

nents could bring against him. Having never held ministerial office his parliamentary career involves few particulars that need be noted. He was a devoted oppositionist, except during the time when the Macdonald-Scotte-Dorion Cabinet was in office until the Coalition of 1864, when he gave the Government a hearty support up to the time the Hon. George Brown resigned the Presidency of the Council. He was then (January 1866) offered a seat in the Cabinet but declined to accept it, and he has now the exceptional distinction of being the only politician of ability who has adhered, through good and evil fortune, to the leadership of the Hon. George Brown. Though generally acting in opposition to the Ministry, after the retirement of his chief, Mr. McKenzie always gave a cordial support to any legislative measures necessary to the perfecting of Confederation; and he is now, in obedience to his honest convictions, in direct antagonism to several of the members of his own party on the important subject of "protection to native industry." Mr. McKenzie does not believe in protection through the operation of a high tariff and he is of a character likely to follow his own convictions on every question of policy that may come up. He has been a useful hard-working Member of Parliament; to him the country owes the excellent Act for providing speedy egress from public buildings, and he and his fast friend Mr. McKellar were mainly responsible for the crude and ill-digested Municipal and Assessment Acts (Upper Canada) of 1866, for some of the errors of which, however, it would be quite unfair to hold either of those gentlemen accountable. He was for a long time Chairman of the Printing Committee of the House and has always taken an active part in parliamentary affairs. Though no orator, and in spite of the disadvantage of a somewhat harsh unpleasant voice, he is an effective, logical and instructive speaker; he masters almost every subject with which he deals, and deals with almost every subject that comes before parliament. He may undoubtedly be considered the leader of the Ontario wing of the Opposition, for his ability, industry and parliamentary experience exalt him far above all the other Members of his party from his own Province save one, and that one is much less capable than Mr. McKenzie as a parliamentary leader.

No. 15.—HON. L. S. HUNTINGTON, Q. C.

Lewis Seth Huntington was born at Compton, Eastern Townships, on the 14th May 1827; he was called to the Lower Canada bar in 1853, and ten years later was created Queen's Counsel. He was elected for Shefford at the general election in 1861, and has since continued to represent that constituency, having been returned at the last general election by a large majority. Under the wing of Mr. Holton he was brought into the Macdonald-Dorion Cabinet in May, 1863, in the subordinate capacity of Solicitor-General, and continued to hold that office until the defeat of the Government in March of the following year. He has of late years attracted some notice by his advocacy of Canadian independence; and except for that circumstance, has given sign of no quality save one to make him distinguished as a member of Parliament. That one quality is the gift of oratory. Mr. Huntington is unquestionably an orator. When he speaks he does so with great elocutionary force, with keen, biting sarcasm, and with a power of imagery and illustration quite remarkable when contrasted with the small medium of information to be gleaned, even from the best of his parliamentary harangues. His only drawback as an orator, besides a well-developed disregard for elegance of language, is a nasal drawl in his pronunciation which grates somewhat on one's ear at first, but becomes perfectly intelligible when the hon. gentleman unfolds the cardinal principle of his political creed—Canadian Independence, and if Canada be not able to stand alone, then a *near* political alliance. The country well understands the meaning of this, and has already pretty emphatically pronounced its judgment against it. Mr. Huntington's oratorical powers and the temporary notoriety he has achieved in connection with the discussion of Canadian Independence form, so far as we know, his only title to distinction as a member of Parliament.

CANADIAN PARLIAMENT.

THE SENATE.

