

REPORTS IN MICHIGAN now numbers between six and seven thousand, nearly all the property of the Presbyterian, Congregational, Episcopalian, and Baptist Churches.

The Toronto *Christian Guardian* speaks eloquently of the Missionary Movement, and its state of the work of God in Canada West—large additions on some circuits have been due to the membership.

The South African Commercial Advertiser, Nov. 2nd, says, among the opening prospects of Africa, the grandest geographical discovery of modern times has just been announced, that, namely, the Grand Inland Lake, so long supposed to exist, to the north of the Cape.

Arrangements are making for a steam vessel to proceed from Edinburgh to Iceland, with a view to a tour of inspection, about the time of the meeting of the British Association.

Mr. John Duncan, the African traveller, died Nov. 3rd, on board of her Majesty's ship *Kingsfisher*, in the night of Rome. He was lately appointed vice-consul to Dubuque, for which place he was on his way when he died.

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS.

(Selected chiefly from the City Papers.)

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

FRIDAY, JAN. 2.

Petitions.

Mr. Earnest presented a road petition from Lunenburg—received and laid on the table.

Consolidation of the Laws.

The house went into committee on the consolidation of the laws bill. The chapters touching the counties and county officers were taken up. On the clause setting out the sheriff to be taken by a sheriff.

The Speaker moved an amendment which he read—and stated to be much simpler than the one at present in use which occupied two pages of paper; while the amendment embodied everything which was necessary to enforce the due performance of a sheriff's duties. The amendment passed unanimously.

On the chapter relating to Coroners' Inquests—Mr. Fraser moved in amendment that, in the absence of a Coroner, any one justice be entitled to hold an inquest. After some desultory conversation the amendment passed unanimously.

A number of other chapters passed with some slight amendment.

Horses.

Mr. Dickie from the committee appointed to examine the accounts of expenses of the Horse-Bell-Founder-Morgan reported a recommendation that the horse should be sold as soon as possible. This part of the report was adopted and the committee authorized to carry out the suggestion. The committee also recommended that the horse Norfolk should be sold; but this part of the report was left open for future action of the house.

Agencies.

Hon. Mr. Johnston called for the second reading of his bill to make the agent of English Companies liable. The bill was read and referred to Committee of the whole house.

Petitions.

Mr. Dickie presented a petition from a person in Cumberland, with reference to a sailing packet—referred to a Committee on Navigation securities.

Mr. Budd presented a petition from J. Morton, of Digby, administrator of the Estate of the late Elkanah Morton, of Digby—praying a consideration of certain claims of the late collector.

Mr. Fraser explained at length the circumstances of the case and moved for the appointment of a special Committee to investigate the facts fully.

Mr. Marshall said that it was not a matter for this house to consider at all. It was the duty of the Executive to examine into the matter. How often do we find the duties of Public officers discharged carelessly or fraudulently, and the Executive ought to take notice of irregularities instantly. If we are to appoint committees in every case like this, what is the good of a Responsible government? They have all the power, all the patronage, all the pay, and they ought to do the work.

Mr. Fraser differed from this view. He reported to him that investigations of a committee of the house would be more satisfactory to the country. He did not like the public officers to have too much power in such matters.

Mr. Marshall said, he had no objection to a committee if it would do more substantial justice to the heirs of Mr. Morton. There was a good deal of loose work going on now in the collection of duties on rum, and per-

haps the investigation of a committee would do good.

The petition was referred to Messrs. Marshall, Fraser, and Killam.

Mr. Dickie presented a petition to open a road from Springhill to some coal mines.

Mr. Fraser presented a petition of inhabitants of Port Medway in Liverpool, relative to some harbour improvements—referred to the Committee on Navigation securities.

The house then adjourned till 2 o'clock, Saturday.

SATURDAY, JAN. 2.

Petition from Richard Meagher.

Hon. G. R. Young presented a petition from Mr. Richard Meagher, of Halifax, who had been fired a Prisoner—but who, from various unfortunate circumstances, was both lame and blind. The petition prayed the aid of the house to carry him away to the States to get a place in a Blind Asylum.

Mr. Fraser opposed the petition, in as much as it had been passed upon last year by a committee and the house.

