

held out was the large field the Confederation would give to our youth seeking that honourable and lucrative employment which was declared them at home, owing to the limited field of operations. From that it would be inferred that our sons are all to get situations in Canada, and more particularly having eight members as their friends to pray to. It might so happen that our members would be absorbed in their own interests as hardy to bestow a thought upon the wants of others; and we knew to a certainty that no influence those members could possibly bring to bear on the General Government would prevent the Canadians enjoying, as they do at present, the patronage of their offices to make place for ours. Here the Government and every officer under it, the Legislature, &c., are with a few exceptions filled by our sons; but could this state of things continue under Confederation? We transfer our Customs, Post Office, and Lighthouses to the General Government, and in the event of a vacancy taking place in either of these institutions, would not the appointment be made at head-quarters and not in favour of a native? The curtailment of our Legislature alone would destroy more patronage than we should enjoy at the hands of the General Government. The hon Attorney General grew a little facetious when he referred to the sphere of advancement which Confederation opened up to the hon member for Ferryland, Mr. Glen, in the event of his being chosen a member of the House of Commons at Ottawa, when he might have the chance of holding the office of Receiver General, at \$5,000 a year. Politicians of Mr. Glen's great financial ability and incorruptible honesty would undoubtedly be of great advantage to the new State, in place of some of those whose political career was inseparable from official corruption and jobbery; but he (Mr. Renouf) felt confident that all the allurements so blandly put forth would not have the slightest effect in swerving the hon member from the honest and conscientious position which he had taken on this momentous question. He (Mr. Renouf) it was further stated, might also attain distinction in military affairs under the General Government, nothing less than a Field-Marshal's baton. Strong inducements, certainly, but very unreliable, like the rest of the good things that are in store for us. However, he (Mr. Renouf) would contentedly remain a Captain of Volunteers, in defence of his own native land, rather than sacrifice her best interests and the rights and liberties of the people for self-aggrandisement. Our law students also are to have, under Confederation, a large field and every favour, with no end to the briefs and retainers, and reminders too. Why it was only last year that a lawyer from Canada came here seeking his fortune, and admitted that, bad as the trade was with us, it was far worse where he came from, with 1,571 lawyers and attorneys, or one to every 16,000 of the population, against one to every 16,000 here, which speaks volumes for the honesty of our country. So much for the enlarged field for our lawyers. The hon Attorney General used another very singular argument in favor of Confederation, which was nothing less than that, in the event of a bad fishery, we would have some party to fall back upon or apply to for assistance—that we could go to the General Government and ask them to relieve our people in their distress. No doubt we could make the application, but more than likely their portals of charity would be closed against our appeal. There is, to a certain extent, one thing which they would give us to relieve the necessities of our distressed fishermen, and that would be direct taxation, as per Resolution No. 29. Our political history since 1832, with our elections every four years, is further evidenced by the hon Attorney General as a potent reason why we should be in this Confederacy, as if every country with representative institutions is not subject to the same ordeal of excitement. Was there any exception to this rule out of Newfoundland? Would the ascertaining of feeling be less, with a reduced House of Assembly, and with eight members to be returned for the House of Commons in Canada? Was it less so even in Canada or the other provinces? This is a specimen of the humbug and clap-trap used by hon members who favor that scheme; but the delusion was too transparent to merit even serious consideration. Now it was evident that certain hon members after selfishly monopolizing for years the emoluments of office amongst themselves and their friends, were anxious to destroy our Legislature and sacrifice the liberties and privileges of the people which it protects, that they might on its ruins take splendid positions under the new government. The hon Attorney General admits that our population cannot increase very much, whereas that of Canada would double and treble in a short space of time, owing to the tide of emigration setting in that direction, and owing to natural causes. It cannot be denied that such would be the case; which after every decennial census would give an increase of members to Upper Canada, that, in not many years to come, would place her representation in excess of Lower Canada and all the lower provinces combined, thereby making her mistress of the position, while we should still be confined to eight members. The representation scheme the hon Attorney General considers fair, which it appears to be at first sight, but in reality is not the case. Newfoundland, the key of the St. Lawrence and the Confederation by sea, with her valuable fisheries, rich minerals, extensive trade and commerce, splendid harbours, and great natural advantages, would have only the same representation as a town with the same population in the backwoods of Canada. It was not so much on the basis of population as by position and resources that she was entitled to a larger representation. It was admitted that the Canadian frontier was long and straggling, and so was that of the United States; but what comparison would the means of defence, resources and supplies of Canada bear to those of the Republic, which have been proved to the amazement of the world during the past four years? What were we going to do, was asked by the hon. Acting Colonial Secretary, by command of His Excellency the Governor, presented to the House a detailed statement of the expenditure for shipwrecked sealing crews for the year 1864. Ordered that this document lie on the table.

