

Mr. MILLER stated that he had been glad to hear the Provincial Secretary say, the other day, that it was not fair that the parties alluded to should have to pay as much for small as for large tracts. He thought that if there was any class of men who were entitled to the consideration of the House, it was the fishermen; and that it would not be going too far to give them free grants of land. Other classes of the people received much assistance from the Legislature, and it was only right to give some direct encouragement to the valuable class engaged in the fisheries of the Province. He was on the Crown Lands Committee, and intended bringing this subject under their consideration.

Mr. BLANCHARD hoped that the hon. member would not forget the claims of the people in the county of Inverness.

Mr. ARCHIBALD said that he acquiesced in the justice of the remarks made by the hon. member for Richmond in reference to the small tracts of land in question. He must express his opinion, however, that the island of Cape Breton had been dealt with in a spirit of liberality. He also believed that the hon. member for Inverness labored under a mistake as to the law he had referred to. Any man in possession of a tract of land in Cape Breton had not only the right of priority of application, but could obtain it on remarkably easy terms,—in fact, having five years to pay for it. Parties in Nova Scotia proper received no such advantage.

Mr. BOURINOT would like to hear from the hon. member for Colchester whether Cape Breton had been placed on an equal footing with Nova Scotia proper in regard to governments and other matters.

Mr. ARCHIBALD would say that it had always been the desire to deal with Cape Breton in a spirit of generosity and fairness.

Mr. BOURINOT would like to ask the hon. gentleman a question on the subject.

Mr. ARCHIBALD preferred not being interrupted, and asked the hon. gentleman if he wished to excite sectional jealousies in this country. He thought the hon. gentleman would be entitled to more credit, and would possess greater weight, if he recognized the spirit which it was desired to exhibit in reference to the island in which he professed to take so deep an interest. He did not like to see these continual attacks made upon the legislature, and jealousies excited. He was glad to see Cape Breton exhibiting so many signs of progress and prosperity, and felt confident it was the desire of all to do everything that could promote her interests.

Mr. BOURINOT said that he merely rose to state that he was not to be drawn into a premature discussion of a topic in which the people whose interests he represented were so deeply concerned. It was his intention to reserve his observations to a future day, when he hoped to be able to prove conclusively from the public records, and from actual facts, that he was perfectly justified in the position he had taken in reference to Cape Breton. When the proper occasion arrived, he hoped to be able to make out a case that the island had not received that full justice to which she was entitled. Passing by this question, therefore, for the present, he would merely say that he wished to inform the House that the Provincial Secretary had permitted the use of the library

for the purpose of exhibiting the plans and surveys of the proposed railway to Sydney and Louisburg, which had been prepared under the superintendence of eminent engineers.

Hon. Mr. SHANNON would be glad when the field day promised by the hon. gentleman arrived, so that this Cape Breton question might be disposed of in some way or other. He contended that Cape Breton was only a part of Nova Scotia—was a mere geographical term; and that it was injurious to the public interests for gentlemen to endeavor to excite these sectional jealousies. He instanced the position assumed by O'Connell in the House of Commons as proving the evils that arise from the agitation of sectional prejudices.

Mr. MILLER said that the members for Cape Breton would not allow the member for Colchester or Halifax to dictate what course they might think it proper to adopt in reference to matters affecting that island. The hon. member for Colchester stated that Cape Breton was getting attentive consideration from the Legislature, but would he answer how was she getting it? She was obtaining it only through the urgent appeals and representations of her representatives for justice on her behalf. If they did not continue that course, she would never obtain that consideration to which she was entitled. It was a very easy matter for gentlemen to be lavish in compliments to Cape Breton, and to express a desire to advance her interests; but the people of the island would prefer actions rather than words. Did not the House know that whenever the subject of the St. Peter's Canal came up, some hon. gentlemen could only refer to it with sneers? In fact, the name of Cape Breton could hardly ever be mentioned in the House without some contemptuous allusion being made in reference to her by gentlemen from Nova Scotia proper. But the hon. gentleman said—See what a disposition was exhibited to do justice to Cape Breton in connection with the bill to construct a railway to Sydney! An act of incorporation was asked for, and, because the House did not refuse it—did not refuse to allow persons from abroad to invest money in this country for the development of resources at which our own people looked askance, the people of Cape Breton were to be congratulated on the spirit of fairness that actuated the Legislature in reference to her interests! He would tell the hon. member for Colchester that Cape Breton had never received from the House that justice to which she was entitled; but he thought he saw some indications, not only on the part of the Government itself, but members generally, to treat her differently henceforth. The hon. member for Halifax had alluded rather unfortunately to the case of Ireland, for O'Connell, no doubt had much reason for complaint. It was a very easy matter for Halifax to feel satisfied—Halifax for whose benefit a line of railway had been constructed at the expense of the Province—Halifax, which by her public meeting in Temperance Hall, had led astray public sentiment on this question of railways, which now pressed so heavily upon the extremities of the country—Halifax, which now so dishonorably repudiated her responsibility in these very works. It was very well for gentlemen for the benefit of whose constituency the Province had been saddled with a heavy deb, to say to outsiders, Be content