

so, he stated that his object was to relieve doubts that seemed to exist on the subject.

LAW RELATIVE TO SEAMEN.

Mr. DON FRASER presented a petition from ship owners and masters of Pictou to amend the law relative to Seamen, which was referred to a special committee consisting of Messrs. Archibald, Killam, LeVesconte, Locke, and C. Campbell. Mr. Fraser stated that the present law operated very prejudicially to masters and that he hoped some remedy would be found for the existing state of things.

Mr. BLANCHARD enquired whether another grievance could not be remedied—one in connection with foreign seamen. At present there is no power to arrest these men for desertion or any such thing. Foreign seamen were only subject to the laws of the country to which they belong.

Mr. BOURINOT said that he was glad the hon. member had called attention to the subject, for the difficulties that arose in reference to foreign seamen were frequently brought to his notice in the county where he lived. In consequence of the large coal trade carried on in Cape Breton very many foreign vessels resorted to its ports, and difficulties from desertion which could not be dealt with constantly occurred.

Mr. LEVESCONTE thought that the trouble rested with the American government, and we could not remedy it ourselves.

Hon. FIN. SEC. said that no doubt it was a matter of international policy rather than one which the legislation of the house could touch, and that it would have to be referred to the Imperial authorities. He was of opinion that some arrangement was very desirable.

Mr. BOURINOT said that the Legislature had the power of calling attention to the matter. Those who had an interest in those counties where coal mines were situated, knew perfectly well the necessity that existed for some prompt remedy being found for the very unsatisfactory state of things that at present existed.

Mr. BLANCHARD said that our vessels on going to the States were exactly in the same position.

Mr. ARCHIBALD said that the matter could be brought to the notice of the Imperial authorities in the shape of an address.

Hon. PROV. SEC. said that it would be the best plan for some gentleman interested in the question to enquire into it and then bring it up again, and have it considered, if necessary, by a committee.

THE REVISED STATUTES.

Mr. BLANCHARD called the attention of the house to an accidental omission in the new edition of the Revised Statutes. This omission, he stated, was not chargeable to the revisors, but was owing to the action of the Legislature last session. It would be recollected that last winter several chapters were amended in the house, but some of the amendments did not meet with the approbation of the Legislative Council. In consequence of this, a lock occurred between two branches, and it was therefore decided to allow the original acts to remain in force. The hon. Attorney General (Mr. Johnston), introduced an act reviving certain chapters, among them was the chapter touching on the descent of real and personal property; but the chap. that was passed in 1860, making a material amendment relative to the descent of real estate was omitted.

The Commissioners noticed the omission, but could not amend it without the sanction of the Legislature. Under these circumstances he introduced a bill to amend chap. 115 R. S., new series.

ENQUIRY.

Mr. C. J. CAMPBELL asked the government to lay on the table a statement setting forth the amount paid in each county out of the general revenue for setting the machinery of the present school bill in operation.

YARMOUTH SEMINARY.

Mr. KILLAM presented a petition from the governors of the Yarmouth Seminary setting forth the claims of that institution to a grant of \$1000.

Hon. PROV. SEC. enquired if this institution was organized under the existing school bill.

Mr. KILLAM replied that the free school connected with it was organized under the act, but the higher department was maintained by fees.

LIGHT HOUSES.

Hon. FIN. SEC. laid on the table a return relative to light houses, asked for by the hon. member for Annapolis, Mr. Longley.

CROWN LANDS.

Hon. PROV. SEC. laid on the table the answer of the Commissioner of Crown Lands to the enquiry put by the member for Richmond (Mr. Miller). In doing so, he stated he hoped this information would be found sufficiently full, for he had no doubt that the hon. member had no desire, in asking what he did, to embarrass a public department. To answer fully the enquiry put by him would keep the clerks of the department busy for weeks, and impede its business generally. The number of petitions received during last year were 626, and it would be consequently seen that to go into their character, dates, &c., would require a very large amount of labour. However, the Commissioner of Crown Lands had sent in an answer which, no doubt, would be found to give all the information required by the hon. member for Richmond. First of all there are in Nova Scotia proper seventy-one applications approved of but the grants are detained for payment of balance due. In Cape Breton the number was 229. Next came the petitions from people who have settled upon Indian lands. In most cases bonds have been given, and partial payments made. The number is 47. Then came the cases under the act of 1859, upon a large portion of which bonds have been taken. Some have refused to send bonds but are making partial payment. There are 764 in the four counties of Cape Breton; the number of lots surveyed were 1673. A good many have paid and received their grants. Then come petitions in the hands of surveyors appointed with orders of survey. The total number is 192. Next we have petitions sent recently and consequently not yet reported upon, 74. The number of petitions approved, and grants in a state of forwardness is 140.

Mr. MILLER could only say that no one would regret more than himself to give anything like unnecessary trouble to any public officer, and especially to one whose duties he knew to be fully as onerous as they should be. Were it not for the frequent complaints which had come to him in reference to the