

the Legislative Assembly chamber of Nova Scotia, a room which has witnessed various historical gatherings, and whose walls bear portraits of Kings, Queens, and other dignitaries dating back a century and more. The Lieutenant-Governor of the province, Hon. A. G. Jones, the Attorney-General, Mr. Longley, the Mayor of the city, Mr. Crosby, and Mr. Campbell, president of the Board of Trade, gave addresses of welcome that were something more stirring than the ordinary cut-and-dried speeches of the kind, replete as they were with information and suggestion besides a warmth of courteous interest. Mr. Henderspn, of Halifax, chairman of the Nova Scotia branch, presided, and the retiring president, Mr. Munro, of Montreal, gave his annual address, which covered a great range of subjects, and made recommendations which showed breadth of observation, and much painstaking enquiry.

A deal of business was covered in the first day's session, such as the reception of the reports of six committees, of the treasurer, the secretary and the auditor. Addresses were also made by members dealing with different phases of industrial development in Canada. It required some self-denial on the part of members to stick to business at the various sessions in the face of invitations from clubs, from yachtsmen, from bowling and quiting greens, to garden parties, to concerts, to lunches. There were visits to warships projected, trips to harbor forts, the armory and the citadel, but by dint of working by day and playing at night it was found possible by most members to see something of all these delights, and to enjoy in part the recreations so lavishly offered.

Instructive features of the session were a paper on the Industrial Value of Pure Chemistry, by Dr. Goodwin, of Dalhousie University, and a short address by Mr. Creasdaile, of Nelson, B.C., on the Needs of the Lead Industry in Canada. Members were present from points as far apart as Walkerville and Ottawa in Ontario, and Montreal, Quebec, Amherst, North Sydney, in the east. When the authorities of the C.M.A. stated in their first circular folder that their annual meeting would be "the greatest event in Canada this summer," and the excursion the "finest offered," there were some who deemed the praises boastful, but to anyone who took part in that delightful jaunt by lake, river and rail from Toronto to Halifax and return, nothing that was said about it will seem extravagant. The arrangements were good, and they were carried out. The boats were comfortable, the special railway train on the Intercolonial, everything that could be wished. It was an unusual and memorable event to be entertained as we were at Montmorency Falls by the manufacturers of Quebec, and a page could be easily filled with the incidents of that jaunt.

An intense feeling of Canadianism was to be remarked throughout the party, which numbered amongst its members a score or two of ladies; and "Made in Canada," became a sort of watchword, a thing to conjure with, a sentiment to inculcate. The beauties of the scenery along the route by lake and rail, the novelties of a military and naval post like Halifax, the glories of mountain and salt sea, were not more wonderful to the unaccustomed gaze of the women of the party than were the warmth of welcome, the business alertness, the hopeful, confident attitude displayed by the Maritime Province manufacturers grateful to the men.

At the time of writing this despatch, early on Thursday, the features of the trip which engaged most attention were the coming dinner on Thursday evening, at which Hon. Mr. Tarte was to speak, and the journey to New Glasgow and Sydney, to witness the latest outcome of the effect of capital judiciously applied upon the great natural wealth of Nova Scotia. The remarks of Hon. Lieutenant-Governor Jones as to the importance of Newfoundland and the West Indies, and the future possibilities of their inclusion in the Dominion, were among the most suggestive deliverances of the day, considering not only the position of the speaker, but the importance of the gathering to which they were addressed.

J. H.

BRITISH COLUMBIA FINANCES.

The late Dr. G. M. Dawson informs us that evidences of disturbance characterized the close of the carboniferous period in British Columbia, and that the jura-trias period was similarly punctuated. The same authority also states that the cretaceous period ended with a great folding in which additional height was given to Vancouver and Queen Charlotte Island ranges as well as to the coast range, and that the miocene closed with extensive volcanic disturbances throughout the country southwest of the gold range.

For a long time geologists were loath to concede that the carboniferous was in evidence in British Columbia, which in spite of geological and other disturbances has been termed the Pacific Province. The jura-trias and cretaceous, we are informed, belong to the secondary age of geological time; while the carboniferous is included in the upper primary, according to English nomenclature; and in the palæontological, according to western classification. Technical names are often objected to by the everyday business man, but the advance of technology in these scientific times demands that these terms must be digested; they must be assimilated with the current knowledge which a business man picks up on 'Change, and which is often a very valuable part of his trade. Upon the point then of great physical disturbances geologists agree. Upon the point of later political and commercial disturbances the geologist saith not, as geology and politics are not interchangeable terms. But the terrestrial disturbances to which it has been subjected have been a great benefit to the country instead of a detriment. It is quite true that the Pacific slope has been a "terror" to railway people, and to some others, but this is disappearing with travel and investigation. What appear to be great mountains, when visited by the traveller, change into a fertile table land which, according to Professor John Macoun, at an elevation of 2,500 feet is still capable of sustaining the agriculturist. The reader must not confound this table land with the great ranges, and their spurs, the materials of which comprise slates and schists with granitic masses, and strata which are bare and inhospitable.

The Monetary Times has often expressed its appreciation of legitimate British Columbia enterprises, and of its genuine wealth of raw material; its coal, iron, gold, silver and copper. Guided, however, by that caution and conservatism which experience teaches, it was wise not only to withhold its approval from questionable methods, but often to condemn them without hesitation. Its contention has been that even if British Columbia is a young country—if it has abundance of uncoined gold and silver—extensive coal measures and vast forests of merchantable timber, great rivers and bays filled with food fishes, and vast tracts of fertile lands, these do not justify misrepresentation or pernicious business methods on the part of the people individually or collectively. This is along the lines that experience has taught, and when this is observed the progress of British Columbia commercially and politically will be quite satisfactory.

There appears to prevail some doubt as to what is the right course to take. Much stress is laid on politics by some, though it is difficult to see what party politics have to do with the internal affairs of the province. No doubt, a certain percentage of the population believe their chance of recognition and preferment would be best served by the all round introduction of party machinery. This, however, appears to be a point of divergence between the assenters and dissenters, and there are likely to be several new parties with very extravagant platforms, all of which must evidently disappear in the ranks of the ins and the outs when practical work begins. It is not the purpose of the present article to deal with that phase of the question. The present purpose is to refer more particularly to the financial relations between the province and the Dominion. How does its account stand in the general ledger?

This province, unlike Manitoba, is not a post-creation of the Dominion. Though it was not entitled to the name of province until after its admission to the Confederation (in 1871), it enjoyed a considerable measure of self-government; first, under Richard Blanchard, who was Governor of Van-