Secular Department.

EUROPEAN NEWS.

From the London Record, March 5.

The official correspondence laid before Parliament, relative to the proposed annexation of Savoy to France, is deeply interesting, although it reveals nothing positively new. It is now clear that, before the Italian war commenced, it was Napoleon's intention to clear out the Adstrians from the Alps to the Adriatic, and so to give to Sardinia a compact kingdom in Northern Italy. No treaty existed as to Savoy or Nice; but, in the prospect of an independent Italian kingdom, it would appear that conversations took place, which indicated that neither Victor Emmanuel nor Count Cavour would oppose the wishes of the Emperor, if it appeared necessary to strengthen the frontiers of France against the nascent empire of liberated Italy. But when the first part of the programme broke down through the compact of Villafranca, the Savoy annexation scheme was dropped, and not again renewed until the month of last November.

The public know the general outline of what has since happened, but it is satisfactory to know that our Government has preserved a firm front of opposition to Napoleon's ambitious scheme, and that M. Thouvenel admits the remonstrant reasoning of Lord John Russell to be "powerful," although not unanswerable.

Our Government argues that France, possessing 36,000,000 population, exclusive of colonies, could not possibly "be endangered by the existence on the other side of the Alps of a State of 11,000,000 people lately joined by a cement not yet dry; threatened on the side of Lombardy by Austria, and not very certain of its own independence." Lord John further urges that if the danger to France is anticipated from the possible alliance of Sardinia with other Powers, that danger is evidently the same whether Sardinia acquires Central Italy or not; that peril would accrue, not from Sardinia itself, but from the Powers in alliance with it; so that, whether Sardinia had 5,000,000 or 10,000,000 of souls signified nothing, and yet the Emperor had himself admitted that in the former case he would put in no claim to Savoy

But a still stronger argument is drawn from the danger of unsettling Europe, and rousing the suspicions of the Continental Powers. Hitherto the Emperor's conduct has been in unison with his professions of disinterested sympathy with Italy. But, if Savoy is annexed, the jealousies and alarms of Germany and the North would be aroused, and, as Lord John Russell truly writes, the Emperor "would thus become an object of suspicion to Europe, and kindle the hostility of which his uncle was the victim." We still learn that the Emperor disclaims any act of violence. Meanwhile the Italian question remains unsettled. Tuscany is without a head, although the Papal States are to be governed in the name of the Pope by him whom he was compared to Antichrist. What the issue will be is more than the most astute of statesmen would venture confidently to predict.

Latest News.

PORTLAND, March 27.

The *Bohemian* arrived at 9 o'clock this morning.

Baron Watson, the distinguished Judge, is dead. Lord Elgin has gone to Paris—and is expected to start for China in three weeks Lord Taunton it is reported will succeed Lord Elgin as Postmaster General.

The Pope seems inclined to entertain reforms, if integrity of the States of the Church is guaranteed. It is reported that the French army in Italy is ordered to be ready to evacuate Italy in twenty-four hours. Proclamations were posted notifying the people of Savoy, that they will soon be called upon to vote on the question of annexation to France. The whole army of Sardinia is ordered to be placed on a war footing. The vote of annexation to Sardinia took place in the Italian States on the 12th, with immense majorities for annexation The Army of Rome increased to 20 000

MOROCCO.—Numerous tribes attacked encampments on Sunday, 11th, but were repulsed with considerable loss. The Moors of Tangier evince fierce spirit of resistance.

LATEST.—Sardinia consented to cession of Savoy.

The Prince of Wales will visit Canada in the middle of May.

Consols closed 94¾ for money.

MARKETS.—Sugar advanced one shilling. Cotton flat. Provisions and Breadstuffs firm.

By Telegraph to Halifax Reading Room.

The steamer Arabia has arrived at New York. Dates from Liverpool to the 17th ult.

The vote in Central Italy is overwhelming in favor of annexation to Sardinia, but no action has yet been taken

The French Commercial Treaty has passed the House of Lords by a majority of thirty.

Lord John Russell has stated that the views of England on the anexation of Savoy to France would shortly be laid before Parliament.

Switzerland has protested against annexation of Savoy

An insurrection of a serious nature in Naples is considered close at hand.

Consols 94 5-8

Saltpetre has advanced three to four shillings.

Flour steady.

Provisions downward.

Sugar advanced.

British and For. American News.

United States.

