

and sixty-seven females. Since that period twenty-three of each sex, forty-six in all, have been admitted, making the total number treated this year, one hundred and eighty-eight. The daily average number for 1864 has been one hundred and fifty-one. Sixteen males and eighteen females have been discharged, leaving our present number one hundred and fifty-four. Of those discharged, eighteen have been restored, six more or less improved, and ten have died. The rate of recoveries, reckoned on admissions, has been 39 per cent.; the average of six years was 35 per cent. The mortality rate, reckoned on the daily average number, has been for this year 6.62 per cent.; the former proportionate rate for five years was 4.78 per cent. The average mortality rate since the opening of the Hospital, reckoned upon the whole number treated in each year, has been 3.61 per cent. The entire number admitted since January 1st, 1859, has been three hundred and twenty-nine, of whom one hundred and seventy-five have been discharged, in addition to four who, at the date of this Report, are absent "on trial."

Hon. PROV. SEC. also laid on the table: Annual Report of the Board of Works; also, Annual Report of the Poors' Asylum.

Mr. LONGLEY asked the Financial Secretary to furnish the house with the number of light houses in the province, with the salaries of the officers thereof.

Hon. PROV. SEC. laid on the table copies of correspondence relative to the new commercial code of signals.

The house adjourned over until Monday, in order to give the committees an opportunity of meeting.

MONDAY, Feb. 28.

The house met at 3 o'clock.

Mr. BOURINOT presented a petition from Mire, C.B., asking for a daily mail to the Island of Cape Breton.

Hon. FIN. SECRETARY laid on the table a statement asked for by the hon. member for Annapolis, in reference to light-houses.

At Mr. LONGLEY's suggestion the Financial Secretary agreed to add the character and number of lights to each light-house.

Hon. PROV. SEC. took the opportunity of stating that the introduction of Paraffine oil had been found successful—the character of the light being improved, and the cost lessened.

PATENTS.

Mr. ARCHIBALD presented two petitions from parties in New York asking for leave to introduce a bill authorizing them to obtain patents in the province in reference to extraction of gold from ore. Mr. Archibald stated that the petitioners claimed to possess certain scientific secrets which would be found invaluable here, and that parties engaged in gold mining would sustain their application.

Hon. Mr. SHANNON expressed himself in favor of the introduction of a bill that would reciprocate the privileges conferred by any foreign country in reference to patents. If no one else would bring in such a bill he would do it himself.

Hon. PRO. SEC. thought it very desirable that there should be some general law in order to do away with the necessity for the introduction of a number of separate acts, which only encumbered our statute book.

Hon. Mr. McFARLANE said that the Province was losing largely from existing arrangements. Certain persons engaged in mining actually shipped large quantities of ore from which gold was extracted in the States by improved scientific appliances.

PETITIONS.

Mr. S. McDONNELL presented a petition, signed by 522 persons in Inverness, against the Confederation of the Colonies.

Hon. Mr. MCKINNON, a petition from Antigonish Co., on the same subject.

Mr. LOCKE, a petition from the township of Shelburne, containing 615 signatures, on the same subject.

LUNATIC ASYLUM.

Mr. TOBIN presented a petition from the Custos and Magistrates of the County of Halifax, complaining of the hardship arising from the large expenditure required from the county to defray the expenses of insane persons in the asylum. The petition, which is founded on presentments of Grand Juries for some years back, states that in 1860 the county was assessed for that purpose \$1,382; in 1861, \$2,988; in 1862, \$4,074; in 1863, \$4,633; in the nine months of 1864, \$4,045; and concludes by asking that the charge be made Provincial.

Hon. Mr. McFARLANE said he had no doubt that it would be exceedingly gratifying to the county if its prayer were granted, but he believed it would be very unwise to do so. He did not think that the city of Halifax, with its wealth and resources, should come forward to ask the house to be relieved from a burden which it only bore in common with other counties. As it was now, it was difficult to find all the accommodation required by patients from the country; but if the wish of the petitioners were granted the asylum would be more than filled to repletion. He had no hesitation in saying that the present system did justice to all sections.

Mr. TOBIN did not think it fair for the hon. member to pre-judge the question; when it was brought before the committee then would be the proper time for the consideration of the merits of the petition. He had no doubt that the present rule pressed unfairly upon Halifax. Many transient persons came to the city, and after a year's residence they became chargeable upon its funds.

The petition was referred to the committee on humane institutions.

INCORPORATION BILLS FROM THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A message was received from the Legislative Council stating that they had agreed to the bills on the following subjects:—

To incorporate Sydney and Louisburg railway company.

To amend act incorporating International coal company.

To incorporate Clyde coal mining company.

To incorporate Caledonia mining company.

The two last bills were sent down with some amendments, which, on motion of Mr. BOURINOT, were agreed to by the house.

PETITIONS, &c.

Hon. PRO. SEC. laid on the table certain railway petitions, which were referred to the railway committee, in accordance with the practice.

Mr. Churchill presented a petition from North Hants, for a way office. He stated