

Hon. PROV. SEC. said that course would be perfectly irregular, a committee might go out and report the whole of the present system. The matter should be left with the government.

Mr. MILLER approved of the position assumed by the government. He did not think it was right to reduce the salaries of those who were already too poorly paid in order to increase others. He would rather be inclined to go further and increase the vote for this service.

Mr. LOCKE thought that the proper course was to refer the matter to the committee on navigation securities.

Hon. FIN. SECY. said that as far as he was aware the light house keepers were satisfied with their salaries. He had no petitions in his office for increased pay.

Mr. LONGLEY had several letters in his possession from light house keepers asking for increase of salary. After some further discussion the matter was left to the government.

Mr. TORIN enquired whether the government had ever received any communication from Captain Anderson of the Canadian steamer China, on the subject of a light house at Jed-dore Head. When he (Mr. T.) went home in that vessel the captain had alluded to the dangerous nature of the rocks in that locality and to the necessity of a light there, and he had advised him to bring the subject under the notice of the government, from whom he had no doubt that it would receive due consideration. He would like to know if he had ever done so.

Hon. PROV. SEC. would make enquiry, and if any such letter had been received, he would lay it upon the table.

Mr. COLIN CAMPBELL said that the matter under discussion related to a money claim, and should, under the rules of the house, go to the government without any remarks. He had had several claims of a similar nature and had always adopted that course; but it seemed that some gentlemen were in the habit of raising a discussion upon matters that had no right to be before the house, in order that their remarks might go to the country. He did not think that was right.

Hon. PROV. SEC., by command, laid on the table a return asked for by the member for Victoria, showing the expense incurred in setting the machinery of the present school bill in motion. Also, a return from the Chairman of the Board of Works shewing the number of patients in the Lunatic Asylum, chargeable to the county of Lunenburg—asked for by the member for Shelburne.

Mr. TORIN had presented a petition from the magistrates and proprietors of mines at Tangier, praying for some revision of the present license law. At present the law restricts the sale of intoxicating liquors within four miles of any mining district. Petitioners wish the Sessions to have discretionary power in such cases. He would suggest that the whole subject of the revision of the license law be referred to a select committee, and he would name Messrs. Blanchard, Longley, Locke, Hamilton, and himself.

Mr. LONGLEY was glad that he had so far made a convert of the member for Halifax as to get him to see the necessity for some alteration in the present law. He was aware that some parts of the law had not proved as satisfactory to the people as the old one had, and he should be happy to co-operate with the

hon. gentleman in endeavoring to render it more perfect.

Hon. ATTY. GENL. was not quite sure whether the member for Halifax had not converted the member for Annapolis.

Mr. STEWART CAMPBELL said that after the member for Annapolis had been converted on the subject of railways, it was not at all surprising that his views on temperance should also undergo a change.

Hon. PROV. SEC. by command laid on the table an application from William Hicks Esq, formerly of the Royal Navy for a grant of land, referred to Crown Land committee. Also copies of correspondence relating to the appointment of delegates to the Charlotte town conference.

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

Tuesday, March 7th.

The House met at 3 o'clock.

Hon. PROV. SEC. laid on the table an answer to the enquiry of the hon. member for Shelburne (Mr. Locke) relative to the township of Chester.

DISCUSSION OF THE UNION QUESTION.

Mr. BOURINOT said, as there was nothing before the House, he was desirous of asking the government a question in reference to the Union of the Colonies. That question was agitating the country to perhaps a greater extent than any other question for years, and the people were naturally anxious to hear the views of the House on the subject. He was therefore desirous of learning from the Provincial Secretary, as the leader of the government, when it was proposed to discuss this all important topic.

Hon. PROV. SEC. replied that the House was now in possession of all the correspondence relative to the subject, and the policy of the government relative to it would be submitted at an early day.

Mr. BOURINOT said this was not the answer he expected. He had hoped that the government would have been prepared to name the day when they would be ready to lay this question fully before the House. When the prorogation was close at hand, was not the proper time for the discussion of a question which required so much deliberation on the part of every one in the Legislature.

THE FRANCHISE ACT.

Mr. ROSS said he would like to know from the Provincial Secretary what action the Government intended to take with the counties that did not comply with the terms of the Franchise Act. He observed that the Custos from Victoria county merely mentioned that nothing was done in that county to enforce the terms of the Act, which fact he mentioned the other day. He thought the Custos should have assigned some reason why the proper steps were not taken, as plainly expressed in the law. The Custos also mentioned that assessment rolls would be forwarded. Such rolls can operate only from the counties that acted under revisors and revising districts. The sessions in that case would meet this month, and if they can act legally, then it was necessary that some positive instruction should be sent to a Custos who failed to act up to the law and gave no reason for so palpable a neglect of duty.