HIGHLY IMPORTANT FROM MEXICO.—Vera Cruz dates have been received. Miramon approached that city 27th ult., with 5,000 men, and encamped four miles distant. All the inhabitants fled at his approach. The city was in the best state of defence. The garrison comprised about 3,000 men. A new sand fort mounts six 24-pounders. Marin's Havanna expedition raised the Mexican flag when out of the former port. It had on board a large quantity of ammunition, stores, and twelve 24-pounders. Several other vessels had also left Havana on the same errand—to co-operate with Miramon. The U. S ships Saratoga, Savannah, and Preble were anchored inside the walls of San Juan d'Ullos, ready to act in any emergency. English, French, and Spanish vessels were at Sacrificios The French commander and others had visited Miramon's camp. Capt. Turner, of the Saratoga, had also gone thither in behalf of American citizens. The liberals and American citizens were urging Capt. Jarvis to capture Marin's expedition. It is said that Miramon had six to eight thousand men, well supported with artillery. On the 5th he notified the representatives of foreign governments of his intention to cannonade the city. An attack was made night of 7th, but it was repulsed by the liberals, who are confident of a successful resistance. A New Orleans dispatch of March 19 says—The Mexican steamer Marques has arrived below, a United States prize, in charge of Lieut Chapman, of the Saratoga. Both Marin's steamers were captured off Anton Lizardo, 6th inst., after a brief action, with slight loss. The prisoners taken are on board the Marques and Preble. Great excitement exists in Vera Cruz, in consequence of the action of the U. S. squadron. The French and Spanish residents are very bitter in their denunciations of the affair. Lieut. Chapman is the bearer of dispatches to Washington. Alvarado is said to be in possession of Miramon. The exequator of the U. S. Consul at Vera Cruz has been revoked. The city of Mexico was surrounded by the liberals. The last dispatch says—The two steamers, when near Vera Cruz, refused to show their colors. Com. Jarvis therefore ordered the Saratoga with detachments from the Savannah and Preble, in the steamers Indianola, and Wave, to proceed to the anchorage, and ascertain the character of the strangers. As the Saratoga, towed by the Indianola, approached them, shots were too late. Capt. Turner then sent a boat, with a flag, to demand their nationality, when the boat was fired upon twice, whereupon the action became general. Both steamers now hoisted the Spanish flag, and after a spirited engagement, Marin surrendered, and with his men were taken prisoners. The American loss was three wounded, one mortally. The Mexicans lost 15 killed, and 20 to 30 wounded.—*Ex. Papers.*

Canada.

The Montreal *Gazette* learns that no interruptions in the regular weekly service from Liverpool of the Canadian line of steamers is likely to take place. The new steamship *Canadian* is just completed, and will probably take her place in the line from Liverpool on the 31st March, which was the next sailing day of the *Hungarian*.

Newfoundland.

By the arrival of the R. M. S. *Osprey*, Capt. Guilford, we have late St. John's dates. The Legislature continued in session. A proposition from the Duke of Newcastle relative to granting Colonial aid towards the maintenance of an adequate Military force in Newfoundland has been discussed in the House of Assembly, and approved of in the main, although it does not seem at all probable that such pecuniary assistance will ever be called for None of the Sealing fleet had returned from the ice prior to the sailing of the *Osprey*. The wind and weather had, however, been favorable for operating at the sealing haunts, and several vessels were expected to arrive at St. John's well fished.—The outfit for the present season of this valuable branch of Colonial industry is on rather a smaller scale than in 1859.

The Protestant.

SATURDAY, APRIL 7, 1860.

PROHIBITION ON A SMALL SCALE.—The people of French River, New London, have made a move in the right direction, as may be seen by the account of a public meeting which appears in to-day's paper. A tavern is a nuisance in any neighborhood, and we only wonder that two magistrates and six householders can be found, either far or near, to certify that such an establishment is required in any locality. That clause of the License Act which relates to the certificates to be produced to the Colonial Secretary, before a license can be obtained, is not at all sufficiently explicit; and we hope the Legislature will see the necessity of amending that part of the Act, as suggested in one of the resolutions adopted at the meeting. After such a unanimous expression of opinion on the part of the inhabitants of French River, against the opening of a tavern in their midst, we think the Lieut. Governor in Council would be justified in cancelling the License, or at least feel called upon to prevent its renewal. The good people there have done well to desire prohibition, so far as their own neighborhood is concerned; but we consider they would have done better, had they also resolved to petition the Legislature to pass a Prohibitory Law, which would not only serve to suppress taverns in New London, but throughout the whole Island. What is good for the few, in cases where morality is concerned, is good for the many. We fear that a number of those who are strongly opposed to taverns in their own neighborhood, too liberally patronize the grog shops which stand at almost every corner and turn of the road leading from their own settlements to Charlottetown, forgetting that, while they do so, they are contributing to the support of establishments which the majority of the people in their immediate neighborhood are anxious to suppress.

