

## THE NEW PROVINCE—MANITOBA.

On Monday last Sir John A. Macdonald introduced a bill for the organization of a Province in the North West. It is to be geographically a very small Province, but will, for present purposes, be quite large enough, as it embraces all but one of the existing Settlements of any importance. Fort Garry, or the town of Winnipeg is chosen as the capital, and the Province is to embrace the region commencing "at a point on the frontier of the United States Territory ninety six degrees west of Greenwich, and extending to a point ninety-eight degrees fifteen minutes west, being bounded on the south by the forty ninth parallel (the U. S. boundary line), and on the north by latitude fifty degrees, thirty minutes." Manitoba is an old Indian name, borne by the Lake on the western boundary of the new Province, and is defined as "the God who speaks," or, "the speaking God." The other portions of the North-West are to be retained by the Dominion, and will be administered by the Lieut.-Governor of Manitoba for the time being, acting under a separate commission, and until otherwise provided, will be ruled by orders in Council. The region in the new Province embraces the Settlement of Manitoba, which more than three years ago declared itself independent of the Hudson's Bay Company; the English and Scotch Settlement on the Assinaboine, and the French on the Red River—in fact all the Settlements of any consequence at present existing in the whole of the North-West region save that of Portage La Prairie.

The new constitution, subject to amendment by the Local Legislature, except as regards the Lieut. Governor and the ordinary veto power which lies against all Provincial legislation, provides for an executive of seven; a nominated Legislative Council of seven, which, at the option of the Lieut.-Governor in Council, may be increased to twelve, and a Legislative Assembly of twenty-four. The constituencies for the latter are, in the first instance, to be mapped out by the Lieut.-Governor, and the qualification of electors is to be the same as that provided for the first election in the Algoma district—a household franchise. Existing rights in property—where quiet possession is established—are to be confirmed and converted into freeholds, and all the lands not now owned by individuals are to revert to the Dominion Government, out of which 1,200,000 acres are to be reserved for the extinction of Indian titles. This land is to be devoted to the purpose of settlement exclusively for half breeds and their children, on the same principles as reservations were formerly made for the U. E. Loyalists in Canada. The Province has, of course, no debt, so that it will receive interest at five per cent. on a sum equal to \$27.27 per head of the 15 000 inhabitants it is assumed to contain. This is on the basis agreed upon for the admission of other Provinces. It will also receive annually 80 cents per head until the population reaches 400,000, and a permanent allowance of thirty thousand dollars a year; the General Government further undertaking the usual public services and receiving revenues, &c., as in other parts of the Dominion. The French or English language may be used in the Legislature, and both shall be used in the publication of official and other public documents. Manitoba will be represented in the Dominion Senate by two Senators until the population exceeds fifty thousand; by three when it exceeds that number, and four when it exceeds seventy-five thousand, beyond which there is no provision for an increase. It will at first send four members to the House of Commons, and this number will continue until by progress in population it shall be legally entitled to an increase under the British North America Act.

Such is a brief outline of the constitution of the new Province, as defined by the Premier on Monday night last. The measure is one that is calculated to protect the rights of the inhabitants now in the territory, and at the same time to give full scope to immigration. The Province is, however, of very small dimensions, and it is not improbable that adventurous spirits may go beyond its limits and set up for themselves. It is, therefore, desirable that the Dominion should forestall the growth of mere rights of possession, such as those along the banks of the Red River in rear of the ceded farms which it is now proposed to permit the Local Legislature to legalize. A farm two miles in extent, with a common for pasturage two miles to the rear, may do very well so long as the population is about one to the square mile, but it is very clear that to convert such enormous belts of land into freeholds might become the source of future trouble; and while it would no doubt be unfair to the present settlers to deprive them of existing privileges, it would at least be wise to prevent the growth of such privileges in other localities.

It must also be assumed that the limits now defined for the new Province are merely temporary, for to adopt the policy of cutting up the "fertile belt," which is itself but

a mere patch of the great North-West, into six or eight Provinces, would be a great mistake. Instead of eleven or twelve thousand square miles—less than a nineteenth part of the Province of Quebec—being permanently constituted a Province, we should think that a Provincial Government might be competent to administer over an area of, say from 100,000 to 150,000 square miles. But as we have said the present limits are obviously temporary and will no doubt be extended with the progress of settlement.

## CANADIAN PARLIAMENT.

## THE SENATE.

Tuesday, April 26.—The Government Vessels Discipline Bill was read a third time and passed. The bill relating to the Finance Department was read a first time. In answer to an enquiry from Hon. Mr. LETELLIER DE ST. JUST, Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL said that the Government was not in a position to give any further information respecting the expedition to Red River. The whole policy on the Red River question would be submitted in a day or two. A suggestion made by Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL that the clerk of the House be instructed to draw up a statement of the indemnity and mileage paid to Senators, and lay it upon the table, was concurred in. The House then adjourned.

Wednesday, April 27.—The Canada Central Railway Bill was read a first time. Hon. Mr. SIMPSON moved concurrence in the ninth report of the Joint Committee on Printing. The consideration of the report was postponed for two days, and the eighth report having been concurred in was adopted. The Bill to amend the Act relating to the Finance Department was read a second time, and the House adjourned.

