British government we would yet see brighter days. He felt proud of being a British subject, and desired no other connection. It was not the rule of a race of French and Dutch Canadians that he would substitute for the liberty we now enjoyed under the best government in the world. He (Mr. March) had every confidence in the leader of the present government, but he wished more had been done to settle the people in those fine Bays where the land was so productive, and where there was abundance of manure from the sea weed that washed up on the beaches, and grass grew higher than a man's head. It was only now that we were coming to know the capabilities of our country, and he hoped that the hardships we had gone through would render our people more careful to husband their means when prosperity returns, and to invest them in those agricultural improvements which would be an inheritance to their children.

Ordered that the petition lie on the table.

On motion of Mr. Wyatt, pursuant to order of the day, the House resolved itself into Committee of the whole on the address in reply to his Excellency's speech, Mr. KNIGHT in the chair.

On motion of Mr. Wyatt, the next section of the address in reference to education, was read.

Mr. WYATT moved that the section be adopted.

Mr. TALBOT —The Governor in his speech had referred to Education and to the necessity of establishing a training school. There were already two or three schools in existence here, and it was very remarkable that his Excellency the Governor was not aware of it. Why did not his constitutional advisers inform him of it? He (Mr. Talbot) was aware of their existence, and they were provided according to the principle of the Education Act, on the denominational basis—The Roman Catholics had one and the Protestants had two or three, and he (Mr. Talbot) had yet to learn that they were not satisfactory, or that they did not fully answer the purpose for which they were established. He could positively assert that the Roman Catholic one was as good and efficient as it was possible to establish. It was in connection with St. Bonaventure College, and was placed in charge of a teacher eminently fitted by the excellent training he had himself received at the Dublin training Institution, to train young men for teachers.—There were always from six to nine pupils under a course of training in this college, and he (Mr. Talbot) presumed that it was the same with the Protestant institutions; and that the most satisfactory results were attained. And was it proposed now to establish another school, in the place of one which could not possibly be excelled? What, therefore, could be the motive for suggesting the establishment of a Normal School? If it was intended that a central training School for all religious denominations should be established, it would be necessary that a school-house should be built for the purpose, and a staff of teachers employed; and thus a very large amount of unnecessary expense would be incurred, thus reducing the general grant now given for Educational purposes.—The only thing which he (Mr. Talbot) saw that would be beneficial was to increase the grant, so as to provide adequate salaries for the teachers. The great evil in this country was that the teachers did not receive that compensation for their services to which they were entitled, or which would render them satisfied with their position. It was not worth training them, if they only received a paltry £25 a year. Let hon members just reflect for one moment on that subject. You give a liberal education to these young men who are designed for teaching in the outports. You raise them intellectually and morally, instil into their minds a laudable ambition, and then you send them to the Outports on the pitiful stipend of £25 a year. Under this system the great difficulty was in retaining the services of these teachers. In the outports they found young men in mercantile establishments, intellectually far their inferiors, and yet receiving salaries double the amount they received. Hence they become dissatisfied with their position, and on the first opportunity they give it up and seek for employment in which they may receive adequate return for their services. The least salary such men should get was he (Mr. Talbot) would say, £60 a year, with whatever else they were able to make. That would render them satisfied with their positions; and being satisfied, they would remain and do their work well. Unless this change was effected, it would be useless to incur expense in further training teachers, for the better educated our young men became, the less inclined would they be settle permanently in the outports on such starving salaries as they at present received. The second point which he (Mr. Talbot) would refer to, was the proposition to compel the people to contribute to the support of their schools. The principle was a sound and unexceptionable one; but he was satisfied it would not work well. It was notorious that in some of the Outports the people were so indifferent to education, that they would do without a school forever rather than contribute one penny to its support. The Inspectors had loudly complained of the indifference of the parents, who in many instances did not send their children to school at all; while others only sent them when they could not employ them at home. But surely if the people were unwilling to contribute to the support of their schools, you would not, on that account, take away from them the blessings of education altogether. Aid Education as much as you can, foster it, improve it, but do not strike at the root of the present system, and sweep it away altogether. He (Mr. Talbot) felt it necessary to make these observations, in anticipation of any Bill that might be introduced on the subject.