Wednesday, March 16.—Hon. Mr. BUREAU moved an address for information relating to the management and condition of the Banque du Peuple, the affairs of which he contended were in a very unsatisfactory condition. Hon. Mr. TESSIER denied that the condition of the bank was such as represented. Hon. Messrs. RYAN and FRANK also spoke favourably as to the good repute of the bank, and after some remarks from the mover the motion was withdrawn. In answer to an enquiry of Hon. Mr. McCULLY, Hon. Mr. MITCHELL stated that the whole question of pilotage was under the consideration of the Government, and full information on the subject would be laid before the House. Hon. Mr. HAZEN moved for copies of the New Brunswick Act of 1869 relating to marriage licenses, which had been reserved for the Governor's pleasure; also an address praying to know if the Act had been assented to or otherwise. 2nd. Copies of despatches from the Lieut. Governors of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick on the subject of the marriage law of these Provinces. 3rd. A copy of Commission from the Crown granting the Governor power to issue marriage licenses, and a copy of the deputation to the Lieut. Governor of New Brunswick to exercise the same power. 4th. The form of license issued by the Governor and his Deputies.—Carried. Hon. Mr. RYAN moved for the correspondence relating to the reprinting of British copyright works in the Dominion. Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL stated that the matter was in a fair way of settlement, as would be found when the papers were brought down. The House then went into committee on the Bill relating to the duties of the Queen's Printer, and the Committee having reported the Bill was read a third time. Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL moved the House into committee on the Bill respecting Bills of Exchange and Promissory Notes. Hon. Mr. TESSIER objected very strongly to the bill, and expressed his fears that the measure would turn out to be no improvement on the existing law. Hon. Mr. SANNORS concurred in the views put forward by the Hon. gentleman. Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL defended the bill, and explained its principles and object. The House then went into committee on the bill, and after a short debate on the second clause, committee rose and reported.

Thursday, March 17.—The House again went into committee on the Bill relating to Bills of Exchange and Promissory Notes. Some discussion took place on the first clause as to the difference or distinction between a bill of exchange and a note, and as to whether, by the present law, cheques payable to order require the affixture of stamps. On the seventh clause, which

fixes the non-judicial days in Ontario, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, there was some discussion, and finally the clause was amended so that the days proclaimed to be holidays shall be non-judicial days, and also that Monday following Christmas Day, when that day falls on a Sunday, shall be non-judicial. The remaining clauses were taken up *seriatim*, verbal amendments being made to most of them, and the Committee rose and reported.

Friday March 18.—Hon. Mr. DICKEY moved for a statement referring to sections 4 and 7 of the Intercolonial Railway. The House then went into committee again on the Bill relating to Promissory Notes. Considerable discussion arose as to the amount of notarial fees for protesting, but the amount was finally fixed at 75 cts. for protest and 25 cts. for notice. On motion of the Hon. Mr. MITCHELL the Bill respecting Certificates of Masters and Mates was, after some discussion, read a second time. The House then went into committee again on the Bill respecting Lighthouses, Beacons and Buoys. After some debate on the construction of lighthouses the Committee rose and reported progress and the House then adjourned.

