

amount of business transacted, he thought that the hon. Prov. Sec'y. would hardly find, upon reference to the journals, a less amount of work done in a similar period in any previous session, or that three consecutive Saturdays were allowed to pass without the house meeting at all. The Lieut. Governor had in his speech promised a measure upon education. He presumed that his advisers had during the recess bestowed their attention upon that subject.—He presumed so from the fact that they had authorized their officers to violate the law, and had promised that their acts would be legalized at the next session of the house. He had a right therefore to suppose that the government when they put that measure in the speech would be prepared to state the modification they intended to propose and he did not think the reasons given by the Prov. Sec. at all justified the delay.

Hon. PROV. SECRETARY was quite willing to take the journals of the present session and compare them with those of previous ones, and when the number of petitions presented and the reports read were considered, he was prepared to shew that the business was more advanced now than at any similar period in former sessions. And as regards public measures, he would only refer to the session of 1863, when hon. gentlemen opposite were in power. That session commenced Feb'y. 10th, and the most important measures were not brought down until a late period of the session, —the Militia Law not until April 8th, and the Intercolonial Railroad on the 10th of the same month. In reply to the remarks of the leader of the Opposition as to the time occupied in reading the reports from the heads of the various public departments, he would state that he considered no time better spent, for every one knew that when these reports went to the various committees without having been first read, they were not heard of again until they came up at a late period of the session, when hon. gentlemen had not time thoroughly to discuss them.

Mr. ARCHIBALD had purposely refrained from making any comparisons with former sessions, for even if it were true that former governments had delayed the public business, that was no argument to use. He differed entirely from the hon. Prov. Secretary, as to the propriety of occupying time by the reading of reports. He thought that they should always be printed and placed in the hands of members, when they would receive more attention than when they were read by the Clerk.

After a few further remarks, the report was referred to the Committee on Education, and the House adjourned until 3 o'clock to-morrow.

TUESDAY, 28th Feby.

The House met at 3 o'clock.

#### SECOND READINGS.

The following Bills were read a second time:

- To open a harbour at Mire.
- To amend the Act incorporating the Glace Bay Mining Company.
- To incorporate Sydney and Bras d'Or Steam-boat Company.
- To incorporate Commercial Bank of Windsor.
- To incorporate Virgin Lodge of Freemasons.
- To incorporate Central Mining Company.

#### PETITION.

Mr. JOST presented a petition from the inhabitants of the Township of Chester, asking for a bill to establish an office for the Registry of Deeds in that district.

#### LIGHT HOUSE.

Mr. LEVESCONTE called the attention of the Government to a petition which he handed them from ship owners and master mariners in the County of Richmond, praying for the erection of a Light House at Green Island, on the north side of the entrance of the Strait of Canso. The hon. gentleman stated that a similar petition had been presented from ship owners of Pictou, and pointed out the great necessity that existed for the construction of the Light House. He pointed out the large amount of shipping belonging to Richmond that required this Light in order to secure their safety in passing through the Strait. Such a Light, he considered, would be but a small return for the large amount of light duties annually paid by the ship owners of Pictou and Richmond.

Mr. CHURCHILL suggested the advisability of blasting the rock in the locality in question, as had been frequently done successfully in other parts.

Mr. D. FRASER pointed out the necessity of the light-house and expressed his hope that the government would give the matter their favorable consideration.

Mr. LEVESCONTE stated that the former Admiral on the station had had a survey held on the place in question, and the report stated that it was impracticable to blast the rock successfully.

Hon. PRO. SEC. understood that such an experiment had been tried at Yarmouth.

Mr. KILLAM stated that the result had been to remove the rock to a large extent.

Mr. TOBIN alluded to the fact of the successful issue of an attempt made some time ago to improve the passage called Hell Gate, New York, which was now one of the best channels into the port.

Mr. LEVESCONTE pointed out the character of the locality in question, and showed that a light-house was what was required for the advantage of shipping passing through the Strait.

Hon. FIN. SEC. stated that the light house was not only required by our own shipping, but by a very large number of foreign vessels that during the season of navigation made use of the Strait. The work would be, therefore, a boon to the commercial world.

#### CORRESPONDENCE.

Hon. PROV. SEC. laid on the table copies of correspondence relative to the presentation by Her Majesty of copies of the speeches and addresses of his late Royal Highness the Prince Consort, to the Legislative Library and King's College, Windsor.

#### PETITIONS.

Hon. FIN. SEC. laid on the table list of all petitions asking for money grants presented to him, for publication as the house might direct.

Mr. CHURCHILL presented a petition from a number of inhabitants of Rainy Cove, North Hauts, asking for the alteration of a bridge across a large vault.