than an average share of both, with no small measure of faith thrown in. We have never even in the rugged New England States, where land is both costly and scarce, seen farming operations conducted on such falling ground. Why one hour's heavy rain would wash away more soil from a ploughed field—though how he managed to plow it will always be a mystery to me—than could be renewed in an entire season's unremitting labor, Reasoning from analogy and, taking this man's operations for a starting point, may we not conclude that in densely populated countries, the sides of the telegraph poles, especially if of rough cedar, may yet be utilized for the production of the hardier grains and vegetables.

We ascended the highest ridge in this vicinity being the one immediately behind Mr. Fraser's. By winding, the ascent is by no means abrupt and singularly free from rocks. On gaining the summit the traveler will be very much disappointed. To be sure he has got out of the huge drain below and can look down on its depths with comparative complacency, but he can look down on little else. On every side is a mean level with the place on which he stands. Here and there a rolling swell in the distance rises above him, having its base on an extensive tract of average evenness, in fact he is in the situation of one who, from any moderate elevation, views a rolling or slightly broken surface. Looking over the vale of the Restigouche just where it becomes lost by reason of its [illegible] we can see [illegible] with us an extensive farming settlement. Large clearances and good buildings indicate a fair share of prosperity though, from his inattention to subdivision of land and any attempt at embellishment it is evident that the tiller of the soil has his attention divided between two important branches of industry. On enquiry we find such to be the case for all are engaged more or less in lumbering operations. To the west the ridge from which the Metapediac takes its departure rises a few hundred feet above us at right angles to our line of vision, some twenty miles away. Long before this the river becomes lost to us in a deep blue haze which finally merges into and blends with the mountains leaving us in doubt as to whether it is a failure of our sight or a turn to the left which has hidden its gloomy grandeur. We turn away to begin our descent to the Hotel. An inspection of the register reveals to us that the salmon fishing fever has been widespread. As we read over the names our host kindly volunteers us some information, thus:—N. P. Leach—

"Ah! Editor of *Forest and Stream*—accomplished fisher—caught nine fine fish in two days—slightest tackle I ever saw—no other man could land a single salmon with it."

Mr. Mowat—"Yes, Premier of Ontario—had several members of his family with him."

Mr. Bagston—"From England—caught largest fish on the river—forty three pounds—a fine fellow" (the man)

Sir A. T. Galt—"Aye, from Ontario; you know him by reputation, of course."

John Walker—"Speaker of Ontario Legislature—he was moderately successful."

Capts. Taylor and Martin—"Came all the way from Bermuda—belong to 87th Regiment."

Alex. R. Allan—"Son of Sir Hugh—came all the way from Brockville."

And so the comments ran on. The names of several clergymen lead us back in thought to the time when Simon and Andrew forsook their nets to become "fishers of men" and show that the old *penchant* still clings to the humble followers of these godly men. "Cast a good line, too" ran the commentary at our elbow.

We had no idea that this place was so widely known. There were parties from New York, Boston, Chicago, Baltimore, Meridan (Conn) Plymouth (N. H.) Staten Island and twenty other New England and Middle State Cities. The Dominion was also represented from Digby to London (Ont.) by parties distinguished in political, professional and learned life.

To be continued.

KENT DRIVING PARK

Kingston, Kent Co,

$450.00 IN PREMIUMS.

26th and 27th Sept. 1877.

FIRST DAY, - - WEDNESDAY, 26th SEPT.

No. 1—Purse $60.00. Open to all trotting horses owned by residents of the County at the date of this advertisement, not having a second better than 3 minutes:

$30.00, $14.00, $10.00, $6.00.

No. 2—Same day—Purse $130.00—For horses that have never trotted better than 2.44—$75.00; $35.00, $20.00.

SECOND DAY - - THURSDAY, 27th SEPT.

No. 3—Purse $90. For horses that have never trotted better than 3 minutes.

$54.00; $24.00; $12.00.

No. 4—Same day—Purse $170.00. Open to all trotting horses—$100.00; $45.00; $25.00.