Monday, March 21.—Hon. Mr. RYAN moved for the appointment of a special committee to enquire what steps had been taken and what progress had been made in the United Kingdom towards establishing an international system of coinage. Carried. The House then went again into committee on the Bill relating to Lighthouses, Beacons and Buoys. The first section as altered by the Minister of Marine and the second section were adopted. To the third section, placing lighthouses, etc., under the management of the Marine and Fisheries Department, Hon. Mr. RYAN moved an amendment to the effect that the Trinity Houses should not have the power of erecting lighthouses, etc., except with the consent of the Department. After some debate, and explanations of the measure by the Minister of Marine, the committee rose and reported and the House adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Wednesday, March 16.—Mr. THOMPSON introduced a Bill to amend the Act respecting Postal Arrangements. He stated that he had introduced a provision in the bill doing away with the franking privilege entirely. After some explanations from Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD of the case of letters franked to foreign parts, and some discussion as to the advisability of the measure proposed, the bill was read a first time. Mr. McDONNELL (South Renfrew), moved for the reports of the surveyors employed in the neighbourhood of Lake Nipigon. Hon. Mr. HENNINGTON moved for an address respecting a customs union between the Dominion and foreign states. He attacked the Government as having dealt with all great public questions in a spirit of petty proscription, and accused them of having failed in their duty in dealing with Nova Scotia and the troubles in the North West. He also found fault with the way in which they had conducted negotiations relating to reciprocity, contending that free trade with the United States was the only way to promote the prosperity of Canada, and prevent the people from leaving the country. He acknowledged that he participated in the feeling against discrimination adverse to British goods. Sir FRANCIS HICKES replied to the attack made by Mr. HENNINGTON on the Government. He denied the truth of the Hon. gentleman's assertion that the people of this country are in a backward, retrogressive state, and accused him of trying to make the people discontented with their position. The policy that he advocated was one that must prove fatal to our connection with Great Britain, and at the same time would be excessively oppressive and burdensome to the people. The result of such a policy would be that the United States would send in their manufactures, and for years and years our manufactures would be crippled, and our people subject to the burthens now pressing on the people of the United States. He accused the Hon. gentleman of inconsistency, in stating that there was a strong feeling in favour of free trade, and yet wanting to adopt a protective policy whereby would be shut out the manufactures and products of all other countries than the United States. Sir Francis then detailed the facts connected with the withdrawal of the Reciprocity Treaty and the effort subsequently made for its renewal, and then proceeded to explain the different systems of Government here and in the United States, in illustration of the difficulties in the mode of proceeding in the matter on the other side. He also read an extract from the New York *Nation* showing the difference between the two systems. Mr. FONG deprecated the agitation raised by the Hon. member for Shefford, who, he thought, had gone too far in advocating such radical changes. As to the argument of the people leaving the country, he said that in Maine, where they enjoyed this much-coveted free trade, the people were leaving for the west. Hon. Mr. DONOHUE did not think proper exertions had been made to secure a new treaty. He contended that the prosperity of the country commenced when the reciprocity treaty came into force, and that since the abrogation of the treaty the people were leaving the country and the manufacturing interests were decaying. Sir GEO. CARTER replied at great length, supporting the argument of Sir FRANCIS HICKES, and ridiculing the ruin and decay argument. Mr. CHAMBERLAIN, while advocating the desirability of reciprocity, deprecated the customs union as a step to political union. He contended that Canada was prosperous, and her exports had increased a great deal more since the abrogation of reciprocity than before. Mr. OLIVER argued in the same sense as the two last speakers, as did some other members. Mr. PICARD said the question was of paramount importance, and the resolution should pass. Mr. MACKENZIE altogether opposed the resolution, but would like the debate adjourned, which was agreed to.

Thursday, March 17.—A message was received from His Excellency the Governor-General, stating that Her Majesty will not be advised to disallow certain Acts of Parliament passed by the Dominion Legislature. Sir FRANCIS HICKES moved concurrence in the Banking Resolutions. Mr. COLBY moved in amendment that the report be referred back to committee, with instructions to amend the same by inserting the words: "In any city in the Dominion which has a population of more than twenty thousand inhabitants," after the word "Banking" in the first line of the first paragraph. After a long debate, in which the old arguments in favour of small banks were repeated, the amendment was put to vote and lost. For the amendment 68, against 82. Mr. ROSS (Prince Edward) then moved, seconded by Mr. BOWELL, another amendment to the effect that the minimum amount of capital should be fixed at \$1,000,000, with a paid-up capital of \$500,000. The House divided on this amendment without debate, with the following result.—Yeas, 64, Nays, 86. Mr. FERGUSON, seconded by Mr. COXSON, moved in amendment to the paragraph respecting re-

turns of vessels, "that they would include returns of loans, discounts or advances on current account to railway, steamboat or other corporations respectively." After discussing a point of order the House divided. Yeas, 14; nays, 33. Mr. CARTWRIGHT said he objected very strongly to the 18th resolution, providing that banks shall hold a certain amount of their reserves in Dominion notes, and concluded by moving in amendment "that the House do not concur in the report, but that it be referred back to committee with instructions to strike out clause 18." The amendment was lost on division. The resolutions were then concurred in, and Sir FRANCIS HICKES introduced a bill founded thereon. The House then proceeded to the consideration of the resolution on Dominion Notes. Sir FRANCIS HICKES moved that they be referred back to committee, with instructions to insert the amendment of which he had given notice. After some debate the House went into committee and reported the resolutions.

