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No. 3,637.

St. John's, Thursday, February 9, 1865.

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HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

MONDAY, Jan. 30.

The House met at three o'clock.

Mr. WYAIF, from the select Committee to prepare an address in reply to his Excellency's speech, presented the draft of an address, which was read a first time. Second reading to-morrow.

Mr. WYAIT gave notice that, on to-morrow, he would move the suspension of the Rules of the House with remove the suspension of

Mr. WYAIT give notice in more the suspension of the Rules of the House with reference to that address.
The hon. RECEIVER GENERAL gave notice that, on to-morrow, he would move the appointment of a select committee on the ontingencies of the House.
Mr. RENOUF pursaant to notice, asked the Acting Colonial Secretary to lay on the table copies of correspendence with the Government of Canada, and other dacuments relative to the Federal Union of the Provin-

Hose a copy of the letter of Dr. Stabb, Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum, complaining of the visit of impection by the members for the division of St. John's West to that Institution.

The Hon, ATTONEY GENERAL was sorry that the government could not comply with the request of the hon. member, for a copy of the leter referred to in his notice, in which he assumed that some reference was made to himself and the other næmbers for St. John's West. It must be obvious that if the confidential communications of the officers of the Government were to be made public, much detrinent to the public service would be the inevisable result.

Mr. RENOUE.—Was the letter marked confidential? Hon. ATTONEY GENERAL—It was a matter of no importance whether it was marked confidential or not. It was from an officer of the government.

Mr. RENOUE.—That officer, it appeared, could do as he pleased. He had the sole control of an institution, four miles from the town, in which there were over 10°, paper immates, and which cost the co-ony £4,000 a year; and when the members for the Western division of St. John's, in the discharge of their duty to their constituents, made a visit of inspection to that institution, it appeared that this official complained to the Executive Others, and who was under the discharge of their duty to their constituents, made a visit of inspection to that institution, it appeared that this official complained to the Executive Others, and the discharge of their duty to their constituents, made a visit of inspection to that institution, it appeared that this official complained to the Executive Others, and the discharge of their duty to their constituents, made a visit of inspection to that institution, it appeared that this official complained to the Executive Others, and the discharge of their duty to their constituents of the training done so, and now when they applied for a cony of his letter, they were refused. The reason was obvious. Dr. Stabb had a brother in the Executive Connel, who supported him in all

that institution and every other public institution in the colony; and if he, or any other member had any charges to make respecting the management of this Asylum, or any other institution under the control of the government, they would be prepared at once to institute an inquiry.

Air, RENOTE—Was certainly surprised that any doonment should be thus refused to be laid before this House. He would ask the hon. Attorney General whether that document had been marked confidential or not? He (Mr. R) considered that he had a perfect right to ask for that document in his official capacity as a member of this House. He (Mr. R.) would briefly exprain the circumstances of this case. He understood, with his hon colleague Mr. Talbott, that a letter had been written to the Executive by the Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum, complaining of the connuct of three hon members of that house, who, in discharge of their duty as custodians of the public, had visited that institution tweive months previously. On that occasion they had met the Superintendant who complained of intess, and was unable to accompany them through the building.—He (Mr. Renouf) must say that as far as the eye could discover, every thing was in the most perfect order—they had been well astafed with the result of their visit, and regarded the state of the institution as a creat to the buperintendent. What then was this letter written for, and especially twelve months after this visit was made? Had we no right to go there? That letter reflected on his (Mr. Renouf's) character, and he had a right to get it. He had applied to the hon Colonial Secretary, to accreain whether it was really in existence or not. That guillean did not deny it, and said that the non. Attorpley General would give him [Mr. Kenouf) a copy of the leter.—Did not hor, gentlemen remember that some years back grave complaints had been made against Dr. Stabb, and that the Governor had said that it he were spounded to supervise the working of that institution? The result was that Doctors Carson

by Dr. Stabb in a most cringing manner. He took them through the whole building, and actually esked them into his private apartments. There was no institution that required more supervision than that one.—And had the representatives of the people, who voted the supplies for its support, no right to visit it?

After some further discussion, in which Mr. Renouf, the hons. Attorney and Receiver General, and Mr. Talbot took part, the matter was dropped.

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

TUESDAY, Jan. 31.

The house met at three o'clock.