Mr. KENT was perfectly satisfied the leader of the government would do nothing to disturb the denominational arrangements which we all knew tended very much to allay the sectarian feeling which at one time ran so high in the country, and under which education has made some progress. The duty of the government consisted in supplying the means for the purpose of education, and exercising a severe surveillance over its expenditure, but to leave the carrying it out, especially as respected the religious feelings of the people, to parents and pastors; and if they had the means to increase the grant, parents and all who were interested in education would not object. He knew nothing else that was required. As to the government setting up a normal school for the training of teachers for all denominations in the colony, he did not believe it would be attempted. He agreed entirely with the hon. member, Mr. Talbot, that unless sufficient emolument were provided for the teachers, any improvement would prove nugatory, as the teachers would be dissatisfied when they saw others, perhaps inferior to them in attainments, in the enjoyment of much more ample salaries.

The hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL was satisfied that when the measure proposed to be introduced by the government was submitted to hon members, it would prove satisfactory to both sides of the House. With reference to the expense of the proposed normal school, he did not think any additional expenditure would result from its establishment. There could be no doubt whatever that a normal school was one of the first necessities of an educational system for the training of those who were to teach the people. Teachers who were uneducated could not instruct others. The reports of the Inspectors and of the Boards of Education showed the necessity of a better instructed class of teachers than many of those now employed, and the experience of all who were acquainted with the state of our elementary schools sustained that view. The hon. member opposite objected to any interference with the existing arrangements for the training of Roman Catholic teachers. He said they had a training act of already. The hon gentleman also objected to the salaries provided for the teachers. But still he admitted that notwithstanding the inadequate salaries, young men came to be trained, and the Boards commanded the services of parties, after being trained, although their emoluments were certainly much less than it was desirable they should be. This showed that it was not necessary to increase the grants to enable the Boards to secure the services of efficient teachers. The hon member was mistaken when he said we had training schools already. The hon member referred to the arrangements for training Roman Catholic teachers in St. Bonaventure College. The Education Act provided for the training there, and in several Protestant institutions. But it was found that the teachers trained in these institutions were inefficient, and it was thought expedient to have a normal school, in which the training of the teachers might be conducted. Last summer circulars were sent to the several outports, and to the head of the Colonial and Continental Church Society, and important information had thus been obtained which would be laid before the House. It was not a training school only that was required. Several of the Boards were in the habit of keeping large sums of money unemployed. Reform was necessary in that respect. The limits of the Education districts were not found so convenient as was desirable. There were also some other improvements required, and an arrangement had been entered into by the Government for the supply of a uniform set of school books at a cheaper rate than they could be procured by depending on the book-sellers for their importation. That should be provided for by law. With respect to the normal school, there was an appropriation under the existing Act for the training of teachers at the several Protestant institutions. It was thought that the training could be made more efficient by combining the money thus expended in one sum; and that it would be sufficient for the maintenance of a normal school. They did not propose to interfere wish the existing denominational arrangements. From the opinions expressed by those who might be considered as expressing Roman Catholic opinion, they appeared to be satisfied with the system of training which they had already at St. Bonaventure College, and they would not be interfered with, and the appropriations for training Protestant teachers would be combined for the support of a Protestant normal school.

Mr. KENT—Would any portion of the Roman Catholic grant be touched?

Hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL—Not without the consent of the Roman Catholic members.

Mr. KENT—They might do what they pleased with their own.

The motion that the section be adopted was then put and carried.

The several sections of the address down to that in reference to the currency were aead *seriatim* and adopted.

The section respecting the currency having been read,

Mr. WYATT moved that it be adopted.

Mr. GLEN said the measure introduced by the Government, and passed the session before last, was undoubtedly a good one. But in order to perfect the arrangements it should be made compulsory on the merchants and all engaged in the trade of the country to keep their accounts in dollars and cents. At present there was a good deal of misunderstanding and discontent among poor people relative to the copper currency, as they were under the impression that they lost two pence on every shilling. It was absolutely necessary that it should be made incumbent on the trade to keep their accounts in accordance with the provisions of the Act, otherwise we would have to go back to the old system of pounds, shillings and pence.

Hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL—The observations of the hon member were well worthy of the attention and serious consideration of the Government and the Legislature. The law, however, had only been a few weeks in operation.

The motion was then put and carried.

Some other sections, down to the 11th, on the subject of confederation, were read seriatim and adopted.

The Committee then rose, and the Chairman reported progress.—To sit again to-morrow.

Mr RENOUF gave notice that on to-morrow he would ask the Acting Colonial Secretary to lay on the table of the House a copy of tenders, notice and agreement, for the hire of the vessel to carry the Commissioner of Fisheries, Judge, and Collector of Revenue to the coast of Labrador in 1864.

The house then adjourned until Thursday at three o'clock.

