

carried out the intention of the law, and the petitioners pray to have their grievances redressed. While upon his feet he felt it his duty to allude to a matter of somewhat delicate nature. He believed that the object in having an official reporter to the house was that the country might obtain correct information as to what was going on so that public opinion might be brought to bear upon the action of members of the house. If that was not the case, they might as well go back to the old council of twelve, and sit with closed doors. He was sorry to say that the object contemplated had not been carried out; and he should like to know whether the government put their hands upon the reporter and directed him what to publish and what to repress; or whether he was influenced by those whose conduct might be under the review of the house. He was induced to make these observations in reference to a case of great importance which he had brought before the house last session, in connection with the mines at Glace Bay, which involved the integrity of a subordinate officer of the government; and, although the matter was fully debated, to his utter astonishment not a word of it appeared in the reports. If the reporters were to be influenced by the government, or those whose conduct was under consideration, they had better go back to the old system, and let each newspaper give its own version of the proceedings. The reporters should report everything verbatim, and they were not to judge of what should go to the country or not. He had just as much right to have his remarks reported as the Attorney General or anybody else. The hon. gentleman complained in conclusion of the undue preference which he stated was given to foreigners in regard to application for coal mines—and alluded to the sharp practice pursued by government officials in altering dates to favor certain applicants.

Hon. PROV. SEC. said that if the hon. member for Victoria entertained the suspicion that the government used any influence with the reporters to suppress the debates, he was glad that he had given expression to it, as it afforded an opportunity of giving an unqualified contradiction to it. Since the house had engaged the services of official reporters the government had not used the slightest influence over them, and had given them no directions save to give as full and correct an account of the proceedings as was possible. And he had especially impressed upon them the necessity of giving prominence to those gentlemen who did not often address the house, when they brought forward subjects in which they or their constituents were personally interested. It had been found impracticable to carry out the system of verbatim reporting to its fullest extent, as it would be impossible to find room to publish the reports in that form. He regretted that the debate referred to had been omitted, but he presumed that it had occurred in consequence of the advanced period of the session when it had taken place, and the great length to which the debates had grown during a very protracted session. As far as the government was concerned they had no wish to prevent the fullest publication of their action upon any subject. He believed that the case of which Mr. Campbell complained was one of some hardship, but he thought it was more the result

of accident than design. While upon the subject of reporting he would say that any one who took up the debates of last session must allow that the service had never before been brought to such a state of efficiency, and he thought that the way in which the work had been performed was exceedingly creditable to the officer who had charge of that important department. There was another subject to which allusion had been made by the member for Victoria and he was sorry to perceive the tone in which it was done. He referred to the introduction of foreign capital in developing our resources. With the exception of that hon. member and a few others, there was no doubt that we were indebted to the skill, enterprise and wealth, of foreign capitalists, in opening up the resources of our country, and so far from regarding them with feelings of jealousy, he was disposed to meet them in a generous spirit, and to afford them every assistance in carrying out their views. As regards the important act for quieting titles in Cape Breton, he would say that there had been every disposition on the part of the late Government and present to carry it out in its integrity, and he thought that they were not open to the charge of dealing illiberally with Cape Breton in the matter. Under the act every dollar that was received from the sale of these Crown lands instead of going into the general revenues, was expended upon the roads in the section where the lands were situate. Not only was the Act liberal in its spirit, but it had been liberally carried out.

Mr. ARCHIBALD regretted to hear such observations as had fallen from the hon. member for Victoria. He was sure that there had been no desire on the part of any one to do the hon. member any injustice, and he was sorry to hear him state, on the floors of the House, his opinion that subordinate officers of the Government could make deliberately false statements. He (Mr. A.) was sure that whatever mistakes had occurred were merely the result of accident. When the hon. gentleman undertook to speak in reference to this matter in the strong terms he had used, he was acting in a manner unworthy of him. With regard to Cape Breton, he believed that both parties in the House had always been inclined to do that island justice. It had been, indeed, favored, in respect to land, in a way that Nova Scotia had never been treated. In Cape Breton, after disputes had arisen in respect to boundaries, &c., an officer was sent down by the Government to settle the difficulties, and instead of requiring that the money for the lands should be paid immediately, three years were given for payment. He thought that a most essential benefit had been conferred upon the island by the steps that had been taken to carry out the law passed in the session of 1859. The officer who had been sent to Cape Breton had been able to settle a great number of claims that would have been otherwise a source of trouble for years to come. He could not feel that it was right, then, for gentlemen representing Cape Breton to come up and endeavour to create the impression that there was any attempt to do an injustice to Cape Breton. He thought that the hon. gentleman, in the remarks he had made, had been influenced by the feeling that he had suffered a personal injury, but he was quite sure that the House itself, in the decision it had given last year had been guided by a