SUICIDE.—On Wednesday morning, the 28th inst., Philip Blampied, shoemaker, Tignish, was found suspended, by his black silk handkerchief, to a small beam over his bed, life being entirely extinct. It is supposed that he committed the dreadful deed in a fit of temporary insanity, to which he is said to have been subject. The unfortunate deceased was a native of the Island of Jersey, and has left a widow and three children,—who were from home at the time the tragedy occurred,—to mourn their sad bereavement.

Winter, which we thought had bade us adieu for this season, has returned. On Monday last, we had a heavy fall of snow, and another on Wednesday. The air, too, has been somewhat chilly. The steamer *Lord Seaforth* arrived here yesterday morning from Pictou, bringing the Colonial Mails.

Mr Robert Laird, Preacher of the Gospel, has received a unanimous Call from the congregation of Princetown to be their pastor. We learn, also, that he has signified his acceptance of the same.

YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.—In consequence of the storm of Thursday evening, the Association did not meet. Mr Lawson's lecture on "Labor" is therefore reserved for a future occasion.

The Rev. W. Hall will lecture next Thursday evening. "JOHN BUNYAN" will be his subject.

The Canadian Government has voted the sum of £20,000 in aid of a Great Industrial Exhibition, proposed to take place at Montreal on the occasion of the formal opening of the Victoria Bridge by the Prince of Wales.

Hungary is still in a disturbed state, and there are strong probabilities that a general and open resistance may take place to Austrian rule. Kossuth is reported in some of the English papers to have unexpectedly left his home. His presence in Hungary at this moment would doubtless be the signal for a general insurrection.

The Montreal *Witness* says, the United States Congress is going on efficiently with business, and the great questions of a Railroad to the Pacific, and free lands for actual settlers, are coming up for settlement. There appears also, at last, to be a disposition in both Houses to abolish these degrading sources of fraud and corruption, the franking privilege and extravagant mileage.

HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT.—Scorbutic affections, erysipelas, and eruptions from whatever hidden cause, are overcome by the use of this great cleanser of the human system. It heals by eradication as well as suppression, and penetrates to the hidden source of the malady.

SARZA.—We have long supposed this celebrated drug had come to be an exploded humbug, but we are assured by those skilled in the healing art, that not the Sarsaparilla itself is to be blamed for this conclusion, but the miserable worthless preparations of it, that have been palmed off upon the community—preparations which contain about as much of its virtues as they do of gold dust. It is a commercial fact that almost all of the Sarsaparilla gathered in the world, is consumed in the old countries of Europe, where the science of medicine has reached its highest perfection and where is best known what to employ for the mastery of diseases. Hence we are glad to find that we are now to have a compound of this excellent alterative, which can be relied on, and our community will not need be assured, that any thing DOCTT. AYER makes, is worthy of their confidence He has been for years engaged eliminating this remedy (one adv'g cole) designing to make it his "*chef d'oeuvre*" which should add the crowning glory to his already enviable reputation —*American Cell, New York.*

Meeting at French River, New London.

A REQUISITION TO J. PIDGEON, ESQ. J. P., FRENCH RIVER.

We, the undersigned, having learned with regret that a Tavern is about being opened at the head of French River, request that you will be pleased to call a Public Meeting of the inhabitants of this vicinity, at an early day, to take into consideration the necessity of devising means to prevent the establishment of the same.

Rev. W. Meek,	Messrs.	J. Donald,
Rev. Isaac Murray,	"	J. Cousins,
John M'Leod, Esq.,	"	George Anderson,
Duncan M'Intyre, Esq.,	"	G. M'Kenzie,
John F. M'Kie, Esq.,	"	J. Ireland,
Messrs. A. Ramsay,	"	C. A. Crosby,
" D. M'Leod,	"	John Doughart.

A Meeting having been convened at French River, on the 24th inst., in accordance with the foregoing Requisition, and James Pidgeon, Esq., having been called to the Chair, the following resolutions were submitted and carried unanimously:—Moved by John F. M'Kie, Esq., seconded by Mr. Donald M'Leod—

Whereas the Law regulating the granting and obtaining of Tavern Licenses, requires that the applicant shall produce to the Colonial Secretary, before obtaining such License, two certificates, one signed by two neighboring Magistrates, and six of his neighbors, being householders, stating that a Tavern or Inn is required and necessary in that place, or Township; and the other by two neighboring Justices of the Peace, *Therefore Resolved*, That in the opinion of this Meeting the certificates under which Rietford Pifman, of French River, has obtained his License, are illegal, for the following reasons, namely:—That only one of the Magistrates reside in this neighborhood, and only two out of twelve of his neighbours, within half a mile of his premises signed the one signifying that a Tavern is requisite or necessary; and also that he is deficient of the necessary requirements.

