

which Bill stands thus, a Bill intituled "an Act to regulate the performance of Statute Labour on the Highways, and to suspend an Act made and passed in the 35th year of the late King, intituled an Act to alter and amend the High Road Laws.

On Motion, the House resolved itself into a Committee of the whole House, to take into consideration the state of the Militia Law,

Mr. Speaker left the Chair,

Mr. M'Gregor took the Chair of the Committee,

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair,

Mr. M'Gregor Chairman of the Committee reported, That the Committee had agreed that the following Address be presented to his Excellency the Lieut. Governot on the subject, which was read and is as follows :

"To His Excellency Colonel JOHN READY, Lieutenant Governor and Commander in Chief, in and over His Majesty's Island Prince Edward, and the Territories thereunto adjacent, Chancellor and Vice Admiral of the same, &c. &c. &c.

"May it please your Excellency,

THE House of Assembly having taken into consideration the state of the Militia Law, beg leave to submit to your Excellency's consideration the following observations thereon.

"That this Law was passed at an early period after the commencement of our Colonial Government in 1780, during the existence of a general war, and the revolt of the North American Provinces, now the United States, and had long fallen into disuse and become obsolete, other Laws of a temporary nature, being from time to time, enacted on the same subject, which owing to the frequent interruption and long suspensions of the Colonial Legislature, have been suffered to expire; subsequent to which this Law was again resorted to by the Colonial Government, and under its authority the Island has suffered great inconvenience and loss, without its being of the smallest value in promoting the object for which it has been brought forward, as our Militia now is, and long has been in the most inefficient state, and mostly without arms or any idea of Military discipline and is truly a paper Militia, not for want of loyalty, spirit, or zeal, but because its management and the institution altogether has long been in the hands of persons entirely unequal to the services which they have undertaken;

while the individuals enrolled therein have often been subject to injuries and oppressions of the most vexatious nature, and much more frequently called upon to sacrifice valuable and productive time to the object of attending Militia meetings than is common among our fellow subjects in the neighbouring Colonies; to which may be added, that they were for a considerable time called upon and harrassed with mounting Militia guards and watching and warding at their own expence, in a time of profound peace, without the existence of any disturbance or the appearance of any thing of the kind in the Colony:

"That this inefficient Militia which has for many years, not made the smallest progress in acquiring any knowledge of the use of arms has nevertheless been very expensive to the Public in the pay and allowances of the Adjutant General, Adjutants, and Clerks of Battalions, with the cost of provisions supplied for a Militia Guard, in the Town for a considerable time, the total amount of expenditure on the Militia since the last Session appears by the Public Accounts on our table to be about £1000, a sum which we are confident might have been much better given to the individuals who received it, as a gratuity, than to permit them to interfere with and impede every year the productive Labour of the Country, by meetings and musters which really answered no other object than giving a colour to this useless expenditure.

"Under all these circumstances, without any idea of interfering in the smallest degree with your Excellency's authority on the subject, we think it our duty on behalf of the Colony, to recommend that the usual meetings of the Militia may be discontinued for the present year, unless in cases, where your Excellency may wish to inspect the different corps in your progress through the Island, when we trust that your Excellency will see abundant proofs of the loyalty and good feeling which prevails in the Colony; and we pledge ourselves that at the next meeting of the Legislature, we will enter cordially with your Excellency into the consideration of the subject, and endeavour with your valuable and extensive experience, to adopt and enact such Laws and Regulations as may be required to give the Colony an efficient and serviceable Militia.

In the mean time, we hope, that your Excellency will not permit any unne-