

not attempt to justify the action of the magistrates, although he was disposed to take a more charitable view than he himself. He was close at hand when the difficulty under consideration arose at Guysboro, and it was a very significant fact that a distinct party majority at the sessions expressed their determination not to act out the policy of the law. The gentleman who represented the political opinions of himself and colleague voted to carry out the law. It was moved by one of the minority "that the court proceed to set off the revising sections as the law requires in order that the revisors may be nominated." Then the amendment was moved by a gentleman, a friend of the Provincial Secretary, "that the business of setting off the revising sections and the appointment of revisors be deferred until the court of general sessions in the January term of 1865 shall have an opportunity of petitioning the General Assembly in order to have the act repealed." The sessions met in January, but these gentlemen did not attempt to carry out the purpose of their amendment. They had obtained their object of defeating the law, and therefore they did not consider it necessary to do anything more. He also mentioned that in the county of Guysboro they were required to perform the duty of carrying out the law at the supreme court last fall.

Hon. ATTY. GEN. asked if the law required that.

Mr. STEWART CAMPBELL replied that he was surprised that the Attorney General of this Province should be so ignorant of the law as not to know that at the last session of the house the act in question was passed. The special sessions was held at the fall term, and the matter was then to be attended to or not at all. It was a mere pretext to say that when the general sessions came around they would make an attempt to have the law repealed. Although an amendment of this law was proposed to enable that county to have the franchise extended to them, he did not think it would have the effect intended. He hoped the Provincial Secretary would take steps to show these refractory gentlemen that they would not be allowed to violate the law with impunity.

Mr. C. J. CAMPBELL thought it would be very hard if the magistrates were treated as harshly as some thought they should be. He considered the franchise law as most obnoxious to the people, and expressed his belief that the country was under the impression that the party now in power who opposed it when in opposition would take measures for its repeal. The whole tendency of the law was to corrupt the constituencies of the province, and therefore he hoped it would not be kept much longer a blot upon our statute book.

Mr. ROSS said that now perhaps the house could form an idea why the law was not complied with in the county of Victoria.

CONFEDERATION.

Mr. JOST presented three petitions from Lunenburg which he stated were against Confederation.

Mr. McLELAN presented a petition from Acadia Mines, another from Hebert River, and two from Lower Onslow, on the same subject.

Hon. PROV. SEC. said that some misapprehension appeared to exist as to the character of these petitions. They left the question whether a union was desirable or not, entirely open.

They asked for time for the consideration of the question. Any gentleman who took the liberty of putting on the back of these petitions that they were against confederation took an unwarrantable liberty with them.

Mr. McLELAN said that the petitions spoke against Confederation being dealt with by the present House, and in favor of the question being first submitted to the people.

The petition being read, Mr. LOCKE said that he conceived the tenor of the petition was opposed to Confederation, for it stated at the very commencement that this people were to be forced to be represented at Ottawa by only 19 members.

Hon. ATTY. GEN. replied that any one could see that the petitioners' desire was to get more information on this important subject before making their minds up.

Mr. McLELAN said that the petitioners earnestly prayed that before passing upon the matter, the people would have an opportunity of expressing their wishes at the polls.

Mr. STEWART CAMPBELL asked if the people were not led to believe that Confederation was to be passed *instanter*. Petitioners, believing this, asked for delay. The petitions were therefore against Confederation in the sense in which the Provincial Secretary and his friends had presented the question to the public.

Mr. LOCKE said that the petitions stated at the very outset that they were going to surrender our revenue to a Parliament sitting at Ottawa.

Hon. ATTY. GEN. said that petitioners appeared rather to wish to know what they were going to receive in return for what they gave up.

PETITION—MILITIA COMPENSATION.

Mr. McLELAN presented a petition from Robert Corbett, asking for remuneration for certain services in connection with the re-organization of the militia. The Financial Secretary referred it to the Militia Committee.

YARMOUTH BANK.

Mr. KILLAM introduced a bill, entitled "An act further to amend the act relative to the Bank of Yarmouth," and stated that its object was simply to alter the time of holding the annual meeting, and to allow the shareholders to pay in the whole amount of their capital stock.

A question arose as to whether bills in amendment of those already passed should again pay the fee of \$20. It appeared that whatever was the original intention of the rule it had been applied last session to bills of a character similar to the one mentioned.

MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS.

Mr. JOHN CAMPBELL presented a petition from the inhabitants of North Queens on the subject of the Union of the Colonies.

Mr. CHAS. CAMPBELL asked if it was the intention of the Government to introduce a measure during the present session to amend the Franchise Act. The Provincial Secretary replied that the subject was now under the consideration of the Executive.

Hon. PROV. SEC. laid on the table the report of the Fruit Growers' Association of Nova Scotia, which was read. It states that the efforts of the society have been attended with encouraging success.

Hon. FIN. SEC. laid on the table certain petitions respecting road damages, which were referred to the committee on that subject.