

would be improper to elect a member of the Government. The House then adjourned.

FRIDAY, Feb. 11.

LECTION OF SPEAKER. To-day has been devoted to the election of a Speaker. The discussions upon the qualifications of the several candidates proposed were of the briefest; almost the whole day was occupied in the discussion of points of order which sprung out of the election as its several phases presented themselves, or were caused by the scheming and dodging of members to secure the advantage for their favorite candidates.

The first discussion was as to whether the adjournment of yesterday superseded the nominations of yesterday, which would make it necessary to commence the nominations anew, or whether the proceedings of to-day should be merely in continuance of those of yesterday. There was apparent a desire on the part of some to commence the nominations anew, and an equally strong desire on the part of others to prevent such an occurrence. The latter prevailed.

Then a vote was asked on the nomination of Johnson. Hon. Mr. Smith said that before the vote was taken they should ascertain whether Johnson was willing to be a candidate. This appeared to irritate Mr. Gilmor, Johnson's nominator. He said emphatically that he considered all this unnecessary, for he wished the House to understand that he had not proposed Mr. Johnson without an intimation that the election to the post of Speaker would be agreeable to him.—Mr. Johnson was not present in the House when this remark was made, nor, indeed, during the whole of the proceedings in the election. The vote on Johnson's nomination was then taken, with the following result:

Ayes—Read, End, Watters, Mitchell, Smith, McMillan, McAdam, Montgomery, DeBrisay, Tapley, Ferris, Brown, Gilmor, Connell, C. Perley, Tibbets, Cudlip.

Noes—Kerr, Gray, Williston, Lewis, Steadman, Botsford, Allen, W. E. Perley, Scovill, McLeod, Vail, McPhelim, Wilmot, McIntosh, Fisher, Tilley, Gilbert, Chandler, Lawrence—17 to 19.

At this result some excitable individual in the gallery gave vent to his exultation by two slight taps on the floor with his foot. Hon. Mr. Smith immediately rose in great indignation, to ask if this was longer to be borne, and if some steps should not be taken to put an end to it. Other members expressed their regret at such unseemly exhibitions in more moderate terms. Messrs. McPhelim, Gray and End, came to the rescue of the people of Fredericton, arguing that they should not be blamed for what was probably the fault of one or two persons. The matter soon dropped, with the understanding that the people in the galleries should be put upon their good behavior, and that should such occurrences continue the galleries should be cleared.

After another question of order had been discussed, and decided, a vote was taken upon the nomination of Mr. Hanington.

Ayes—Lewis, Steadman, Smith, W. E. Perley, McLeod, Fisher, Brown, Tilley, Connell, Tapley.

Noes—Kerr, Gray, End, Watters, Read, Williston, McMillan, Mitchell, Botsford, Allen, Lawrence, McPhelim, Vail, Scovill, Ferris, Wilmot, McIntosh, DeBrisay, Gilmor, Montgomery, Gilbert, C. Perley, Tibbets, Chandler, Cudlip.—16 to 25.

This may be looked upon as a rather decided vote. Evidently the House did not want Mr. Hanington for Speaker, notwithstanding his being supported by its members of the Government.

After this vote there was a general scramble for precedence amongst nominators. As the member first nominated is entitled to be first voted upon, and as there is an advantage in being first, this scramble is easily understood. Mr. Tibbets got the floor; but he fell into a great mistake, —for instead of simply nominating Mr. Johnson, he moved that the House should reconsider the vote upon the first nomination of Mr. Johnson. Mr. Scovill immediately moved in amendment that Mr. Botsford be Speaker. Mr. Cudlip followed by nominating Mr. Steadman. Mr. Steadman declined the nomination on account of inability. Then there was a discussion as to the claims to priority of Messrs. Johnson and Botsford. The friends of the former contended that Mr. Tibbets's motion for a reconsideration of the vote upon Mr.

Johnson was in effect a re-nomination, and that therefore a vote must be taken upon him first. Mr. Botsford's friends argued that Mr. Tibbets's motion was in form a nomination at all, but a simple resolution, to which an amendment could be moved; and that therefore the amendment of Mr. Scovill, that Mr. Botsford should be Speaker, must be first decided. The latter opinion prevailed; Mr. Tibbets withdrew his motion, and nominated Mr. Johnson.—Then a vote was taken upon Mr. Botsford's nomination, when there appeared 18 to 18.

