

1886, were presented. They show the total net public debt to have been at that date \$223,159,107. The deficit for the year was \$5,834,572, and the total amount of interest paid in that period on the public debt \$10,137,008. The report is an interesting one, but space forbids giving the figures at length, nor is it necessary, as full details will be given to Parliament subsequently, when the report of the auditor-general is presented.

In obedience to a motion passed by the House, the clerk of the crown-in-chancery appeared at the table with the returns of the election in Queen's County, N. B., which were read. On motion of Mr. Weldon, of St. John, N. B., a summons was ordered to issue, directing John R. Dunn, returning officer for Queen's County, to attend the House with poll-books, ballots, and all other documents connected with the election in that county.

On Tuesday Mr. Pope, in answer to Sir Richard Cartwright, said the total liabilities for subsidies to railway companies on account of subsidies was \$3,268,000, and the estimated amount required to complete public works now in progress, and chargeable to capital, was \$2,000,000. Sir John stated that the government had under consideration the establishment of experimental farms in the Northwest Territories. David asking for documents relating to scrip for Northwest volunteers, made an appeal that the Regina home guards should receive the same consideration as the regular militia who took part in suppressing the rebellion. Dr. Sproule made a like claim for the Macdonald scouts of Moose Jaw, and Weldon (St. John) presented the case of the New Brunswick battalion, which was called out and kept in camp for a time but was not ordered to the front.

PROVINCIAL.—The week's doings in the Local Legislature have embraced several matters of general public interest.

The Hon. Prov. Secretary moved that the House appoint a committee to confer with one appointed by the Legislative Council, in order to prepare a loyal address of congratulation to Her Majesty the Queen on her attaining the fiftieth year of her reign. The motion was seconded by Dr. MacKay and was carried unanimously. Messrs. Fielding, Longley and MacKay were appointed members of this committee.

By command the Commissioner of Mines and Works laid on the table the annual report of his department.

On recommendation of the committee on local and private bills, the "monopoly bill" entitled "a bill to amend the charter of the Cape Breton and Pictou Iron and Railway Company" received the three-month's hoist.

The bill on Municipal Assessments was referred to the Committee on Law Amendments, and Messrs. Law, McNeil (Digby), and Bell were added to that committee, for the purpose of its consideration.

Bills were introduced as follows:—By Chisholm, to amend chap. 114, Acts of 1886, to incorporate the Town of Sydney. By the same to legalize the appointment of a Stipendiary Magistrate in Cape Breton. By Haley, to incorporate the Hants Central Railway Company, limited, and one to incorporate the Boston, Parrsboro and Lunenburg Steam Navigation Company, limited. By Hearn, to amend chap. 112, Acts of 1886, and one to abolish the Legislative Council. By Frame, to amend chap. 29, R. S., of public instruction. By Law, to authorize the Boston Marine Insurance Company to hold real and personal estate in Nova Scotia. By Andrews, to amend chap. 47, R. S., of highway labor. By Longley, to amend chap. 100, R. S., of Probate Courts, providing that decrees of court if registered, shall bind land, and punishing contempts of court. By the same, to amend chap. 9, R. S., of crown lands. The object of this bill is to enable the government to make special arrangements with parties intending to settle in new districts. By McColl, to amend chap. 101, Acts of 1872, incorporating Norton Lodge, I. O. O. F. By Cameron, to incorporate the New Glasgow Electric Light Company. By Black, (T. R.), to incorporate the Amherst Electric Light Company. By Bethune, to amend the License Act of 1886. By MacGillivray, to enable the firewardens of Antigonish County to assess for fire engines. By Lawrence, to amend the Nova Scotia Judicature Act. By Longley, to incorporate the Cushing Gold Mining Company, limited. By McColl, to amend chap. 7, R. S., of mines and minerals. By Black, (T. R.), to divide certain marsh lands at Nappin, Cumberland County, known as "the common." By Andrews, in relation to the independence of the legislature of Nova Scotia. By McCoy, relative to imprisonment for debt. By Longley, relating to the Nictaux and Atlantic Railway. By Church, to amend chap. 128, R. S., of costs and fees. This bill has reference to fees in the mines office. By the same, to amend chap. 7, R. S., of mines and minerals. By Black, to incorporate the Minudie Railway Co., limited. By Fraser, (J. A.), respecting the issuing of licenses in Victoria County. By Law, to incorporate the Yarmouth street railway company, limited. By Weeks, to amend chap. 84, R. S., of the registry of deeds, also to amend chap. 128, R. S., of costs and fees. By the Prov. Sec'y., to extend the power of the government to borrow money for the bridge service by \$250,000. By Longley, to encourage the manufacture of iron in Nova Scotia. By Roche, to amend the liquor license act of 1886. He explained that the object of the bill was to permit the sale of beer, which was of only a slightly intoxicating character, and which would have the effect of driving out strong and destructive liquors. Halifax as a maritime port and military and naval station is peculiarly situated; and the act as it stands confounds in one condemnation two very different things—the highly injurious strong spirituous liquors with the comparatively harmless beers. By Haley, to authorize the parish of St. Paul, Rawdon, Hants, to sell certain lands. By the Prov. Sec'y., to provide for the legal appointment of certain officers in the County of Halifax under the liquor license act. Also to amend chapter 112, Acts of 1886, concerning the Lunenburg Passage steam ferry, to provide sufficiently for the completion of that service, and then to stop the borrowing power of the municipality.