Hon. G. R. Young advocated the claims of the petitioner most strenuously. Here was a young man only 29 years of age, lame and blind—a victim of high moral character, as well as good intellectual attainments—alone, without friends—utterly destitute—trying to shake off the misfortune which overwhelmed him; and this Legislature did not do its duty in the petitioner's last year, when they sat him away without responding to his petition. They did not do as the Legislature of Massachusetts would have done—a body that had erected all sorts of benevolent institutions to relieve such cases, and if this House could not do that they ought to do their part towards the relief of particular cases.

Mr. Fraser reiterated his objections; and said that the people of Halifax must be very hard-hearted not to relieve this case without sending it to the Legislature. The House would one day give him credit for the stand he was taking.

Mr. Howe enforced the claims of this particular case.

Mr. Fraser reiterated his objections; and said that the people of Halifax must be very hard-hearted not to relieve this case without sending it to the Legislature. The House would one day give him credit for the stand he was taking.

Mr. Fraser reiterated his objections; and said that the people of Halifax must be very hard-hearted not to relieve this case without sending it to the Legislature. The House would one day give him credit for the stand he was taking.

Mr. Fraser reiterated his objections; and said that the people of Halifax must be very hard-hearted not to relieve this case without sending it to the Legislature. The House would one day give him credit for the stand he was taking.

Mr. Fraser reiterated his objections; and said that the people of Halifax must be very hard-hearted not to relieve this case without sending it to the Legislature. The House would one day give him credit for the stand he was taking.

Mr. Fraser reiterated his objections; and said that the people of Halifax must be very hard-hearted not to relieve this case without sending it to the Legislature. The House would one day give him credit for the stand he was taking.

Mr. Fraser reiterated his objections; and said that the people of Halifax must be very hard-hearted not to relieve this case without sending it to the Legislature. The House would one day give him credit for the stand he was taking.

Mr. Fraser reiterated his objections; and said that the people of Halifax must be very hard-hearted not to relieve this case without sending it to the Legislature. The House would one day give him credit for the stand he was taking.

Mr. Fraser reiterated his objections; and said that the people of Halifax must be very hard-hearted not to relieve this case without sending it to the Legislature. The House would one day give him credit for the stand he was taking.

Mr. Fraser reiterated his objections; and said that the people of Halifax must be very hard-hearted not to relieve this case without sending it to the Legislature. The House would one day give him credit for the stand he was taking.

Mr. Fraser reiterated his objections; and said that the people of Halifax must be very hard-hearted not to relieve this case without sending it to the Legislature. The House would one day give him credit for the stand he was taking.

Mr. Fraser reiterated his objections; and said that the people of Halifax must be very hard-hearted not to relieve this case without sending it to the Legislature. The House would one day give him credit for the stand he was taking.

Mr. Fraser reiterated his objections; and said that the people of Halifax must be very hard-hearted not to relieve this case without sending it to the Legislature. The House would one day give him credit for the stand he was taking.

Mr. Fraser reiterated his objections; and said that the people of Halifax must be very hard-hearted not to relieve this case without sending it to the Legislature. The House would one day give him credit for the stand he was taking.

Mr. Fraser reiterated his objections; and said that the people of Halifax must be very hard-hearted not to relieve this case without sending it to the Legislature. The House would one day give him credit for the stand he was taking.

Mr. Fraser reiterated his objections; and said that the people of Halifax must be very hard-hearted not to relieve this case without sending it to the Legislature. The House would one day give him credit for the stand he was taking.

Mr. Fraser reiterated his objections; and said that the people of Halifax must be very hard-hearted not to relieve this case without sending it to the Legislature. The House would one day give him credit for the stand he was taking.

Mr. Fraser reiterated his objections; and said that the people of Halifax must be very hard-hearted not to relieve this case without sending it to the Legislature. The House would one day give him credit for the stand he was taking.

Mr. Fraser reiterated his objections; and said that the people of Halifax must be very hard-hearted not to relieve this case without sending it to the Legislature. The House would one day give him credit for the stand he was taking.

Mr. Fraser reiterated his objections; and said that the people of Halifax must be very hard-hearted not to relieve this case without sending it to the Legislature. The House would one day give him credit for the stand he was taking.

