

the tie between them and the mother country, but the danger was diminished by Union. It was not to be wondered at that such a feeling should exist, and that there should be a desire to restrain such individuals when one gentleman professing to represent Nova Scotia declared that we were indefensible, and that he could raise a body of men in New York sufficient to wrest the Colonies from the grasp of England.

The bill passed the third reading.

The house adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, April 8.

The house met at 3 o'clock.

EDUCATION REPORT.

Hon. PROV. SEC. laid on the table the Education Report for 1866. He stated that the Report afforded very gratifying evidence of the progress of the new school system in this Province. In 1866 the number of public schools in operation was: during the winter term 907, or an increase of 144 over 1865; during the summer term 1170, or an increase of 181 over 1865. The pupils registered during the summer term of 1866 were 56,017, or an increase of 12,246 over 1865; during the winter term, 45,131, or an increase 9980 over 1865. The estimated number of different pupils attending the Public Schools during 1866 is 71,059. The total number of teachers employed during the winter term of 1866 was 929, and in the summer 1,190, showing an increase for the respective terms of 223 and 337 over those of last year. The amount expended in the Province for teachers' salaries during the school year was \$235,825 67, an increase of \$45,730 28 over the previous year. The sources whence these salaries were derived, and the amount from each source, were as follows:—Province, \$95,339 27; Counties, \$55,258 64; Sections, \$85,227 78. The total amount paid by the Province towards buildings, books, and apparatus, &c., in 1866, was \$7,781 01; in 1865, \$8,185 16; shewing a decrease of \$444.15. The total amount paid by the various sections for buildings, furniture, apparatus and miscellaneous was \$91,024 31. The increase in the salaries of teachers had been one of the most gratifying and significant features in connection with the recent educational reform. We might now reasonably expect that much talent of a good order will seek employment in the work of teaching, and that an increasing number of those who engage in this, one of the noblest of callings, will do so for life. For the term ended April 30th, there were 70 schools which competed for the superior grant, and for the term ended October 31st, 71. Of the former, 54 were successful: and of the latter, 52.

Much has also been done towards organizing County Academies. Every county, except Inverness entitled under the act to an Academy will soon be in a position to receive the benefits which a thoroughly equipped institution must confer. Inverness does not, for the present, propose to establish an Academy. The Superintendent, referring to the state of education in the city, says—"The efforts of the Board under

the difficulties created by the action of a majority of the City Council in refusing for a time, to levy the required assessment, happily prevented the public schools from being closed. But for the prompt response made by the Government to their representations, the capital of the Province would have presented the shameful and disheartening spectacle of thousands of children roaming its streets in worse than idleness while almost every other section of the country was liberally devoting its means and energies to the work of public education."

The Provincial Secretary, having run over the principal facts given in the Report, concluded by expressing his conviction that the people at large would appreciate the action of the Legislature in having taken the great responsibility upon it of dealing energetically with the educational system of the country.

The Report was referred to the Committee on Education.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Hon. PROV. SEC. laid on the table correspondence with the Vice Admiral relative to the formation of a Naval Brigade.

Mr. C. J. CAMPBELL introduced a bill to add a polling place in the county of Victoria.

Mr. FRYOR, Chairman of Committee on Private and Local Bills, reported up the bill relative to the People's Bank.

Mr. ANNAND, in the discharge of his duty as a member of the Legislature, asked leave to present a petition numerously signed by residents of the town of Arichat praying that the bill now before the House, to appoint commissioners of streets for that place, should not be allowed to pass.

Mr. MILLER said that those who had ever visited Arichat would confess that few towns in the Province stood in greater want of commissioners of streets. As a rule, the streets were in a perfectly disgraceful condition, and consequently when he was recently in the town a number of the most influential residents asked him to introduce just such a bill as was before the House. On looking over the petition just presented, he found that it was contemptibly signed as regards numbers. There were not more than half a dozen names to this petition to whom he felt disposed to pay any regard. At any rate, it was not such a petition as would induce him to hesitate in the discharge of a public duty. He was confident, in fact he knew that the bill was desired by the very great majority of the residents of Arichat. It was a matter of notoriety that in some cases the statute labour money had been collected and pocketed, without having been expended on the streets at all. In consequence of this fact, and the shameful condition of the streets, he had been induced to bring in the bill before the House. The manner in which the petition came before the House was sufficient evidence to him of the quarter whence it emanated. He believed it was not usual for any member to present a petition from another county than his own without having, in the first place, shown it to one of the representatives of that county.