Petitions were presented as follows:—From the overseers of the poor for district No. 1, Digby County; from the overseers of poor for the municipality of Clare, district No. 10, Digby County, asking to be reimbursed

for expenses in connection with a transient pauper; from overseers of the poor for Sydney; two from the school section of Summerville, Hants County, asking for a change in the law respecting school assessments; from inhabitants of Mini Valley, in Cape Breton County, for aid in constructing a road through it; from Jeffrey McColl, respecting a coal area; from inhabitant of West Branch, River John, for aid to a road; from inhabitants of Cape Canso for aid in the construction of a road between that place and Dover; from Rev. B. Mullins, et al, asking for a subsidy in aid of a line of steamers between Aspy Bay, Victoria County, and Halifax; from Israel Longworth and others, against the proposed act relating to the Town of Truro; from the inhabitants of school section No. 37, Isaac's Harbor, for power to tax all property in that section for school purposes.

The following questions were asked by members:—

By Fraser, what policy the government proposes to adopt in relation to the new road in Victoria County. By Andrews, that the government lay on the table the tenders for supplies of groceries for Mount Hope Asylum. By Hemeon, that the government lay on the table full details of outlays in connection with Government House since 1883, and information on the expenditures in the same connection since 1867. By McColl, what authority the government has for paying laundry and other similar bills in connection with Government House.

The committee on Law Amendments reported up the Sabbath bill on Friday with such eliminations as emaculated it in the opinion of its promoters, but made it barely tolerable to the common, liberal sense of the community. It was proposed to refer the bill and the report to the committee of the whole House on bills, but its friends asked for a postponement till the next day. On Saturday afternoon, accordingly, the House met, and resolved itself into committee to consider the matter. All available space that was accessible to the public was crowded with an interested audience. The large majority of these, as became evident as the debate progressed, were liberty-loving people, but there was a sprinkling of narrow minded men who desired to bend the general public to their own narrow ideas. The title of the bill was changed without division from "A Bill to Prevent the Profanation of the Lord's Day" to "A Bill to Promote the Better Observance of Sunday." Then began a fierce contest. It was moved successively to restore all the several clauses that had been struck out by the committee on Law Amendments. After debate that forbidding various named public amusements was defeated by a vote of 14 to 23. That forbidding hunting and shooting by 12 to 25. That forbidding fishing by 13 to 23. The clause restraining horse cars from running on Sunday, occasioned a lengthy debate, which lasted till 11.30 p.m., when there appeared for it 13 and against it 24. The remaining clauses were passed without division, and the committee rose at 11.50. The House immediately adjourned till Monday at 3 p.m. On re-assembling, the committee reported up what was left of the Sunday Bill as amended, with the recommendation that it pass. It was moved to restore the clauses that had been struck out, in amendment to that, that the House adhere to its action of Saturday, and in amendment to the amendment, "that this bill be not now read a third time, but be read again three months from this day." After a little debate the latter was carried by a vote of 23 to 14. The names being called for, they stood as follows:—

For—Hon. Prov. Sec'y., Hon. Atty. Gen'l., Hon. Commr. Works and Mines, Hon. Mr. McNeill, Hon. Mr. Johnson, Hon. Mr. MacGillivray, and Messrs. Robichau, Bethune, Hearn, Cameron, Chisholm, MacKay, Humeon, Matheson, McIsaac, James A. Fraser, Ross, Rind, Haley, MacCoy, Frame, Weeks and Cook—23.

Against—Andrews, Bill, R. L. Black, Munro, McColl, McKinnon, John A. Fraser, Clark, Laurence, Roche, McNeill, Law and Gayton, T. R. Black—14.

Thus ended this outrageous attempt to make Christians by act of Parliament. We hope it will prove the last that will be made in Nova Scotia.

After this affair was thus disposed of, the Hon. Prov. Sec'y. introduced a bill to authorize municipal councils in places where street cars run to make regulations, if they see fit, forbidding the running of cars during the hours of divine service on Sunday, and imposing a penalty not to exceed \$100, for any violation of such regulations when made, such fine to go to the general funds of the corporation in which such offence shall be committed.

On Tuesday the Hon. Prov. Sec'y. laid on the table a series of resolutions concerning the relation of the province of Nova Scotia to the Dominion, and gave notice of the further consideration of this matter on Thursday. These resolutions recite at considerable length the history of the confederation of Nova Scotia with the other provinces of the Dominion, the unsatisfactory nature of financial arrangements thereunder, the repeated but unsuccessful efforts that were made by the several local governments since 1867 to have these arrangements placed on a better basis, the fact that at the local elections of June, 1886, a large majority of the electors endorsed the policy of repealing the union, but, at the general election of February last, they reversed that decision, and close by saying, "That in view of such recent action by the people of the province, an application to the imperial government and parliament for the release of Nova Scotia from the Canadian confederation could not be favorably received by the imperial authorities, and it is at present inexpedient to make such application; that this house strongly reaffirms the declaration of the last house, that Nova Scotia suffers great disadvantages in the union, and declares its opinion that unless a material change takes place in financial affairs and commercial relations, whereby the position of the province is improved, the discontent in Nova Scotia will continue and increase, and it will be necessary to again submit the question of separation from Canada to the people of this province for their decision."

McColl's bill to amend the franchise law was withdrawn, but was ordered to be printed, and it will be re-introduced next session. Mr. Longley also withdrew his bill to encourage the manufacture of iron in Nova Scotia.