Mr. Fraser reiterated his objections; and said that the people of Halifax must be very hard-hearted not to relieve this case without sending it to the Legislature. The House would one day give him credit for the stand he was taking.

Mr. Fraser reiterated his objections; and said that the people of Halifax must be very hard-hearted not to relieve this case without sending it to the Legislature. The House would one day give him credit for the stand he was taking.

Mr. Fraser reiterated his objections; and said that the people of Halifax must be very hard-hearted not to relieve this case without sending it to the Legislature. The House would one day give him credit for the stand he was taking.

Mr. Fraser reiterated his objections; and said that the people of Halifax must be very hard-hearted not to relieve this case without sending it to the Legislature. The House would one day give him credit for the stand he was taking.

Mr. Fraser reiterated his objections; and said that the people of Halifax must be very hard-hearted not to relieve this case without sending it to the Legislature. The House would one day give him credit for the stand he was taking.

Mr. Fraser reiterated his objections; and said that the people of Halifax must be very hard-hearted not to relieve this case without sending it to the Legislature. The House would one day give him credit for the stand he was taking.

Mr. Fraser reiterated his objections; and said that the people of Halifax must be very hard-hearted not to relieve this case without sending it to the Legislature. The House would one day give him credit for the stand he was taking.

Mr. Fraser reiterated his objections; and said that the people of Halifax must be very hard-hearted not to relieve this case without sending it to the Legislature. The House would one day give him credit for the stand he was taking.

increase of Representation; and it would be remembered that while this subject was before the House last session it had received the almost unanimous commendation from its members. He was happy to learn that the petition was supported by all the inhabitants of the County, and he trusted it would meet with the approbation of the house.

The petition was read.

Mr. Harrington entered into an explanation of the course which the proposed separation line was to take, and stated that the line advocated in the Petition would about divide the County.

Hon. Attorney General thought the Petition should be printed and circulated throughout the County in order that the House might not misapprehend the wish of its inhabitants. He apprehended a question would arise as to the proper division of Boularderie Island.

Mr. Martell coincided with the opinion expressed by the hon. and learned Attorney General. He thought the petition should be printed and circulated over the County and that the House should obtain accurate information touching the wishes of the people before taking any action in the division of the County.

The Speaker suggested that the petition might be printed with the proceedings of the House.

Mr. Martell said that a short time since Boularderie Island was a place of very little importance but now he understood it was very populous and had a Schoolhouse on it with 180 scholars taught on the Normal system.

The petition was ordered to be printed in the proceedings of the House.

Reciprocal Trade.

The Hon Attorney General rose to lay on the table of the House various minutes of conference on the subject of Reciprocal Trade with the United States. He explained that the conference had taken place with the Hon. Mr. Lafontaine and Hon. Mr. Merritt, from Canada; Hon. L. A. Wilnot, and Hon. J. R. Partelow, of New Brunswick; Hon. Messrs. Henshaw, and Thornton, of Prince Edward Island, and the Executive Council of Nova Scotia. A very important topic had arisen in this conference—that was the exclusive privilege over the fisheries of the Colonies, which was held by British subjects, and which was required by the United States in exchange for Reciprocity. Canada was ready to give up all exclusive privilege—so was New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, because they extended the rivalry of our own people, and the greater prosperity of the country. On the part of Nova Scotia the Council had also declined from giving any opinion. Even the Fisheries of the Bay of Fundy, which were claimed by New Brunswick, had been conceded to the Americans; and the only part now exclusively in the power of Nova Scotia was from the mouth of the Bay of Fundy, round to Cape St. George, including Cape Breton. It remained to be seen what would be the views of this Legislature on the subject; and he hoped the whole question would be taken up at an early day and disposed of in a manner that would reflect credit on the wisdom of the Legislature, and promote the permanent welfare of this country.

Mr. Beckwith would ask what we were to get in return for giving up our right to the shore fisheries?

Hon. Attorney General said that the papers when read, would answer the question of the hon. gentleman. The report of the assembled delegates advocated the principles of Reciprocal Free Trade, it was for the House to accept or reject the proposed resolutions.

