

Hon. PROV. SEC. laid on the table the reply of the Adjutant Genl. to Mr. S. Campbell's question as to functions of the Militia Court, and the mode of payment of the members comprising that Court.

The ADJT. GENL. states that His Excellency being impressed with the necessity of advancing the Militia organization a step beyond that of the previous year, and being desirous of availing himself of the local experience of leading officers of the force, had deemed it advisable to form these officers into a Board of Advice "in the hope of receiving valuable suggestions with reference to the Militia estimates, and some apparently necessary alterations in the existing Militia Act." He also states that the Court is composed of a President and 21 officers, 4 of whom receive no additional pay for attendance. Of the remaining 18, 11 are residing in this city, and 7 are from the country. The Adjt. Genl. also directs attention to sec. 85 Militia Act of last year as the authority to form the Court.

Mr. S. CAMPBELL said that he did not consider the paper just read an answer to the requisition he had made on the previous day, for information in reference to the Militia Court now sitting in this city. He asked a question as to the functions and composition of that Court, but this had not been answered. He had been led to make the enquiry he had from information given him that the Court was composed of members representing almost entirely one side of political opinions in this country, for that reason he was induced to ask who were the persons who formed this body. If what he had heard were the case, it ought to be taken into the serious consideration of the House as well as of the Government of the country, for if a political character was to be given to any body of this kind, then its value was entirely lost. It was only necessary to look to the neighboring States to see the evils that arise from the influence of political parties in connection with military matters. His ob-

jection to the Court was that the House was in session and clothed with the authority to discuss every question in which the people of this country were interested. This Court was largely composed of members of the Legislature. Was it not competent for these gentlemen to furnish the House with the information which they give this Courts. He had been informed that parties had been summoned from the country at an expense of several dollars a day, beside travelling expenses. He did not consider the act of last session gave authority for any such Court as was now in session. At a future day he might test the opinion of the house as to what he considered the constitutional invasion of their rights, and a contempt of their privileges and whether it was not right that we should have at the head of the Militia affairs one who was responsible to the people of this country. He had no hesitancy in saying that the administration of Militia affairs in his own county was a perfect farce. He saw upon the army list the names of boys who ought to be at school, and yet were sent into the different districts of the county to drill the stout yeomanry; that was an insult to the loyal feeling of his constituents.

Mr. PRYOR said that in the time of Sir Colin Campbell, the Lieutenant Colonels of the several counties and the Advocate General were summoned for some such purpose at the present Court.

Hon. PROV. SEC. regretted that the hon. member for Guysboro had thought it proper to characterize the proceedings that had taken place in such strong terms. The Act passed last session had devolved upon the Commander-in-Chief certain powers, and the hon. gentleman went beyond what he was entitled to as a member of the Legislature when he declared that the action taken was unconstitutional, and a contempt of the privileges of the House. Before he used such language he should have shown that the act passed with the deliberate sanction of the Legislature had been in the slightest degree exceeded. The Government of the day were responsible to the House for any public money expended in any public service, and whilst he did not intend just now discussing the question whether the responsibility of the Ministry in reference to the Militia force should be increased or not, he was satisfied that the good sense of the Legislature would see that since the Militia organization was entrusted to the care of the Commander-in-Chief, they had no other source to which to apply for information—as to the amount of public money that might be required for local defence—than to the persons hitherto entrusted with the discharge of that duty. The source, therefore, to which the Government had to apply was to the Commander-in-Chief, and to the Staff by which under the law of this Province he was surrounded for the discharge of the important functions in connection with the militia. The Commander-in-Chief desired to get information, and he had adopted a certain mode to obtain it. Whether he had taken the correct course it was not for him (Dr. T.) to say; at all events, in the discharge of what he conceived to be his public duty, he had thought it proper to proceed in a certain way—and in doing so, he was guided strictly by the law, as would be seen by reference to the 85th section of the Militia law of