THURSDAY, Feb. 2.

The House met at three o'clock.

On motion of Mr. WYATT, pursuant to order of the day, the House resolved itself into Committee of the whole on the further consideration of the address in reply to his Excellency's speech at the opening of the session, Mr KNIGHT in the chair.

Mr WYATT said the next section for consideration was the 11th, in reference to the confederation of the Colonies. He moved that the section be read.

The motion was put and carried, and the section was read as follows:—

"The subject of the proposed Confederation of the British North American Provinces is one of the greatest interest and importance, and we concur with your Excellency that it should be approached in a spirit of calm enquiry, keeping in view, as well the present, as the probable future effects on the people of this Colony."

The SPEAKER said he had not hitherto had an opportunity of making any observations respecting his Excellency's speech; and perhaps it was scarcely necessary for him to say anything regarding a speech which was so very satisfactory to hon gentlemen on both sides of the House. For the first time since he (the Speaker) had the honor of a seat in that House, had he heard the members on the opposition side praise the speech from the throne. Hon members on the opposition benches indorsed in complimentary language the important practical suggestions of his Excellency's speech. It was evident, however, that these hon gentlemen, in their ignorance of constitutional usages, regarded the speech as emanating from the Governor himself, and not the embodiment of the policy of his constitutional advisers; and it was not until that experienced parliamentary tactician, the hon member for St. John's East, Mr Kent, set these hon members right, that they became aware that they were bestowing the most unqualified commendation upon the policy of his (the Speaker's) hon friend, the leader of the government. One hon member said it was a parliamentary fiction that the speech was the speech of the ministry. He (the Speaker) must say that this was novel constitutional doctrine emanating from a professed admirer of responsible government. Next day, however, there was some attempt to find fault, but it was so feeble that it was not entitled to notice. He (the Speaker) did say the members of the Government had reason to congratulate themselves upon this unqualified indorsation of their policy by the opposition. With respect to his Excellency's speech, he (the Speaker) would observe that he had listened to few speeches couched in more elegant language, and he must congratulate the House and the country upon the choice Her Majesty had made of a Governor of so much ability and intellectuality, to administer the affairs of this ancient and loyal colony. His Excellency came here in the prime of life, and he must have been highly appreciated by Her Majesty's Government when he was appointed to such a high and responsible office as the government of this important dependancy of the Crown. There was scarcely a subject of public interest in the colony which was not referred to in that speech. The subject of pauperism occupied a prominent place. There was scarcely a session but they had to take that question into consideration. Poverty, in one part of the island or another, was almost of annual recurrence, showing the necessity of providing some other means of subsistence for the people besides precarious fisheries. There were no people who worked harder or toiled more incessantly than did many of the fishermen of this colony, or who poured more wealth into the treasury of their employers, while, at the same time, they were subject to the recurrence of seasons of wide spread destitution. Some remedy was required to reach this evil, and if any remedy was devised, it must come from this House, for it would not come from those who profited by the fishermens' toil. The encouragement of the Bank and Mackerel fisheries, and the promotion of agriculture were calculated to prove most beneficial in furnishing profitable employment to our people and thus improving their circumstances. But the question which chiefly engrossed public attention was that referred to in the section just read. He (the Speaker) would act with impartiality in regard to that matter. It was a question on which he had no party views to subserve. He came to its decision fearlessly and independently, and cared for no clamour raised by interested parties out of doors; and he did say that he would discuss it without feeling. It was a matter which had agitated the country for some months, and was the most important question which could occupy the attention of the Legislature. A day was fixed for the discussion of that question; and he (the Speaker) would not now anticipate what he might then have to say on the subject. But having had the honour of being appointed one of the delegates to the conference held on this subject at Quebec, he would be expected to take the earliest opportunity of entering into explanations respecting the proceedings of that conference. When he considered that there were parties out of doors who, from interested motives, were desirous of defeating the object of that conference, and when we found them indulging in such clap-tran with a view to excite a clamour against the proposed confederation, charging the Delegates with selling the country, as if there were in his mind or in that of the gentleman associated with him any desire except to promote the best interests of their native land—when he found such calumnies resorted to he would take that opportunity to make a few observations. His co-delegate and himself had not been pitchforked into the country. They had not traded on the interests of the people. They went to the Conference with an earnest resolution to benefit their native land to the utmost of their ability, feeling the deep responsibility of the duties they had undertaken. They were determined to do nothing which, in their opinion, would be calculated to prejudice the country in which they had such a deep interest. And who should feel a deeper interest in the prosperity of Newfoundland than they did? Both natives of the Island, in which all their interests centred, was it to be supposed that either of