

Hon. ATTY. GENL. said that it was quite competent for hon. gentlemen to assent to the principle of the bill and object to the details in committee.

Hon. PROV. SEC. said that the bill had not passed its second reading and the whole debate on a previous day had turned upon the question whether the bill should be read a second time or not. After some desultory discussion, the speaker decided that the motion made on a previous day by the member for Colchester, was to refer the bill to a select committee. The bill was accordingly referred to the law amendment committee.

Mr. LONGLEY introduced a bill to enable the railway commissioner to take possession of certain property on Pictou harbor for railway purposes.

Hon. PROV. SEC., by command, laid on the table copies of circulars addressed to the different counties in reference to the action taken upon the franchise act; and also answers received. He would take the opportunity of stating that the provisions of the act had been complied with, with the exception of the counties of Guysborough, Lunenburg, and Victoria.

Hon. Mr. SHANNON asked leave to introduce a bill in relation to the patent laws. The hon. gentleman briefly explained that the bill was based upon the reciprocity principle, and proposed to give the same privileges to the inhabitants of the United States as Nova Scotians received in that country.

Hon. ATTY. GENERAL expressed himself in favor of giving every encouragement to the original patentee of useful inventions. This was a very important subject, and afforded a favorable opportunity for a thorough revision of the patent laws of the province.

Hon. Mr. McFARLANE alluded to the want of a proper place to exhibit patents in. He thought that some suitable place should be appropriated for that purpose.

Mr. ARCHIBALD said that the difficulty in carrying out the patent system properly, was the necessity of having a regularly organized staff, as they had in the United States highly salaried—who gave up their whole time to the subject. He had no objection to giving every encouragement to scientific and classical improvements, but as regards mechanical inventions he thought our mechanics, by going to the United States, might learn everything they wanted there.

Mr. LONGLEY, on a previous day, had enquired as to the cost of the light house service, and he now begged to call the attention of the house to the unequal manner in which the salaries of light house keepers were distributed. He found that the salaries ranged from \$400 down to \$80, with an allowance of fuel from \$100 down to \$16. He presumed that the salaries were regulated by the number of lights, and he could not understand why Margaretsville and Port Williams, in the county of Annapolis, the former of which burnt five lights, and the latter seven, should only receive \$80 and \$16 for fuel, while others, which burnt a less number of lights realised \$200, and fuel in proportion. He would move that the whole subject be referred to the committee on Navigation Securities, with a view to having the present inequalities arranged.

Hon. PROV. SECY. said that as the motion involved a money grant, the proper course

would be to refer it to the government, and they could take what action they thought proper.

Mr. LOCKE hoped that no reduction would be made in the present salaries; they were small enough already, and no class of men deserved higher pay than those engaged in this arduous service.

Mr. MILLER said that no doubt there were great inequalities in the salaries, but he hoped that no reduction would be proposed in those that already existed.

Hon. Mr. McFARLANE referred to the necessity for a light at Amnott's Island, from which for sixty miles of coast, no light could be seen; and for the last fifteen years they had tried unsuccessfully to obtain public aid.

Mr. PRYOR hoped that the government would give their most serious attention to this subject, and especially to the light at Peggy's Point, which he had so frequently brought to the notice of the house.

Mr. BLACKWOOD was glad that the member for Cumberland (Mr. McFarlane) had advocated the claims of the Amnott Island Light. It was one of the most important lights upon that coast, and he hoped that the government in the distribution of the public grant for that service would not forget its claims.

Mr. TOMX said, that while upon that subject, he would call the attention of the government to the necessity of having a steam fog bell at Sambro. He was informed that the one in St. John harbor cost originally £650, and was maintained at an annual cost of \$700.

Hon. PROV. SEC. said that he presumed that the member for Halifax was not in the house when this subject was under discussion and the matter had been referred to the committee on navigation securities. An offer had been made to place one suitable for the harbor for the sum of £400 stg., at an expense for maintenance of a cent per hour, as stated by the member for Halifax, and as the gentleman who made the offer is about leaving the country, he hoped that the committee would soon report upon that subject.

Mr. TOBIN was not in the house when the correspondence alluded to had been submitted. He was glad that the government had moved in the matter, and he hoped that the committee would report as soon as possible.

Mr. BLANCHARD pointed out the inequalities in the present scale of salaries of light house keepers. He did not think that the Pictou light, which received \$400 a year, was more difficult to keep than Margaree Island, which only received \$200 and Arichat the same sum. Not that he thought the highest sum was too much, but the scale should be arranged more evenly.

Hon. PROV. SEC. said that the regular way would be for the government to refer the whole matter to the committee on navigation securities. It may be true that in some instances the salaries were too small, but he knew that whenever any vacancy occurred there were twenty persons ready to take it. He would read an extract upon the report of the committee in 1853 which showed that the whole subject had then been reviewed and the present scale of present salaries arranged.

Mr. LONGLEY had no objections to refer the matter to the government but he thought that the better way would be for a special committee to investigate it and report upon an equalized systems of salaries.