

Mr. C. J. CAMPBELL presented a petition from Middle River, asking for certain remuneration.

Mr. DONKIN presented a petition from Claremount; one from R. Black; one from W. Mitchell and others,—all in reference to postal accommodation.

Mr. KING presented a petition from Rev. J. J. Hill and others, against the Union of the Provinces.

Mr. WHITMAN, a petition from M. Sypher, for an increase of salary as mail carrier; and another from Val. Munro, asking for certain remuneration.

Mr. McLELAN, petition from Bird's River for additional mail accommodation; one from Chiganois for a way office; and one from Five Islands, against the proposed Union of the Colonies.

Mr. CALDWELL moved for an extension of time for the reception of petitions from Cape Breton; the communication with the eastward being very unsatisfactory just now. It was understood that special leave would be given for such petitions.

Mr. KAULBACK made an enquiry from the government as to the despatches relative to the exaction of duties from our fishermen engaged in the Labrador fisheries.

Hon. PRO. SEC. replied that the correspondence referred to would be immediately laid on the table.

Mr. MCKAY presented a petition from H. Cameron, praying for remuneration for crown lands.

Mr. LEVESCONTE asked if it was the intention of the Government to place a steam-whistle on Cranberry Island at Canso.

Hon. FIN. SEC. replied that the subject was under consideration.

Hon. PROV. SEC. laid on the table certain papers relative to the Mic Mac Gold Company.

Mr. KAULBACK presented a petition of Jas. Thomas, of East River, asking aid to finish the removal of obstructions in that river to the passage of fish and lumbering purposes. Mr. Kaulback urged the prayer of petition on the favorable consideration of government, and stated that petitioner had, at his own expense, expended some hundred dollars in removing said obstructions.

#### DISPUTED GOLD CLAIMS, &c.

Hon. PRO. SEC. in reply to an enquiry made by the member for Richmond (Mr. Miller) on a previous day, as to the number of disputed claims before the chief Gold Commissioner and the Commissioner of Crown Lands, and under the consideration of the executive government, stated that he was informed by the commissioner of mines that there were no cases before him. There were only two under the consideration of the government—that of Chisholm and the Cape Breton coal mining company. He laid on the table a return from the commissioner of Crown Lands showing the number of cases that had been before him—the names of petitioners—the dates of their application, and the action that had been taken.

#### MILITIA.

Hon. PROV. SEC. also laid on the table, in answer to the enquiry of the member for East Halifax, (Mr. Annand,) correspondence between the Executive Government and the Imperial authorities on the subject of the Militia. In doing so, he would take the opportunity of

stating, in order to prevent any misunderstanding, that when gentlemen asked for correspondence or despatches upon any subject, he took it for granted that they meant papers of a public character, and that was his meaning when he replied to the member for Shelburne, (Mr. Locke,) on a previous day, that the correspondence then submitted embraced all that had been received upon the Union of the Colonies. And so in reference to this question he had brought down all despatches of a public nature. The Commander-in-Chief might have confidential communications upon the defences of the country which it might be exceedingly impolitic to make public. He mentioned the subject because he had perceived that a gentleman in the other end of the building had pursued the unusual course of calling for despatches of a private nature.

#### PICTOU RAILWAY.

Hon. PROV. SEC. also laid on the table the Report of the Chief Engineer on the Pictou Railway; and he would say in reply to the question of the hon. member for Pictou (Mr. McKay) as to why Mr. Laurie's route had been abandoned, that this Report contained the reasons which influenced the Government in adopting the line now being constructed. He had no detailed estimate of the cost, but he was authorized to state that the whole line would be constructed inside of \$2,000,000.

The Report was read by the Clerk; when the House adjourned until 3 o'clock next day.

FRIDAY, Feb. 24th, 1865.

The House met at 3 o'clock.

#### PETITIONS AND BILLS.

M. BLANCHARD presented a petition from Queensville, County of Inverness, for a way office.

Hon. ATTY. GENL. presented a petition from John Day, praying for investigation in relation to lands taken for railway purposes. After some conversation it was referred to the Railway Committee.

Mr. LAWRENCE presented six petitions from North Hants signed by 314 persons, against the proposed Federation of the Colonies, until it had been submitted to the people.

#### BILLS READ A THIRD TIME.

The following Bills were read a third time, and finally passed. A Bill to incorporate the Sydney and Louisburg Railway Company. A Bill to incorporate Clyde Coal Mining Company. A Bill to amend the Act to incorporate the International Coal and Railway Company.

Mr. CHURCHILL presented a petition from Newport for aid to a great road.

#### MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS.

Mr. CALDWELL introduced a bill to incorporate the Sydney and Bras d'Or Steamboat Company. In relation to the bill he stated that the Company was composed of gentlemen of wealth and position in the county, and that it was the intention to put on a steamer which would afford every requisite accommodation to the people of the section where she was to ply.

Hon. ATTY. GENL. presented a petition from the Inhabitants of Antigonishe, against the school act.

Mr. SMITH presented a petition from Archibald McIsaac, an aged school teacher, praying for a free grant of land.