The despatches and report were read, and embodied resolutions of the conference in favour of the Home Government negotiating for reciprocity with the United States in the products of both countries—Bread, Flour, Fish, &c.

Hon. Atty. General asked leave to present a petition from Thomas S. Brown, of Sydney, C. B., touching the Harbour Master's Fees at that Port. Also a petition asking for the formation of a harbour of refuge at Logan's on the Eastern side of the Island of Cape Breton. Both petitions were received and referred to the Committee on Navigation securities.

The House adjourned till 12 o'clock, on Monday.

Library—Court House.

Mr. Fraser moved, that a Committee be appointed to consider the subject of having a joint library for both Houses in the Supreme Court Room—Messrs. Fraser, Provincial Secretary, Johnston, Hall, and Bent, were appointed.

On it being suggested, that the committee also have power to enquire respecting the erection of a new Court House in Halifax:

Mr. Henry thought the house had nothing to do with the erection of a Court House for Halifax. If the house wanted any part of this building for a library or other public purpose, they were entitled to have it. If Halifax wanted a Court House, this Legislature might not to move in it.

Hon. Mr. Johnston, why, yet do move first in it, when you take possession of the present Court House.

Mr. Fulton agreed with the learned member for Sydney that the house ought to be cautious in moving in this matter.

Hon. G. R. Young said that the County of Halifax ought to build a Court House, as every county in the province had to do. The present Supreme Court Room was disgraceful.

Hon. Atty. General, in a humorous speech, proposed that the poor house burial ground should be taken to build a Court House on especially as it would remind all unscrupulous lawyers of what they were sure to come to.

Hon. Provincial Secretary said that more than half the business transacted in the supreme court room was on appeals from the country courts. If a motion was to be made there to compel the county of Halifax to build a court house for the whole province he would resist it to the last; and he very much suspected that there was something very rotten in the system of administering the law when so many cases were brought to Halifax. People might talk of appeals, but it was a system that ruined the poor men of the country.

Mr. Henry said it would take no larger a court house to hear appeals in, than it would to do the county business.

Hon. Provincial Secretary said it was a bad argument that would not work both ways. The argument was that the supreme court business of Halifax should not be done in this building, because it belonged to the province. On the other side he would like to ask why should Halifax erect a building for the business of the whole province.

Hon. Mr. Johnston said that he admitted it was a great evil to have so many cases brought to Halifax, but the Hon. Provincial Secretary was partly the cause of it. He assisted in passing the government measure of abolishing the inferior courts.

Hon. Provincial Secretary admitted that he was beginning to doubt the wisdom of that measure.

After a few words from Mr. Fraser, the committee was empowered to enquire generally on the subject.

Bills, Petitions, &c.

Mr. Ganeau introduced a bill for erecting a Lock-up house in Clare.

Hon. G. R. Young reported from the committee on Fog Bells, recommending that Mr. R. M. be qualified to take out a patent.

Mr. McKeagney presented a petition from Richard Huntington, for remuneration for some printing for the Board of Health.

After some conversation, the petition was referred to the officers of the Government for information.

The Speaker asked whether a return from the Board of Health of Pictou, and another petition which had been referred to committee, should be referred to the Government, and the committee discharged.

A long discussion ensued, at the close of which it was agreed that this Session, the house would practice the usual mode of sending these petitions to Committees, and Mr. Huntington's Petition was sent to the Committee on claims from Boards of Health.

Hon. G. R. Young presented a petition from Mr. H. G. for reimbursement of expenses of a law suit with a names, referred to the same committee as the petition of Mr. Gough, appointed on Saturday.

Hon. Attorney General presented a petition on the subject of Light duty, which was referred to the committee on Navigation Securities.

The Attorney General, by command, laid on the table abstract of tonnage entered at the Port of Arichat, with a view of calling the attention of the House to the necessity of erecting a Light House at the mouth of that Harbour—referred to the Committee on Navigation Securities.

Hon. Attorney General also presented a petition from Donald Campbell, an adjutant in the Cape Breton Militia, petitioning for an undrawn balance due him from the Treasury. After some conversation, the petition was referred to a special Committee—Messrs. Mignowitz, McDougall, and Robinson.