THE above races will be mile heats, best three in five, in harness, and to be governed by the Rules of the National Association, as amended Feb. 9, 1876.

THE ENTRANCE FEE will be 10 per cent of the purse, which positively must accompany the nomination. If nomination is made by telegraph, Draft payable to Secretary must follow by first mail or express.

IN ALL RACES, four or more to enter, and three or more to start.

A HORSE DISTANCING the Field, or any part thereof, shall receive one premium only.

ENTRIES close Tuesday, 11th September, at 11 p. m., and must be addressed to the Secretary.

HORSES WILL BE CALLED at 1.30 p. m., and started at 2 o'clock precisely.

ADMISSION TO THE PARK - - - 25 CENTS.

A. J. GIRVAN, Sec'y.

Kingston, Kent Co., 16th Aug. 1877.

GENUINE

BARGAINS

—AT—

VICTORIA HOUSE.

THE WHOLE OF MY

First-Class Stock

—OF—

GENERAL DRY GOODS,

WILL BE DISPOSED OF AT AN

Enormous Reduction!

Until the arrival of

FALL IMPORTATIONS.

G. I. WILSON.

☞ Second Store from Bower's Hotel, Chatham, N. B.

BIBLES & TESTAMENTS.

NEW STOCK,

VERY CHEAP,

[At the Miramichi Bookstore.

Chatham, August 22, 1877.

HORSE FOR SALE.

THE subscriber offers for sale a Dark Brown Horse, rising five years old, weighing 1,310 lbs. The animal is sound, and kind in harness.

WILLIAM KERR.

Nelson, 29th Aug., '77. 6r6

BUSINESS NOTICE.

The "MIRAMICHI ADVANCE" is published at Chatham, Miramichi, N. B., every THURSDAY morning in time for despatch by the earliest mails of that day.

It is sent to any address in Canada, the United States or Great Britain (Postage prepaid by the Publisher) for $1.50 A YEAR, or 75 CTS. FOR 6 MOS.—the money, in all cases, to accompany the order for the paper.

Advertising.

The advertisements in this paper are placed under classified headings.

TRANSIENT RATES.

$1 per square, or inch, for 1st insertion,

35cts. per square, each time, for all insertions after the first.

LOCAL COLUMN, or reading matter advertisements 20% more than above rates.

LOCAL, COMMERCIAL AND YEARLY RATES.

In order to secure the advertising patronage of business men and others on the North Shore—and to give them the benefit of a large circulation in the Counties of Northumberland, Kent, Gloucester and Restigouche, Bonaventure and Gaspe, their advertisements will, on arrangements being made therefor, be taken at CONTRACT SCALE RATES, which are as low as those of other weekly papers in the Province.

The "MIRAMICHI ADVANCE" having its large circulation distributed among communities engaged in Lumbering, Fishing and Agricultural pursuits, offers very superior inducements to advertisers. Address

Editor "Miramichi Advance," Chatham, N. B.

Miramichi Advance.

CHATHAM, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1877.

THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION closed at 11 o'clock yesterday morning.

BRIGHAM YOUNG, the great Mormon Prophet, is dead. Although he was a great impostor, he was a man of great force of character and possessed of indomitable perseverance, excellent administrative powers, and great foresight. His immense wealth will be divided among his Mormon wives and more numerous children.

THE WAR—There has been considerable fighting, of late, in Bulgaria, but without any definite results. In spite of the successive attacks of Suleiman Pasha, the Russians have managed to hold their own in Schipka Pass, and the Turks appear to have temporarily retired. As regards the war in Asia there seems to be no change in the situation, and the Russians still find Kars too much for them.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

FREDERICTON, Sept. 3rd.