Moved by Mr James M. Pidgeon, seconded by Mr. Robert Johnson, sen.—

Resolved, That the Tavern recently opened in this neighborhood is altogether uncalled for, as it will have a tendency to demoralize our youth; and further, that it is likely to create disturbance, which will endanger the peace and harmony which now prevails amongst us, such places being generally the nurseries of vice and disorder, as well as the source of many crimes—that the individual who has engaged in such a noxious and disgraceful traffic must be either ignorant of, or insensible to, the duties incumbent upon him as a member of Society—and that this meeting feel it their duty not only not to countenance an establishment which threatens to be productive of so many evils, but also to use every lawful means in their power for its suppression.

Moved by Mr John M'Leod, seconded by Mr G. M'Kenzie—

Resolved, That since there are several Magistrates in this neighbourhood within a short distance of said Tavern, this meeting feel it their painful duty to censure, in the most unqualified terms, the inconsistent conduct of one of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace, in coming a distance of six miles or more, for the purpose of lending his influence to establish a Tavern or Grog Shop in our midst, when it is a well known fact that he had a short time ago exerted his influence to suppress one in his own immediate neighbourhood.

Moved by Mr George M'Kenzie, seconded by Mr George Campbell—

Resolved, That this meeting feel called upon to censure in the strongest terms the clandestine means employed to establish a Tavern in this settlement, which this meeting consider contrary to the spirit and meaning of the Act.

Moved by Mr. C. A. Crosby, seconded by Mr. H. M. Campbell—

Resolved, That this meeting feel it to be their duty respectfully to request the Legislature that it will, in its present Session, so alter or amend the License Act as clearly to define who are to be considered neighboring magistrates and neighbors—whether persons living at the distance of ten miles from the locality, and in different neighborhoods, are what is meant by the 2d section of said Act.

Moved by J. M'Leod, Esq., seconded by Fredk. Meek—

Resolved, That while this meeting entertain no feeling of animosity or hostility towards the party who has obtained License to sell liquor in this Settlement, yet considering the demoralizing and debasing tendency of Taverns and Grog Shops in general, feel called upon to use all fair means in their power to suppress the same.

Moved by William Cousins, Esq., and seconded by Mr. Donald Campbell—

Resolved, That a petition to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor in Council, grounded on the foregoing Resolutions, be submitted for signatures, praying His Excellency to take the subject into consideration, and cause the said License to be cancelled.

Moved by Mr. Hugh M. Campbell, and seconded by Mr. Samuel Meek—

Resolved, That the proceedings of this meeting be forwarded to the *Protestant* and *Islander* newspapers for publication.

A petition was then read, embodying the foregoing resolutions, and on motion of Mr. M'Kelvie, seconded by Mr. J. Pidgeon, it was unanimously adopted and submitted for signature, when nearly every person present came forward and signed it. The Chairman having vacated the chair, John M'Leod, Esq., was called thereto. The cordial thanks of the meeting were awarded to the Chairman for his able and gentlemanly conduct in the chair. The Chairman proposed three cheers for Her Majesty the Queen, and from the manner it was responded to, left no doubt on the minds of all present of their loyalty to Her Majesty.

NIEL F. M'KELVIE, Secretary

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

FRIDAY AFTERNOON, March 23.

The House was occupied in Committee on the Bill to amend the Statute Labor Act.—Progress reported.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON, March 24.

House in Committee of Supply. The road scale introduced by the Hon. Mr. Haviland, appropriating £5000 to general service, to be appropriated as follows:—Queen's County, £1,600; Prince and King's Counties, £1,600 each; Charlottetown and Royalty, £200; was, after some discussion, adopted, the report of which will appear in due course.

MONDAY AFTERNOON, March 26.

The House was occupied in discussing the merits of petitions The only debate of the evening arose on that preferred by John Smith, Esq., Sheriff of King's County, for compensation for the loss of a horse, shot while the Sheriff was in execution of his duty—referred to supply. The prayer of a petition from the Princetown Board of Health, for aid to build an hospital was rejected—as was an application for aid to the Mechanics' Institute of the same place. A petition for aid to erect a similar institution at New London was referred to supply; and an intimation from the Hon Mr. Whelan that he would apply for assistance towards the erection of an Institute at St. Peter's, was received with general declarations of support.

TUESDAY, March 27.

Hon. Mr. WHELAN asked members of the Government what action had been taken on the subject of an address to the Lieutenant Governor, which had been adopted last session, praying that the Executive would institute enquiries as to the practicability and cost of constructing a breakwater at St. Peter's Bay. The hon. member read a letter from three influential persons resident at St. Peter's, from which it appeared that 600 feet had been already constructed, at an expense of £250, realized from private subscription. That amount had been contributed on the faith that the Government would carry out the wishes of the people. The whole extent of the proposed breakwater was 1200 feet, of which one-half had been, as he had stated, completed, but the remainder would cost about double the amount of the work already performed. The work was not of a strictly local nature—the want of it affected the country generally; as at present the bar prevented the ingress and egress of vessels with their cargoes, thus affecting the general commerce of the Island.

