

Statutes until they were prepared by laymen in connection with members of the legal profession. He trusted, however, that the present work would be found as satisfactory as was anticipated it would be by the hon. member for Inverness.

Mr. BLANCHARD did not mean to convey the impression that the work was perfect, but he could say that it was the result of a great deal of labor. It would be remembered by the House that the hon. member for Kings, for a few days last session, professed a great desire to assist in the revision, but he soon got tired of the work. The hon. gentleman would not deny that in his own profession of medicine, new works were continually coming out, and new modes of treatment suggested.

Hon. PROV. SEC. said that to refer the work to a committee as suggested by the hon. member for Colchester would be tantamount to making another revision. He hoped if that were done, they would turn their attention to an act which was at present giving the government a good deal of trouble—that is the chapter on "Public Instruction." (Laughter.)

The subject then dropped after a few words from Mr. Archibald and the Attorney General.

SEPARATE SCHOOLS FOR COLORED PEOPLE.

Mr. JOHN CAMPBELL presented a petition from a number of colored inhabitants of Queen's County asking for separate schools.

Hon. PROV. SEC. said that he was glad that this petition had come from the colored people themselves; for it alluded to a matter well worthy of the consideration of the House of Assembly.

CONFEDERATION.

Mr. PRYOR presented two petitions from the county of Halifax praying that no action be taken in reference to Confederation until the wishes of the people have been expressed at the polls.

RAILWAY TO SYDNEY.

Mr. SHANNON reported up from Committee on Private bills, the bill to incorporate Sydney & Louisburg Railway Company, with amendments. One obliges the Company to pay up 25 per cent of the stock, and another requires them to hold their meetings of Directors in this province.

Hon. PRO. SEC. said, in reference to the last amendment, that the committee appeared to have introduced narrower restrictions than the bills of incorporation passed last session.

Mr. BOURINOT said that the other companies in Cape Breton had the right to meet in United States as well as in this province, and he did not see why the present company should be restricted in the way proposed.

Mr. ARCHIBALD thought it would be injudicious to place such a restriction upon the present company.

Hon. Mr. SHANNON said that the committee were unanimous on that point, understanding that difficulties had occurred under the previous bills. The gentlemen interested in the bill, however, had not been consulted in reference to the matter.

Hon. PRO. SEC. thought it would be advisable for the Committee to ascertain from these gentlemen their views on the subject, and suggested that the hon. Mr. Shannon do not report the bill up until the Committee enquired in reference to this point.

Mr. TOBIN was inclined to favour the amendment, and expressed his opinion that the 25 per cent. on the stock should be paid in Nova Scotia currency, not in greenbacks.

Hon. Mr. McFARLANE pointed out certain provisions in the bill which might be considered to protect sufficiently individual interests in this province, and stated he did not think the amendment proposed at all necessary.

Hon. ATTY. GENL. was opposed to obliging these gentlemen to hold their meetings in this Province. The Mining Association, it would be remembered, held their annual meetings in London.

Mr. BLANCHARD stated that the 25 per cent would of course be payable in our currency, and not in greenbacks.

The question then dropped—the bill not being finally reported up.

ANSWER TO ENQUIRY.

Hon. PRO. SECY. laid on the table the reply of the Commissioner of Railways to the question asked by the hon. member for Guysboro' with the papers relative thereto.

CORRESPONDENCE ON CONFEDERATION.

Hon. PRO. SEC. laid on the table correspondence relative to the Union of the Colonies, which were read by the Clerk.

In answer to a question by Mr. Locke, the hon. Prov. Sec. stated that these despatches embraced everything that was of importance in connection with the subject of Confederation.

ENQUIRY.

Mr. MCKAY asked the Government to lay on the table of the House the Engineer's Report of the survey made last summer of the several lines for the New Glasgow Railroad, and shew cause why Mr. Laurie's line has been abandoned, and a longer line of no better grades and curvatures adopted; also, the length and estimate of cost of constructing each line. The hon. gentleman expressed his dissatisfaction with the line that had been adopted.

DISCUSSION OF THE UNION QUESTION.

Mr. MILLER enquired whether it was the intention of the government to discuss the question of the Union of the Colonies at an early day, or whether it was intended to give due notice.

Hon. PROV. SEC. replied that the government had no disposition to press the subject hurriedly upon the consideration of the House, but due notice would be given them when it would be brought forward. In the meantime he had directed extra copies of the correspondence to be printed, so that the members would have ample opportunity to inform themselves upon the subject.

Then the House adjourned until 3 o'clock the next day.

TUESDAY, Feby. 21st, 1865.

House met at 3 o'clock.

RAILWAY AND MINING COMPANIES.

Hon. Mr. SHANNON, from the Committee on Private Bills, reported up the Bill which he had withdrawn on the previous day, to incorporate the Sydney and Louisburg Railway Company, as originally introduced, i. e., giving the Directors power to hold their meetings either in this Province or the United States.