

## PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES.

Works. The hon. gentleman explained the object of the Bill to be to vest for the use of the Government a piece of land in rear of the present Court House lot, which it was believed might be very conveniently appropriated for the site of the new jail for a drill ground, and for agricultural or other exhibitions.

After some conversation as to the title of the Bill, in which Mr. Tobin, Hon. Attorney General, Hon. Prov. Secretary, Messrs. Archibald and Pryor took part, leave was granted to bring in the Bill, which was then read a first time.

### PETITIONS, ETC.

Mr. J. McDONALD asked leave to present a petition from Patrick Hennessy, an aged teacher, asking for a grant of Crown Lands. Leave was granted and the Petition was referred to the Committee on Education.

Mr. S. CAMPBELL presented a similar petition from an aged teacher at the Gut of Canso, which was similarly dealt with.

Mr. P. SMYTH presented a similar petition from an aged teacher which was also similarly treated.

Mr. DONKIN presented a petition from Cyrus D. Cann, of Parrishboro', asking aid for a sailing packet between Parrishboro', Wiscasset and Horton.

Mr. BLANCHARD presented a petition from a number of inhabitants of West Bay, Inverness, asking for additional mail communication.

Considerable discussion took place on the presentation of these petitions, in which Messrs. Donkin, Locke, McDonald, Hon. Prov. Sec'y., Hon. Speaker, Messrs. Pryor, Tobin, Archibald, McFarlane, Blanchard, Annand, Dr. Hamilton, Messrs. S. Campbell, Killam, and Hon. Attorney General took part.

Mr. J. McDonald, Hon. Provincial Secretary, Messrs. Archibald, McFarlane, Annand, Locke, S. Campbell, and Hon. Attorney General were in favor of a strict adherence to the rule regarding the initiation of money votes by the Government, refusing the right of the presentation of such petitions in the House.

Mr. DONKIN stated that his object in presenting the petition was that there might be some uniformity in regard to the matter. There was no uniformity last Session. Members had been in the habit of presenting such petitions, in order that the fact might be reported in the newspapers.

Mr. BLANCHARD stated that in presenting the petition from West Bay he had only followed the practice of the House for several years,—at the same time he was willing to abide by any rule the House might adopt.

Mr. ANNAND thought that his hon. friend from Inverness was mistaken.

Dr. HAMILTON thought that the time was not far distant when the country would say that the principle of initiation of money votes by the Government was unsound.

Mr. LOCKE observed that the principle was settled now.

Mr. KILLAM said that it was true that the initiation of money votes had been placed in the hands of the Government, but still he thought that petitions should be inquired into, and he would like to see them all go before a Committee of the Assembly.

Hon. ATTY. GENERAL remarked that his hon. friend forgot that if a petition went to a committee, the House must then say whether they adopted the report of the committee or not. If the House passed on it, the responsibility of dealing with it was that of the House, and not of the Government, and thereby the rule that the initiation of money votes should be with the Government was subverted. It might be inconvenient but no one could doubt that it was a very wholesome rule.

Mr. TOBIN thought that members ought to know in some reasonable time the decision of the Government in regard to petitions they presented. He would, therefore, move the following resolution:—**RESOLVED**, That all petitions for grants of money presented to the Government under the rule for the initiation of money votes, be reported upon by the Government within 21 days after the meeting of the House.

Hon. ATTY. GENERAL would like that the resolution should lie on the table for the present.—He considered the rule with regard to the initiation of money votes established. It did not shut out members from enquiring what had been done with their petitions. Any gentleman interested in an application of this kind, who felt desirous of ascertaining how it had been treated, could obtain his object by inquiring in the House whether such petition had been presented to the Government, and what act on had been taken on it.

Mr. ANNAND entirely agreed with the Attorney General. He should be sorry to see the proposed resolution on the Journals. There was no such Resolution on the Journals of the British House of Commons. It was a reflection on the Government of the day,—he cared not which party was in power. The rule was that any gentleman feeling himself aggrieved at the manner in which any petition be presented had been treated, might petition the Lieut. Governor with regard to it.

Mr. TOBIN would like to know from the ex-Financial Secretary how members were to become acquainted with the decision of the Government on their petitions. He (Mr. T.) had in a former Session presented petitions from the City of Halifax, and he never knew what had been done with them until the Budget came down.

Hon. SPEAKER suggested that the resolution should lie on the table for the present as notice. He was in the direction of the House, but thought some definite rule should be adopted with regard to the reception or non-reception of these petitions by the House, and strictly adhered to.

Mr. ARCHIBALD said that the Government should afford every facility to hon. gentlemen when they wished to know the fate of the petitions entrusted to it under the system of initiation of money votes. He did not see that any inconvenience could arise from the resolution of the hon. member for Halifax. The petitions were placed in the hands of the Government, which could surely decide as to their disposition within 21 days. It could tell whether it could grant the money or not. He therefore did not see any objection to the resolution in question.

The SPEAKER called the attention of the House to the fact that the present discussion was premature, the hon. member for Inverness having withdrawn his petition. (The resolution was allowed to lie on the table as notice.)