

**THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.**—The speech of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor at the opening of the Legislature contained little of general interest, saving a reference to the proposed coal deal and an intimation that the legislature would have to revise the health laws so as to prepare to meet the dread scourge cholera.

**A BLUE NOSE PREMIER.**—The parliamentary session which opened at Ottawa yesterday will, it is predicted, be somewhat shorter than usual. Dropping party out of the question every Nova Scotian may feel proud of the fact that for the first time in the history of the country a fellow Nova Scotian holds the helm of state. Sir John Thompson will have to keep a sharp eye out for quicksands and rocks, but the plundering pirates are most to be dreaded, and for these Sir John should constantly be on the *qui vive*.

**SMELTING INDUSTRIES.**—The finny inhabitants of the waters of River Inhabitants are being shipped by the ton to the United States, and the people are rejoicing in the smelting industry. There is another kind of smelting industry in which Cape Bretonians should be able to rejoice, an industry which would require thousands of tons of coke, limestone and iron ore. Some day enterprise and capital will find these out, and then Cape Breton will blossom as the rose.

**THE MODEST YANKEES.**—An exchange remarks that "The New York Sun wants the United States to annex Canada; the New York Tribune would be satisfied with the West Indies; the New York World wants Mexico with Canada into the bargain; the Illustrated American invites England herself to become a vassal of the United States. The poet who thought man wants but little here below had evidently never heard of the citizens of the 'greatest country on earth.'"

**THE REASON WHY.**—Since our last issue Halifax has had a \$25,000 fire on Upper Water Street, and the citizens are pretty well convinced that the extent of the fire was due to the non-observance of a law which prohibits the erection of wooden buildings within what is known as the brick district. Some of the laws of the city are systematically violated, but the violators always succeed in pulling the wires so as to close the eyes of the authorities. Individuals profit, but the public suffer.

**DEATH OF BISHOP BROOKS.**—Rev. Phillips Brooks, D. D., bishop of Massachusetts, died on Monday morning, 23rd inst., at his home in Boston, of heart failure, brought on by a severe fit of coughing. Although the reverend gentleman had been suffering for some time from an attack of pneumonia, nothing serious was anticipated and his death was entirely unexpected. The deceased bishop was one of the most eloquent, if not the most eloquent, in America and was an energetic christian worker as well as a popular preacher. His death will be deeply felt by his many friends and countless admirers.

**THE MINES RENTAL SYSTEM.**—The Hon Attorney-General, in his speech on the bill for the further encouragement of coal mining, referred to Mr. Cahan's attack on the rental system introduced into the Mines Act in 1829, and most effectually demolished the arguments advanced. The rental system had been a pet scheme of THE CRITIC, and for years before its incorporation into the Act THE CRITIC had persistently urged its adoption. It gave security to title, increased revenue to the Province, and its advantages were so apparent that when the measure came before the house it met the approval of all parties and was passed without dissent.

**AN ENERGETIC CORPORATION.**—The Wolfville Fruit Land Improvement Company, which was incorporated in May last, with a capital stock of \$48,000, has done a big stroke of work in and about Wolfville, and is sparing no pains to boom the place as a desirable summer resort. The hill slopes back of the town and the land west of the college grounds have been laid out into streets, avenues, fruit gardens, etc. The high land east of the university is to be opened up in the near future. Suggestive names are being given to the new streets, parks and blocks, and several building lots are ready for sale. The future for this romantic spot looks exceedingly bright.

**SPEECH OF THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION.**—The speech of Mr. Cahan in opposition to the mines bill now before the Legislature was one of that gentleman's ablest efforts. He completely punctured the idea that it was in consequence of the increase in the coal royalties that capitalists were now seeking an investment in Nova Scotia. Mr. Cahan drew a graphic picture of the future of this province and of the development of its coal mining industry, and claimed that the compensation offered by Mr. Whitney and his associates for the extended franchise they were about to enjoy was inadequate, and that the guarantee against monopoly was exceedingly uncertain. The speech was well thought out, well delivered and elicited general approbation from his supporters.

**AN ARMED BURGLAR.**—That a policeman's lot is not a happy one has been forcibly demonstrated in another shooting affair. On Sunday morning the store of George Brander & Co. at Northport was burglarized. The burglar was tracked to a vacant house at Amherst Head. A warrant for his arrest was issued and placed in the hands of Policeman Soy of Amherst, who with another man immediately started for Amherst Head. On the road they met a suspicious looking man whom they ordered to halt, with the result that the bullet from a revolver carried by the stranger was lodged in Soy's left shoulder. Notwithstanding the wound the plucky policeman captured his man and took him to Amherst jail. The prisoner gives his name as Anderson and has a very tramp-like appearance. He has been committed for trial on the charge of burglary, and the charge of shooting Soy will be taken up as soon as the wounded man recovers. The fate of poor Buck appears to have been an unheeded warning.

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**THE COAL DEAL EPILOGUE.**—Mr. Fielding's presentation of the case in submitting the much talked of act for the encouragement of coal mining was clear, concise and captivating. In brief the government have entered into an arrangement by which an American syndicate can exchange any leases of coal areas purchased by them in the county of Cape Breton for new leases extending over a period of ninety-nine years, and this term by mutual agreement can be further extended to cover a period of one hundred and nineteen years. For this concession the government is to receive a royalty of 12½ cents per ton, with a guarantee that the minimum of royalties shall not be less than \$122,800 per annum. The bargain is a business like one on both sides and should be mutually advantageous to the province and to the American capitalists interested in the enterprise.

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