

British American Provinces, which, in this respect they now occupy.

The importance of consolidating the influence and advancing the common progress of the three Maritime Provinces, whose interests are so closely identified, has for some time attracted a large share of public attention, and I propose to submit, for your consideration, a proposition, in which the co-operation of the Governments of New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island will be invited, with a view to the union of the three Provinces under one Government and Legislature.

The correspondence and negotiations in which the Government have been engaged during the recess, in reference to a proposed survey for the Intercolonial Railway, will be laid before you.

The traffic on our Railways has steadily increased during the past year, and committed as we now are to these public improvements, I hope to be able to submit, at an early day, a proposal for such an extension of the existing lines as may render them more generally useful and still more productive.

You will be called upon to consider the propriety of providing an improved mode of transit between St. Peter's Bay and the Bras D'Or, demanded by the increasing business of that section of the Province.

The time, I think, has arrived, when increased provision should be made and improved legislation adopted for the wider diffusion of Education among all classes of the people, and your attention will shortly be invited to a measure having that object in view.

You will be gratified to learn that great activity has been exhibited throughout the year just closed, in mining enterprises, a large number of new leases for coal mines having been taken out, and the yield of gold being nearly double that of the previous year. Amendments in the laws relating to those valuable public resources, suggested by increased experience, will be brought under your notice. In connection with this subject and closely allied to it, you will be asked to consider the propriety of authorizing a Geological Survey of the Province.

Under the Legislation of last Session, Agricultural Exhibitions were held in the Eastern and Western Districts of the Country, and I am happy to be able to state, with highly satisfactory results. Some alterations, however, in the existing Enactments on that subject will be proposed for your consideration, in the hope that still greater stimulus may be given to the culture of the soil, the improvement of the stock, and the advancement of the textile manufactures of the Province.

A Bill to provide for the proper Registration of Births, Marriages, and Deaths, a subject of very great importance, will be brought under your notice.

The correspondence between the Imperial Government and this Colony, respecting the due investigation of Shipwrecks taking place on the coasts of this Province, will be laid before you with a measure providing for maritime Courts of Inquiry.

Our grateful thanks are due to Almighty God for the continued peace and prosperity we have enjoyed during the past year, marked as it has been by an abundant harvest, a successful fishery, an expanding trade, and the increased development of our great mineral resources.

Mr. Wade was elected Speaker of the House of Assembly. First Clerk, H. C. D. Twining; Second Clerk, James G. Tobin; Sergeant at Arms, E. A. Pike, Esqrs.

*The Missionary Vessel.*—The brigantine, Day Spring, Capt. Fraser, which sailed hence for the South Seas on Nov. 9, 1863, via the Cape of Good Hope, and Melbourne, Australia, was spoken, as previously reported, Dec. 10, by the R. M. Steamship Parana, from Southampton bound to Rio Janeiro, Brazil, in lat. 14 50 S, long 31 W., all well. A letter received in this city from the Rev. J. Morrison, under date of Dec. 10, states that for some weeks the ladies had suffered considerably from seasickness. The vessel had proved an excellent sailer, having on one occasion accomplished 240 miles in twenty-four hours. The writer mentions that the good Cornwallis apples put on board by friends remained sound, and were much relished by the voyagers. Religious services were being held regularly, and all was proceeding smoothly. It is not improbable the Day Spring will touch at Rio before shaping her course of the Cape.—Reporter.

*The Seal Fishery.*—The screw steamer Ospray, which has been most efficiently fitted at the Cunard establishment in this city, for prosecuting the seal fishery, will leave for St. Johns, Nfld., in charge of Capt. Gulliford, on Saturday next. This fine vessel will ship her crew of some seventy men at St. Johns, after which she will proceed on her voyage. We wish the enterprising owners every success.—*Id.*

Within the month of January, 1862, there were no less than fifty persons brought before the Police Court for drunkenness on the public streets. From New Year's day, this year, up to the present time, there have been but 15 like cases before the Court, being a falling off of 75 per cent. this month, compared with the corresponding month of last year.—*Chron.*

The Antigonish Casket says that a young man named A. MacIsaac, formerly of Judique, C. B., was drowned in the Strait of Canso on Friday last whilst attempting to cross on the ice. He was of

unsound mind for some time past, and roved from place to place.

We learn from the Bridgetown Free Press that on the evening of the 12th inst., Arod Grant, Esq., collector of Revenue at Port Williams, was robbed of \$77. He and his wife were visiting in the neighborhood, and during their absence, some unknown thief entered their dwelling and perpetrated the robbery.

The Rev. Ramsd McDonald, P. P., recently delivered a lecture on Temperance, at Pictou, which the Standard says was attended by an audience equal to the utmost capacity of the room, the platform being occupied by several clergymen of various denominations.

The Steamer Cossack, 14 days from Matamoros, with a cargo of cotton bound to Liverpool, G. B., put into this port on Friday morning for coal. She obtained a supply at Cunard's wharf.

The London Times puts the Danish question this way: Her Majesty's brother-in-law and her daughter's father-in-law have at this moment just occupied with their forces two provinces claimed by the father of the Princess of Wales.

A late English paper states that a despatch has been received from Lloyd's agent at Havana, announcing a dreadful catastrophe having befallen the Spanish steamer Mejor, some forty miles off Cape San Antonio, the extreme western point of the island of Cuba. It is stated that the ill-fated vessel was on a voyage from Sisal to Havana, when she took fire, and was totally destroyed, and out of all on board only thirteen of the crew and three passengers were saved. The remainder of the crew and passengers, numbering about sixty, it is feared were lost.

### LLOYD'S REGISTER OF British & Foreign Shipping.

Surveyor for the Province of Nova Scotia.

**NOTICE** is hereby given that Mr. JOSEPH JOHN TUCKER has been appointed the Surveyor to this Society for Nova Scotia, to reside at Windsor, N. S.

Notice is also given that all Ships built at Nova Scotia, after this appointment, which shall not be surveyed while building by the Surveyor, or where the Owners or Builders shall refuse such Survey, will be subjected to the loss of one year (as prescribed by the Rules, page 16, sec. 53, in regard to British built Ships) from the period which they would otherwise be allowed.

All ships built under the immediate inspection of the Surveyor, on the terms prescribed for Special Survey, will be distinguished in the Register Book by a Cross, thus ††, and in the Certificates of Classification then issued, as "Built under Special Survey."

By order of the Committee,

GEO. B. SEYFANG, Secretary.

2 White Lion Court, Cornhill, London, }  
Jan 1.4.] 22nd October, 1863. }