

THE HERALD

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18, 1887.

The Public Accounts.

The various Departmental Reports of the Provincial Government were submitted to the Legislature on Wednesday last.

The principal sources of the year's receipts were: Subsidy from the Dominion Government, \$173,537.20; Public Lands, \$47,378.19; Registration of Deeds, \$5,369.29; County Courts, \$2,072.35; Prothonotary's Office, \$1,910.39; Hospital for the Insane, \$1,187.68; fees received by Provincial Secretary, \$853.00; casual revenue, \$825.15.

Mr. Sullivan, in his budget speech last year, made a very correct estimate of the receipts from the sources which we have just enumerated. He considered that \$48,000 would be received from the Land Office; and the Public Accounts show us that the amount received was only about six hundred dollars short of that estimate.

The largest items of expenditure were: Education, \$111,992.21; Public Works, \$92,792.24; Administration of Justice, \$69,634.74; Hospital for the Insane, \$16,971.77; Legislation, \$13,032.29; Boards of Health, \$8,311.63.

Of the expenditure in the Public Works Department, \$29,578.12 were laid out on roads. Besides this there were spent on ferries and other public buildings, the public are reaping the benefit of it. Instead of any surplus, they are deserving of great praise for their efforts to keep the expenditure within the revenue.

The opponents of the Government are endeavoring to create a great noise because the Province is, they say, a little in debt. They should not forget that the Province was upwards of \$50,000 in debt when the present Administration first assumed the reins of Government.

Let us compare our financial condition with that of some of our sister Provinces. The public debt of New Brunswick, which our readers will bear in mind, has for some years been under the rule, increased \$600,000 from 1879 to 1882.

Again, Nova Scotia, which has, for some years, been under the benign influence of a Grit administration, had on the 31st day of December last a public debt of about one million and a quarter all incurred within the last four years, the interest of which alone amounts to about \$60,000 annually.

The Colonial Conference.

The Conference which met in London on the 4th inst., was an event of much greater importance than might at first sight appear, and its deliberations may have a greater influence on the future of the British Empire than the mere outline of its proceedings furnished by the telegraphic despatches would lead us to believe.

The Conference opened under the presidency of Sir Henry Holland, Secretary for the Colonies. Besides the delegates from the different Colonies there were present the Marquis of Salisbury, Premier of Great Britain; Earl Cadogan, Lord Privy Seal; Mr. W. H. Smith, First Lord of the Treasury; Mr. Edward Stanhope, Secretary for War; Earl Derby, Colonial Secretary in the Gladstone Administration; Mr. H. C. F. Childers, Chancellor of the Exchequer under Gladstone; Earl Granville, Secretary of Foreign Affairs in the Gladstone Cabinet, and several other gentlemen holding prominent places in the politics of the Empire.

Lord Salisbury, in tendering to the delegates the welcome of the Government and the country, said the Conference might not at once be productive of great results, but he was confident that it would be the parent of results in the future of great importance, and he was something to which the Colonies might look back as the root from which spring greatness and beneficence.

The Report of the Chief Superintendent of Education on the Public Schools of the Province for 1886, shows that there are at present 41 school districts on the Island, distributed as follows: 172 in Queen's County, 139 in Prince, and 120 in King's. There were but ten districts in which there was no school, against 74 in the year 1876.

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

BRITISH COLUMBIA can certainly claim to be the banner Conservative Province of the Dominion. In the whole province only two Opposition candidates ventured to come forward and put themselves in nomination for the late Dominion elections.

PRESENT indications point out that the Newfoundland fishery, this year, are not likely to be attended with much success. The latest news received at St. John's from the sealing fleet are to the effect that most of the vessels are bound up in the ice and unable to move.

MR. TASCHEBERG, Archbishop of Quebec, on his elevation to the purple was granted a Court of honor, by his Holiness Pope Leo the XIII. Among its members are the following: names: Rt. Rev. C. E. Legare, T. E. Hamel, Vicar-General; M. Thibault, Prothonotary-Apostolic; the Rt. Rev. Mgrs. Bolduc, Methot and Paquet, etc.

ACCORDING to the Report of the Commissioner of Crown and Public Lands, the number of acres of land sold during the year 1886 was 7,363 1/2 acres, and the number of purchasers 116.

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Holy Week and Easter Sunday.

The ceremonies of Holy Week and Easter Sunday were excellently carried out at the Cathedral Church, under the direction of Rev. A. J. McIntyre. The parochial clergy were assisted in the different offices by the Reverend Rector, the professors and students of St. Dunstan's College.

THE office of Tenebrae took place on the afternoon of Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at four o'clock. The singing of the Lamentations, by the Reverend clergy, Professor Caves, Mr. Blanchard, Mr. G. H. B. and the choir, was a very high order, and beautifully portrayed the sorrowful feelings which those sacred canticles are calculated to inspire.

Easter Sunday was a beautiful, bright day, well adapted for the celebration of such a glorious feast. Solemn High Mass was celebrated at ten o'clock by Rev. Father Burke in the evening, at seven o'clock, Vespers and Solemn Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament took place.

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Legislative Proceedings.

THURSDAY, April 15. House met at 12:15. Hon. Mr. SULLIVAN introduced a Bill to amend the Act relating to the construction of a railway across the Hillsborough River, between Charlottetown and Southport; also a Bill in amendment of the Act relating to the law relating to distress for rent.

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General News.

DEATH OF FATHER VERBER. The Rev. John Verber, of the St. John's Cathedral, died at five o'clock Saturday morning at the residence of his father, about two miles from the Sussex railway station. He had been ill for some time past and his death has not caused much surprise, as he was advanced in years.

RECENT PICTON INCIDENTS contain the following: Wm. Currie and family of Charlottetown, two miles from St. John's, had a very narrow escape from being burned to death on Sunday morning. They retired at their usual hour the night before, thinking everything perfectly safe and little dreaming of the fact that their house would be destroyed before daylight.

THE Washington correspondent of the N. Y. World throws some light on the Retaliatory Exclusion Act. He says: "It is now practically settled that there is to be no extension of the Retaliatory Exclusion Act."

ANOTHER CANADIAN PACIFIC STRIKE-UP. A recent Ottawa despatch says just happened in this locality. It occurred last night near the village of Pappinville, on the Canadian Pacific Railway.

MAINE DISPATCH. A Gloucester despatch of the 6th inst. states that the three-masted schooner Charlotte T. Sibley, Captain Bartlett, of and from Belfast for Jacksonville, Florida, arrived this afternoon, having on board Captain William Clewley and the crew of six men.

THE Bill regarding the independence of the General Assembly was read a third time and passed. The Bill relating to the Diocesan Church Society was also read a third time and passed.

Hon. Mr. SULLIVAN moved the second reading of the Bill to amend the Act relating to the construction of a railway across the Hillsborough River, between Charlottetown and Southport; also a Bill in amendment of the Act relating to the law relating to distress for rent.

LOCAL AND OTHER ITEMS.

THE Dominion Parliament. The attendance at the day was extremely small. One merchant at Spring Goods North Street, D. A. McDonald, has our thanks for papers.

SOME idea of the enormous amount invested in life insurance in the United States may be gathered from the report of the New York Insurance Department of the six largest companies, December 31st, 1886:

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