

The hon. gentleman read the section of the act, and said that, at that moment, the Sheriff of the County of Hants was adopting extreme measures to enforce the payment of the tax for the right of way of the railroad, and the excuse given by the people for non-payment, was that Halifax had failed to carry out her pledges. It was true that Halifax had paid for the right of way, but that in comparison with what the people of Hants had to pay, was nothing. He had advised his constituents not to pay, until the City of Halifax had fulfilled her obligations; and he thought it was quite time that the sum should be paid. He hoped that before the Pictou Railroad was under contract, that the Annapolis road would be commenced; and he trusted that this government would live to see it completed. There seemed to be a determination on the part of every government but this, to keep themselves in power by any means, but this government seemed to be drifting about they did not know where. He thought that the people of Halifax did not do themselves much credit in refusing to pay this sum, and he hoped that the Crown Officers would take steps to bring the matter to a speedy issue.

HON. ATTORNEY GENERAL explained in reference to the delay that had occurred, that it was only shortly before the sitting of the Court in April last that he had been appointed to the office he now held, and as it was a question of some magnitude, he did not feel that he would be doing justice to it if he brought it on then. His absence from the Country in Canada upon public business had prevented him from bringing it before the Court in October—but it was his intention to prosecute the matter at the next sittings of the Court. He did not think, however, that much had been lost by delay. Any one conversant with the matter was aware that the reason given for the repudiation of this debt was, that the contract with the city had not been fulfilled. He would not say whether this was a legal objection or not—but rightly or wrongly the citizens say that they assumed the liability upon the faith that the road would be carried to Pictou and the Gulf of St. Lawrence on the one side—and to Victoria Beach and the waters of the Bay of Funday on the other—and that this had not been done.—If the road was carried in those directions the only objection raised by the city would fall to the ground and in equity as well as in law she would be bound to pay the sum. As regards the refusal of the people of Windsor to pay the tax for the right of way on the ground that the area taken for the station was larger than required, he would remind the member for Hants that the government taking that into consideration had sold a part of the farm at Richmond and had applied the proceeds towards the payment of the ground at Windsor. The government had endeavoured to make the collection of these rates as easy as possible, but the sheriff had reported that when he had levied upon property nobody would bid upon it at the sale. He was sorry that the Hon. gentleman had advised his constituents so badly, as however, wrong the City of Halifax might be, that was no excuse for the County of Hants refusing to pay its obligations.

MR. ARCHIBALD said: that the late government had endeavoured to collect these rates at Windsor, and had ordered the Sheriff, in case no person would bid for the articles levied

upon, to take them to another place for sale, which was done in one case. He regretted the position assumed by the member for Hants, for whatever blame might be attached to Halifax, that did not exonerate Hants from her just obligations. The government should take prompt measures to enforce the law, for no government was worthy of the name that allowed the law to be set at defiance. As regards the city of Halifax he had always felt that she ought honorably to discharge her obligations. The late government had put the matter into a shape to enforce its collection, and he hoped that the present government would take early measures to obtain a judicial decision upon the question.

MR. TOBIN said that hon. gentleman seemed to think it popular to make an attack upon the city of Halifax. Now, as regards this question, he would remark that he thought it exceedingly wrong to raise this discussion at that time, inasmuch as the matter was before the Court; and until a decision was given, he thought that nothing should be said to prejudice the case. He might state, however, that nothing had ever been done by the city of Halifax, in its corporate character, to bind it to the payment of this money. It would be quite time for hon. gentlemen to charge her with repudiation, when the proper tribunal had decided that she was liable.

PETITIONS.

The hon. gentleman presented a petition of William Carroll, of Beaver Bank, who complains that his lands had been taken for railway purposes, without his having received any compensation. The petition was referred through the Finl. Sec'y to the Railway Commissioner.

MR. CHAS. J. CAMPBELL presented a petition from the Fishermen of Cape North, complaining of the trawl fisheries. Also, from Donald Cameron, an aged teacher, for a free grant of land. Also, from the Superintendent of St. Paul's Island, for aid for the support of a school.

MR. BLANCHARD said that it had been decided to place St. Paul's on the same footing as Sable Island.

MR. ROSS said that when that took place, he had asked for the same regulations to be extended to Scattarie. He would like to know why that was not carried out.

CAPE BRETON AFFAIRS.

MR. C. J. CAMPBELL also presented a petition from Angus Smith and others, asking aid for making an artificial harbour on the North shore; also from R. McLeod, ferryman at Big Bras d'Or, for additional aid; also from Archibald McDonald, on the same subject; also from Angus McLeod and others, residents on Hunter's Mountain, complaining of grievances in relation to charges made for crown lands.—The hon. gentleman explained that under the provisions of the act of 1859 for quieting titles in Cape Breton, the government were authorized to appoint commissioners to value these lands and report to the Government. The petitioners complain that their lands have been valued too highly and pray that the sum they are required to pay should be reduced. The late government (the hon. gentleman continued) had sent a creature from Halifax to extort the last shilling from the people, and some of them had to sell the last cow to pay what was demanded. The present government had not