

Hon Mr McFarlane introduced a bill to incorporate the Nova Scotia Salt Works and Exploration Company.

Mr ARCHIBALD introduced a bill to amend chap. 65 of the Revised Statutes, relative to Highway Labor.

Mr C. J. Campbell introduced a bill to provide for the improvement of certain roads and bridges in the County of Victoria.

The house adjourned.

THURSDAY, April 26.

The house met at 3 o'clock.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Hon Mr McKinnon presented a report from the Committee on Indian Affairs.

Mr. Miller said that in the absence of his colleague he did not consider it fair to appropriate the road grant for the County of Richmond. He therefore moved that such grant be at the disposal of the Government. Passed.

PILOTAGE BILL.

Mr Donald Fraser moved the second reading of the Pilotage Bill.

Mr Miller moved that the bill be deferred for three months.

Mr D. Fraser said that in this matter the pilots of Pictou merely asked to be placed in the same position as the pilots of Halifax. The bill was necessary to enable them to maintain their efficiency and was recommended by a large number of shipowners and merchants.

Mr Jas. Fraser said that if the House wished to leave the port without pilots they could reject the bill. Unless these persons were enabled to earn a livelihood by their calling they must abandon their business and a great loss of property and life would be the result.

Mr. Miller's amendment passed 19 to 14. Mr. D. Fraser gave notice of motion to rescind.

POORS' ASYLUM.

Mr. Blanchard introduced a bill, as a partial report from the committee on Humane institutions, relative to the Poors' Asylum and City Hospital. He said that in 1864 an act was passed to vest the control of the Asylum in a joint Board of Commissioners, and to enable them to erect a new Asylum in connection with the City Hospital. Difficulty had subsequently arisen in the settlement of the question, and the committee had decided on introducing this bill which would give authority to the government to appoint six persons, the City Council to appoint six others, to be Commissioners of the City Hospital and Poors' Asylum. The bill then vested in the Board the property now used as an Asylum and the City Hospital, together with ten or twelve acres of land surrounding it, giving them power to sell the old property and to apply the proceeds of the sale to the erection of a new Asylum in connection with the Hospital. It then provided that the contribution to these institutions from the Province and City should be considered equal.

QUARANTINE STATION.

Hon. PROV. SEC. introduced a bill to provide for the establishment of a quarantine Station at Halifax. He said it was proposed to purchase a

suitable locality for the station, the City to bear one third of the expense of maintenance and a tax of one cent per ton to be imposed on all vessels over 100 tons to provide a fund for maintaining this establishment, and for the treatment of sick seamen.

Mr. ARCHIBALD remarked that Halifax was more exposed than any other city to visitations from vessels bound to other ports with diseases on board.

Mr. TOBIN agreed as to the importance of the proposed step, but he doubted the expediency of imposing so heavy a share of the burthen on the city. The matter was one which affected the entire Province, and the tax would be found very onerous to the citizens.

Mr. BOURINOT regretted that so large a portion of the expense was arranged to be borne by the Province. He thought that the shipping interest should contribute largely. It was a lasting stigma upon Halifax that no efficient Hospital had been established. He referred to the necessity of some such provision in other localities and mentioned an instance which had occurred when the New Mines in Cape Breton County were visited by the small-pox.

BILLS.

The house went into Committee on bills and passed the bills relating to the International Coal and Mining Company, the Trustees of Zion Church Halifax, the North Sydney Marine Railway Company, the Myra Bay Coal Company, the City of Halifax, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Lunenburg.

EXTENSION OF MINING LEASES.

The bill relative to Mining leases was next taken up.

Mr. BOURINOT said he could not allow a question so intimately affecting the county he represented to pass without some comments. The report of the committee of which he was a member recommended that the tenure of the leases be extended forty years beyond 1886, and that the same amount of royalty be exacted. On the other hand, the honorable member for Colchester (Mr. Archibald) was in favour of the extension of the leases for thirty years, on the payment of a fine equivalent to one year's net profit of the mine, but he would not touch the question of royalty. No doubt appeared to exist as to the propriety of extending the leases; every one saw that such a measure was necessary in order to induce the introduction of capital for the development of our resources. Capitalists, as it had been shown to the House, were unwilling to invest their money in mining enterprises in this country, whilst the leases only lasted for twenty years. In England, every one was aware, the tenure of the leases was far longer. As some misapprehension appeared to exist in respect to the new mines in the county of Cape Breton, he felt a few remarks on that subject were demanded from him, Cape Breton exported two-thirds of the whole amount of coal shipped last year—that is, 400,000 out of 600,000 tons that were exported. They had 14 mines in the county in question, the whole of them were not yet entirely in full operation.