them would do anything calculated to prejudice the true interests of their country? He (the Speaker) expected to spend his life in the country, and he did not anticipate any personal advantage from the proposed federation, farther than it would promote the prosperity of the land of his nativity and the home of his children. If was said they were giving away the fisheries. Now those who said so knew it was not true. They knew that the people of all British North America had the same interest in the fisheries as we have. But at the conference it was stipulated, which was readily conceded, that we should reserve the power to make such enactments as might be necessary for the protection of the fisheries. Again, it was said we were destroying the liberties of the people. He was surprised to hear such a statement put forward. Would any person have his liberty curtailed by taking up his residence in Great Britain, in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, or Canada? These countries all had responsible government before we had it. And it was the very first decision come to at the Conference that with a view to the perpetuation of our connection with the mother country, and the promotion of the best interests of the people, the model of the British government should be followed, so far as circumstances would permit, the Government being vested in Her Most Gracious Majesty and administered by her representative in accordance with the well understood principles of the British constitution. He (the Speaker) was surprised when he heard yesterday a member of that House say that he wanted to be British, and not to be ruled by French or Dutch Canadians—what an absurdity! Our British connection would be guaranteed by an Act of the Imperial Parliament. With responsible government, the ministry of the day responsible to the people not merely of Canada, but also of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, and Prince Edward Island, would not our liberties be as well secured as at present, and our British connection perpetuated for ages to come? Again, we were told of the establishment of a militia, as if the people were to be marched to the frontier of Canada to repel invasion from that province. When he found gentlemen, from whom better might be expected, getting up clap-trap of that kind, he regarded it as the best evidence that they had nothing substantial to urge against the proposed confederation. Where was there anything in the resolutions to indicate any such purpose? How could we have a militia force in this Colony. Our fishermen, from the very nature of their occupation, could not be organized into a militia. During the summer season the greater number of them were absent from their homes prosecuting the fishery. It was only amongst an agricultural population that a militia could be organized. But, he (the Speaker) would ask, whether every man of right feeling in the country would not be ready to arm in defence of his family and his home and the land of his nativity or adoption, should the necessity arise? The triumphs of the British navy were not achieved without the powerful aid of the fishermen of Newfoundland, and we had now a body of fishermen who in valour and physical vigour were not inferior to their ancestors, and who were as ready to defend their country as any class of Her Majesty's subjects. There might be some legislation with respect to the Volunteers, but he (the Speaker) was certain that Britain would continue to use the protection of her troops, and that the navy would not be withdrawn. He had authority for saying that all that the statesmen of Great Britain required was that the people of the colonies should show a disposition to protect themselves, and that protection which had hitherto been accorded them would not only be continued, but increased. But it was said "you are going to bind us to Canada." Now we had heard that said by persons who had never seen Canada, who had never been out of this Colony; and perhaps it would be as well for some of them to travel a little and visit that magnificent province, as well as Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, which were advancing so rapidly in material prosperity, and in all that tended to make a people great and respected. How many had emigrated from this Colony to Canada, and found there a home where their industry was rewarded with competence for themselves and their families? But we were to be united, not merely to Canada, but to Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and in the Legislature of the union we would all be represented according to our population. It was a treaty, which, if carried out, would give us all one great country, extending from the Atlantic to the Pacific, in whose onward course and prosperity we would participate, and whose glory and renown would be the inheritance of your children. Our alliance was not to be with Canada alone, but also with Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. These countries were all more prosperous than we are, for it must be admitted that we are at the lowest point of depression. It was useless to talk of the 600,000 seals, or the 400,000 that we are to have this spring. Would one successful seal fishery reestablish our prosperity? But hon gentlemen would retain their isolation. Did they recollect 1857, two years after the establishment of responsible government, when a convention was entered into with France, giving away our best fishing grounds, and when a few hours after the Convention was made public here, property was depreciated 40 per cent? What did we do then? Did we contemn the aid of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Canada? No, but a deputation was appointed, consisting of the hon. member for St. John's East, Mr Kent, and himself (the Speaker) to proceed to these provinces, whose alliance some hon. members would now contemn, and we received their warmest sympathy and cooperation to defeat that convention, which, if carried into effect, would have transferred our most valuable fisheries to the French. What was the result? Out came the circular dispatch of the Colonial Minister, announcing that the convention was withdrawn. Hon. members said we would never again have such a