

that a special committee be appointed to consider the subject.

The following gentlemen were named as the committee:—Messrs. McLelan, Killam, McFarlane, D. Fraser, and Ross.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Mr. LONGLEY moved that the bill to establish an asylum for inebriates be referred to a special committee, and in doing so he would remark that since its introduction he had ascertained that in the Washington Home Institution 251 had been admitted during the last year, and of these 150 had been reclaimed and restored to society. He believed that the institution could be started at a small expense, and he was glad to find that the subject had been favorably entertained by the press.

Mr. MILLER enquired whether the bill contained any clause relating to the guardianship of the property of inebriates.

Mr. LONGLEY believed it did.

After a few further remarks the bill was referred to a special committee consisting of Messrs. Longley, Miller, Hamilton, Archibald, Brown, Tobin, and LeVesconte.

Hon. Mr. SHANNON, from committee on private bills, reported the following:—To authorize the trustees of the Baptist church at Yarmouth to sell lands: to incorporate the Cape Breton coal mining company; to add an electoral district in Halifax county.

Mr. ARCHIBALD asked the government to lay upon the table all the information in their possession as to the proposed cost of the railroad from Truro to Pictou.

The house resolved itself into committee on bills and resumed the consideration of the school bill.

Hon. ATTY. GEN. slightly amended the sixth clause at the instance of the member for Yarmouth. The time over which the assessment was to be levied was limited to five years. He then read the clauses which he proposed to add, and which were discussed on a previous day—giving the trustees power in cases where persons refused to dispose of their lands for the erection of school houses, to take possession of them under certain guards and restrictions.

After some discussion the clause was lost upon division.

An addition was made to the 14th clause, which is the one ratifying the proceedings of meetings informally held—providing that it shall only apply to cases where schools have been established and put in operation. An amendment of Mr. Blanchard that the section should not apply to non-residents in the district, was also adopted.

Hon. FIN. SEC. moved a clause to the effect, that where school houses have been built by a few persons originally, the trustees before obtaining possession of them must reimburse the original owners.

After some little discussion the consideration of the clause was left over and the remaining clauses passed with the understanding that any gentleman could move to reconsider them on the next day.

Then the committee adjourned and reported progress.

Hon. PRO. SEC. gave notice that, for the purpose of expediting the business of the house, it would meet in future every evening, except Wednesdays and Saturdays.

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

WEDNESDAY, March 22nd.

The house met at 3 o'clock.

Mr. LOCKE presented a petition from a mail courier in Shelburne asking for a change of mail route.

A message was received from the Legislative Council stating that they had agreed to a bill to incorporate the Acadia Boot and Shoe Manufacturing Company, and to the bill to incorporate Miramichi Bay Harbour Company, and had passed a bill to change the names of William Henry, Dorcas, and Frances Ann Henderson.

Hon. FIN. SEC. laid on the table a petition from J. F. Phelan, B. Wier, and others, asking for aid towards the Boston and Colonial Steamship line, plying between Halifax, Boston, and Charlottetown. Also the petition of James King, B. Wier, and others asking for aid towards a steamer between Liverpool and Arichat, &c.

RIVER FISHERIES.

Mr. DONKIN asked the government whether they had taken any action on the report last session of the committee in reference to the River Fisheries and obtained information in respect to fish ladders.

Hon. PROV. SEC. replied that the subject had been under the consideration of the government, and having made enquiries, they found that Colonel Laurie had brought out a drawing of a fish ladder, in reference to which an expression of opinion was sought from a society which exists here for the purpose of protecting the river fisheries. He had now a model in his office of this ladder which he would present to the house shortly, and which, he believed, would work admirably.

UNION OF THE COLONIES.

Hon. PRO. SEC. laid on the table a report on the deep sea and coast fisheries of Ireland.

Also the following resolution which would be moved at a future day:—

"Whereas under existing circumstances an immediate Union of the British American Colonies has become impracticable, and whereas a legislative Union of the Maritime Provinces is desirable whether the larger Union be accomplished or not:

"Therefore Resolved, That in the opinion of the House the negotiations for the Union of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and P. E. Island should be renewed in accordance with the resolution introduced at the last Session of the Legislature."

CITY BILL.

Mr. PRYOR introduced a bill entitled an act to enable the City of Halifax to purchase real estate. In answer to an enquiry from Mr. Tobin he stated that the City had determined to buy property belonging to the estate of the late Hon. W. Black, where they keep the office of the water works.

Mr. TOBIN said he did not think the City of Halifax wanted a very large office to transact business in connection with the water works. It was about time to look carefully after such expenditures. No doubt there was a very intelligent and influential body of men in the City of Council, but sometimes they might be acted upon by their constituents. There was already a bill before the House to borrow a certain sum of money to pay off some debt; in fact, it was only substituting one debt for another. He found the debt was extending