Hon. Mr. LONGWORTH replied that the Government had not lost sight of the subject. Correspondence had taken place with parties in England as to the cost of providing a dredging machine. His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor had instituted enquiries when at St. Peter's, and the impression on the members of the Government, after obtaining all the information they could, was that it would be a waste of money to endeavor to deepen the channels of the harbors on the North side of the Island, on account of the moveable sands, which would speedily renew the obstructions. He had himself written to Pictou and had been informed that a dredging machine could be procured there for £300 Nova Scotia currency. It was represented as capable of removing mud and loose sand, but he had not been told whether it could be hired. The hon. member read part of the correspondence He could not say how far the Government was prepared to aid in the construction of the breakwater, but he had no hesitation in saying that if it would have the effect of improving St. Peter's harbor, it would be their duty to assist. The Government had not sent any party to examine the site, because none but a competent engineer would be able to give a proper opinion on the subject, and such a person could not be obtained for the service. The matter had better be deferred, and a proper examination of the locality could be made.

Hon. Mr WHELAN gave notice of an address to His Excellency on the subject.

Mr. HOLM also wished to ask the members of the Government what information had been received in reference to the cost of procuring a dredging machine, as the Lieutenant Governor had also been addressed on this subject. He thought it would be necessary to have the harbor at Crapaud deepened, and hoped such a machine would be procured.

Hon. Mr. LONGWORTH replied that the information which had been received from parties in Pictou was the most reliable that could be obtained. A machine similar to the one which had been used to deepen the East River there, would be most suitable for this Island. It would cost about £470; but he thought it probable that the one in Pictou could be hired.

Hon Mr. Haviland laid some papers on the table in reference to the contract on the Ferry Wharf at Southport.

Hon Mr. Kelly presented a petition from Lots 33 and 34, praying that the Bill before the House to amend the Jury Law, might not pass.

House resumed consideration of petitions. A petition from Summerside for a grant to assist in paying for a Fire Engine, and a petition of Micmac Indians for food and seed grain, were referred to supply. The petition from Cascumpec for a Small Debt Court House and Lock-up, was deferred till next session. Petition of R. B. Irving, late School Visitor, was withdrawn. Adjourned for one hour.

AFTERNOON SITTING.

The petition of Christopher Bentenhouse, Esq., for aid in establishing steam communication by the steamer *Lord Seaforth*, between Georgetown and ports in the Gut of Canso and the Island of Cape Breton, was referred to supply.

The House then went into Committee on the Despatches relating to the Land Tenures—Progress reported.

WEDNESDAY, March 28.

The above committee was resumed, and after a protracted debate, the following Resolution, moved by Hon. Col. Gray, in amendment to one proposed by Hon. Mr. Coles, was carried—

Whereas, by a Despatch from His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, bearing date sixth September last, in answer to the Address from the House of Assembly, on the appointment of Commissioners to enquire into, and report upon, the Land Tenures in this Colony, His Grace was pleased to state that he had opened a correspondence with the Proprietors on the subject of the desired appointment of such Commissioners. *And whereas*, although, from unavoidable causes therein referred to, at the date of the said Despatch, such progress has not been made in the matter as this House had hoped for: *Resolved*, nevertheless, that sufficient therein appears to warrant this Committee in entertaining every confidence that Her Majesty's Colonial Minister will give effect, at the earliest period that the circumstances of the case will admit of, to the prayer of the address.

