THURSDAY, March 10.

House opened at half-past three o'clock.

On motion of the hon Attorney General, the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole on the subject of the proposed Railway, and the propositions before the House relative to the same.

Hon the Premier (Sir Wm Whiteway) had asked the House to resolve itself into Committee of the Whole for the purpose of considering the most important matter which had over come before the Legislature since the beginning of its existence. It was a matter of great gratification to him that this question, affecting so vitally the interests and welfare of the country had taken so strong a hold of the public mind. It was an evidence which agreed with his own convictions that in the subject was involved the future existence of the colony. In the remarks which he was about to make public duty required that he should speak plainly, and if, unfortunately, his language seemed to refer to any special class or individual, he trusted that credit would be accorded him for integrity of purpose. Nothing would occasion him greater regret than the unententional possibility of wounding any of his friends, and he really hoped he might be permitted to count a goodly number of them among all classes of his fellow citizens. This was a great question and one that should be debated solely upon its merits free from all personal or party considerations. The question of this Railway construction in this country had been before it many years. In 1867 or 1868 a resolution was adopted by both branches of the Legislature, affirming the principle that the country was prepared to grant a money subsidy with territorial concessions in aid of the project. Somewhere about that time Mr Sandford Fleming had at his own expense engaged Mr Bellairs in an exploration of the line of country between this and St George's Bay, having in view the survey and construction here of a line which should form a connecting link in the great system of communication which it was then proposed to extend from the Atlantic to the Pacific oceans over British territory. With the same view a survey was accomplished by our Government in 1875. In 1878 a series of resolutions was unanimously adopted by both branches of the legislature to the effect that it would be prepared to make liberal grants of crown lands with a subsidy of $120 000 dollars per annum to any company which would undertake the work of building a line from St John's to St George's Bay or other point of the West coast upon certain conditions therein embodied. The report of the survey of 1875, with plans and specifications was forwarded to London with a view to advertising the project. Owing, however, to the existence of international question to which it is unecessary to refer just now we were unable to proceed further in that direction. Last year (1880) the subject was again brought prominently before the Legislature, condition of the colony being such as to bring home to the conviction of the country the absolute necessity that existed for the immediate adoption of measure for opening the interior of the island, and for utilization of its admitted mineral and other resources. A course was adopted upon occasion which is usual when it is desirable that more then ample time and opportunity should be afforded for a free, full and minute investigation of the subject. A large Joint Committee of both branches was appointed, and after the maturest deliberation of the subject, a report, evidencing that an unusual amount of care and attention had been devoted to it, was submitted and received by both branches and a Bill introduced in conformity with the report which passed regularly through its several stages of a first, second and third reading and committee of the whole in the Assembly and Council Chambers and finally received the assent of His Excellency the Governor. In pursuance of the law thus enacted a survey was made by Messrs Kinnipie and Morris during the past summer, the report of which is now on the table of the House. Notwithstanding however, that this question has been been before the country for so many years past, and has occupied so prominent a place in the public mind both inside and outside the Legislature; there are those who have the temerity to designate the Act of last session as an illsadvised and hasty measure, inconsistently got up. Expressions of this kind are either impertinent and incorrect, or they are a gross reflection upon both branches of the Legislative body. In the former event they may be regarded as scarcely worthy of notice except as a mere matter of regret; in the latter it will be the duty of the Legislature to take such a course as will justify itself, and by persistent adhesion to the principles already enunciated thus consistently and conscientiously mark its sense of the indignity which has been attempted to be thrust upon it. Another subtle trap has been set to catch the unwary and incredulous and to bring obloquy upon men who are honestly endeavoring to awaken the country from a lethargy of 3000 years;- the spectre of Confederation has been raised to frighten and mislead those who may be simple enough to be deceived by foolish cries. It is so, however, that those who are the most strenuous advocates of the Railway are those who held ontagonistic views upon the subject of Confederation. Confederates and anti-Confederates fought the battle manfully; one party was necessarily victorious, the question was necessarily disposed of, and a pledge was given to the people that the subject would not again be brought forward except at their own solicitation, and then only after an appeal to the country. That pledge has been and will continue to be adhered to, and for his part he would not allow the slightest act which would have a tendency in the direction Confederation, unless coerced thereto by the people themselves. The device was untruthful, unjustifiable, dishonest, subtle, and ingenious, and worthy only of the men from whom it emanated. The last piece of twaddle of this kind was that contained in a local paper recently, over the signature of an elderly gentleman who once occupied a leading position in the Government of the country it was to the effect that the Canadian Government were employing capitalists in New York and Canada to contract with Newfoundland for the railway, and then assign the contract to a Canadian Company who were thereupon to reassign to the Canadian Government, who would send Canadians to settle upon the lands in sufficient numbers to exert a political influence strong enough to vote the country into Confederation. Our friends in the sister provinces must certainly possess a strong desire for us, and even if they did, one could hardly imagine their resorting to so subtle a device for the accomplishment of their object. What twaddle this is, to catch the fishermen of Newfoundland!—why, it is only worthy of the brain of one who could conceive a scheme for securing one million acres of mineral land in the country, or to get within his own grasp one of the largest mines Island. He [hon. Attorney General], as he had said before, desired this Railway project to be argued upon its merits, and upon its merits alone, let stand or fall. He would attribute no specious motives to those who used fair argument, to these he would give credit for sincerity of purpose, and would demand the same-like honorable acknowledgment for himself. He would not have referred to this paper in the present debate, were it not that a petition had been presented to the House, headed by the individual to whom he had already referred, and which contained statements not in accordance with facts. Having disposed of these preliminary charges of hasty, ill-advised action, &c., he would now come to a consideration of the history of the country during a portion of the present century in connection with the prosecution of its staple industries. Upon a close examination of these conditions facts would be discovered calculatee to alarm all thinking men. Our fisheries have been ever regarded as the staple resources of the country; and whilst, on the one hand, they have proved a source of wealth to the few, they have resulted in proverty to the many. But what is to become of both clasees alike when we find that the increase of our fishery products is by no means commensurate with the increase of our population? He found by the records that our exports of fish from an early period to the last year, so far af we have reliable date, run as follows:—