Mr. GLEN presented a petition from Gregory Morris and other inhabitants of Witless Bay, which was received and read, praying that a certain cove in Witless Bay should be reserved as a place of 'refuge for their fishing craft.

and read, praying that a certain cove in Witless Bay should be reserved as a place of refuge for their fishing craft.

Mr. Girst, in moving that the petition lie on the table, would observe that Witless Bay was much exposed to easterly gales, which proved very destructive to fishing craft; and the cove in question was the only place where they could take shelter. It was, therefore, of great importance to the people that it should be reserved for their use. An endeavour was now made to claim it as private property, and he thought it was the duty of the government to interfere for the public interest.

Hon ATTORNEY GENERAL, in seconding the motion for the petition lying on the table, would state that the hon member showed him the petition previous to the presenting it to the House; and had pointed out to him the proper course in the matter. It was not a matter for the Government to interfere. Let the petitioners prefer an indictment at the Quarter Sessions for the district. There was a number of them, and the expense would be trifling. They could then have it tried whether any private party had any right of property in that cove.

Mr. KENT.—Fishery rights throughout the colony should be preserved inviolate. It was obviously of the utmost importance to the petitioners, for the safety of their fishing oraft, the cove in question should not pass into private hands. What were the Attorney General and Surveyor General paid such magnificent salaries for, if they we e not to look after the public interests?

Ordered that the petition lie on the table.

On motion of Mr. WYATT, pursuant to order of the day, the address in reply to the Governor's speech was read a second time.

Mr. WYATT moved, pursuant to notice, that the rules of the house oe suspended in reference to the address.

Mr. KENT—The address embraced matters of great.

dress.

Mr. KENT—The address embraced matters of great importance It would be well to proceed in the regular course, and not have it committed until to-mor-

Hon ATTORNEY GENERAL—The address being an echo of the sprech, as was usual with such documents, there were several paragraphs on which there would be no difference of opinion. They might proceed with these, and let that on when hon members might wish, for discussion lie over until to-morrow.

The motion was put and carried.

On motion of Mr. WYATT, the House resolved itself into Commutee of the whole on the address, Mr. KNIGHT in the chair.

The first and second sections of the address were read seriatm and adopted. The third section was read referring to the subject of poor relief.

Mr. WYATT moved that the section be adopted,

Mr. E. Jr. Shras said that paragraph was not in accordance with the speech, which recommended assessment in the several districts for the support of the poor. In the repy, the Gio eriment swallowed their own words and deprecated his Excellency's suggestion. They said there were difficulties in the way of its adoption. He (Yir. Shes) congratulated the Government on their conversion to the views of the opposition on that question. The matter was fully discussed last session. The soundness of the principle was admitted on this side, but we said it was not applicable to the circumstances of this colony; and that paragraph of the address virtually said the same thing. A Bill was brought in lists session providing for assessment in certain districts. Hon members on this side expressed their views fully on the subject, in opposition to that measure, and some members on the Government side of the House coincided with them, and the Bill was consequently withdrawn. And now, while the Governor was advised to recommend having recourse to assessment, the Government tell him that such a course is impracticable in this Colony. He (Mr. Shea) did say that piragraph was a distinct and clear and unmistakaable amendment on the Government and the centritugal forces of the Government had last year endeavoured to firce the Peopt and the contituent of the Government and the contituent of the conditions of the

hold thy tongue."? If they were desirous of playing the part of spirit rappers, let them send for the Divenport brothers, to relieve them from their present state of emburasment. They certainly were in an unenviable position, and he would let them enjoy the fame. He (Mr. Kent) did not begrudge it to them.

"Mr. TALBOT—That paragraph required some attention. He must observe that it was not at all what he would expect to be the language employed in addressing the Governor. The address was in perf-ot contrast to the elegant and classical language of his Excellency's speech. With respect to that pragraph, he might observe that it was not respectful towards his Excellency for the Government to address him in that manner, after advising him to recommend assessment for relieving the ablebafied poor. But the address altogether was not such astakould have emmanted from the Select Committee acting in unison with the Government. He (Mr. Talbot) would take a fisherman from the streets, and he would draw up a more suitable reply than that address. One of those fishermen whom the members of the government would trample upon, would produce a document couched in a style superior to that address. And as to the Government already departing from the course announced the other day in his Excellency's speech, it was to him (Mr. Talbot) no matter of supprise; for, it was well known that their chief object was to preserve their places; and if tkey found their supporters would not sustain them in the matter of assessment, they were ready to absorbed in the step of the government were becoming more infatuated every year. If they diff-red in opinion from the Governor, it was their duty to resign, and make room for others who would give his Excellency reliable advice respecting the actual wants and circumstances of the Colony. The sound principle was to assess the districts for the support of the poor, but he (Mr. Talbot) had no hope that the present government would had the districts for the support of the poor, but he (Mr. Prowse) woul