Thursday, April 28.—The Finance Department Amendment Bill was read a third time and passed. Hon. Mr. SKELDON moved the second reading of the Canada Central Railway Bill, and explained the motive for the Bill, and the object it sought to obtain. The Bill was read a second time and referred to committee. The House then went into committee on the Ferries Regulation Bill, which was reported with amendments. The eleventh report of the Joint Committee on Printing was read and adopted. The House then adjourned.

Friday, April 29.—The Canada Central Railway Bill was read a third time and passed; also the Ferries Regulation Bill. Hon. Mr. MACPHERSON moved the discharge of the order relating to the reporting of the debates in Parliament. Some debate followed, and the general feeling appeared to be in favour of a full official report being taken and published next session, so that the country would be disabused of the impression that the Senate did nothing. The House then adjourned.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Wednesday, April 27.—On motion of Mr. BROUSSEAU the 8th report of the Committee on Printing was adopted. The report relates to the double charges for printing, and recommends that departmental reports should be regarded as Parliamentary work and paid for as such. Mr. SAVARY introduced a bill to amend the Insolvent Act of 1869, and explained that its object was merely to relieve judges of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia from certain duties imposed upon them by that Act. The bill was read a first time. Mr. BURPEE resumed the adjourned debate upon Sir FRANCIS HINCKES' motion for the House to go again into Committee of Ways and Means, and Mr. D. A. Macdonald's amendment to place flour on the free list. He advocated the opening up of new markets as a more effectual means of obtaining reciprocity. Mr. CAMERON (Huron) said numerous petitions had been presented for the adoption of a national policy, and the Government would be unworthy of the confidence of the House if it gave no heed to these representations. He maintained that if the duty on coal was to be retained, so ought the duty on flour and wheat, in justice to Ontario. Sir FRANCIS HINCKES explained his position since his entrance into the Government. He recited the efforts made at different times to secure a renewal of the Reciprocity Treaty, and the failure of such overtures, and explained the facts which led to the adoption of certain changes in the tariff. He then gave the reasons which afterwards led the Government to reject these changes and adhere to the original resolutions. He denied that there had been any difference in the Cabinet respecting these changes. Their decision had been unanimous, and he now asked the House to give their concurrence to this decision. Mr. MACKENZIE strongly condemned the commercial policy of the Government, which appeared to be dictated by the exigencies of the occasion. Dr. TUPPER in an eloquent speech defended the policy of the Government. The policy was no new one, and would recommend itself to every intelligent man. Every means had been tried to obtain a renewal of reciprocity, and these having failed, it was but proper to return to the old state of things. Hon. Mr. DORION denounced the tariff as unjust. The whole of the provinces were to be taxed in order to benefit the coal-mines and salt springs proprietors; and a tax was to be imposed on flour to benefit a few millers in Ontario and Montreal. Sir GEORGE E. CARTIER replied at great length. He denied that the tariff proposed would impose any onerous duties, and explained that the object of the tax on flour and meal was to stimulate trade between the eastern and western provinces. He contended that the tariff would have a beneficial effect on the whole country. Hon. Mr. HOLTON attacked ministers for sinking themselves into the lowest depths of degradation and infamy. Mr. RYAN said he had been prepared to support the Government, but after the humiliating spectacle exhibited by the Finance Minister he felt himself compelled to withdraw his support. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD spoke at some length in defence of the Government policy. A division was then taken on Mr. D. A. MACDONALD's amendment, which was rejected; Yeas, 73; Nays, 82. Hon. Mr. HOLTON then moved the previous question to compel the House to vote on Sir FRANCIS HINCKES' original proposal. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD advised the supporters of the Government to vote nay, and after some debate the House divided—Yeas, 64; nays, 88. The House then adjourned.

Thursday, April 28.—Sir GEORGE E. CARTIER presented the report of Donald Smith on his mission to the North-West. The Canadian Government Vessels Discipline Bill was read a first time. The debate on the tariff was then continued. Sir GEORGE E. CARTIER moved to refer the resolutions back to committee, with instructions to strike out from the amendment "coal and coke, 50 cents per ton," and "wheat, 4 cents per