Mr. LEAMON gave notice that on to-morrow he would move an address to his Excellency the Governor on these petitions. The hon. Acting Colonial Secretary, by command of His Excellency the Governor, presented to the House a detailed statement of the expenditure for shipwrecked sealing crews for the year 1864. Ordered that this document lie on the table.

Mr. KAVANAGH presented petitions from David Roche and others, of Outer Cove, and from John Kourke and others, of the same place, which were severally received and read, praying for grants to open roads in that locality. Ordered that these petitions lie on the table.

Mr. McGRATH presented a petition from Samuel Coffin and others, of Haystack and Spencer's Cove, in Placentia Bay, which was received and read, praying for a grant to repair the road from Petty Harbour road to Brennan and Murphy's farms. Ordered that the petition lie on the table.

The Master-in-Chancery to the Legislative Council brought down a message acquainting the House that they had passed, without amendment, the Bill sent up from the House to provide for the recovery of penalties becoming due upon the forfeiture of certain recognizances; also the Bill to regulate the office and duties of Coroners; also the Bill to continue the punishment of banishment in certain cases; also the Bill to provide for the registration of births, marriages and deaths in this colony and its dependencies. Ordered that this message lie on the table.

Mr. MARSH gave notice that, on to-morrow, he would ask leave to bring in a Bill to amend the Herring Act.

Mr. RENOUF presented a petition from inhabitants of Petty Harbour, which was received and read, praying for employment on the public works;

eration on the terms proposed by the Resolutions adopted at the Quebec Convention, would not only be politically, commercially, and financially to her disadvantage, but would, in all probability, result in ruin. Statement showing what Newfoundland would probably lose under Confederation.

Assets of Newfoundland for 1865, as per Financial Statement of Receiver General laid..... \$192,500 Increase of taxation under Canadian Tariff..... 1,228,627

\$721,127

Salaries payable by the General Government..... \$149,288 Interest on debt, allowance for mines and Crown lands, and 8 cents per head on the population of 130,000..... 3 869,876

Total..... \$518,664 Balance against Confederation..... 2 2,463

\$731,117

MONDAY, Feb. 27.

The House met at three o'clock. Mr. LEAMON presented a petition from Abraham Bartlett and John Bartlett, of Brigus, which was received and read, setting forth that petitioners, in their two vessels, the *Selina* and *Henrietta Grieve*, were engaged in the prosecution of the seal fishery the past spring, but were jammed up in the ice, in Green Bay, till very late in the season, and afterwards drifted out of the Bay, but could not get clear until after the 8th day of June; that the friends of petitioners and those of the crew of another vessel, then missing, procured the services of the steamer *Bloodhound*, and despatched her with supplies in search of, and to relieve the said vessel; but that providentially a change of the wind took place, and petitioners' vessels were released from the ice about two days before the steamer arrived at the place they had been confined in; and that in all probability she would have been the only available means of saving themselves and crews, had they not been able to get clear when they did; that petitioners' vessels arrived at Brigus on the 12th June, while the steamer was still in search of them, and were deficient of several articles of diet, and had then been on short allowance more than a month, although one of petitioners, a considerable time before their return, having been in a position that men could travel on the ice, allowed several to leave, that there might be a little more food for those remaining in the vessel; that petitioners would remind the House that the lives of about 100 persons were apparently at stake, as well as the welfare of their numerous connexions, and of their wives and families; and praying that, as in former similar cases, the house would pay the expense of sending the *Bloodhound* in search of these missing vessels; also a petition from James Wilcox and others, shipmasters and other inhabitants of Brigus, which was received and read, setting forth that last year the brig *Henrietta Grieve*, the brigantines *Selina* and *Noel*, and other vessels were jammed in the ice, while prosecuting the seal fishery, until the 5th June; that the crews of said vessels were on short allowance of provisions for a month previously; that the friends of said parties, feeling assured of the perilous situation of said vessels and crews, sent a steamer to their assistance; but said steamer spoke one of the vessels missing, and proceeded to the relief of the other, and although not meeting the ice they were in till they were clear, would have otherwise effected the object of her mission; that considerable expense was thereby entailed on the owners of the vessels; and that considering the humanity of the proceeding, and how many lives were in jeopardy, and the uncertainty of such voyages, petitioners humbly pray the House to take the matter into consideration, and reimburse the owners of the vessels referred to the expense incurred in sending the steamers to their relief.

