

law, when its possession by individuals proved inimical to the public interests; one case, indeed, there is, so peculiarly apposite from its locality and circumstances, that the Council desires to direct your Lordship's attention thereto. They refer to the case of Lower Canada, and though some peculiar proprietary rights formerly existed in that Colony which are unknown here, yet in other respects the leasehold system of Prince Edward Island has proved more injurious. In the latter Colony, for example, mutation fines and mill privileges are unknown, but rents are believed to be materially higher, and many of the large proprietors have been and still are absentees, therefore, the remittance of rents or purchase moneys in coin has a very embarrassing effect, as the banking capital of the Colony does not probably exceed the sum of twelve shillings sterling per head, a sum scarcely sufficient to carry on the ordinary business of the Colony. If the commutation of their leasehold tenures was conceded to the people of Lower Canada as a matter of justice or policy, can a like privilege be refused to loyal British people of Prince Edward Island? The Council deems it an important part of their duty to warn your Lordship of the existence of any cause which may possibly alienate the affections of the people from British connection. It should be remembered that a large proportion of the population is native born, and knows the Mother Country by report only; also that British Supremacy, visibly associated on the mainland with fleets and garrisons, with massive fortifications and public works undertaken with the aid of funds raised on the Imperial guarantee, is here represented by the visit of an occasional cruiser, and the presence of the Queen's troops only when required to support an institution abolished elsewhere. There is danger, the Council believes, that the youth of this Colony, intelligent, enterprising, educated, will learn to connect British power with the support of the interests of proprietors, for whose especial benefit the first fruits of their industry is reserved, and thus the earnest loyalty of a peaceful, industrious race may be changed into cold indifference. In conclusion, the Council desires to urge on your Lordship's consideration these facts, that, whereas formerly proprietors' rights were of ten disputed, and payment of rents evaded, tenants are now anxious to become freeholders by purchase. The difficulty of estimating the value of estates is also much diminished by the precedent which public and private sales afford; it would, therefore, be a matter of extreme regret if the present favourable combination of circumstances should be allowed to pass unimproved.

And it is the opinion of the Council that the affairs of this Colony cannot successfully be dealt with in detail, but can best be settled by an extensive measure. Three Secretaries of State have intimated their desire that the Colony should assume the payment of the Lieutenant Governor's salary; but as the payment of that salary was originally undertaken as an indemnity for the injury the Colony had sustained by reason of the alienation of its wilderness lands, it would seem to be neither just nor generous to insist on that demand unless a remedy is first found and applied for the evils complained of, which the Council believe cannot be found unless the Imperial Government can be induced to sanction a Bill compelling proprietors to convey their lands to the Government, on tender of their value previously ascertained, and also to assist the local Government to obtain the necessary funds for the purpose, by giving the Imperial guarantee to a loan of money of sufficient amount to be raised in the London market. In order to settle the fair value to be paid to proprietors, a tri-

bunal of gentlemen of experience and integrity would have to be selected, the composition of which could be hereafter defined, assuming that £100,000 to £150,000 sterling would be required to buy up the proprietary rights; and that this sum were raised by sale of Colonial debentures with Imperial guarantee, at par, with four per cent. interest; it is certain that, at least, a saving of two per cent. per annum would accrue to the Colony which, if the debentures were made payable in, say, thirty years from their date, would amount to such a sum as would enable the Government to press upon the local Legislature with a better prospect of its being favorably entertained, the question of the payment of the Governor's salary, and to procure a final solution of the Land Question, without cost to the Imperial Treasury, without injustice to the proprietors, or loss to the Colony.

In answer to the above despatch, the following was received from Earl Granville.

DOWNING STREET, 13th March, 1869.

SIR, — I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch, No. 13, of the 15th February last, enclosing, with other documents, the copy of an address from the Executive Council of Prince Edward Island, praying that the consent of Her Majesty's Government may be obtained to the introduction of such measure in the local Legislature as may be necessary to enforce a compulsory sale by the proprietors of lands in the Colony, to the local Government.

Having regard to the evident uncertainty whether the Colony of Prince Edward Island will or will not soon unite itself to the Dominion of Canada, I am not prepared to enter on the consideration of a question with which, if such union were to ensue, the Imperial Government would probably cease to concern itself, the Land Question, therefore, should, in my opinion, be left as far as possible for the decision of those who, under the altered circumstances of the Colony, would have to carry into execution any measures connected with it.

I cannot hold out any hope that the Imperial Government will, under any circumstances, agree to guarantee a loan for the purpose of acquiring the wild lands from their present proprietors.

I have already conveyed to you the decision of Her Majesty's Government on the subject of the Governor's salary.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

GRANVILLE.

The Officer administering the Government of  
Prince Edward Island.

## CRIMINAL LAW.

It is an interesting fact, and honorable to the population of the Island, that capital punishment seems almost unknown. The Duke of Buckingham, colonial secretary, having transmitted to Governor Dundas, 15th June, 1868, a draft bill introduced by the secretary of state for the Home department, to provide for the carrying into effect of capital punishment within prisons, with a request for the Governor's opinion as to the expediency of introducing the measure in the Colony, the reply was that there had been no instance of capital punishment in the Colony since he assumed the administration of its government in 1859. An Act was, however, subsequently passed by the Legislature, by which the principle of the Imperial Act was adopted.

\*CLIFTON—A village situated in the township No. 21, parish of Greenville, county of Queen's. Distant from Summerside, a station of the New York, Newfoundland and London Telegraph Co., 17 miles, from Charlottetown 25½ miles. Mail bi-weekly Population about 150.

CLIFTON HOTEL, William McKay, proprietor  
Curry Joseph, fisherman  
Hamilton William, shoemaker

\*The post office name is Campbelltown, also known as Graham's Corner.

Johnston John, of Schurman & Johnston  
Large J. W., carriage builder  
Lydiard Martin, fisherman  
McEwen Arthur, farmer  
McEwen Edward, bailiff, farmer  
McEwen William, farmer  
McGregor James, fisherman  
McGregor John, farmer  
McIntyre D. M., master mariner  
McIntyre Duncan, J.P., postmaster, farmer  
McIntyre James Alexander, master mariner

McKay George B., customs officer, auctioneer, farmer  
McKay George G., ferryman, farmer  
McKay George, J.P., commissioner  
Court of small debts  
McKay Robert, farmer  
McKay William, farmer  
McKAY WILLIAM, general merchant and housekeeper  
McLeod Jonathan, fisherman  
McLeod William, blacksmith  
Morison Donald, J.P., farmer  
Ross William, road commissioner