

were four most important proposals for the consideration of the Legislature, and which were so intimately blended one with the other, that the passing of one measure, founded upon good and safe principles, as a matter of necessity lead to the others. The first of these was the extension of railways, and he had no doubt that if any measure should be laid before the House that would be of general benefit to the Province, it would meet with that serious attention which the subject justly demanded. The extension of Railways naturally led to immigration, which is so desirable to the Province, standing, as she does, almost unrivalled in her mineral resources, and second to none in her Agricultural and Horticultural productions. With a large increase in her population, arising from immigration, the mind naturally turned to the educational system, which is a disgrace to the Province. Let the masses have education, and you break down those petty local prejudices which, for want of learning, they cling to with a pertinacity that no persuasive powers can remove. The next leading question was the union of the three maritime provinces, New Brunswick, Prince Edward's Island, and Nova Scotia. If that could be consummated, he thought it would in a great measure do away with a great deal of that party spirit which prevails, and more particularly that spirit of retaliation which manifests itself by the removal of subordinates from office. There was no doubt, he thought, that the Government would meet with opposition, but he trusted that it would be able, with that unanimity of spirit which he thought prevailed in the House, to maintain the honor and advance the general interests of the country.

The House then adjourned until two o'clock next day.

FRIDAY, 5th Feby.

#### THE ANSWER TO THE ADDRESS.

The House met at 2 p. m., and the Address in answer to the Speech was immediately taken up, read clause by clause, and finally passed without any opposition.

Mr. ARCHIBALD, who was not in the House when the Address was being disposed of, arrived just after it passed, and expressed surprise that it had been pressed through in so hurried a manner. He had no idea that it would be taken up before 3 o'clock.

PROVINCIAL SECRETARY said he did not anticipate any opposition to it.

Mr. ARCHIBALD said that it was not his intention to have opposed it, but he contemplated making some observations upon certain clauses of it when the same were read. It seldom happened that the Governor of this Province had an opportunity to offer congratulations upon so many evidences of prosperity as presented themselves at the present time—His Excellency had spoken of the increase in the Revenue in 1863, compared with 1862, and had referred to the traffic on the railway, and the swelled receipts in the same period, and had made mention of the great activity that had been exhibited throughout the past year in mining enterprises. He had referred to the large yield of gold and the increased development of the coal mines.—

The latter was an important interest, compared with which the gold mines, as rich and extensive as they were, sunk into utter insignificance. The indications of prosperity pointed to in the Speech certainly afforded good cause for congratulation, and he was glad that the government had an opportunity of introducing such into the Speech. He could not, however, help referring to the contrast between the condition of the country at the present time and in 1860. When the Government in that year framed the Speech, they were constrained by the position of affairs to speak of the extraordinary burthens that the country was bearing, the deficiencies in the revenue, and the necessity that existed for strict observance of the principle of economy. This picture was drawn by the same hands that painted the one exhibited in the Speech that had only yesterday been delivered to the house. The men that drew the dismal picture of the condition of the country in 1860 were the same that drew the bright and cheering one that has just been presented. He might point to the state of affairs in 1860, to show the condition of the revenue when the late Government came into power, and to that of the present, as indicating a different state of things when the present Executive took possession of the reins of administration. He felt bound to congratulate the country upon its present condition and future prospects, and if credit were due in any quarter for this consummation, a large, a very large share ought in justice, be awarded to the men who had overcome the peculiar difficulties that beset the country for the past four years, paid all demands, and were enabled to hand over a large surplus revenue to their successors.

Mr. Archibald then went on to refer to the several subjects contained in the Speech, and to express his hopes that they would be dealt with energetically and consistently with the public interests. He was pleased to discover that the government had in contemplation to introduce some few measures which, if presented in a practical form, would recommend themselves to this house and the country, and to such the opposition would give an honest and candid support. There never was a time in the history of this country more favorable for dealing with the important subject of education than the present, and it was a matter in which the province was deeply concerned, as the last census returns showed that there were a large number of the population that could neither read nor write.

He could not, however, express his approval of the very indefinite manner in which the subject of Railway Extension was referred to in the Speech. He did not think it was possible to understand from the terms of the Speech in what direction the Railway was to be extended—whether North, East, or West. He could not think that this was the proper mode in which this important question should be treated by gentlemen who were sustained by a large majority, and had about nine months in which to deliberate and mature plans. They ought either to have told the house they were not prepared to proceed with the construction of railways, or given something definite on the subject. The manner in which it which it was introduced looked like speculating, with a view of discovering