Hon. Mr. Coles' Resolution:—

Whereas, the present House of Assembly did, on the ninth of May last, agree to an address to Her Majesty the Queen, which was transmitted in the usual way, accompanied by a series of resolutions, introduced to this House in the form of a Government measure, recommending the appointment of a Commission, to investigate the long agitated question regarding the Land Tenures, and to settle the same to the satisfaction of all parties concerned. *And whereas*, one of the principal objects of the Commission aforesaid was to secure, through amicable intercession with the Land Proprietors, a remission of the arrears of rents, where they appeared to press heavily upon industrious tenants; as well as to determine the rates at which tenants might be enabled to purchase the fee simple of their farms, and to give time for completing the purchase, without causing inconvenience or embarrassment to the tenant. *And whereas* His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor was pleased to inform the House of Assembly, at the opening of the present Session, that the Address and Resolution, as aforesaid, had been graciously received by Her Majesty, and that arrangements were in progress for instituting the Commission immediately. *And whereas* it appears by a despatch from Her Majesty's Right Honorable Secretary of State for the Colonies, dated 6th Sept., 1859, that Her Majesty's Government disapprove of the action taken by the Government of this Island with regard to the appointment of a Commission, as aforesaid, his Grace the Duke of Newcastle expressing his conviction that there is no prospect of a beneficial result from the labors of a Commission, if its action were fettered by conditions such as those proposed in the Resolutions adopted by this House; and His Grace further states, that he "cannot advise Her Majesty to entertain the question" thus raised. *Resolved*, therefore, that, in view of this expression of opinion by the Duke of Newcastle, it appears doubtful whether the Address and Resolutions of this House were presented to Her Majesty; and it is advised to this House that Her Majesty the Queen is not yet advised to listen to the suggestions of the People's Representatives in this Colony, as detailed in their Resolutions of last Session; and that the action of this House upon the question has, therefore, as yet, been rendered nugatory.

Whereas it appears by a Despatch from His Excellency the Lieut. Governor of this Colony, to His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, dated the 3d October, 1859, that the Executive Council unanimously assured His Excellency "that nothing could be farther from the wish of the House of Assembly than in any way to impede the free and independent action of the Commission," as His Grace seemed to think would be the case if the Resolutions of this House were to be regarded as the basis of the said Commission: *Resolved*, That as the House of Assembly has not authorized the Executive Council to give advice to the Lieutenant Governor, such as that which is referred to in His Excellency's Despatch of the 3d October last, with respect to any deviation from the spirit of the Resolutions agreed to by this House in the last Session, the Executive Council have, therefore, exceeded their constitutional authority in giving such advice to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor.

Mr. Cooper read a long document which he moved as an amendment—lost.

AFTERNOON SITTING.

Hon. Col. Gray presented a petition from certain citizens of Charlottetown praying that a site for the new Market House be granted on the water lots close to east side of Prince Street Wharf, or on Hillsborough Square.

Petitions disposed of—The petition of W. C. Bourke, for a sum to enable him to continue running his steamer on the Hillsborough; and the petition from Cascumpec praying a grant for a sailing packet from that port to Miramichi, were referred to supply. The petition of Peter Crane and Gooden, Bay Verte, for a grant to run a packet from thence to Charlottetown, was rejected.

The petition of certain inhabitants of Crapaud, praying for a Court of Enquiry, and the passing of an Act to confirm leaseholders in the peaceable possession of their property, elicited considerable discussion. Hon. Mr. Laird moved that it be referred to a special committee to report thereon by Bill or otherwise, which was carried on the following division—Ayes, 13. Nays, 12.

Before the Committee could be appointed, Mr Thornton moved for an adjournment, which was carried.

LEGISLATIVE DEBATES.

ELECTION BILL.

SATURDAY, March 3.

The order of the day for the second reading of the Bill having been read,—

Hon. Mr. HAVILAND, in moving that the House go into the order of the day, said—I may state, that the object of the Bill is simply to protect the privilege of electors the law, as it now stands, is not sufficiently explicit, the consequence of which is, that parties who have no right to vote are frequently allowed to come forward and exercise the privilege, to the injustice of those who possess the requisite qualification. At the last general election much trouble arose out of this obscurity in certain parts of the Act. This Bill, in particular, defines much more clearly the qualification of electors voting under the elective franchise clause. If called upon by the returning officer, or any candidate or his representative, they are required to produce a certificate from the road overseer, in whose precinct they may have performed statute labor, or paid commutation money, testifying to that effect, which, provided they are of age, shall be considered sufficient evidence of their right to vote. Several forms of oaths have also been annexed to the Bill. In the present law there is only one form given, consequently, the returning officer has to use a sort of sliding oath for the different kinds of electors, hence, if any dispute should arise, the person taking such an oath could not be found guilty of perjury. Another clause in the Bill has been introduced, on account of a remarkable case that lately occurred in Britain, which gave rise to an alteration in the election law there, and also in Canada, from which latter this clause is copied. The case was that of a returned member, whose election was contested, having accepted an office, and thus rendered another election necessary, when it became a question whether the election could be proceeded with. The clause provides, that if a scrutiny be demanded by an unsuccessful candidate, and while the question is still pending, the person, whose election is contested, shall accept an office, or his seat be otherwise declared vacant, and another election be held, this subsequent election shall not in any manner affect the person who demanded the scrutiny: but, if the committee appointed to investigate the case report in his favor, he shall take his seat as though no subsequent election had taken place.

