

Hon FRN SEC. said that the Revised Statutes could not be considered perfect, but that amendments must naturally be made as circumstances required it. A court representing the public voice of Pictou, had thought it proper to have the present law amended as to the amount of pay they were willing to give to public servants, and he could not see why any one should object to that.

Mr. MILLER thought the house should have a uniform policy on the question, and he did not see any reason for making an amendment in the existing law for the sake of the county of Pictou. The whole question was fully discussed last session, and disposed of by a large majority of the house, and yet they were now called upon to stultify themselves. Already was the house asked to bring in a measure repealing the pilotage act, in reference to Pictou, though the house had affirmed its policy last winter by a very large majority. He did not see any reason why the house should stultify itself to oblige that county.

Mr. ARCHIBALD said the house was not to assume that the revised statutes were perfect, but he thought if the petition in the present case came from the body of the people he would give it more attention than he could give to the application of men who wished to have their pay increased. He thought the house should have a general policy on this question.

Hon. FRN SEC. replied that public servants, if they were to be paid at all, should receive a sum equivalent to the time and attention they gave to the public service. There was not a man on the grand jury who could not earn more than a dollar a day in his ordinary avocations. The half dollar they now received was altogether inadequate. The magistrates who sat in the sessions as the guardians of the public interests sanctioned the present bill and the grand jury who requested them to deal with this matter were men who would not receive any benefit if it passed, for the assessment has been already made. As to the remarks of the hon. member for Richmond in reference to Pictou, he would allow them to pass for just what they were worth.

The subject then dropped.

Mr. DONKIN presented a petition from Edward B. Oxley and 93 other inhabitants of River Philip, county of Cumberland, asking that the subject of Confederation be submitted to the people. The following bills were read a third time:—Further to amend the act to authorize the erection of a Court House and Jail in Yarmouth—To legalize the assessment-tolls of the County of Lunenburg.

Mr. KAULBACK presented a petition from Middle LaHave, asking for delay before action was taken on the subject of the Union of the Colonies.

The house went into committee on bills, and passed the following:—To incorporate the New Glasgow Marine Insurance Company—To amend the act to incorporate the Glace Bay Mining Company—To alter the time of holding the General Sessions of the Peace in Barrington.

Then the committee adjourned, and reported progress.

Then the house adjourned until 3 o'clock the next day.

FRIDAY, 10th March.

The house met at 3 o'clock.

Mr. BLANCHARD introduced an act to incorporate the Scotia Lodge of Free Masons, Canning.

Mr. DONKIN presented a petition from a number of inhabitants of Parrsboro' against the present School Bill.

THE PASSPORT SYSTEM.

Mr. BOURINOT said that he had been requested to put a question to the Government whether there had been any communication received by them with regard to the passport system between this Province and the United States. He noticed in a telegram to the city papers that the order had been rescinded in regard to Canada.

Hon. PROV. SEC. replied that no communication had been received touching any proposed alteration in the present system. He was exceedingly glad to see in the English news that in consequence of communications that had taken place between the British Government and the United States authorities, the determination had been arrived at to discontinue the system as respects Canada. He hoped that this also included the Maritime Provinces. He was inclined to believe that the fact that Canada only was mentioned arose from the want of information that so frequently characterised communications with reference to British America. He could not imagine how so extraordinary an act should be committed as discontinuing the system between the States and Canada and keeping it in force as regards these Lower Provinces. Whilst there might have been some plausible reasons for having a passport system between Canada and the United States, there had been none why there should be such an obnoxious and inconvenient proceeding carried out in respect to the Maritime Provinces. Communication would be had with the Imperial authorities at Washington upon the subject, and he had no doubt that the system, which was attended with great inconvenience and expense, would be also repealed with respect to these Provinces.

Mr. ARCHIBALD said that he was afraid the Prov. Secretary was anticipating too much in supposing the Passport system was abandoned as regards the Lower Provinces. He regretted to be obliged to say, that not only was the system not discontinued, but that it was exercised in such a way as to create the impression that it was used in this community not so much as a matter of national safety, but as an instrument of personal annoyance. He had the authority of a leading merchant in this city, to say, that the United States authorities here refused to *visa* the passports of gentlemen in this community of the first characters and standing; whose business called them to the States; and who were above all suspicion of interfering in their local disputes. He did not question the right of any country to exclude such foreigners as they choose from entering their borders, but he could not help thinking that it was a very unwise exercise of that power, if it was exercised in such a way as to lead to the conclusion it was used for purposes of personal and individual oppression; and he thought it unworthy of the great nation to the south of us.