Years	Qtls
1815	1,086,266
1816	1,046,625
1865	997,114
1866	930,447
1875	1,136,235
1876	1,364,068
1879	1,095,339
1880	985,134

The next point to be considered is the relative increase of population, beginning with the census of 1836, which is the earliest at hand we have the following result:

Years	Qtls
1836	75,094
1845	96,506
1857	122,638
1869	146,536
1874	161,374

And, calculating upon previous rates of increase, our population at the present time may be fairly estimated at 181,753. He would call attention to the subjoined statement tyled by the hon Receiver General a few days since, which gives the following particulars relative to the imports and exports into and from the province of Newfoundland for the year 1860, 1870, 1874, and 1880 respectively:

Year	Population	Imports	Per Head	Exports	Per Head
1860	124,288	$5,533,712	$44 52	5,944,244	$47 82
1870	146,536	6,665,849	45 42	7,230,276	49 69
1874	161,374	7,354,689	45 57	8,644,460	53 56
1879	178,190	7,261,002	40 74	7,169,774	39 90
1880	181,753	6,966,243	38 33	6,784,883	37 33

The largest catch of fish ever taken in the Island was that of 1874, amounting to 1.609,724 ptls., which was a very extraordinary catch; but it will be seen that whilst the population has more than doubled itself since 1836, our exporting power has not at all proportionately increased; and when we take into consideration the additional fact of the extension of our fishing area during the last twelve or fifteen years to Labrador, now resorted to by some twenty thousand to twenty thousand five hundred of our fishing people during summer season, and that we have now attained almost the ultima thule of of our fishing ground, with the result of but a small adition to our fishery products, the general results from a social and economic point of view are alarming in the extreme. If, in connection with this, we take into consideration the subject of our able-bodied pauper expenditure, we find that it has increased in a paralleling with the increase of population. If had grown to an enormous extent up to 1867, and in 1868 it, was nominally said to have been abolished.

Continued on second page.

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These famous Pills purify the blood and act most powerfully, yet soothingly on the

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and BOWLS, giving tone energy and vigour to these great Main SPRINGS OF LIFE. They are confidently recommended as a never failing remedy in all cases where the constitution from whatever cause has become impaired or weaked. They are wonderfully efficacious in all ailments incidntal to Females of all ages and

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Its Searching and Healing Properties are known throughout the world.

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The Pills and Ointment are Manufactured only at

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The Trade Marks of these Medicines are registered in Ottawa. dence, any are throughout she British possessions who many keep the American Counterfeit for sale, we will ba prosecuted.

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Having completed his Fall importations is now offering them at a very low price.

Winceys from	2½	per yard
Sheetings	9½	" "
Flannel, all wool	1s	" "
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" Skirts	2s.6d	
" Ties	4d.	
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Womens E.S. Kid Boots from	4s. 6d,	
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Also 500 Pairs Men's Marchalong Boots, at 7s. 11d., only to be bought here.

A choice lot New Teas,

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100 Barrels Choice F M PORK,
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A DIVIDEND on the capital stock of this Company, at the rate Ten per cent. per annum, for the half yearly ending 31st December, 1880, will be payable at the Banking House, in Duckworth Street, on and after Monday the 10th inst, during the usual hours of business.

By order of the Board,

E. BROWN,

Manager

ADVERTISEMENTS.

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The PILLS Purify the Blood, correct all disorders of the Liver, Stomach Kidneys and Bowls, and are invaluaabe in in all complaints incidental to Females. The OINTMENT is the only reliable remedy for Bad Legs, Old Wounds, Sores, and Ulcers, of however long standing. For Bronchitis, Diphtheria, Coughs Colds, Gout, Rheumatism, and all Skin Diseases it is no equal.

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I most respectfully take leave to call the attention of the Public generally to the fact, that certain Houses in New York are sending to many parts of the globe SPURIOUS IMITATIONS of my Pills and Ointment. These frauds bears on their labels some address in New York.

I do not allow my medicines to be sold in any part of the United States, I have no Agents there. My Medicines are only made by me, at 533 Oxford Street London.

In the books of directions affixed to the spurious make is a caution, warning the Public against being deceived by counterfeits. Do not be misled by this audacious trick, as they are the counterfeits they pretend to denounce.

These counterfeits are purchased by unprincipled Vendors at one-half the price of my Pills and Ointment, and are sold to you as my genuine edicines.

I most earnestly appeal to that sense of justice which I feel sure I may venture upon asking from all honorable persons, to asist me, and the Public, as far as may lie in their power, in denouncing this shameful Fraud.

Each Pot and Box of the Genuine Medicines, bears the British Government Stamp, with the words "HOLLOWAY'S PILLS AND OINTMENT, LONDON, engraved thereon. On the label is the address, 533, OXFOR STREET, LONDON, where alone they are manufactured Holloway's Pills and Ointment bearing any other address are counterfeits.

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Signed THOS HOLLOWAY.

533 Oxford Street, London,

Government Notice.

ALL PERSONS having Claims against Board of Works are requested to find in their Accounts (duly certified) not later than MONDAY 20th inst.

By order

JOHN STUART.

Secretary.

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