

ceived a Letter from Michael Wallace, Esquire, Acting Secretary of the Province, on the subject of new Writs for the Town of Annapolis and the County of Sydney ; and he laid the same before the House.

The said Letter was read by the Clerk, and is as follows :

*Secretary's Office, Halifax, 3d March, 1868.*

SIR,

I am commanded by his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor to inform you that he has received by the January Mail from England, a Dispatch from my Lord Castlereagh, one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, communicating His Majesty's pleasure that a Writ may be issued for the election of a Member to represent the Town of Annapolis, in the General Assembly of this Province, in the room of Thomas Walker ; and I am further instructed to acquaint you, that his Excellency has given order for the above Writ to be made out, and also one for the County of Sydney, in the room of Allan Chipman, whenever you require them.

I am, Sir, your very humble servant,

MICH. WALLACE.

*Ordered,* That the Letter do lie on the Table to be perused by the Members of the House.

On motion of Mr. Lawson, *resolved*, that a Committee be appointed to wait on his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, to request that he would be pleased to direct the Treasurer to render an account of the expenditure of the sum of five hundred pounds granted for the purchase of Furniture for the new Government-House, together with a list of such articles as have been purchased therewith.

*Ordered,* That Mr. Archibald, Mr. Lawson, and Mr. Robertson be a Committee accordingly.

Mr. Pearson reported from the Committee for revising the Militia Laws, and forming a system for their improvement, and he read the report in his place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's table, where it was read and is as follows :

That the Committee have carefully revised the Laws in force, and have also in obedience to the directions of the House, had a communication with his Excellency, the Lieutenant Governor, on the subject ; and now beg leave to report to the House the following propositions to serve as a chief part of a basis for a Bill to be framed. First, That the present system of general organization for the Militia, be retained with some amendment.

Second, That for the disciplining of the Militia a competent number of Squad meetings for elementary instruction and drill, be prescribed by Law, under certain limitations of the time to be occupied in such meetings, and the extent of the local divisions from which such squads are to be drawn, and the number of company meetings be increased. The arrangement and regulation of both descriptions of meetings, and the musters of battalions entire or in parts, to rest with the Governor or Commander in Chief and the officers under him.

Third, That for the armament and complete equipment of the Militia, a sufficient number of muskets or rifles with bayonets, with all necessary accoutrements, in addition to the arms issued by government, be imported into the Province, and sold at first cost and charges to all freeholders of full age, who are to arm themselves at their own charge ; minors and transient persons enrolled in the militia to be supplied from those furnished by government.

Fourth, That instead of the present mode of drafting the militia for actual service