Mr. LEAMON is moving that these petitions lie on the table, said these petitions explained themselves, and it was unnecessary for him to say anything to urge their favourable consideration. The friends of the petitioners became very uneasy on account of their protracted absence at the ice, and applied to Mr. Grieve, the resident partner of Messrs. Baine, Johnston & Co., who wrote to the Government, requesting that a steamer should be sent in search of the missing vessels, and offered to send the *Bloodhound* for £150, provided the government would defray that expense. The government, it appeared, offered to pay half, and some difference having taken place between him and the government as to the terms, the whole amount was charged to the missing vessels, Mr. Grieve allowing £50 for his own vessel, the *Noel*, and charging Messrs. Bartlett £50 each for their own vessels. He (Mr. Leamond) thought they were entitled to receive some consideration at the hands of the government. He thought they should not be left to pay the full amount. If these men had not returned when they did, and the steamer had not been sent, there would have been a great outcry; and the government would have been blamed for it. There might even have been loss of life, for they were short of provisions. There were 120 men on board the two vessels, many of them having families, who if they had lost their fathers would have been rendered entirely destitute, and would require to be provided for by the Government. He did trust, if the government did not pay the whole amount, that they would at least pay a considerable portion of the outlay incurred.

Ordered that the petitions lie on the table.

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Mr. RENOUF presented a petition from inhabitants of Petty Harbour, which was received and read, praying for employment on the public works;

Mr. RENOUF, in moving that the petition lie on the table, would make some observations upon it, and on the manner in which the government provided for the destitute fishermen of St. John's, and if the members on the government side of the house, or even on the opposition benches, should walk out of the house by two and threes, as it was stated in that government paper, the *Daily News*, they did on Friday, still he (Mr. Renouf) had a duty to discharge to his constituents, and it was not the government nor their hirling press that would deter him from doing it. These petitioners prayed that they might be provided with employment in the same manner as the distressed fishermen of St. John's were, who were employed 4 days in the week, at 1s 6d. a day, payable in flour and molasses. He had never since had the honor of a seat in that House, made application for any relief to these petitioners, who had always supported themselves by their own industry, and would still do so, if any fish was to be had during the fishery season. But he must also again refer to the manner in which the distressed fishermen of St. John's were paid for their labour. He did not see why these men should be confined for the supply of their wants to the two establishments of Mr. Kitchin and Mr. Macpherson, while there were numbers of others in the same business equally as deserving of the patronage of the government. He found by the public accounts, that these two contractors received in a former year, the one over £2,000 and the other over £1,900 for supplies to poor fishermen employed on the public works. He understood they were paid 3½ cent a pound for flour and 50 cents a gallon for molasses, while he (Mr. Renouf) found, on inquiry, that at the establishment of Mr. Edens, in Water Street, the best molasses could be had at 2s 4d. per gallon, the best flour at 2s 3d. per stone, and considering the very low wages allowed to these men, he said it was the duty of the government to see that they were supplied at the cheapest possible rates, and with articles of the best quality. There were seven or eight establishments in the town that would supply good articles at lower prices than the Government had contracted for. The government asked for tenders for supplies to the poor labourers, and it appeared that the leader of the government had been imposed upon by the description of provisions supplied to them. Every labourer, all the world over, was worthy of his hire; but it would seem that the poor labourer of Newfoundland was not deemed worth of his hire. The hon leader of the government said that if they paid the labourers in cash, much of it would be spent on liquor. He did not ask that the labourers should be paid in cash. But when there were so many shops where molasses and flour were retailed, why not give these labourers the benefit of the competition between them? Two or three winters ago, one of the establishments now contracted with received £2,033 3s. 9d. for provisions given to the poor for work, within two months, while not a shilling was given to these people in cash; and the other establishment received £1,922 18s. 6d.; at the same time that not one shilling of government money went to any other establishment in town. A more corrupt government was not on the face of the earth; and the sooner they were sent about their business, the better for the country. Mr. Seymour got £1,059 9s. 2d. for supplies to the eastern districts, when the Chairman of the Board of Works had an interest in the establishment, which he (Mr. Renouf) could prove.