Ayes—Kerr, Gray, End, Read, Williston, Lewis, McMillan, Allen, Lawrence, McPhelim, Montgomery, DeBrisay, McIntosh, Wilmot, Vail, Scovill, Gilbert, Chandler.

Noes—Watters, Steadman, Mitchell, W. E. Perley, Smith, Tapley, Ferris, McLeod, Hanington, Brown, Gilmor, Cudlip, Fisher, Tilley, Connell, C. Perley, Tibbets, McAdam.

Thus although Mr. Botsford had against him all the members of the Government in the House, and his own three colleagues in Westmorland, he secured a tie vote. This result is one of which he may well feel proud.

The vote upon the renomination of Mr. Johnson followed:

Ayes—Kerr, Mitchell, Read, End, Watters, Tibbets, Lewis, McMillan, Montgomery, Steadman, Smith, McAdam, Gilmor, DeBrisay, C. Perley, Tapley, W. E. Perley, Fisher, Cudlip, Tilley, Ferris, Connell, Brown.

Noes—Gray, Williston, Allen, Lawrence, McPhelim, Vail, Scovill, McIntosh, Wilmot, Chandler, Gilbert, McLeod, Hanington.—23 to 13.

Mr. Johnson thanked the House for the honor done him; expressed his determination to do his duty to the best of his ability; and took the chair. The House adjourned.

As Mr. Johnson before his election made no announcement of his having resigned his seat in the Government, the fair presumption is that he did not consider his election sure, and thought it best to hold on to the little good that he had until the greater good that he expected was secured. In doing so he was no doubt right so far as his own interests were concerned. But yesterday it was distinctly understood that the House adjourned for the express purpose of allowing him, if he concluded to become a candidate, to put his resignation in the hands of His Excellency. Had it been known that he would not either resign, or withdraw from the contest, the probability is that no adjournment would have taken place until a Speaker had been elected, or until attempts at an election had been made.

It is worthy of remark that two of Mr. Johnson's colleagues in the Government, —Messrs. Fisher and Tilley—voted against him on the first nomination, and for him on the second.

Mr. Johnson will probably make an excellent speaker. He has an opportunity by forgetting partisan feeling, and dealing out equal justice to both sides of the House, to win the good opinion of both, and wash off some of the stains of his failure as Postmaster General. The opinion of moderate men seems to be that he will do so.

The probability of his vacant seat in the Council being filled is under discussion here. Report points to Mr. Mitchell as likely to be his successor; but whether immediately, or at some distant day, report sayeth not.

SATURDAY, Feb. 12.

THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

At noon to-day the Governor came down in the usual state, and opened the session of Parliament with a speech "of which, for greater accuracy, we have obtained a copy." Here it is:

Mr. President, and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council, Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,

The period of the year has now arrived when it has been usual to summon you for the performance of your Legislative duties; and I feel satisfaction in recurring to you for your advice and assistance.

When last I met you, I ventured to express a hope that the Mutiny in India, might, by the blessing of God, be the means of strengthening British authority in that part of the Empire; we may now rejoice in the confident belief that this

hope will be speedily realized, and you will, I know, heartily join with me in the expression of fervent gratitude for the victories with which it has pleased Providence to bless Her Majesty's Arms.

It is, I regret to say, impossible to refer to the past year as one of commercial prosperity; the demand for our Staple Exports has not as yet recovered from the effects of the disaster which recently disturbed the trade of the world; but it is gratifying to observe some symptoms of improvement in our commercial prospects, and I trust that, ere long, renewed prosperity will reward the combined prudence and energy of our merchants.

I congratulate you on the abundance of the crop of the past season; and the general success which has attended those who have applied their capital and industry to the development of our Fisheries, afford to us another subject for sincere congratulation and thankfulness.

The progress of the Railway works now in course of construction has been uninterrupted. Reports and other documents explanatory of the state of these works, and of the expenditure connected therewith, will be laid before you.

