

prosperity in the productive employment of the people, and satisfaction on the improvement in business affairs. The success in mining operations receives, as it deserves, special mention, and in this connection it is gratifying to note that a school for the technical training of miners is foreshadowed. In referring to railway matters, His Honor stated that the effort to a cure the building of the missing link had proved unsuccessful, but its early completion by the Dominion Government was now almost an assured fact. Active work had been carried on upon the Nova Scotia Central and Joggins railways, both of which were approaching completion, other railway enterprises had remained at a standstill. Nevertheless, the coming season will probably show great activity in railway construction. The Government's liberal policy in providing for agricultural education had borne such good fruit that the extension of the system is now contemplated. The papers respecting the inter-provincial conference, at which the Government of Nova Scotia was represented by the Provincial Secretary and Attorney General, are to be submitted to the House during the session. These papers, with the resolutions which they embody, will probably prove the principal battle ground during the present campaign, but as the opposition are overshadowed by the Government supporters, four to one, they can offer but feeble resistance, and onlookers never feel satisfied in witnessing an encounter where the odds are so greatly in favor of one party. Among measures foreshadowed are bills for the amendment and consolidation of the municipal assessment law, for providing a tribunal of arbitration in certain cases, and for the improvement of the administration of justice.

Mr. O. S. Weeks, in an eloquent speech, moved the adoption of the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, advertising in turn to each of the points referred to in the Governor's Speech. Incidentally he called attention to the fact that the Dominion Exhibition was this year to be held in Halifax, and that a Provincial agent would be required to insure its success. Referring to the Fisheries and to the Fisheries Treaty, he acknowledged, that as yet he had not taken an intellectual grasp of its provisions, but that so far as he could discern, it would be detrimental to the best interests of the hardy toilers on the sea. He called attention to the necessity for remedial legislation with respect to our lobster fisheries, and mildly insinuated that the Provincial Government should in some way give a stimulus to this important industry. Speaking briefly as to the resolutions adopted at the Quebec conference, he endorsed those which curtailed the power of disallowance and improved the financial condition of the Province.

Mr. Frame seconded the motion to adopt the address in a neat and sensible speech.

Dr. McKay, the leader of the Opposition, in referring to the address, gave some statistics as to the progress in Nova Scotia. The population, he said, had increased 250 per cent. in fifty years, the customs receipts nearly 400 per cent. in forty years, and the output of coal during Her Majesty's reign had increased 1,000 per cent. "This Province," said Dr. McKay, "possesses in itself all the natural resources which are to be found throughout the Dominion, and hence her marked prosperity." In referring to the Quebec resolutions, the leader of the Opposition discussed the policy of the Government with respect to better terms, repeal, etc., and claimed that the victory of the Liberal party in June, '86, was due to the raising of the repeal cry. In this respect the Dr. is unquestionably in error, as has already been proved by the subsequent Dominion election in February. That Mr. Fielding's Government would have been returned and handsomely sustained without raising the question of repeal, is to our mind the best reason why it should not have been resorted to, since even the poor excuse of party exigency could not have warranted its discussion at the polls. Dr. McKay strikes straight from the shoulder, and while we think his remarks on the question of arbitration somewhat more rhetorical than practical, we are glad to note that he realizes the dangers which may arise from antagonizing capital and labor.

Premier Fielding made a fluent and telling speech, in which he declared himself a firm believer in the great natural advantages of Nova Scotia as a coal producer, claiming that the coal industry was not in any way dependent upon the miserable crutches of protection. He charged Dr. McKay with being inconsistent in his views upon railway matters, referring as proof to the resolutions introduced by that hon. member at the last session of the House.

Attorney-General Longley criticised the policy propounded by the leader of the Opposition, viz, that Provincial aid should only be given to railways in mining counties.

Messrs. Andrews, McGillivray, and Hearn supported the railway policy of the Government.

The address was then passed, and ordered to be engrossed.

Richard D'Arcy has been appointed deputy sergeant-at-arms.

COMMERCIAL.

While the volume of general trade has not been large, it has reached the full dimensions that were expected. While in the Maritime Provinces business matters are moving in a rather sluggish way, they are in the main satisfactory, and payments are fairly well met. In the Upper and Western Provinces reports are not pleasant reading. A general feeling of unrest and uncertainty seems to prevail in all lines. Bankers there are curtailing commercial accounts on a scale that threatens to result in more or less financial difficulty. This course may be only a precautionary measure, but it is one that would hardly be adopted unless there were grave reasons impelling thereto. Taking the general position as a whole, local trade is fair for the season, and, were it not for sundry rumors, in which Western advices play

a prominent part, the situation might justly be regarded as fairly satisfactory, though the outlook cannot, under the circumstances, be considered as good as it was a year ago.