The SURVEYOR GENERAL had no interest in that establishment for many years past. Mr. RENOUF could prove that he was interested in it. There was an official of the Government allowed to open an establishment for the supply of provisions and groceries. He found it was not Mr. Seymour at all, it was John H. Warren, Chairman of the Board of Works, who owned that establishment until lately. Why should these labourers be confined to two establishments for their supplies? Why not give them a general order, to go where they could be best served. Let them go to Mr. Loughnan's, Mr. Edens', Mr. Tashou's or Mr. Scriffler's and get what they wanted at the cheapest rates? It would move the heart of any man having the heart of a man, to see how these poor labourers were treated, many of whom had wives stricken down with sickness, who had scarcely strength to make the flour into bread, after it was brought home, and to whom little tea would be of great benefit, as well as some soap to wash their clothes. If these men were to be allowed only 6s. a week for their work, why not allow them to go where they please for their supplies, and get a little tea and soap, along with their flour and molasses? Why not let them have biscuit, if they preferred it, as many of them had not suitable means for baking? Many of these poor persons had not received 6s. of money since the end of October. Why not give them general orders for their wages, and let them go to any provision establishment they prefer, and let these orders be paid monthly? There was a number of these establishments; but the government would only patronize two, while they did not give a shilling to the others, who had rents, water rates, and other expenses to meet, as well as the favoured establishment. On the last day of last session, in consequence of the disclosures made, showing that the organ of the government in the Legislative Council, the hon N. Stabb, received over £3,000 from the government in one year, for supplies for the poor, part of which was Indian meal, sent to Harbor Grace, charged the high price of 2s 6d. a barrel, and which afterwards turned sour, and was sold at 10s a barrel; in consequence of these disclosures, Mr. Wyatt gave notice that on the first day of this session he would move that all supplies for the poor should be given on publication by advertisement; and why? Because his establishment and others were overlooked, while so much was given to the organ of the Government. But what had become of the hon member's notice? Why had he not proceeded with it?

Mr. WYATT.—His notice would not have effected these contracts. That matter had been arranged previous to the meeting of the house.

Mr. RENOUF questioned if the government would have done anything for the poor, if these establishments had not been subsidized. There must be some great secret in the matter. What had these two establishments done to get such patronage? It did appear to him (Mr. Renouf) when the hon leader of the government stated that tenders were received, as somewhat remarkable that these two establishments should have given in the lowest tenders this winter, as well as when the able bodied poor were employed two or three winters ago. But he had since gone round and inquired, and found that it was as he suspected, that only these two establishments were invited to tender. He found that other parties were very much dissatisfied that they had not received any government patronage. In a way in which these poor people were treated was very improper. When they asked for a little soap to wash their rags with, they were refused. Why, a large number of cases had to be sent to the hospital from fever, arising from insufficient food and the want of proper cleanliness; and they would cost more to the government than if they had received more humane treatment. He (Mr. Renouf) failed to discover that Mr. Seymour, who was formerly so much patronised, had received any portion of government patronage in 1864. What had been done that he had lost the government patronage? He was the same obliging active man that he had always been; and there was, he (Mr. Renouf) believed, some im-

provement in the quality of his goods; but still the patronage of the government was withdrawn from him. Was it because the Chairman of the Board of Works no longer held an interest in the establishment? Was that the secret? Had the honest and hon leader of the government found out how matters were, and insisted on the chairman retiring from it, and the establishment was transferred to Boden and Seymour? Was that the secret of the loss of government patronage to that establishment. He (Mr. Renouf) had a sample of bread from flour supplied to the labourers placed in his hands? That came from the establishment of one of the government contractors. What did the poor commissioners say to it?

The hon Acting COLONIAL SECRETARY did not think the party knew how to bake it.

Mr. CASEY. The molasses was also sour.

HON. RECEIVER GENERAL. That sample was not according to contract.

Mr. CASEY. But that was the manner the contract was carried out. Let general orders be given; and let the labourers go where they please. The flour of which that sample was made came from Kitchin's. He (Mr. Casey) received it from one of the labourers, on the steps of the building as he was coming into the House, and also another sample, which he now produced, made from flour purchased at Pendergast's 2s. a stone, and which made good bread, while the other was not fit to feed pigs with.