Hon. Mr. COLES—There may be some necessity for amending the Election Law, but as regards the clause mentioned by the hon. member, I do not see it is of much importance. The person who protests cannot prevent the other from again running his election. Sometimes scrutinies are demanded on very frivolous pretexts, and a protest may be entered merely to prevent a member from taking office. I admit that an alteration in the oath may be required, as it is not very explicit. But the main feature of the Bill is one respecting which the House should be very cautious The intention of the present law is to confer universal suffrage, but this Bill throws an encumbrance in the way, by saying that a certificate must be produced that statute labor has been performed or commutation money paid. A refractory overseer, at the time of an election, might refuse to give the certificates. I think the law in this particular is well enough, for a person cannot vote unless he has been 12 months in the district; besides, it is a great inconvenience for a man to be compelled to produce a receipt. He would almost require to have it framed in order to prevent it from being lost. There need not be any partizanship displayed in reference to this provision, because it will affect both parties alike I have no objection to amend the law; it should be as explicit as possible.

Mr. M'AULAY.—I am glad to hear that the hon. member has no objection that the law be amended. It is quite necessary, I consider, that electors should have certificates, because it will prevent them from voting in different places. The Bill, it is evident, has not been introduced for party purposes, for it will, as has been said, affect both parties alike. As I believe it will prove a general benefit, it shall have my support.

Mr. COOPER.—I understand that the Statute Labor Act is to be amended this Session; if so, a clause may be introduced into it to meet the requirements of this Bill, otherwise it will be impossible to carry it into effect, for overseers at present are not bound to furnish certificates. However, though this provision be made, I am of opinion that the method proposed will be very cumbersome, and will thus cripple the free exercise of the elective privilege.

Mr. CONROY.—I am opposed to that part of the Bill which relates to road certificates, as that service is very irregularly attended to. The overseers are generally careless, and some of them unable to write, yet this Bill contemplates placing the franchise in their hands. An overseer, when asked for a certificate, might put the person off, by saying there would be no election this year, and still one might occur; in what position would the elective franchise then be? I think this provision will deprive one-third of the electors of their votes.

Hon. Mr. LONGWORTH.—The Bill is not a party measure, but one calculated to benefit electors of every shade of opinion. It is well known that persons have frequently come forward and exercised the elective privilege, who did not possess the requisite qualification; and that others have sometimes voted at two or three different polling divisions. The object of the Bill is to guard the interests of the people—to prevent designing men from imposing on the rights of honest and independent electors; and I would like to ask hon. members on the other side of the House, if this object can be better attained in any other manner than by the method proposed? It is not intended to cramp the elective privilege, but to give those who have a right to vote a well defined qualification. The form of oath in the present act, as has been said, is very imperfect, the returning officer having to supply words to make it suit the different classes of voters; in which case it is difficult to prove perjury, because the precise words employed cannot be recollected. The hon. members, Mr. Coles and Mr. Conroy, object to the Bill on the ground that it will place the franchise in the power of road overseers But a Bill to amend the Road Act, which is now in the hands of the Law Clerk, makes provision for this, by requiring the overseers, under stringent regulations, to furnish certificates; and if some few cannot write—though I am not aware that the commissioners are in the habit of appointing such—they may have them written in their presence. Another object of the Bill is to divide the main clause of the Act, in which the several qualifications are jumbled up together, into three or four sections; thus one will define the property qualifications of electors for the towns, and another of those for country districts, and another the qualification of those voting under the universal suffrage provision.

Hon. Mr Haviland's motion was then agreed to, and the Bill committed to a Committee of the whole House—Mr. J. Yeo in the chair.

On the first clause being read, which specifies the sections of the Act to be repealed—

Hon. Mr COLES said, he wished to ask the introducer of the Bill why the 80th section was included among the number!

Hon. Mr. LONGWORTH.—The reason for repealing this section is, that as it provides that any member of this House who holds an office, may resign it and accept another, without vacating his seat, it concedes too much. As the law at present stands, an hon. member who holds an office, though only that of Road Commissioner, may be appointed to one of the highest offices in the Colony without being under the necessity of vacating his seat.

Hon. Mr. WHELAN.—The principle involved in this clause may extend too far. It was copied from the Nova Scotia Act, and was intended to provide that a member might exchange one departmental office for another, without going back to his constituents. If this section is to be repealed, another of the same nature should be substituted in its place.

Hon. Mr. COLES.—The principle should not be carried further than that one departmental office may be exchanged for another.

Hon. Mr LONGWORTH.—We must ignore the principle altogether, as it is opposed to the system of government now established in the Colony.

Hon. Mr. Coles then moved that so much of the clause as referred to the 80th section of the act be struck out, which was negatived on the following division:—

YEAS—Hon. Messrs. Coles, Wightman, Kelly, Whelan, Messrs. Knight, Sutherland, Sinclair.—7.