Now that the Dominion Parliament is in session, we again press upon the attention of our legislators the imperative necessity that exists for an absolutely safe currency. We feel that we need not, in the face of the disastrous failure of three or four banking institutions in Canada within the past year, reiterate our reasons for being—with the majority of the people of this country—dissatisfied with the plan that now obtains of allowing banks to issue unsecured bills of obligation. It has been shown that when such banks find themselves in difficulty, and especially when they are sure that failure inevitably impends, they employ every means at their command to pass their bills upon the public. When the crash comes these bills are generally found in the hands of the middle and poorer classes, who cannot afford to lose the money that the bills are supposed to represent, and which really represents their hard labor. The measure which we have so often urged on the Government is so simple, and so easy of accomplishment, that it is difficult to understand why any hesitancy as to its adoption should exist. This measure is merely to adopt the system that has worked well for the past twenty-five years in the United States, of obliging note-issuing banks to secure their circulation by depositing with the general government bonds of the latter, bearing interest to the value of the notes that they circulate. The bank loses nothing by this process, while the public is secured against loss by the possible failure of the bank.

The following are the assignments and business changes in this Province during the past week:—Norman J. Raymond, saw mill, Meteghan, sold out to Meteghan River Lumber Co.; Ronald Gillis, general store, North Sydney, from 33c on the \$; L. G. Campbell, general store, Baddeck, asking extension of time; M. McLeod, dry goods, Westville, succeeded by E. J. Troen & Co.; Troup & Co. dry goods, Truro, going out of business; A. G. Young, clothing and gent's furnishing, Windsor, offers business for sale; J. A. Perry, fancy goods, Yarmouth, selling off; J. B. Hamblin & Co., lobster packers, Pictou, dissolved. E. H. Hamblin retires, and W. A. Hamblin admitted under old firm name; Isaac Strong, boots, shoes, and groceries, Kentville, assigned to Alex. McInnis.

DRY GOODS—Local business in all dry goods lines has been very limited, and the tone of the market has been quiet. Travellers report trade in the country districts to be in the same dull condition. Orders for spring goods have been moderate, and, as a rule, a marked shrinkage in volume has been experienced, as compared with last year. Agents of manufacturers of woollen goods from the Upper Provinces have been feeling the market during the past two weeks in the endeavor to secure orders for fall goods, but it is worthy of note, that they have encountered considerable difficulty in effecting business, as our merchants ordered very cautiously, when at all.

IRON, HARDWARE AND METALS—The market has remained firm on spot, with a steady volume of business in small lots, ex store. Business for spring delivery will soon commence as the season begins to open. Finished iron and ingot tin and copper are firm. Warrants are called at 39s. 3d. Live London cables are:—"Spot tin, £167; three months' futures, £144; market quiet. G. O. B. Chili bars, £78; soft English lead, £15; do. Spanish do., £14 15s; best selected copper, £18 10s.; Silesian spelter, £19 12s. 6d; Star antimony, £50; tinplates, 14s. 9d."

BREADSTUFFS—There has been no change in the situation of the local flour market, the demand continuing slow, and business of a jobbing character at steady prices. The demand for strong flours has been fair, and the market for this grade moderately active. Beerholm's cable says:—"Cargoes off coast—wheat and corn nothing offering. Liverpool spot wheat and corn inactive. No. 1 California wheat quiet, at 6s. 8½d March; 6c 9½d April; 6s. 10½d May. Mixed American maize dull. Wheat and flour in Paris quiet. Wheat 42s. March. French country markets dull. Antwerp spot wheat steady." The Chicago wheat market has been decidedly weak. Trading has been more active, but prices have declined. Quotations are 75c. March, 79½c. May; 80½c. June. Corn was fairly active but weak, standing at 46½c. March, 50½c. May and June. Oats fell off somewhat, being quoted at 30½c. May, 31c. June. At the seaboard wheat was weak and declined, standing 88½c. March, 89½c. April, 90½c. May, 90½c. June. In Toledo, Detroit and Milwaukee, wheat has been easier and declined. Should the present threatening aspect of European politics burst out into war, the whole list of cereals would undoubtedly experience an important advance in values, but operators have been deceived so frequently on former occasions through purchasing heavily upon the strength of belligerent auguries, that war will have to be declared this time before either legitimate traders or speculators will venture to take the chances of an actual conflict.

PROVISIONS—A fair amount of business has been done in local provisions, there being a good demand for pork, and some fair-sized lots changed hands at steady prices. Green hams and flanks were little enquired for, and the movement has been slight at unchanged figures. The demand for lard has been fair at quotations. The Liverpool provision market has been steady except for tallow, which was weaker and declined 3d. to 35s. 9d. Pork 68s. 9d; lard 39s. 9d., and bacon 38s. 6d. to 41s. 6d. There has been more activity in the Chicago provision markets, and fair trading was done, but the market was weaker, and pork declined 10c. to 12½c., being quoted at \$13.80 March, \$14 May, and \$14 07½ June. Lard was fairly active, but prices dropped 2c. to 5c., standing at last advices at \$7.72½c. March \$7.85 May, and \$7.90 June. Green hams were higher at 9½c.

BUTTER—The local butter trade has continued fair, and the demand is sufficient to absorb all the choice goods that are offered, but medium and low grades are not in request.

CHEESE—No practical change has occurred in the cheese situation, which has remained quiet and about as before. Locally, business has been very quiet, and foreign advices contain nothing new. The quantity of