

phic Communication, the particulars of which will be laid before you.

Since the Close of your last Session, a visit was paid to the Colony by a Committee of the Congress of the United States. The object of their mission was to obtain information in connection with the subject of reciprocal Free Trade between this Island and the United States. A Report of Members of the Executive Council in relation to this matter, addressed to His Honor the Lieutenant Governor, will be laid before you, together with Communications on the same subject, which have passed between the local Government and Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies.

You will be gratified to learn that the Bill for the settlement of Wilderness Lands, passed by you during the last Session, has resulted satisfactorily. Under its provisions 13,388 acres of Land have been taken up, in most instances by substantial Settlers.

Three Estates, comprising in the aggregate 17,352 acres, have been acquired by the Government, under the Land Purchase Act, since you last met, at a cost of £6,409, the particulars of which will be laid before you.

The returns from the Land Office are very satisfactory, and evidence the desire of the occupants of the Government Lands to become Freeholders, and an appreciation, on their part, of the advantages conferred by the Land Purchase Bill.

An Act for the amendment of the Laws relating to the Militia and Volunteer Forces will be laid before you. Its object will be to reduce the attendance now required by law for Drill of the General Militia; but, at the same time, to extend such encouragement to a stated number of Volunteers as will increase the efficiency of that valuable branch of the Public Service.

We have reason to be grateful to Almighty God for the general prosperity with which the Colony has been blessed during the past year, and I fervently pray that His favor may be continued to us, and that your deliberations, during the Session now opened, may be so guided by Him as to advance that prosperity and tend to the contentment and happiness of the People.

Angus McMillan, Esq., elected a member for the 5th District of Prince County, after the usual preliminaries, took his seat.

The usual standing Committees for the Session were then appointed. After which the House adjourned.

THURSDAY, March 4, 1869.

Hon. Attorney General, from the Committee on expiring Laws, reported that the Act intituled "An Act to incorporate a Mutual Fire Insurance Company," would expire next May.

Also, the Act relating to the publishing of notices and advertisements relating to the public service. And the Act for raising a Revenue.

Hon. Mr. Laird, from the Stationery Committee, presented a Report to the effect, that in view of the difficulty heretofore experienced in procuring the different kinds of stationery required, it would be more satisfactory and economical to allow members and officers of the House to purchase for their own use. The Committee, therefore, recommended that the sum of three pounds be allowed each member for that object. The Clerk and Law Clerk to procure what stationery may be required

for themselves and their assistants, to be charged to the contingent accounts, and the Reporters to provide for themselves at their own cost. Said Report was adopted.

Hon. Attorney General moved, seconded by Mr. P. Sinclair, that Messrs. Robert Gordon, B. Balderston and Isaac Oxenham, be appointed Reporters.

Hon. Mr. Haviland moved in amendment, seconded by Mr. Brecken, that Messrs. D Laird, R. B. Irving and P. S. McGowan, be appointed Reporters.

Mr. Brecken said that however disposed the Reporters of last Session might be to perform their duty impartially, it was evident they were an inefficient staff. He hoped, therefore, the majority would not object to the appointment of at least one competent Reporter.

Hon. Mr. Kelly said that in all fairness one of the Reporters should be the choice of the Opposition.

Hon. Attorney General said that the Reporters of last Session were rather severely criticised—errors were common to all. The experience of the past, and constant practice, would lead to improvement.

Mr. McNeill said that when the Hon. Leader of the Opposition would become Leader of the Government, he could then appoint Reporters chosen by his own party.

Hon. Mr. Henderson said he hoped for the good name and credit of the Legislature that at least one experienced and efficient Reporter would be appointed.

Mr. P. Sinclair said the Reporters, he had reason to know, were practising since last Session, and, doubtless, were improving in the art.

Hon. Mr. Haviland said that the attempt made by one of the Reporters alluded to by the Atty. General, to report proceedings at the late sitting of Supreme Court, was a failure, and did not give satisfaction.

The question being put on the amendment, the House divided, as follows:

Yeas—Hons. Haviland, Henderson, Duncan, Messrs. Prowse, Howatt, Brecken, Ramsay, Green, Owen—9.

Nays—Hons. Col. Secretary, Atty. General, Callbeck, Kelly, Howland, Laird; Messrs. MacCormack, McMillan, Arsenault, Bell, G. Sinclair, P. Sinclair, Reilly, Cameron, McNeill—15.

It was then moved by the Hon. Mr. Haviland, that the name of P. S. McGowan, be inserted in lieu of Isaac Oxenham; and the question being put, the House divided as before, excepting Hon. Mr. Kelly, who voted with the minority, on the ground that one of the Reporters should be the choice of the Opposition.