In connection with this subject, I congratulate you on the position which our Debtors have attained among securities of a similar description. You will have observed with satisfaction the increased and increasing estimation in which they are held. I cannot doubt that this gratifying circumstance, which affords unquestionable proof of the reliance which is placed on the pledged faith of the Province, is in some degree, at least, to be attributed to the fact that, during the recent crisis, it was well known among the leading Capitalists of the Mother Country that we were determined, at all sacrifices faithfully to fulfill our engagements both here and elsewhere, and that every possible precaution had been taken to enable the Government to do so, even if the pressure had been greater than it was.

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,

The Accounts of the Receipts and Expenditure of the past year will be laid before you; and I have given directions that the Estimates for the current year shall be submitted to you.

You will observe with regret, that owing to the continued depression of our Trade, the Revenue of last year fell short of the estimated amount, but this circumstance has not prevented the prompt payment of all demands upon the Treasury.

The liabilities which we have incurred, and are incurring for the construction of extensive Public Works, afford an additional reason for the exercise of caution in our expenditure. I am confident that you will combine a wise economy with an ample provision for the requirements of the Public Service.

The Act under which the existing Customs Duties are levied will shortly expire, and this subject will necessarily receive your early consideration.

Mr. President, and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council, Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,

Your Joint Address to Her Majesty on the subject of an Inter-Colonial Line of Railway, was transmitted by me to the Secretary of State, for presentation to Her Majesty.

In the course of the Autumn, the Governor General of Canada informed me that he had directed certain Members of His Council to proceed to England, to urge upon Her Majesty's Government the consideration of this subject; and that the Gentlemen to whom this mission had been submitted, were on the eve of their departure for England. I was also informed that a similar step had been taken by the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia; and I directed two Members of my Council to proceed to England without delay, to cooperate with the Gentlemen deputed by the Governments of Canada and Nova Scotia. The Correspondence and other Documents connected with this subject, will be laid before you.

I recommend you to consider whether measures may not be adopted whereby the existing Agricultural Societies throughout the Province, may be rendered more effective for the attainment of the important object for which they have been established, and at the same time afford an additional stimulus to the application of capital and skill to the culture of the soil.

I have received from the Superintendent of Fisheries in Canada certain Documents explanatory of the course recently adopted by the Government and Legislature of that Province with respect to the Fisheries in the Saint Lawrence and the neighboring Rivers. Copies of these Documents will be laid before you.

You will concur with me in the opinion that it is desirable to devise means for rendering the real resources of the Province more widely known among intending Emigrants from the Mother Country and elsewhere.

Upon these and on all other matters to

which your attention may be directed, I fervently pray that the blessing of Providence may prosper your counsels, and guide your deliberations for the promotion of the welfare and happiness of this People.

It strikes us that this speech is as near perfection as a Governor's speech can be brought. It is grateful for the victories in India; and it "confidently believes" that mutiny will strengthen British authority in that country,—an opinion from which few will be found to differ. It has a regret for continued commercial depression; and a word of gratitude for "some symptoms of improvement." It has gratitude for the "abundant crops," and "sincere congratulation and thankfulness" for the general success of the Fisheries. The "congratulation" extends to the position of our Debtors; but when the state of the Revenue comes under notice it changes to a "regret." Then follows an admonition to "caution" in the prosecution of "Public Works;" and a variety of information concerning public documents, which are promised to be laid before the Legislature.—The recommendation respecting Agricultural societies is the only tangible point in the whole speech. We are glad to see that at length something is likely to be attempted in this direction. The paragraph concerning the making known the resources of the Province among intending emigrants sounds well. It is to be hoped that it may result in something more than mere sound.

We repeat that the speech is as nearly perfect as possible. It says nothing to which the most captious can take exception; it ventures upon no dangerous or disputed ground; it is barren of originality and promise. We don't see how by any possibility a debate can be raised upon any of its clauses. Time will tell whether the members of Her Majesty's opposition can detect any flaws in the speech prepared by Her Majesty's Government.

ADDRESS IN ANSWER TO SPEECH. When the House returned from the Council Chamber a number of Bills were presented, and several Committees were appointed.