HON. RECEIVER GENERAL.—The hon leader of the government had no responsibility in that matter, for he was under the impression, when he made his former statement, that all the retailers of flour and provisions were applied to. Tenders were got from Mr. Kitchin and Mr. McPherson, and the poor commissioners were of opinion that they were as good as deserved the best quality. There were seven or eight establishments in the town that would supply good articles at lower prices than the Government had contracted for. The government asked for tenders for supplies to the poor labourers, and it appeared that the leader of the government had been imposed upon by the description of provisions supplied to them. Every labourer, all the world over, was worthy of his hire; but it would seem that the poor labourer of Newfoundland was not deemed worth of his hire. The hon leader of the government said that if they paid the labourers in cash, much of it would be spent on liquor. He did not ask that the labourers should be paid in cash. But when there were so many shops where molasses and flour were retailed, why not give these labourers the benefit of the competition between them? Two or three winters ago, one of the establishments now contracted with received £2,033 3s. 9d. for provisions given to the poor for work, within two months, while not a shilling was given to these people in cash; and the other establishment received £1,922 18s. 6d.; at the same time that not one shilling of government money went to any other establishment in town. A more corrupt government was not on the face of the earth; and the sooner they were sent about their business, the better for the country. Mr. Seymour got £1,059 9s. 2d. for supplies to the eastern districts, when the Chairman of the Board of Works had an interest in the establishment, which he (Mr. Renouf) could prove.

Mr. KENT. On the former day the hon leader of the government stated that application had been made to all the dealers in provisions for tenders; and now the Receiver General said the tenders were only from the two contractors. He thought at first, when he understood the matter was submitted to competition, that it should give satisfaction; but now when it was admitted that the contractors were the only parties who were asked to tender, what could be expected but that the utmost dissatisfaction would exist? There was now a petition from Petty Harbour, and he (Mr. Kent) trusted the government would do for the petitioners as they had done for the distressed fishermen of St. John's.

MR. CASEY had occasion in the early part of the winter to make application for some of the distressed fishermen of Petty Harbour. Two respectable men of that settlement told him that if they could take their families out of the country, they would sooner do it than go to the government for relief; but that they were driven to it by necessity. He gave them a letter to Dr. Shea, the stipendiary poor commissioner, and he (Mr. Casey) was told that they had then to go without any relief. Afterwards he had an application from a large number of Petty Harbour men who were desirous of obtaining work, and who were in distress. He recommended them to the government, and believed nothing was done for them. He was credibly informed that there was a large number in that settlement who were in positive want; and he did not see why the government should not do the same for them as for the poor in St. John's, give them employment on the roads at 6s. a week. With regard to the system of administering relief, he set his face against it. It was downright injustice to the other dealers to have two pet establishments receiving the whole patronage, while the others received nothing. Why not give the labourers a general order, to go where they pleased. As to the men spending their earnings on spirits, how could that be prevented by giving them flour and molasses, which they could batter for spirits, if so inclined?

MR. TALBOT did hope the Government would inquire into the circumstances of the petitioners, whose application evidently proceeded from want; and that employment would be given them. With respect to the manner in which the labourers were paid in flour and molasses at the two establishments selected by Government, he was astonished to hear it stated that the Government had a right to bestow their patronage where they pleased. He granted that it was so in appointments to office; but in such a matter as this, for supplying the public institutions, he held they were bound to throw it open to public competition by tender.

In reference to supplying the able-bodied poor with food, it should be done by tender. It was the fairest way to get the best provisions at the cheapest rates. It would be serving the public interest to adopt that plan of supplying the poor, for the more of good provisions that were got with the public money the less would be the poor expenditure. With regard to the admission that tenders were received only from the two contractors, he exposed a system of favouritism which reflected anything but credit on the commissioners. The Receiver General said the leader of the Government had no hand to do with it. No one suspected the hon gentleman of being a party to any such proceeding. If (Mr. Talbot) did trust the matter would be investigated, and that such proceedings would be put an end to, and new tenders called for; or what would be better, that they would give no less to the labourers, and let them go and purchase where they pleased. Let them go to the shops at which they were accustomed to deal, and they would get more than they were entitled to, for at this time of the year, and with such a scarcity of money, there would be competition for these Government orders, which were equivalent to cash. The leader of the Government must see that those who surrounded him were guilty of a breach of duty in permitting such a state of things, as was admitted to exist.

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