

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES.

gentlemen so blind as to continue the law,—have they not heard enough on the subject? The country feels deeply on the matter, and is waiting to know what the Legislature will do. I for one am ready to repeal this law. There are many gentlemen who, having attained to some position in society, do not like to see others enjoy the same privileges with themselves. But what gentleman is there here who would not gladly receive a vote from the meanest of Her Majesty's subjects?

Mr. C. J. CAMPBELL wished to know what was the position of the Government on the matter.

Hon. PROV. SEC. stated that he thought he had already explained as clearly as possible the views of the Government. He thought, under all the circumstances, it would be wrong to take up two or three weeks in putting a new act on the Statute book. It was preferable to allow the country to have a full opportunity of considering the act, and testing its provisions. He denied that we ever had Universal Suffrage, in the real sense of the term, in this country; it was a suffrage qualified by a long residence, and thoroughly guarded by certain useful restrictions. He pointed to the class of men returned to the Legislature as an evidence that the extended franchise had not acted prejudicially to the public interests.

Mr. A. ARCHIBALD contended that the men who were best qualified to govern were those who had a real interest in the country where they lived. The men who were now in the Legislature had many more difficulties to contend against under the system of Universal Suffrage, than if they had run their elections under the law passed last session. He pointed out that a similar bill in New Brunswick worked most satisfactorily.

Hon. SOL. GEN. said that the present discussion was premature. It was merely the object to revise the statutes, and not to discuss the provisions of the Acts. There could be plenty of opportunity for amending the Act in question in all particulars that might be considered requisite.—He mentioned that he understood there would be an application from the Sessions and Grand Jury of his own County against a portion of the bill, in consequence of the expense connected with it. He was not, therefore, prepared to say that he would be willing to leave the bill on the statute-book in its present shape.

A clause, requiring a 40s. freehold qualification, was struck out, on the ground that it did not operate as a useful guard.

The Committee then rose and reported progress.

The House then adjourned.

TUESDAY February 9.

Hon. PROV. SECRETARY, by command of His Excellency the Administrator of the Government, laid before the House copies of Despatches relative to the appointment of the Hon. Samuel Chipman to the Legislative Council.

REPORTING ETC.

Hon. SOL. GENERAL, as Chairman of the Committee on reporting and publishing the Debates

and Proceedings of this House reported recommending Mr. J. G. Bourinot's proposal to the favorable consideration of the House. Mr. Bourinot's proposal is to publish the Reports in the "British Colonist," "Morning Chronicle," and "Halifax Reporter" at the rate of five columns in each issue, and to bring them up to date at the end of each week. He states that particular attention will be paid to the reporting of those local matters in which Members are particularly interested. He undertakes to furnish 150 Copies of the Debates in Pamphlet form, the pamphlet to contain an Index of all the subjects discussed. The cost of the service is to be the same as heretofore \$2200.

Mr. BLANCHARD asked whether any steps had been taken with regard to the printing of the Journals. The Contract expired on the first day of the Session of 1864.

Hon. SOL. GENERAL.—The Committee considered the reporting of the debates of the House a matter of immediate importance, and therefore reported on it at once, leaving other matters to be considered hereafter.

Hon. PROV. SECY.—Being necessary to make provision for the printing of the Journals, a proposition was made by the same parties who discharged that duty last year to renew it on the same terms, and that proposition was accepted by the Government.

Mr. ARCHIBALD.—The previous contract, if my recollection serves me, was made by tender. If put up to tender, the work might be done at less expense.

Hon. SOL. GEN'L moved that the Report of the Committee be adopted. The Report was then received and adopted by the House.

INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY.

Mr. ARCHIBALD stated that in the correspondence and papers on this subject a Minute of the Executive Council of Canada of the 25th February 1863, was constantly referred to. While he (Mr. A.) was in the Government this minute had not been communicated to the Executive of this Province. He enquired of the members of the present Government if it had been communicated to them.

Hon. PROV. SECRETARY replied that he had seen the minute, and thought it had been brought down among the other papers. He would lay it on the table as soon as possible.

TENURE OF OFFICE.

Mr. ARCHIBALD stated that with a view to contrast the action of the *past* with the action of the *present* Government, he would ask the Provincial Secretary to lay on the table a return, with the names and dates of all appointments to office made since the formation of the present Government, including as well those that do not, as those that usually do appear in the "Royal Gazette."

Also, a return of all dismissals from office within the same period, with a statement in each case of the grounds of dismissal.

Also, a return of the names of all persons dismissed from office between February, 1860, and June 1863, with the dates of dismissal.

SITE OF NEW JAIL.

Hon. ATTY. GENERAL asked leave to introduce a Bill to vest certain property in the Board of