The Address in answer to the Speech was moved by Mr. Tibbets. There was some talk as to the time at which it should be taken into consideration.—The Attorney General proposed Monday.—Mr. Wilmot thought more time should be allowed; members were too conscientious even to look at such a document on Sunday.—Mr. End thought they might read it on Sunday in place of the letters which the Postmaster General prevented their getting on that day.—Mr. McPhelim said that there was so little in it that he was ready to vote on every paragraph of it now. (Laughter.) Mr. Gilmor thought it would require more than one day to find any thing in it. (Great laughter.) Finally the Address was made the order of the day for Monday at 2 p.m.

REPORTERS AND REPORTING. The remainder of the day was mostly occupied with a conversation respecting reporting and publishing the debates, and the payment of reporters. The conversation took a wide range, including the comparative merits of various systems of publishing reports, the value of reports, and the desire for them by the people, the merits of the official reporting of last year, the duties of reporters, and the means which they might use to relieve each other and lighten their labor, their troubles and difficulties, and compensation, the circulation of newspapers, the persons to whom the Legislature should supply reports, gratis, the propriety of having reports published in French,—and a variety of other topics "too numerous to mention," as the advertisers say. A vast deal of nonsense, and but a very small amount of sense, was uttered.

It seemed to be generally agreed that the system of contracting for the reporting and publication of reports had proved a failure, and should not be continued. And it seemed to be also generally agreed that it would be well to make some compensation to the newspaper reporters who should attend. A resolution of Mr. Mitchell, that the House would provide a sum of £200 to be distributed among the reporters according to the respective merits of their reporting, was carried. Mr. Mitchell proposed to fill the blank with £200; while Mr. End thought that £500 would be scarcely too much. Hon. Mr. Tilley stated that the cost of the reporting last session was

£660 10 0. Mr. Gray thought that the appropriation of any sum was premature, and was a breach of the principle of initiation by the Executive. It had leaked out that the Government had made a provision of £200 in the Budget for reporting, and although this information was not officially before them the House might perhaps without indiscretion now vote that sum. But to vote a sum of £500 he thought would be highly improper without the consent of the Government.—Mr. Tilley was of the same opinion.—Mr. Smith could see no impropriety in it. If the House signified a wish to appropriate any particular sum the Government could include it in the Budget. The House adjourned without filling up the blank.

During this discussion some remarks were made which were not particularly pleasant to the reporters in the galleries, or some of them, at least. In the side gallery there are three reporters' boxes, all of which, we believe, are now occupied. For the last two sessions two reporters have found seats at two tables, placed in the extremity of the so called "Ladies' Gallery." As there are this session seven representatives of the "Fourth Estate," the number of tables in this gallery is increased to four, which occupied most of the front of the gallery, and interfered with the due expansion of crinoline. Mr. Tibbets, facetiously designated "the member for Quebec," who probably entertaining for the press a regard commensurate with the benefits which they have bestowed upon him by spreading abroad a knowledge of his patriotism and many virtues, referred to this circumstance twice during the debate. In his first speech he expressed himself against voting any large sum to reporters. The Ladies' Gallery, he said, was half taken up by these people now, and they would continue to come as long as any encouragement was held out to them. Later in the afternoon Mr. Gray alluded to the same matter. He asked the Speaker whether he had given his consent to the placing of the reporters' tables in this gallery; and, on his replying in the negative, went on to say that the gallery was intended for another purpose, and the reporters had no right to appropriate it, or any other portion of the House, to their own use without the previous consent of the House. He desired to see the reporters here; he would like to see one from every paper in the Province, and would wish them provided with good and comfortable seats; but they should not be allowed to discommode others.—Mr. Tibbets followed, approving of Mr. Gray's remarks, and saying that if any more reporters came he did not know where they could find room for them.

