

since 1874 of all provincial grants for roads, bridges, breakwaters, wharves, and all other public works (excepting railways) expended in the several counties respectively.

Hon. PROV. SECY. said that the information asked for could be obtained by any gentleman on reference to the public journals. He thought there ought to be some little limit to the requirements of hon. members. The practice had been invariably only to ask the government to furnish that information which was not within the reach of members.

Hon. FIN. SEC. said that any person who looked at the paper would see that all the information required could be obtained by reference to the public accounts.

Mr. BOURINOT said that he was not aware that a refusal had been ever given to an enquiry of the character he had presented. When the hon. member for Richmond put an enquiry respecting matters connected with the Crown Land, involving a considerable amount of trouble, his request was granted to all intents and purposes. His object in putting the question he had was to get a statement that might be considered authentic.

Hon. PRO. SEC. said that he was not under the impression that the hon. member had any desire to give any unnecessary trouble to the government, but as respects the information asked for by the hon. member for Richmond it was not accessible to the members of the house. He had never seen such an enquiry as the one in question presented before; he would, however, lay it before the executive.

PETITIONS, &c.

Mr. Ross presented a petition from John McLeod and sixty-two others, of Cape North, Victoria, against confederation.

Mr. BOURINOT presented a petition from Low Point, C. B., asking for a daily mail.

CROWN LANDS.

Hon. PRO. SEC. laid on the table a reply to the hon. member for Victoria respecting the petition of the trustees of a Presbyterian Church at Middle River. He stated that as far back as the 4th April, 1864, the executive committee approved of a report of the Commissioner of Crown Lands which partly disposed of the question, but in the meantime no action had been taken, as it was understood some difficulty and litigation had arisen.

Mr. Ross said that an assault had been made on certain parties, and the Crown Counsel had taken the matter in hand.

Hon. PRO. SEC. presumed that when that matter came up the whole question would be investigated.

The papers were referred to the committee on Crown Lands.

EDUCATION.

Hon. Mr. McKINNON presented two petitions from the township of Tracadie respecting the Educational act. He mentioned that the hon. Provincial Secretary was not correct when he stated the other day that the great bulk of the petitioners from Antigonish were opposed to the school law. By reference to the petitions it would be seen that the majority of them desired that a large proportion of the money required for school purposes should come out of the treasury, and in fact, were in favour of amendments similar to those now proposed to be made.

Hon. PRO. SECY. was exceedingly glad to learn that he had, to a certain extent, misap-

prehended the scope of the petitions from the county represented by his hon. friend, and that they were in favour of some such amendments as were now proposed by the government. Under those circumstances the 2163 persons whom he supposed were opposed to the present school law would be considerably lessened in number.

MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY

A message was received from His Excellency by the Lieutenant Governor requesting the presence of the house in the Council Chamber. On their attendance he was pleased to assent to the following bills:

An Act to amend the Act to Incorporate the International Coal and Railway Company.

An Act to Incorporate the Caledonia Coal Mining Company.

An Act to Incorporate the Clyde Coal and Mining Company.

An Act to Incorporate the Sydney and Louisbourg Railway Company.

HISTORY OF NOVA SCOTIA.

Hon. PROV. SEC. laid on the table a memorial from Beamish Murdoch asking for aid in the publication of his work on the history of Nova Scotia, together with a prospectus and a portion of the same. The hon. gentleman stated that the house had, from time to time, approved of the policy of giving a certain amount to parties who were engaged in the preparation of similar works, and he thought it was well worthy of the consideration of the house, whether they should not continue that policy in the present instance.

Mr. BOURINOT said that he believed that no one more competent in this province could be found than Mr. Murdoch to prepare a work of such a character, and that when it was completed it would be found to throw light upon matters that were now in obscurity.

Hon. PROV. SEC. said, in answer to a question put by Mr. Miller, that the work must be in a considerable state of forwardness inasmuch as Mr. Murdoch had devoted 5 years almost exclusively to the preparation of the material requisite.

Mr. BLANCHARD stated that the work was already finished up to 1810, and that the author had the remainder in a state that would enable him to advance its publication rapidly.

Mr. MILLER said that everyone must see the necessity of having the work completed, if any assistance from the province were to be granted.

Mr. ARCHIBALD said that matter could be arranged by the committee who had it in charge.

Mr. TOBIN gave testimony to the value of such a work as was proposed, and stated that the most of the work was already in manuscript.

The subject was referred to the committee on Printing and Reporting.

PETITION.

Mr. MCLELAN presented a petition from Onslow against the present school act.

REGISTRATION.

Hon. FIN. SEC. laid on the table the report of Mr. Scott, secretary to the Board of Statistics of the returns under the act passed last session concerning the Registration of Marriages, Births, and Deaths. Also a return showing the payments for salaries and other expenses connected with the act. Also a return from the Postmaster General giving an account of