

Mr. ARCHIBALD called attention to the case of Mr. Bligh, which had been adjudicated upon by the committee. He said it appeared that this individual had taken out a license to search but had been dispossessed by a person to whom a subsequent license was granted. No court of law or equity could uphold the claims of the party holding the second license, and yet the committee had reported against Mr. Bligh's claim.

Hon. Mr. MCFARLANE and Hon. FIN. SEC. stated that the matter had been decided upon by the Government after a careful investigation of the facts; the person alluded to as holding the second license, claimed under a previous license, covering the same locality, and claimed to have discovered the mine on the property.

Mr. ARCHIBALD said he had been disposed to think that the action of the government had been inadvertently taken, but the deliberation referred to only made the matter worse as far as they were concerned. So far from the locality being the same as that upon which the previous license had been given, the Commissioner of Mines had given evidence under his own hand to the contrary.

The report was received and adopted.  
The House adjourned.

#### SATURDAY, May 5.

The House met at 3 o'clock.

The amendment proposed by the Legislative Council in the Equity Bill, leaving the bill as originally introduced, was agreed to, Mr. Miller and Mr. McDonnell opposing the amendment on the ground that it caused a separation of legal and equitable declarations, and would operate prejudicially.

#### DELEGATION TO WEST INDIES, BRAZIL, ETC.

Mr. S. CAMPBELL said it might be gratifying to persons engaged in coal mining enterprise, if the Financial Secretary would state what prospects there were of the establishment of a coal trade with those countries which had been visited by the recent delegation.

Hon. FINL. SECY. said that on arriving at St. Thomas the delegates had discovered that their whole mission would not be concluded until late in the summer, and the duties were therefore divided, three gentlemen proceeding to Brazil and the others visiting the West Indian Islands. At St. Thomas there was a very large market for coal, various mail communications centering there, and the coal used was imported from England at a cost of about 40s. per ton. The consumption for four lines of steamers—one to Demerara, one to Aspinwall, one to Jamaica, and one to Vera Cruz, was 100,000 tons; another line ran from France to St. Thomas, and thence to Havana and Vera Cruz, also causing a large consumption. These, with two or three other lines in operation, created a market for 300,000 tons of coal annually, which was supplied from England, although England was double the distance from the Island that Nova Scotia was. In addition to this there was a large market in the other British and foreign islands. The process of manufacturing sugar had been changed from the old method of grinding by windmills, and steam machinery was in use in almost all the islands.—This manufacture caused a consump-

tion in Demerara of 50,000 or 60,000 tons annually, and other islands consumed in proportion.

In the British West India Islands alone there was a market for half a million tons of coal, while the Spanish islands had a market of almost equal extent. To show the value attached to the coal trade, he would remark that in no country in the world was shipping more heavily taxed than in Cuba, the rate being \$3 per ton for port duties, but for a vessel bringing coal, and taking no cargo in return, the tax was reduced to \$1; while vessels bringing coal, and exporting molasses on the return voyage, were allowed to come and go free of charge. Looking at this large market for coal, and at the prospect of return freights, he did not see why our coal masters, with a little energy, could not undersell parties from any other country, provided our coal was of as good a quality as that of England. In Demerara coal had been \$18 per ton, and subsequently had risen to \$22. A vessel could make the voyage in 16 or 18 days, and when he was there he had received advices in 15 days. The impression on the minds of parties engaged in the works in which the article was consumed, appeared to be that there was no coal so good as the English; but he had received a note from one gentleman agreeing to take some of our coal at a certain price, in order to ascertain the quality, and a party here had agreed to furnish a supply accordingly. It would be necessary for our coal masters to display energy, and to prove that our coal was not inferior to that now in use, and that was all that was required to command the market.—He said that Mr. LeVesconte not having returned, it would not be practicable to lay before the House a full report of the delegation.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

The bill to incorporate the Directors of Point Pleasant Park, was agreed to.

Mr. BILL moved that the Council of Public Instruction be requested to promote as much as possible the teaching of music and military drill in schools, and that the books and instruments necessary for this purpose be supplied on the same terms as other school books.

The resolution was supported by several gentlemen, and passed unanimously.

The Legislative Council, by message, informed the House that they had agreed to the bill to enable the City of Halifax to borrow money to improve the City Water Works.

Mr. TOBIN said that his colleague had attempted to introduce the bill into the House on the previous evening, but leave was refused, owing to the lateness of the period at which the bill had been sent up. He doubted the propriety of passing the bill at a time it could not receive due consideration.

Hon PRO SEC. Hon Mr SHANNON, and Hon MCFARLANE, explained the necessity of the measure, owing to the occasional failure of the water supply in Halifax, and in view of the threatened visitation by pestilence.

The bill passed.

The House adjourned.