

Mr. ARCHIBALD explained that the law now contained provisions to enable sessions to deal with a difficulty as occurred in the present case.

Hon. ATTY. GEN. pointed to difficulties that prevented the law being carried into operation, and said it would be best to place the whole charge of the matter in one county.

CROWN LANDS IN CAPE BRETON.

Hon. PRO. SEC. laid on the table an answer to an enquiry asked by the hon. member for Inverness, (Mr. McDonnell) respecting Crown Lands in Cape Breton, showing the amount paid into the Receiver General under the act of 1859 in reference to that island; also amounts expended under section 10 and for what purpose. There returns show that the gross proceeds were in, 1859, 1860, 1861, 1862 1863 and 1864 inclusive—in—

Cape Breton,	Paid for Surveys,	Net proceeds,
\$16,475	\$7018	\$9,458
Inverness,	"	Net proceeds,
10,153	4614	6,039
Richmond,	"	Net proceeds,
9,139	4705	4,434
Victoria,	"	Net proceeds,
6,932	4145	2,479

Making the whole gross amount \$42,719; for surveys, over 20,000; and leaving a balance of over 22,000 of net proceeds.

Mr. BLANCHARD was glad that the return showed that the island of Cape Breton at this moment was entitled to some twenty-two thousand of dollars to be expended on the opening up of her crown lands, &c., and he trusted that the government would carry out the intention of the law.

Hon. PROV. SEC. said that the hon. member had fallen into the same error that he had himself, for he (Dr. T.) was somewhat under an erroneous impression when he addressed the house a few days ago. As the hon. member would see the clause of the act which referred to the expenditure of the money for the opening up of roads did not apply solely to that which arose under the settlement of titles but to all money received from crown lands; and the statement which he had just read, showing the total net proceeds of \$22,000, embraced all the money that had been received for crown lands of every description, whether under the settlement of titles or in any other way. The clause read: "A distinct account shall be kept for the sale of all crown lands in the several counties of Cape Breton, and out of the net proceeds thereof shall be appropriated such amount for surveys and opening up or making roads through the crown lands in that island as may be considered necessary by the Governor in Council to promote the sale and settlement thereof."

MESSAGE FROM THE L. C.

A message was received from the Legislative Council stating that they had agreed to a bill to incorporate the Royal Sussex Lodge of Freemasons; and to a bill to incorporate the Acadia Coal Company, without amendments; and to a bill to incorporate the Stone Cutters' and Mason's Association of Halifax, with amendments, to which they desired the concurrence of the honourable house.

PROVINCIAL DEBENTURES.

Hon. FIN. SEC. laid on the table a return asked for by the hon. member for North Colchester, (Mr. McLellan,) giving a statement of the debentures sold in connection with the building of the Pictou Railway. There were

28 bonds of £500 sterling, amounting to £14,000, and 78 of £100, making a total sum of £21,800 at, sold at par.

Mr. ARCHIBALD said that at the present moment it was quite obvious that the amount of our provincial currency in circulation was altogether inadequate to the wants of the country. The greatest difficulty was experienced by gentlemen engaged in mining enterprises to get the notes that they required for their purposes, and he was informed by gentlemen well qualified to express an opinion on this matter that £50,000, or £60,000 might be put into circulation quite easily, which should save the province a sum equivalent to £3, or £4000 a year. He regretted that it should have been thought necessary to incur the obligation in question before the course he alluded to was taken. He did not think it wise to sell the bonds and incur 6 per cent interest, when such a cheaper plan was available if any money were actually required to meet present exigencies.

Hon. FIN. SEC. replied that the work was under contract on every section, and several contractors were actually employed; and a much larger amount would soon be required. During the ensuing summer there would be probably expended on the work something like \$600,000. It was only a necessary precaution to secure the comparatively small amount shown by the return he had handed in. It would be remembered that an extension of the Lunatic Asylum was to be made, and any amount of money that might be available from the source alluded to by the hon. member for Colchester—the issue of Provincial currency—would be entirely absorbed in connection with that undertaking. So the Receiver General, in view of the fact that our bonds were selling at a large discount in England, exercised a wise discretion in selling at par a small amount for any contingency that might arise.

Mr. TOSIN stated that he had been ignorant until very recently that our bonds were for sale here, but it was quite certain that the price which they had brought was satisfactory. He believed that the Provincial Bonds were selling at a very much less rate in London, and, therefore, he saw no reason for complaint. He did not agree with the hon. member for Colchester that £50, or £60,000 of Provincial paper could be readily put into circulation. A large sum, about £102,000, was already afloat, and it was not likely that a small province like this, with 330,000 people, required more at present. He heard the question discussed by mercantile men and they thought that perhaps £10,000 might be put in circulation; but not more. If £60,000 were put out, every bank in the city would soon be flooded. He looked upon the policy of selling the bonds in the province itself as judicious. Many of our own people had suffered materially from the depreciation of the currency in the States, and would be glad to invest their money in our own securities.

Hon. PRO. SEC. said that the question had received the most careful consideration of the Executive Government, and their policy was to have the money required for the construction of the Pictou Railway raised as far as possible within the country. They believed that on every account it was desirable that the interest which is payable by the Province should as far as practicable be paid to the peo-