The business of the present session is now going on very quietly, although there was a little passage at arms this morning between Mr. Davidson and Mr. Marshall which I may refer to by and by. The Opposition, as your readers are aware, made quite a determined attack on the Government in reference to the Consolidated Statutes, which are only partially published, for reasons assigned by the Attorney General in course of the debate on the address. The questions discussed during the debate are of general interest and I, therefore, give you speeches of several members, which I think contain as much as will enable readers to judge of the merits of the relative positions of the parties interested. The address having been passed to the last paragraph, Mr. Covert moved to add to it as follows:—

"And with this end in view we deem it our imperative duty to express regret that, notwithstanding assurances given to this House last session, your Honor's advisers have so long delayed the publication of the Consolidated Statutes which came into operation in May last.

It was a matter of regret to him that every time the Legislature was called together the last few years, it became necessary for himself and other gentlemen on that side of the House to correct the Government for some gross dereliction of duty, and although they did not always meet with the success the public thought they (the Opposition) deserved, yet he felt their efforts were appreciated by the country at large. First it was necessary to attack the Government on its Immigration policy which proved so expensive an experiment to the country; next came the system of placing fictitious balances before the House and misleading the country, which the Government was forced to abandon after choking the members off by false promises. The opposition gained, after all, such a victory in that matter as to force the Government to come down last session and voluntarily make a statement which they before refused to make. The Opposition had also established the fact that there had been gross, mal-administration in connection with the timber lands of the country, which were being frittered away most recklessly, and that in the settlement of trespasses poor men like Lapointe had to suffer [laughter.] The Atty.-General might laugh, and no doubt with his big salary at his back, he felt that he could do so, and it was that spirit which led the Government to let the large operators go free in their trespasses, while poor men like Lapointe must pay "the pound of flesh." The Government had also gone to Northumberland, and contrary to the letter and spirit of the law, taken lands and locked them up in the hands of their friends, on the pretence that the exigencies of the case demanded it. These were some of the matters in reference to which the Opposition were obliged, in the interest of the country, to lay their hands upon the Government's recklessness and bad administration.

Three or four years ago, the Government was also given all the money and other facilities they had asked, for the consolidation of the Statutes of the Province. Later, most extraordinary powers were given—the power of changing acts of the Legislature at will—all to facilitate the publication of the amended law, so that it might be sent abroad for the information of the judges, legal fraternity and people generally, yet in the face of all this, the Province was practically without law—there being none extant, save the manuscripts, which was somewhere in Fredricton, and, no doubt, difficult of access. When the power referred to were given to the Government, the Attorney General assured the House that the Statutes would be published in May. There was no particular necessity for making the promise and they ought to have known it was but deceiving the province; and now that the administration of justice was delayed, or carried on in doubt, that endless litigation would result from the Courts being uncertain of what the law really was while the Government, sat in apathy, he would ask how such a state of affairs could be tolerated. But June next was coming when the people would have an opportunity of recording their verdict on such mismanagement, when their long-suffering and patience would find relief in a new election. It was no wonder that the Judges have to say, "We know what the law *was*, but cannot tell what it *is*." This inordinate neglect, indolence and apathy were without a parallel in the history of the country. His hon. friend (Willis) from St. John had told the Attorney General and House, when it was proposed to publish the Statues by May last, that the work could hardly be done in that time, and when the member for Queens (Butler) asked the Government last session to fix the time when the publication would be accomplished, the practical judgment of Willis ought to have led the Government to refrain from making promises which they could not fulfil. He had conversed with judges and others charged with administering the law and with but one exception, they all agreed that the inconvenience and embarrassment were very great.

He would be pardoned for alluding again to the absence of mention of the $25,000 grant for the relief of St. John. There could be no objection to the Government recognizing the emergency in the way they had done, but could it be that they intended not to place the matter before the House until the next regular session? It might be that such was the intention, and he presumed the Government was acting on a declaration once made by the Attorney General that the Government belonged to those who now hold office, and they would hand it down in an unbroken line to their successors. Though it might be that the means by which the Government retained its followers justified such an assertion, yet if only out of courtesy, the policy of treating the House right in reference to that grant ought to receive recognition at the Governments hands. If the Government does not ask the House for that grant before the end of the year, it will be because they feel they have a servile following. But they and those who justify them in such acts had better take heed, for before June next they will learn that the country will settle with them.