convention. But how did they know? Was not the influence of France as potent at Downing Street now as then? And were not our proceedings vigilantly watched by the emissaries of the French Emperor? And would not our isolation, if we persisted in it, give the desired opportunity of endeavouring to obtain from the British Government what it has long been his policy to secure? And supposing the convention of 1857 should be renewed, what were we to do? Would we send to the neighbouring Provinces? If we did, they would most likely reply—"We assisted you once, and when subsequently we proposed a federation which would have secured the protection of your interests in all time coming, you refused to become parties to it. You may now protect yourselves." But the union was objected to on the plea of increased taxation. Could any hon member recollect when, a few years ago, the great leader of the opposition to this confederation proposed to lay an export duty on fish and oil? And now he came forward, as the professed friend of the fisherman, to oppose the union on the plea of increased taxation. And how much would they be taxed? Would they feel 2, 3, or 4 per cent over the present taxation? Were they not sufficiently taxed already? Did they not receive their supplies at an advance of 50 or 60? Did not the fisherman at present get flour imported, duty free, under the reciprocity treaty, and was there any reduction in their accounts in consequence? But we must bear in mind that a notice has been given to abrogate the reciprocity treaty, and with it we would lose our free trade with the other colonies, for we could not expect, if we refused to join in this confederation, that the other provinces would continue the admission of our produce duty free. But under this confederation, not only the products of the fisheries and of agriculture, but also the manufactures of the several provinces would pass duty free from one to the other. Now, Canada, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia were extensive in manufacturing, and the very articles required by our fishermen were manufactured in these provinces at a cheaper rate. Let this convention be carried out, and food and clothing for our fishermen would be brought in duty-free from the neighbouring provinces. Again, they should support this confederation on account of their children. Was there no regard for them? What future was there for any young man brought up in this country? If his object was to engage in commercial pursuits, where was he to get his training? How were we to get a mercantile education for many of our sons, with the importations which were annually made from Britain? Some must go to another country, and where were they to go to, with the British provinces broken up into fragments? To the United States? Every feeling of patriotism dictated that they should remain under the British flag. Supposing they now went to Canada, who were they to apply to? But if we formed part of the same country, they would find our members there, and if we were careful in their selection, they would be such as would make themselves felt, limited as was the number to which our population entitled us. Our young men could apply to these members, whose interest would be made available to forward their views. Look at Scotland, for instance. How many went from Scotland, and on application to their members in the Imperial Parliament, got appointments, which enabled them by the proper exercise of their talents to rise to eminence? And he (the Speaker) was aware that many young men who came over to England from Ireland, were equally successful, through the influence of the Irish members. And it would be the same under this convention, while, at the same time, the recommendation of of our representatives, to whom they might be known, or bring introductions, would be influential in procuring situations for our young men in mercantile establishments. There was abundance of room in the neighbouring Provinces for all our young men who might not find employment here, for hundreds of years to come. Then were we not in a state of the deepest depression? And what would raise us from it so effectually as union with the neighbouring provinces? How often have we heard the wish expressed for years past for union with these provinces? And now when we had the opportunity, many amongst us would prefer isolation. The financial arrangements entered into would give a better revenue than we had on the average of the last ten years, securing sufficient means for the road service, so much complained of, as being inadequately provided for. We would also be provided with direct steam communication at the expense of the Federal Government, as well as steam communication with Canada, which, no doubt, would induce the visits of capitalists, and stimulate enterprise, leading to competition, which, while it would benefit the community, was not, perhaps, desired by some. But although it might be the means of reducing profits, anything that would promote employment must prove beneficial to the working classes. It was said they were giving away the Crown lands and the minerals of the island. From the clamour raised by some gentlemen on this subject, one would imagine that the Canadians were to send down a number of vessels with pickaxes and shovels to carry away the land. It would be a rather arduous task to take away the rocks of this Island—to take away even Chain rock, and as for Signal Hill, who was to attempt its removal? But what did we want? What had we been wishing for years? Did we not want our wild lands improved? Who was to do it? Was it not well to induce the people who were willing to pay so handsomely for them, to improve them, so as to repay them for their outlay? We knew we were to get a handsome sum for the surrender of our Crown lands, and we also knew that to render them productive of revenue a large expenditure would be involved in surveys, and the working of our mines, which would be all for our benefit, while there could be no interference with local enterprise, for the lands were as available to us as to any other portion of the Confederation, and local capitalists had greater facilities than those who came from a distance. But our own capitalists, with the exception