

pose of the Government to distribute to Justices of the Peace and others a consolidation of the Criminal Law. I think it is only right and proper that those who administer justice should have the materials to enable them to perform their duty. In 1850 Sir William Richards, then a Minister of the Crown, introduced some very valuable amendments to the Criminal Law, and knowing that they would not be easily accessible and that they would be very expensive if magistrates had to get whole copies of the Statutes, he caused a number of them (as the present Minister of Justice is doing) to be printed off in cheap form. They were very much appreciated at the time and of incalculable value to all those who were required to administer the law. I am very much gratified by the information, and I am sure the public will feel that it is a great boon to the country to have those Statutes placed in the hands of all those who require to use them in the administration of Criminal Law.

#### STANDING ORDERS AND PRIVATE BILLS.

##### FOURTH REPORT.

HON. MR. GOWAN from the Committee on Standing Orders and Private Bills presented their fourth report.

#### NOVA SCOTIA PERMANENT BUILDING SOCIETY'S BILL.

##### FIRST READING.

HON. MR. ALMON introduced Bill (E) "An Act respecting the Nova Scotia Permanent Building Society and Savings Fund."

HON. MR. GOWAN—The report of the Committee on Standing Orders and Private Bills on the petition relating to that Bill has not been adopted.

HON. MR. MILLER—There is no necessity for moving its adoption. As I understand the report, it simply states that the requirements of the rules respecting the petitions referred to therein have been complied with.

HON. MR. GOWAN—In the Report of the Committee, there are two cases which presented exceptional circumstances. They are both specially reported and it may be necessary for the House to take some action on them.

HON. MR. VIDAL—Not unless there is some special recommendation respecting them in the Report.

HON. MR. MILLER—If it recommends any suspension of the rule in order to enable petitioners to introduce their bill it would be in order to move the suspension of the rule; but I think the more convenient mode, hitherto adopted by the committee of which my hon. friend is chairman, is that where there is a number of petitions respecting which the Committee on Standing Orders find that the parties interested have complied with the rules, that these be included in one report, which is laid on the table, and requires no further action: but if there are other petitions with which there are special circumstances connected, they are usually reported to the House in a special report, and then it is in order to move for the suspension of the rule.

HON. MR. GOWAN—I wished to call the attention of the House to the fact that in two cases there was a divergence between the notice and the petition which was put in. It may not be of importance, but the Committee in dealing with it thought it better to report the fact to the House.

HON. MR. VIDAL—If the Committee reports that there has been a divergence from the ordinary routine, I think it is the bounden duty of the Committee to recommend some action upon it or say nothing about it. If the Committee think it is of no particular consequence they should recommend the suspension of the rule, and then the action will be taken which the hon. gentleman opposite has indicated.

HON. MR. POWER—The understanding of the Committee, I think, was that in the report the fact to which the Chairman of the Committee referred