o'ciock.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 1.

The House met at 3 o'clock.

Mr. KAYANAGH presented a petition from F. Fitzgerald and others, of Lorbay, which was received and read, praying for a grant to make a road from the concert.

Ordered that the petition lie on the table. Mr. Wartr presented a petition from Thomas Pish Parker and others, of M.d.ie Bill Cove, wouch was received and read, praying for a grant to build a bridge over the river at Anthony's Gut.

Mr. Wyarr, in moving that the petition lie on the atle, would observe that the bridge has seen down for

some time, which occasioned great inconvenience to the people in the neighbourhood, and especially to the chi dren in attending school.

Gedered that the petition lie on the table.

Mr. WYATT gave notice, that on to-morrow, he would ask the hon Acting Golonial Secretary for a return showing the number of voyages made by the steumer Arel, to the Westward and Northward, during the year 1864, dates of departure from St. Joho's, and dates of return also particulars of ports called at, and time of arrival and departure from these ports.

Mr. LEARON presented a petition from John Harley and others of Cap in Cove, South Side of Port-de Grave, which was received and read, praying for a grant to make a road to that settlement.

Ordered that the petition lie on the table.

Mr. KENT presented a petition from Michael Wade, of Flat Rock, which was received and read, praying for a grant to open a road from the main road to his farm.

Mr. KENT, in moving that the petition lie on the table, would observe that it referred to a matter of very great importance, to the progress of agriculture in the Colony. His Excellency the Governor, had urged upon their attention the importance of the road service, as well as the encouragement of agriculture. Agriculture could not progress without roads, and if they desired to see a prosperous agricultural population, it was e-sential that they should be provided with the means of access to their land, and of bringing their produce to market. It was admirted on both sides that the fisheries alone were not sufficient to sustain our increasing population, therefore it became their imperative duty to give every facility to those who directed their attention to other industrial pursuits, The petitioner had peouliar claims which ought not to be overlooked.

Mr. Parsons had much pleasure in supporting the prayer of that petition. He had long been the advocate of agricultural capabilities, whichhad hitherto bean very much neglected. No person who had witnessed the exhibition of agricultural proque in

Give them sid to cultivate the soil, and roads to render their lands accessible, and the able bodied would maintain themselves in confort.

Mr. March concurred in the views of the hon member who had just sat down respecting the importance of agriculture. He never was so convinced on the subject as last summer. He touched in at one settlement on the French shore, where one man had 50 sheep, and another had 11 milch cows, and these persons had no complaint of poverty. And it was well known that the land on the French shore was comparatively barren compared with the other parts of Newfoundland. On his return from the Labrador he met with that eminent stateman Mr. Howe, who had done so much to promote the progress of Nova Scotta. That gentleman spoke in the highest terms of the fine land which he had seen up the Bays, and along the streams flowing into them. Nearly the whole of that land was unoccupied. The people had settled on the head-lands, for the convenience of prosecuting the fishery in punts, and were located in the vicinity of the poorest land for cultivation. Yet we saw that excellent vegetables were raised here. Mr. Howe saw at once the mistake which had been committed. He said if the people went up into these Bays, where there was fine land and fine timber they might have large craft, and come down to follow the fishery wherever the fish were to be found, and have their farms at home, to fall back upon, where they could raise much of the produce necessary for our consumption. In place of importing cattle from Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotti, thy might have thousands of cattle in these much of the produce necessary for our consumption. In place of importing cattle from Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotti, thy might have thousands of cattle in these much of the produce necessary for our consumption. In place of importing cattle from Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotti, thy might have thousands of cattle in these spring, and he did hope providence would again smile upon us, we would son see industry