

to the whole eastern section of the Province.

Two Acts have been recently passed by the Imperial Parliament for assimilating the Laws affecting Trade and Commerce in the United Kingdom, and Bills founded upon these, but adapted to our local Legislation, will be submitted for your approval.

Two measures have also been prepared, and will be immediately submitted to you, the one having for its object the more efficient protection of the Crown Lands, and the other, a more easy and economical process of Escheat.

The subject of the Mines and Minerals I regret to say is still unsettled, the Home Government having been hitherto unable to come to a determination on this complicated and important question. The correspondence will shew that it has engaged the anxious solicitude of my Government, and I entertain the hope that the great interests involved will be considered and disposed of in a manner acceptable to the people.

Since the close of the last Session private enterprise has completed a Telegraphic union of the North American Provinces by a Submarine Cable, connecting Newfoundland with Cape Breton.

A still larger experiment is about to be made for carrying Telegraphic Communication across the Atlantic. The Company by whom it was projected have entered into arrangements for conveying their messages across our territory, and the inhabitants of this Province, as well as of the other parts of the American Continent, have a deep interest in their success. An intimation however has been conveyed to me that another Company, of adequate resources, proposes to lay down a Line from Ireland direct to Nova Scotia.—Both parties will apply to you for legislative privileges, and I recommend their respective claims to your attentive consideration.

Be assured, gentlemen, that in this, as in every other matter affecting the welfare and progress of the people whom you represent, you may rely on my cordial co-operation.

ELECTIONS.

The hon. Provincial Secretary by command of his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, laid on the table of the House, the returns from the Township of Windsor—County of Sydney, Cape Breton, and Colchester, announcing the election of Messrs. Howe, Henry, Caldwell, and A. G. Archibald by their respective constituencies.

The above named gentlemen then advanced to the Clerks' table and took the usual oath of allegiance.

The hon. J. W. Johnston then rose and said. It is usual at the opening of a Session of the Legislature of this Province for a member of the Government for the time being to lay on the table of the House a Bill *pro forma*, there may be occasions on which this ceremony may be dispensed with—whether the present is one, I leave to the hon. members to determine. But, sir, inde-

pendently of these mere matters of form it is unquestionably of deep and paramount importance that the people of this Province should know whether the Constitutional advisers of the Representative of her Majesty enjoy the confidence of this House and the people of this country; and therefore, Sir, I believe it to be more respectful to his Excellency and more coincident with the rules of Parliamentary practice that if that confidence has been forfeited, his Excellency and this people should know it before the answer to the Address has been proposed. It is not my purpose now to enter into any detailed statement of the object of this resolution; but it can hardly meet with the contradiction of any that the Government of this country had lost the confidence of the country at the close of the last session. I am aware that there was no recorded vote to that effect; but it is enough that it was a well-known, if not acknowledged fact, that the confidence of this House and the people was withdrawn from the Government last Session. I therefore beg to move the following Resolution:

Resolved, That it is essential to the satisfactory result of the deliberations of this House on the important measures submitted by his Excellency the Lieutenant Governor in his Speech, for its consideration on other subjects of public interest, that her Majesty's Executive Council should enjoy the confidence of this House, and therefore this House feels it to be respectful to his Excellency and due to the people we represent, to declare before these subjects are brought under debate, in answer to his Excellency Speech, that the present Executive Councillors of his Excellency do not possess the confidence of the representatives of the people—and that it is the humble duty of this House respectfully to inform his Excellency that the confidence of this House so essential to the public welfare, and the harmonious co-operation of this House with the administration of public affairs, is not enjoyed by his Excellency's present constitutional advisers.

(During the reading of one or two passages of the resolution, the audience applauded, and were counselled by the Speaker, who directed the officers of the House to keep silence.)

Mr. Marshall seconded the resolution. He considered the government had lost the confidence of the country, and the House were bound to express the fact.

Hon Attorney General.—In replying to the Speech, delivered by the hon and learned member for Annapolis—who has just resumed his seat, I may at the outset observe that the course he has pursued is somewhat inconsistent with Parliamentary usage—but that is more a question of detail than of