

what kind of a measure could be carried through the house. Being called to take the helm of affairs under the circumstances they were, having the confidence of the country and the support of nearly two-thirds of the house, and having since June last to deliberate, the government ought surely to have matured a clear and unhesitating railway policy.

He was glad to find that the question of a Union of the Maritime Provinces was alluded to in the speech. It was a subject of moment and had never yet received the attention of the house. The question had sprung upon the country with rapidity, and he was pleased that a measure was promised relating to it.

He hoped, in conclusion, that the gentlemen present would approach the consideration of public questions without personal animosity, and never forget, whenever they differed with one another, those proper courtesies which best became the dignity of debate. Whatever difference might be felt, it should be a difference in respect to principles only.

Hon. PROV. SECRETARY said that he would be doing injustice not only to his own feelings but to those of the Government of which he was a member if he refrained from tendering his thanks to the hon. leader of the Opposition for the very handsome and frank terms in which he had expressed himself in respect to the public business. The remarks of that hon. gentleman were a greater guarantee of the spirit in which the legislation of the House would be conducted than any numerical majority that might be possessed by the Government. The present Opposition, composed as it was of gentlemen of recognized ability, had it fully within their power if they chose to exert it, to retard the public business in a manner most detrimental to the public interests.

Having said this much with respect to the frank manner in which the leader of the Opposition had expressed himself, he (Dr. T.) would, for a single moment, refer to a criticism which that hon. gentleman had made with respect to the terms in which the subject of Railway Extension was referred to in the speech. If reference was made to the parliamentary history, not only of this Province but of the mother country as well, it would be found that the language used in respect to the several subjects was as definite as is customary. It should be the duty of any gentleman charged with the preparation of a speech, to use, as far as possible, such terms as might commend themselves to the general sentiments of all parties composing the Legislature, and not to adopt too confident or determinate a tone. He was glad to have under his hand a precedent which the hon. leader of the opposition must respect, for it was his own. It was well known that the late Government had a clear and definite policy with regard to the Intercolonial Railway; that they sent several delegations to forward it, and adopted certain principles and views with respect to this great national as well as colonial project. Now if reference was made to the Speech in which the proposed legislation was referred to by the late Government, it would be found framed in a similar style to the paragraph alluded to by the hon. member for Colchester.

The hon. gentleman then read the clause respecting the Intercolonial Railway from the Speech delivered in 1862, and concluded by reiterating his satisfaction at the promises held out by a gentleman of the ability and industry of the hon. leader of the Opposition.

MR. ARCHIBALD asked whether the Government contemplated the Railway to Pictou, or that to Canada.

HON. PROV. SEC. answered the hon. gentleman that they would not withhold their policy till the 18th April, as did the late Government.

Some explanations took place in respect to an omission of a paragraph in the printed copy of the Governor's Speech; it had been inadvertently omitted in the manuscript copy sent to the Queen's Printer.

At half-past 3 o'clock, p. m., the members proceeded to Government House to present the answer to His Excellency's Speech.

On their return a committee was appointed to select the standing committees. A petition from Mr. Lewis Smith against the return of Mr. Allison, was presented. The House then adjourned till next day.

#### SATURDAY, February 6.

The House met at 8 o'clock.

THE HON. PROVINCIAL SECRETARY laid on the table a despatch from the Duke of Newcastle, containing the news of the birth of a Prince.

A committee was appointed to join a committee of the Legislative Council to prepare an address to Her Majesty on that subject.

Voluminous correspondence in reference to the tenure of office, which had passed between Lord Normanby, the Duke of Newcastle, and the Provincial Government, was laid on the table and afterwards read.

The following list of Standing Committees was reported up by the Revising Committee:—

*Committee of Privileges*—Attorney General, Archibald, Solicitor General, S. Campbell, McFarlane, Locke, Pryor.

*Public Accounts*—Jost, McLelan, Longley, G. S. Brown, E. L. Brown.

*Education*—Prov. Secy., Archibald, Shannon, S. Campbell, Dr. Brown, Caldwell, Jas. McDonald.

*Agriculture*—McFarlane, Blackwood, McKinnon, Parker Hill, Hamilton, Smyth.

*Fisheries*—Financial Secy., Ross, Killam, Robertson, Slocomb, Balcom, Robichau.

*Post office*—Sol. General, Coffin, Hatfield, Hefernan, Bourinot, Blanchard, Hamilton, Annand, Colin Campbell.

*Mines and Minerals*—Bourinot, S. Campbell, McFarlane, Miller, Slocomb, Ross, Tobin.

*Navigation Securities*—Robichau, Locke, C. J. Campbell, McLelan, Whitman, Moore, McKay.

*Trade and Manufactures*—Tobin, Annand, Financial Secretary, Coffin, Cowie, James Fraser, Bill.

*Railways*—Killam, Locke, Tobin, Blanchard, D. Fraser, Archibald, Kaulback.

*Law Amendments*—Archibald, Shannon, S. Campbell, S. McDonnell, Miller, Kaulback, J. McDonald.

*Humane Institutions*—McLelan, Dr. Slocomb, Allison, Coffin, Lawrence, King, James Fraser.