No reporter in the House, we presume, cares for what Mr. Tibbets may say, or may leave unsaid; but with respect to Mr. Gray it is different. Not having a seat in the Ladies' Gallery, and therefore not interfering in any way with the due expansion of crinoline therein, his remarks did not apply to us. But we felt for our fellow reporters, because we considered that they were treated unfairly and unmercifully. Had there been boxes elsewhere prepared for them of course their sitting in the Ladies' Gallery might have been considered an unnecessary and improper intrusion, and a proper subject for remark upon the floor of the House. But no such provision had been made, and there was no other place in the House for them to go, except their chance among the spectators in the lobby, or the side gallery,—about as fit places for reporting as is an Irish bog for a horse race. Seeing two tables already in the gallery, and not knowing where else to go, the reporters of the Sentinel and Globe had two others placed beside these, and took their seats behind them, probably thinking no evil. These four gentlemen,—the reporters of the Investigator, St. Croix Herald, Carleton Sentinel, and Globe,—furnish reports which are read by probably ten or fifteen thousand people, ninety-nine hundredths of whom have never set foot inside the Province Building, and whom these reporters may justly be considered to represent in the gallery. And yet they have received an intimation that their presence is considered of less consequence than that of some dozen ladies of Fredericton! The truth is that it would be better if these fair dames stayed away; for their presence but leads to the display of unnecessary

During the last session a resolution was passed by the House requiring before a Bill of a private or personal nature should be received or entertained that those asking for it should pay to the Receiver General a sum of seven pounds ten shillings to go towards the expense of printing, &c. The propriety of this regulation was to day discussed at some length, and with no little warmth. Mr. Mitchell warmly advocated it, and moved its adoption as a standing rule of the House, which was strenuously supported by Mr. Gray, Mr. Cudlip, and others, and as strenuously opposed by Messrs. End, Gilmor, and Smith. It was interpreted to apply only to private and personal Bills, and not to local Bills of a public nature. The resolution was finally carried, 19 to 15; and a reconsideration rejected, 19 to 12.

ADDRESS IN ANSWER TO SPEECH. At two P. M. the order of the day, the proposed address in answer to His Excellency's Speech at the opening of the Session, was taken up. The mover and second declined to make any remarks upon it; whereupon Mr. Gray expressed his pleasure at seeing that they could say nothing for it. Somebody replied that it spoke for itself.—The first ten paragraphs passed without remark or dissent.

On the question being put on the 11th paragraph, which reads thus: "We thank Your Excellency for having transmitted to the Secretary of State for the Colonies for presentation to Her Majesty the joint Address on the subject of the Intercolonial Railroad; and for the promptness with which Your Excellency evinced in dispatching two Members of your Council to England to cooperate with the gentlemen deputed from Canada and Nova Scotia in urging upon Her Majesty's Government the consideration of this important subject, and also for the assurance that the correspondence and other documents connected therewith will be laid before us."

Mr. McPhelim rose to say that without any intention of offering opposition to the passing of the paragraph he would say that they were called upon to give thanks for a matter about which they knew nothing,—the delegation to England on the Inter-colonial railroad.

The Attorney General replied that the address did not touch the merits of the delegation, but merely expressed thanks for the promptness with which it had been dispatched—nothing more, (a laugh.) The paragraph was then agreed to.

On the next section coming up Mr. Gilmor said that the address seemed to matter of form, and not of substance. The only important point in it was that which referred to Agriculture; and he was glad to see that something was proposed to be done to render the Agricultural Societies more useful.—The remaining paragraphs of the address then passed without further remark.

VARIOUS MATTERS. Mr. McLeod brought in a Bill to increase the representation of King's County; Mr. Tibbets one to prevent the destruction of Moos in that Province.

The Attorney General in reply to

estory on the part of a few members, and thus impeded the progress of the public business.

MONDAY, Feb. 14.

REPORTERS AND REPORTERS AGAIN. This morning these fertile subjects of discussion were once more taken up. The blank in Mitchell's resolution passed on Saturday was filled up with £200. Mr. Mitchell then moved that a committee be appointed which should make such arrangements as would carry out the intention of the resolution. This was intended to be a reconsideration, which occasioned a long rambling conversation. The reconsideration was carried, and on a second division the resolution was lost, 9 to 31.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

Mr. Williston brought in a Bill to repeal an Act relating to the Post Office, and make other provisions; Mr. Cudlip brought in the new Lumber Survey Bill concocted by the buyers of lumber in St. John; Mr. Lawrence brought in a Bill to abolish imprisonment for debt, except in certain cases, and, to make better provisions for the prevention and punishment of fraud; Mr. Tilley brought in the new Medical Bill. Mr. Cudlip presented a petition from the Chamber of Commerce of St. John for the repeal of the Insolvent Debtor's Act.

EXPENSES OF PRIVATE LEGISLATION.

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