NAYS—Hons. Speaker, Pope, Col. Gray, Longworth, Haviland, Laird; Messrs. Ramsay, Montgomery, Beer, Howat, Holm, Davies, Owen.—13.

The clause which specifies the property qualification of the electors of Towns and Royalties was then read.

Mr. SINCLAIR.—As we are informed that the Bill is not a party measure, I hope I may be allowed to suggest an amendment to this clause, which I consider objectionable, because it confers the privilege of voting upon every owner of a town lot irrespective of its value. It is certainly unjust that persons who hold town lots of no value should have a right to vote, some protection ought to be afforded to resident electors. The clause confers upon certain individuals the privilege of buying up land to divide among their friends to give them votes. In the country districts a person cannot vote on property of less than the yearly value of 40s.; why then should not the same rule be extended to the owners of town lots and common lots. If the clause were thus amended it would require those lots to be improved, before they could be held as a qualification to vote.

The hon. the SPEAKER.—The hon. member who has just sat down might almost as well have moved to disfranchise Princetown altogether. The people there have in a great measure been deprived of the privileges which were intended to be granted them when the place was laid off for a town. Had the Jail and Court House been built at Princetown, it would no doubt have been in a more flourishing condition. The electors of that place are compelled to pay as heavy taxes as the owners of lots in Charlottetown and Georgetown, still they possess no greater privilege as regards public grants than the people residing in country districts; certainly then it would be unfair to deprive them of the right to vote though the land held in some cases may not at present be of the yearly value of 40s.

Hon. Col. GRAY—Did I understand the hon. member opposite, for Princetown, to say that there are town lots in that place of no value.

Mr. SINCLAIR.—Yes, or at most worth only 1s. 6d. or 2s. The hon. the Speaker, has stated that I desire to deprive the people of Princetown of their privileges; but the amendment which I have suggested would have quite an opposite effect. It would secure their privileges by preventing others from coming in to interfere with their rights. But if the clause were amended as I desire, Princetown would not be the only place benefitted, for I suppose there are likewise lots in Georgetown of little or no value. I contend that it is unfair to allow persons to come from other districts to vote in Princetown on land which is only worth a few shillings.

Hon. Mr. LONGWORTH—I am surprised to hear an hon. member advocating the disfranchisement of his constituents. Does he mean to say that a privilege which has been a long time conceded, should be no longer exercised? His object is very apparent, it is to uphold his own interests which are probably in danger. To adopt the amendment which he has suggested would be a species of class legislation, and its result would be to prevent people from purchasing property in Princetown. The hon. member should have stood up and advocated the very contrary to what he has proposed.

Hon. Mr. COLES—I think quite the reverse. The hon. member for Princetown does not desire to disfranchise a single elector; but only to see the property improved. The very object in granting these town lots was that houses might be built on them; and if those who hold the land were thus to improve their property, they would still retain the right to vote though the amendment suggested be agreed to. Until the last few years the lots of Princetown were considered of no value, when they began to be bought up for the purpose of obtaining the privilege of voting. In any other district non-residents are not allowed to vote unless they possess property in it worth 40s. a year; and this is the provision that the hon. member wishes to have extended to Princetown. He deserves credit for proposing the amendment, as his desire is to improve the place. I suppose, however, if he gains his object, I will lose my own franchise there, but if I can consider it of any value, I will probably improve the property. But I believe there is a feeling rising up in Princetown against the Government because that County is not represented in the Legislative Council: and I dare say they will make themselves heard. If only a few men were to turn there, it would change an election.

Mr. M'AULAY—The last speaker seems to have a peculiar sympathy for the hon. member from Princetown He has been endeavoring to help him out of a difficulty, but I dare say if he (Mr Sinclair) were opposed to him, he would be allowed to struggle for himself. The argument of the hon. member for Princetown is rather novel. He appears to think that a person who has property of no value, and yet has to pay taxes on it, should not be allowed to vote, while we know that those who hold no property at all are permitted to exercise this privilege. The hon. member made some allusion to Georgetown, the place which I have the honor to represent, but I can assure him that no valueless property is to be found there.

Hon. Mr. POPE—Last year, in this House, I hinted that the hon. member, Mr. Sinclair, would sometime attempt to disfranchise Princetown, and it appears my words are coming true, for certainly he has made an effort of this kind. Probably some day I will lend him my assistance to disfranchise it, and give the privilege to Summerside and St. Eleanor's. I believe there is not a lot in Princetown worth 40s. a year, excepting perhaps one owned by Mr. M'Nutt, who occasionally resides there. A number of the lots is bog land, of little or no value.

Hon. Mr. WHELAN—Is your own property there bog land?

[To be continued.]