

Mr McLENNAN opposed the granting of the prayer of the petition upon principle. If this were agreed to, other parts of the Island might put in a similar claim, and expect a similar grant.

Hon Mr LAIRD objected to the motion, and believed that no grant was necessary.

Hon Mr HENSLEY thought it would be much more preferable, if any arrangement was to be made, that an arrangement should be made for a Government telegram.

Mr SINCLAIR also opposed the motion upon the same grounds.

Hon Mr COLES, in supporting the motion, thought that this should have been one of the initiatory votes of which they had heard so much recently.

Hon J. C. POPE was of opinion that the House was not then fully prepared with information sufficient to enable them to come to a decision upon the question involved in the prayer of the petition before them, and that a little delay would afford them an opportunity to look fairly upon the merits of the petition.

Hon Col GRAY thought it would not be well to be too hasty in this matter, and he could not, therefore, vote for the motion at present before them.

A division was then taken, when 13 members voted against the referring of the petition to the Committee of Supply; 10 voting in its favor. It was consequently lost.

The petition of Mr. W. C. Bourke was again read, asking for increased aid for the services of the Steamboat between Mount Stewart Bridge and Charlottetown.

Hon Mr KELLY moved the reference of the petition to the Committee of Supply.

Hon Mr DAVIES seconded the motion.

Mr HASLAM opposed the reception of the petition. The roads were open to all, and it was not fair for those who required steam accommodation to call upon the public to pay for it.

On a division, the reception of the petition was refused by a majority of one; twelve voting against, and eleven for it.

The petition from the inhabitants of Wood Islands and its vicinity, praying for a grant in aid to build a wharf, was again read, asking a special grant for that purpose.

Hon Col GRAY, while supporting the application of the petitioners, did not feel bound to press the grant applied for during the present session.

Hon COL. SECRETARY trusted that the House would not come to a decision upon this matter without due and careful consideration. The place in question had a great demand upon the Government, and the making of a wharf there would add materially to the value of the adjacent lands. He, therefore, had much pleasure in moving that the petition be referred to the Committee of Supply.

This being duly seconded,

Hon Mr LAIRD expressed his most decided opposition to the motion, and moved "that the petition be referred to the members of the district to provide for."

Hon Mr DAVIES thought that if a harbour was necessary at Wood Islands, they should have some practical opinion upon the matter. If a harbour was necessary, the sum of £300, the amount applied for, would be only a drop in the bucket; while, in addition, they could not afford even that drop in the present state of their finances.

Mr SINCLAIR, looking at the fact that the sum of £7000 had been granted for the service of Roads and Bridges, thought the House should be very careful with regard to special grants.

Mr McLENNAN could not but oppose the prayer of the petition.

Hon Mr COLES would support the petition going into Committee of Supply, for he thought that if a harbour was made at Wood Island it would be of great practical use to the whole Colony.

Hon Mr HENSLEY would not oppose the reference of the petition to the Committee of Supply; but, when there, he trusted that the whole matter would be thoroughly sifted, and proper information obtained.

Mr HOWLAN thought that some report should have been made to the House upon this matter before the application was sent in. He, for one, did not object to wharves anywhere, for they were always useful.

The Hon the SPEAKER condemned the great waste of time. They had been three hours discussing the reception of three petitions: and, in future, he should deem it his duty to keep hon members strictly to the question before them.

Mr BRECKEN thought that if the proposed plan was feasible it should be carried, but was still of opinion that further information upon the subject was desirable.

Upon a division on the motion, in amendment of the Hon Mr Laird's, 17 votes were recorded in its favour and 9 against it.

A second division upon the original question resulted in the same figures.

The petition of Bennett McLellan, praying for compensation on account of loss sustained by contract for repairs to Indian River Bridge.

Hon J. C. Pope said that upon examination it would be found that the petition had not been signed by the purported petitioner; and he, therefore, moved that no further action should be taken in the matter.

The House divided, when 18 members voted in favour of the motion, and 3, Hon Messrs Warburton and Coles, and Mr Sinclair, against it.

The petition of George Coughlan, of Lot 37, for compensation on account of losses incurred in building a bridge, was referred to the members of the District.

The petition of Mary Kelly, Widow, praying for the continuance of her allowance from the House, on behalf of herself and her widowed children, was referred to the Committee of Supply.

A petition from Patrick D. Rogers, an old soldier, aged 71, praying for aid, was also referred to the Committee of Supply.

Also from Mary Crutchell, widow, for continued assistance, referred to Committee of Supply.

Also from John Crane, and other inhabitants of Lots 57 and 58, for a continuance of aid to Widow Mary Meagher; referred to the Committee of Supply.

The petition of Angus McKay being informal, not having been signed by the petitioner, was withdrawn.

The petition of R. B. Reid and others on behalf of John Graham, who had been for some time paralyzed, was, after a short discussion, upon the motion of Mr. Howlan, referred to the Committee of Supply.

The petition on behalf of the sisters Christie and Flora McLeod, blind, was referred to the Pauper Committee.

The petition of John Moore, aged 71, applying for aid, was rejected upon the ground of informality, he not having signed it himself. The House then adjourned.

SATURDAY, March 28.

The Speaker having taken the chair, Mr. McLennan as Chairman of the Committee of the whole House upon Supply, presented the resolution of the said Committee upon the annual grant for Roads, Wharves and Bridges, as given in the proceedings of Friday the 27th. The question of its adoption was put to the House, and agreed to *non-con*.

Hon Col. Secretary presented several papers and despatches from the Colonial Office, the whole of which were tabled.

The House then proceeded further to consider private petitions.

By the Hon Mr Longworth, from various inhabitants of Lots 31 and 65, praying for assistance to support the Ferry at McEwen's wharf.

Referred to the members for the District.

By the Hon Col Secretary, of the Deaf and Dumb Institution, at Halifax, offering to provide, upon certain terms, accommodations for any of the unfortunate afflicted that might be sent there from this Colony.