

CORRECTION.

Mr. TOBIN corrected an error which he noticed in a report of some few remarks he had made in reference to the militia on a previous day. He was made to say that the expenses of the North since the war commenced amounted to one hundred million of dollars. What he did say was, that the army estimates for the present year were over one hundred million dollars. When the war broke out the United States had only 41 ships of war, whilst now they were increased to 671 ships, 54 of which were monitors and iron clads. He thought it advisable to correct the mistake of the reporter, inasmuch as the papers containing the debates went abroad, and it might not be known where it originated.

Mr. BLANCHARD pointed out an error of the printer in placing his name to some remarks which were made by Mr. Blackwood, and *vice versa*, in the same debate. He was made to say that in his county they could fire across the beach out to sea whereas it was Mr. Blackwood who said so.

Hon. ATT. GEN. called attention to the unfairness of some of the papers that did not publish the official reports.

CONFEDERATION.

Mr. LOCKE presented four petitions from the township of Shelburne against the Union of the provinces. He also stated that he noticed in one of the papers a telegram that Canada was going to take certain action on the question of Confederation, and therefore he wished to know whether the government had had any correspondence on the subject.

Hon. PRO. SEC. replied that the government had received no official communication from the government of Canada upon the subject, but at the same time he made that statement he thought it right to add that the substance of the telegram, as it exactly appeared, was communicated to him by a member of the Canadian government. He did not regard that as an official communication in the real sense of the term.

Mr. S. McDONNELL said he noticed that the petitions presented on the subject under consideration were styled "with regard to Confederation." He considered that these petitions were, to all intents and purposes, against the scheme.

Mr. LOCKE said the good sense of the country would tell at once that they were against Confederation.

Mr. P. SMYTH presented a petition from Ship Harbor, in Inverness, against Confederation.

Mr. ROBERTSON expressed his opinion that all the petitions were not really against the proposed Union.

Hon. ATT. GEN. replied that the people wished time for the consideration of the question. They were certainly against legislating upon it this session, but they did not express any opinion adverse to the scheme.

Mr. S. McDONNELL said that the Attorney General could not, by any amount of ingenuity, construe these petitions in any other way than that they are opposed to Confederation. They were opposed to the consummation of the measure at the present time, and there was not a single word in them in its favor.

Mr. MILLER was surprised that gentlemen should argue the question. Petitioners said they did not wish the house to deal with the

question, but to leave it to them to decide in reference to it. They gave a significant hint what they would do with it if they got hold of it.

Hon. ATT. GEN. supported his position by reference to the state of things that occurred in connection with the measure touching the Incorporation of the Counties that was before the house some years ago. The fact that the people said they wanted time for consideration proved that they had not yet made up their minds either to oppose or reject it.

Mr. STEWART CAMPBELL said that the petitioners not only expressed their anxiety lest this measure should be passed during the present session, but they wished to obtain from the government a pledge that it would not be carried through until it had been first passed upon by the people at the polls. The house had now been in session for a month, and a large number of petitions, containing very many signatures, had been presented, and he thought it was about time that the government of this country should relieve the people from the anxiety they now felt lest this measure should be passed through during the present session.

PETITIONS.

Hon. Mr. MCFARLANE presented a petition from certain persons in Parrsboro asking for an alteration in the School Law. This petition which was most elaborate and contained a draft of a proposed act was read by the Clerk.

Mr. S. CAMPBELL presented to the Financial Secretary the petition of Henry Peitch and others asking for remuneration for placing buoys in the harbour of Canso. It was subsequently laid on the table.

Mr. BOURINOT presented a petition from Mize, C. B., asking for a daily mail to Sydney.

INLAND FISHERIES.

Mr. LEVESCONTE reported in part from the committee on the Fisheries that the bill introduced on the previous day and referred to that committee by Mr. Blanchard was not necessary. Petitioners were under the misapprehension that shear nets could not be used whereas they could be, the law only referring to bag nets.

Mr. BLANCHARD was glad to have the explanation of the hon. member for there had been an impression that the statute referred not only to bag but those which were commonly called shear nets. As his constituents had a right to set these nets, it was unnecessary to have the bill he had introduced passed.

Mr. LEVESCONTE also brought to the notice of the house that large quantities of fish were detained in the locks of the canal, and the largest size were only taken whilst the others were left to rot upon the shores. He would therefore wish the attention of the Custos of Hants to be called to the matter.

Mr. PARKER mentioned that the Shubenacadie was between the two counties, and the sessions of neither made provisions to remedy the evil complained of. Great injury was done since by destroying the gaspereaux salmon were also destroyed. He trusted that something would be done in reference to this matter.

Mr. ROBERTSON thought whichever county could best look after that matter should attend to it.