Mr. Thorne presented a petition, in favour of a breakwater at Cante's Cove—referred to a Committee on Navigation securities.

Mr. Thorne also presented a petition from the overseers of the poor in Granville.

Mr. Henry, Mr. Fulton, and Mr. Beckwith, and the Hon. Provincial Secretary again spoke on the expenditure of breakwaters.

Mr. Archibald presented a petition from Truro.

Mr. Harrington presented several petitions for opening roads, &c.

Messrs. Smith, Kilham and Mignowitz, presented petitions relating to vaccination—referred to Committee on that subject.

Mr. Earnest presented petitions for a Road from

New Italy to Camperdown; also, for a road from New Cornwall to Aylesford;—also for a road from Fells South to Rose Bay.

Mr. Gredman presented a petition from the people of Colchester on the subject of the Railway. Laid on the table for future action.

The house went into committee on the Census Bill, Mr. Thorne, chairman.

Mr. Marshall and hon. Mr. Johnston took exception to the hurried manner in which the Bill had been brought before the house.

Hon. G. R. Young explained. The Bill was read throughout, and then by general consent, laid aside to give members an opportunity of examining it.

Consolidation of the Laws.

The consolidated Laws were taken up. Mr. Henry said that, as this subject was now again brought before the house, he thought it to be his duty to bring to the attention of the house the peculiar views of one gentleman of the Commission, which, he would do in that learned gentleman's own language.

The following are the chief points:—"I am an admirer of a comprehensive well digested body of Laws—suited to this Country—and expressed in simple language; and in such order and arrangement as shall make them easy to refer to by all the people, and easily understood when so referred to. I am no admirer of Law in *Jargon*; and would certainly like to see the well established Principles of the Common Law infused into our enactments, so that the people may read them."

"I desire that the people should know something of our much boasted, but little understood Common Law, now sealed up from the people, and only darkly shadowed out to Lawyers—and even but dimly seen by the Judges of the land."

"I am an admirer of any system of practical jurisprudence which shall protect justice, against the frightful effects of mere technical jargon, and a complicate machinery of mere art."

The Hon. Speaker said that he was glad this paper had been read. After all, there was very little difference in the views of that gentleman and the rest of the commissioners. He agreed that a great mass of the law was disguised with technical jargon. But in the consolidated laws, there would not be found a single word of this technical jargon—every redundancy had been struck out, and the laws were now reduced to the ordinary language of the country; so that any man of good sense could understand them. But the commissioner did not take the power which the house had not given them—to expound the whole principles of the common law and incorporate them with the statute law of Nova Scotia. The law of evidence every man was interested in, but who in this country would undertake to codify and simplify it? So with the law of insurance. But there was a very important fact to announce to the house—that the legislature of New York had taken the stand to simplify all their criminal proceedings. For example if a man committed murder the facts were simply set forth in the indictment.

The Grand Jury of Halifax, *exemplis* that A. B. of Halifax aforesaid, on a certain day, and in a certain place, with malice aforethought, did kill and murder C. D. by shooting him."

All the old barbarous verbiage had been swept away, and he was willing to adopt the same system in this country. This brought him to another subject, we found that a party, and a pretty large party had grown up in this house in favour of a simplification of the whole chancery practice of this country, and a union of the chancery with the Crown Law Courts. He disclaimed, for himself and his legal brethren in Halifax, any desire to keep up the burdensome system which now existed. The United States were preparing to sweep the whole system away; and the time has come in this Country when not only the Criminal but the Civil Law must be simplified and made suitable to the wants of the people, and I would cheerfully unite with any gentleman who will move in the matter either in this session or the next, as I doubt not that improvements will be secured, which will be a great practical boon to the Country.

Hon. Mr. Johnston said that one would suppose from the remarks of the learned Speaker, that some very great hardships were undergone by prisoners in criminal proceedings. It was true that there was some very antiquated language in such proceedings, but it was very rarely there was any special pleading in criminal cases; and in most instances the pleadings were gratuitous. The simplification of language might be a small relief to Lawyers, but as a means of saving of expense, could not be thought of. But cases had occurred where the mere attempt at simplification had led to ten times more complexity.—Hon. Mr. Johnston here explained the difference between the systems in England and

(Continued on last page.)