Friday, March 18.—Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD introduced a bill to establish a Supreme Court for the whole Dominion. He proceeded to explain the provisions of the bill. The Court would be composed of a Chief Justice and six Judges, representing, as far as possible, the different bars of the several provinces. There were two clauses in the bill respecting constitutional questions, to the effect that the Court should not have the power of vetoing any act of the Legislatures, but that the Crown might ask the opinion of the Court on any disputed point, which opinion, however, was to have no legal effect. He cited the analogous process to this which prevails in England. With regard to the system of appeal, the old form of a writ of error would be maintained, and provision was made that there should be no appeal to the Supreme Court until the Provincial appeal should be exhausted. He then moved the first reading of the bill. Mr. BLAKE expressed his satisfaction with the amendments made in various matters. Hon. J. H. CAMERON asked whether there was any provision with regard to the veto power by the Dominion Government upon Acts of the Local Legislature. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD said the veto power was conferred on the Crown, and the Court has no power of stating authoritatively to the Crown whether a bill should be disallowed or not. In answer to Hon. J. H. CAMERON, Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD stated that appeal to England would still continue. The bill was then read a first time. On motion of Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD the Act to amend the Act respecting the treatment of Sick and Diseased Mariners was read a third time and passed. On the motion for the second reading of the Bill respecting the Election of Members of the House of Commons, Mr. MILLS made a long speech criticising the provisions of the bill. He explained his views on the subject of qualification for the franchise, contending that intelligence and not the mere accident of property should give this right. After speaking at some length in favour of the extension of the franchise, he proceeded to attack the Government for arousing again the discontent that had prevailed in Nova Scotia. He expressed himself in favour of universal suffrage, and he believed opinion was leading in that direction. He had no doubt the bill would have the most mischievous effects in the Maritime Provinces. Colonel GREY spoke in favour of a property qualification as the proper criterion on which the franchise should be based, and reviewed favourably the provisions of the bill. Hon. Mr. COXWELL objected to the machinery of the bill as too complicated. Several other speakers followed, and on motion of Mr. FORTY the debate was adjourned.

Monday, March 21.—Sir A. T. GALT resumed the debate upon Mr. HUNTINGTON'S resolutions. He condemned the policy of the Government as restrictive and retaliatory, and as one which would lead to mischievous results. He felt the true policy was one of unrestricted trade relations on which depended the binding of the Provinces, and the admission of the others not yet received into the Union. He moved an amendment to the resolutions to ask the power of negotiating treaties directly with foreign powers, and sustained his position by asserting the necessity for more extended markets. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD replied. He objected to the proposal to establish a customs union with other countries, because it involved discrimination in favour of foreign countries and against the mother country. The amendment of the member for Sherbrooke was as bad in spirit as the original resolution, and the proposal contained therein, if put into force, would have the worst results for the good feeling that exists between Canada and England, as well as for the interests of this country, and would moreover place the mother country in an entirely false position. He moved an amendment to the amendment, setting forth that free access to the markets of the world can best be obtained by the concurrent action of the Imperial and Canadian Governments, and deprecating any attempt on the part of this country to act independently in the matter of negotiating treaties. Mr. SMITH, of New Brunswick, did not agree with the Minister of Justice in his interpretation of the amendment put forward by the member for Sherbrooke. He denied that there was any disloyalty in that amendment, and expressed his intention of supporting it. He had not the remotest hope of a great commercial treaty with the United States, and contended that we should seek powers to extend our commerce with the West Indies and Brazil. Hon. Mr. HOWE said the Americans were gradually breaking up their restrictive policy, and if Canada continued independent for a couple of years we might have reciprocity. He contended that it would be a great loss to Canada to be withdrawn from an empire so large and prosperous as Great Britain. Mr. MACKENZIE replied to the arguments of Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Hon. Mr. TURPIN expressed himself in favour of reciprocity, but he did not see why British America should humble herself to beg for it, instead of adopting a Canadian policy. The debate was continued at some length, Messrs. CHATELAIN, McCALLUM, and CAYLEY speaking in favour of the amendment, and Sir A. T. GALT and Messrs. HUNTINGTON, MACKENZIE, CHIPMAN and BOLTON against it. The House then divided on Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD'S amendment, the result being a majority of 42 for the Government. Yeas, 100; nays, 58. The House adjourned at a quarter to two.

The snow-storm of last week, in addition to the usual inconvenience caused by the stoppage of traffic, did serious damage in Toronto. On the night of the 16th the roof of the drill-shed in that city fell in with the weight of the snow. Only two hours before the catastrophe occurred the Queen's Own Rifles had been drilling in the building. The loss caused by the accident is estimated at \$10,000. Both in Montreal and in Toronto a heavy snow-storm was falling during the whole of St. Patrick's day, and proved a great hindrance to the usual celebration.