

Monday, March 16:

The Speaker took the chair at the usual hour.

The following petitions were presented:—

Mr Duncan—From the Inhabitants in the neighbourhood of Creek River, applying for aid to build a wharf.

Dr Kaye—for opening up a new Road on Lot 61.

Hon D. Beaton—For straightening a road on Lot 47.

Mr Duncan—from Lot 61, for a new road running south to McKinnon's line.

Hon Col Gray—From Inhabitants of Wood Island and its vicinity, to supply a shipping place.

Dr Kaye—for opening a new road on Lot 61.

Hon Mr Warburton—for a new road on Lot 15.

Hon D. Beaton—from a portion of the inhabitants of Lots 44, 45, & 46, praying for a grant to open a new road.

Hon D Beaton—from E. G. Kennedy, of Lot 47, for extra remuneration on account of carrying the local mail.

The petitions were referred to the various Committees, *pro forma*.

STEAM COMMUNICATION.

Hon COL GRAY held in his hand a tender from Mr Boultenhouse, to supply the Government with a steamer, for mail communications. It was dated March 4th—and the twelve days delay between the date of the letter, and its receipt, would at once prove that some better postal accommodation was absolutely necessary. The tender was a most important one, so far as regarded the interest of the Island. The hon member then read the following:

TENDER FOR STEAM BOAT.

SACKVILLE, 4th March, 1863.

"I will furnish the Government of Prince Edward Island—as requested by notice in the *Royal Gazette*, newspaper, of the said Island—with a new first class Steamer, of not less than one hundred and eighty feet long, twenty-six feet beam and eleven feet hold, to be built, essentially, of Juniper, under the inspection of John Tucker, Lloyd's Surveyor, and fit her out as you require, for the accommodation of passengers, with Engine and Boiler of sufficient power to run sixteen miles per hour; will perform the whole service of three trips, each week, each way, calling at the intermediate ports between Pictou and Shediac, for the term of *two years*, for the sum of Two hundred and Twenty pounds, Island currency, payable in Warrants on your Treasury, for each and every month the boat may run in each year; your Government to receive any money that other Governments may grant for that service. Will give a lien on the Steamer for the faithful performance of the contract."

C. BOULTENHOUSE.

The House then went into Committee of the whole. Mr Sinclair in the chair.

The Hon J. C. POPE—observed that there was a very great difference in the Tenders, but that of Mr Boultenhouse if carried out according to the terms proposed, would be the most beneficial to the Colony. Proper securities, however, should be given.

Hon Mr McAULAY suggested that it might be better for Island interests if a little delay could be allowed, before a decision was arrived at, upon this matter. The tender of Mr Boultenhouse seemed certainly to be the best before them at present, but if his suggestion for delay was adopted, it might be the means of fostering and encouraging their enterprise at home.

Hon COL GRAY was quite willing to let the contracts be on the table till the Governments of Nova

Scotia and New Brunswick had been communicated with upon the matter.

Hon Mr COLES—agreed in this proposition, one good boat would at present suffice for all the wants of the Colony, and if at any time another was wanted, a fresh contract could be made.

Hon COL GRAY believed that no Island Company could compete with the offer made to them, by Mr Boultenhouse, but in accepting the tender, should it be accepted; ample security should be demanded.

Hon Mr LONGWORTH was also of opinion that no Island Company could compete with Mr Boultenhouse. His terms were the most favourable, and if the boat was built under the proposed terms, and proper security taken, no harm could accrue. Even at the last they might fall back upon the tenders offered by their own people.

Hon Mr DAVIES could not but believe that the terms offered were too low; and ample security should be required for their being fully carried out. It would, he believed, have been better to support a local company, for the interests of the Island; but in the present case his opinion was, that good securities should be required from the Contractor, Mr Boultenhouse, his offer being evidently the best for the advantage of the Colony.

Hon Mr COLES believed that the acceptance of the offer of Mr Boultenhouse would be the best they could do for the interest of the Colony. Mr. Boultenhouse was a man who knew his own business, and the only question was, that of ample security for the due performance of the contract.

Mr HOWAT believed that an Island Company would be best for the community.

Mr DUNCAN was most decidedly of opinion that one boat could not fairly perform the terms of the contract offered by Mr Boultenhouse. He believed that the better course would be to wait till the neighbouring provinces had been telegraphed to, in order to learn their decision as to what amount they would be willing to pay for the services of one boat; or if two boats were placed upon the route, what extra subsidy they were willing to grant.

Hon J. C. POPE was clearly of opinion, even with due regard to all Island interests, that Mr Boultenhouse's tender was the most advantageous yet laid before them; but he trusted that the House would take care to have efficient securities for the due performance of the proposed contract.

The tender was laid upon the table with the others.

ADDRESS TO HER MAJESTY.

Hon COL GRAY, pursuant to notice, now rose to bring under the consideration of the Honourable Members of that House, a Despatch from His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, dated August 9th 1862, setting forth the reasons why His Grace could not advise Her Majesty to grant the royal allowance to two acts passed in the last Session of the House, to confirm and facilitate the operations of the Award of the Royal Commissioners, who were jointly appointed to settle the much vexed, but important Land Question. The action which had, from time to time, been taken upon this all-important matter, was so clearly expressed in the Address he then was about to move,