bushel," thereby restoring the original proposal to tax wheat and coal. Hon. Mr. HOLTON moved in amendment to strike out the words "coal and coke, 50 cents per ton," from the motion in amendment, so that the effect of the original motion do remain to instruct the committee to restore coal and coke to the free list. Mr. MAGILL denounced taxes imposed upon the necessaries of life. The tax on coal was unjustifiable and was distinctly against the best interests of the country. The increase of duties would tend to increase the cost of freight, and thus further discriminate in favour of New York at the cost of the St. Lawrence. Hon. Mr. WOOD contended that the tax on coal would be of no benefit to Ontario, and would be simply a tax for revenue in Quebec. It would hamper all business and affect it most injuriously. Mr. CARTWRIGHT said that if the Government succeeded in imposing these duties, they or their successors would be glad of the first opportunity of repealing them. Mr. ARCHIBALD contended that the policy proposed was a protective one and calculated to foster the interests of the country. It would show the people of the United States that Canada would protect her own fisheries and other interests, leaving them free when the American showed a similar disposition. Hon. Mr. McDUGALL opposed the Government policy. He thought the duties proposed would not succeed in carrying out the intention with which they were submitted. He said he could not conscientiously sustain the Government on this resolution; but at the same time he would be sorry to see them displaced as he saw no combination fit to take their place. He thought their fate would be decided by their policy on the North-West question. Dr. TUPPER defended the Government and the national policy. After further discussion the amendment was put and lost—Yeas, 62; Nays, 90. The amendment of the Minister of Militia was then put and carried on a division, and the House went into committee and amended the resolutions according to instructions. The House then went again into Committee of Ways and Means and passed certain of the resolutions. Committee rose and the House adjourned at 1.35.

Friday, April 29.—Mr. WALSH explained certain misrepresentations made by newspapers relative to his receiving mileage. In answer to Hon. Mr. McDUGALL, Hon. Mr. HOWE said that the North-West Bill would be brought down as soon as possible. The Government had given the matter all the consideration required by so important a measure, but the responsibility thrown upon them was so great that they could do nothing hastily. Mr. MACKENZIE complained of the delay and charged the Government with having systematically put the matter off. He said that if the measure were not brought down at once he would give notice of a motion on Monday. Sir FRANCIS HINCKES denied that there had been a systematic delay on the part of the Government. He said that there was a very grave state of affairs in the North-West, and it was of the utmost importance that a measure should be brought down which should meet with the approbation of the whole Dominion. He believed that when the measure was brought down it would give satisfaction to the people of the Dominion and to the people of the Territory, but in the meantime the Government would not be provoked by the impatience and threats of the Opposition to bring down any measure hastily, or without having given it their best consideration. Hon. J. H. CAMERON said that this was a matter of such importance that it would be unwise in the last degree to press the Government to any premature action. Hon. Mr. CHAUVEAU urged a continuation of the forbearance which had hitherto been exhibited by all the members of the House toward the Government. Mr. DUFRESNE was opposed to any military expedition and to any expense being incurred in order to acquire the North-West territory by force of arms. The subject then dropped. On motion of Sir FRANCIS HINCKES the bill to vest in the Crown the property and powers now vested in the trustees of the Bank of Upper Canada was read a second time. The Bill to amend the act respecting Harbours and Channels was read a second time, passed through Committee and read a third time and passed. The Canadian Government Vessels Discipline Bill was adopted with amendments in committee and read a third time and passed; also the bill to amend the Act respecting Security given by Public Officers, and the bill to amend the Act respecting the preservation of the peace in the vicinity of Public Works. Sir FRANCIS HINCKES moved concurrence in the resolutions reported from the committee of Ways and Means. On the first resolution being put, Mr. ROSS (Prince Edward) moved to refer it back to committee with instructions to amend it by exempting the salt used by the fishermen of the inland waters of the Dominion. Sir FRANCIS HINCKES replied that it was a notorious fact that the Americans were trying to break down the salt interests of the Dominion, and this amendment would have the effect of admitting their salt free of duty. Mr. CAMERON (Huron) urged the withdrawal of the amendment, repeating the arguments of the Finance Minister. Mr. HARRISON opposed the amendment. The House then divided on the amendment, which was lost: Yeas, 48; Nays, 85. Mr. MCCONKEY then moved to strike out the duty on salt altogether. Lost; Yeas, 52; Nays, 82. Hon. Mr. DORION moved to refer back the resolutions with instructions to restore wheat, flour, coal and coke to the free list. He read a telegram from Halifax which appeared in the *Globe* of the day before stating that the change adopted by the Finance Minister had been received with great indignation in that part of the country. Hon. Mr. TUPPER hoped that the hon. member did not believe a word of the statement contained in the telegram, which had been sent by an avowed annexationist. Mr. CARMICHAEL said the people of Nova Scotia did not want a duty on coal, and still less a duty on food. Hon. Mr. WOOD denounced the tariff as absurd and as a vain attempt to compel the United States to renew reciprocity. Mr. WORKMAN said there was an intense feeling against the tariff in both Montreal and Quebec. He then went on to express his disgust at the conduct of certain members who came to him protesting against the action of the Government, and afterwards voted to sustain its propositions. Mr. MAGILL endeavored to vindicate his line of action, and denied that he had ever advocated duties on coal, flour or wheat. Hon. Mr. TUPPER read an extract from a speech of the hon. member, in which he (Mr. Magill) expressed himself strongly in favour of these duties. He also criticised the conduct of M. WOOD, who, he said, had been guilty of similar inconsistency. The House then divided on the amendment, which was lost; Yeas, 63; Nays, 80. Mr. THOMPSON (Haldimand) moved an amendment to strike out the duty on rice. Lost; Yeas, 63; Nays, 76. Several others were put and lost, after which the resolutions were concurred in, and Sir FRANCIS HINCKES introduced a bill founded thereon, which was read a first time. The House adjourned at 2.45.