

After a few remarks from the Provincial Secretary in support of his previous statements, the bill passed its second reading.

The House then adjourned until the next day at 3 o'clock.

FEBRUARY 27, 1866.

House met at 3 o'clock.

#### PETITIONS.

Mr. C. CAMPBELL presented to the Government, through the House, a petition for a break-water; also, a petition for repair of a wharf in the county of Digby.

Mr. MILLER said he desired to present a petition from a large number of shipowners, merchants, and magistrates in the Island of Cape Breton, asking aid to open and render fit for the accommodation of shipping, the harbor of Fourche. The petition was not only numerously signed by such persons throughout the whole island, but had also received the signature of two of the members of Cape Breton Co., one of whom (Mr. Bourinot) had attached to it a certificate, stating that he was well acquainted with the harbor, that it formed the boundary line between the Counties of Cape Breton and Richmond, and would, if opened, be of great benefit to the many vessels visiting that part of the country when the mines are in operation. Mr. Miller said that the petition had peculiar claims upon the favorable consideration of the Government. The harbor was situated on the southern coast of the Island of Cape Breton, about half-way between Louisbourg and Cape Canso, there being no harbor of refuge between these ports, and vessels being frequently put to the inconvenience of running back to Canso or Louisbourg. The harbor was also resorted to by a large number of fishermen requiring such accommodation, as could be seen by the fact that the distance between the places referred to was 76 miles, Fourche being distant about 50 miles from Canso. The entrance was at present obstructed by a bar rendering the harbor useless at times, and the House he said, would perceive that the subject of the petition was not one of a local character, but was intimately connected with the shipping interests of the country. The sum required would not be very large, and he trusted that, in consideration of the interests involved, and of the amount of revenue derived from such branches of industry as those to which he had referred, something would be done in accordance with the prayer of the petition, which was more influentially signed than any other which he had ever presented to the House.

Mr. BLANCHARD presented a petition from the wardens of river fisheries, asking remuneration in protecting such fisheries. He said that the small pittance granted to these officers by the Sessions was quite inadequate. The hon. gentleman also presented a petition from Broad Cove, in the County of Inverness, signed by 236 electors, on the subject of Confederation.

#### DESPATCHES, ETC.

Hon. PROVINCIAL SECRETARY, by command of His Excellency, laid on the table copies of correspondence relating to signal stations. He remarked that a change which had been made in the mode of payment for this service rendered the sum less than heretofore.

Hon. PROVINCIAL SECRETARY, by like command, laid on the table copies of correspondence relating to the Governor's Private Secretary.

Mr. ARCHIBALD made a few remarks respecting some seeming reflections contained in one of the despatches, on the policy of the late Government in connection with the Secretaryship.

Hon. PROVINCIAL SECRETARY said he had not seen the papers until a day or two ago. One of the statements, he would say, which it contained was perfectly correct, viz., that the course pursued by the Government last Session, of introducing a bill on the subject, had taken His Excellency by surprise, he supposing that the discussion on the question had long been closed.

Mr. ARCHIBALD said that the proposition to appoint and pay a Private Secretary had never met with the opposition of gentlemen on his side of the House as a body, although individual members may have been hostile to the measure.

Hon. PROV. SECY., by like command, laid on the table copies of correspondence relating to the Paris Universal Exhibition; also, copies of correspondence relating to the assassination of President Lincoln.

#### EDUCATION.

Hon. ATT. GENERAL laid on the table a petition from an aged school teacher whose employment had been interfered with by the operation of the present school law, and suggested that the same be referred to the Committee on Education.

Mr. S. CAMPBELL enquired of the Government whether it was their intention to devolve the labor and responsibility of considering the operation of the present school act on that committee, or whether the Government proposed to take charge of the matter themselves.

Hon. PROV. SECY. said it had become a matter of serious consideration with the Government as to what course they should adopt on this subject, and after mature deliberation it had been decided that it would not be the most judicious course to submit any measure desirable for the further alteration of the existing law as a Government measure. The Government, as members were aware had already assumed the responsibility of dealing with the question, and it became necessary for them to enquire how far on any such question they would receive the support of gentlemen usually sustaining them, and in bringing forward the measure of last session, they stated that it contained two fundamental principles on which they would take their stand before the Legislature. Those principles were, first, the establishment of free schools, and second, the assessment by counties of the amount required to supplement the amount granted by the Legislature. The Government, on that occasion, informed the House that while they asked support on these two principles, they considered all other matters as open to such amendments as the majority of members would endorse. When that measure came to be discussed, while the government were sustained on those principles, the bill was very largely modified in other and important details, as, for instance, the proposal to give the sections the power of voluntary assessment was so altered as to substitute a provision for obtaining aid by means of subscription. He need not say that in connection with the subject of Education, the Government had encountered a great deal of difficulty and embarrassment, although not