Referring again to the claim made on the Government by the Fredericton Exhibition Committee, he could not understand why they could not be recouped to the extent of six or seven hundred dollars, which the Government could have again next year. The matter was one affecting the Province as well as York, and he wondered at the apathy of the York members in the matter. It was a most singular fact that the York members were all followers of the Government, and that their voices were never raised against the mismanagement of those whom they seemed delighted to serve. He wondered that in a matter like this, not one of them had pluck enough to criticise the Government in the interest of the people they represented. How long York would stand it would be known next year.

In bringing forward his amendment he did it in no factious spirit, nor did he desire to do anything to hinder the progress of the legislation sought by St. John—that noble city which the Province was so proud of, and which he hoped to see rise Phœnix-like from its ashes more beautiful than before; but he believed the country would approve of his course in bringing the Statutes' matter up. He believed the House should have been called together before the present time, and there seemed to have been no little apathy manifested in the matter, but whether the blame lay at the door of the Government or the Common Council of St. John it was not for him to determine. Complaints were, he knew, justly made that shanties were going up, where they ought not to be, and people who could not wait for the tardy meeting of the Legislature, were obliged to commence building operations on streets whose lines it was proposed to change. It was whispered that this holding back of the session was due to the Government's want of preparation in the matter of the Consolidated Statutes, for had the House met, as it should have done, three or four weeks ago, it would have been found that the printing of the Statutes was scarcely commenced, not withstanding the promises of the Government.

It seemed to him rather odd that the city of St John had not long ago been given the power to make its own regulations in reference to its streets, as the subject was a purely local one that ought to be more intelligently dealt with by the Common Council that in this general Legislative body. He hoped before long to see a change in this respect. He would now leave the amendment in the hands of the House, hoping that they would accept it in the interest of the people, who had been inconvenienced to no small extent by the shortcomings of the Government concerning which every member must feel regret.

Mr Burns in seconding the resolution to amend said if it had not been for the action of the Leader of the Opposition in this matter he would have remained silent. The occasion of the present meeting of the Legislature was a very grave one, and he felt how inadequate was the language that he could command for the purpose of expressing the sympathy which he felt with the people of St. John in their great calamity—a sympathy which he was justified from personal experience and observation in saying was shared by the whole people in the section of country which he had the honor to represent. It was their desire, as it was his, to see the stricken city rise from the chastening blow greater, grander and more glorious than before, and he felt assured that the intelligence, tact and solid business energy and honesty of purpose which had always characterized the citizens of St. John, would serve them still in building her up again, and, in a few years, obliterating all traces save those which might serve as reminders of well directed energy, of that almost overwhelming disaster. To our friends everywhere the thanks of the country are due, the thanks so well expressed in the speech by the Government, and emphasized by Mr. Speaker and the solemn vote of the House, and those who so nobly came to our relief will find, should the occasion unhappily arise, that their good acts will long be remembered by a grateful people, ready to show their gratitude when the call is made upon them.

He agreed with the Leader of the Opposition that the House should have been called together a few weeks earlier. He did not know whether the blame lay with the St. John Council or the Government; but the present time was an inconvenient one for members to leave their homes and to St John and the country that nothing should be allowed to interfere with any assistance that city might receive at the hands of the Province. for their interests were so closely identified that the calamity of the one became the immediate concern of both. All members would, therefore, willingly do their part in giving legislation, which he thought ought to have been sought three weeks or more ago, although the responsibility for shaping the laws to be enacted must largely rest with St. John members.

Although the session was one called especially for the transaction of St. John business, yet it was quite within the right of members, as well as a matter of sound policy, to call for an expression of the people's sense of regret that the negligence of the Government in the matter of the delayed Statutes, had caused such great inconvenience and delay in the administration of justice in the country. Since the first of May the Province had practically been without law, or, at least, since that time the public had been without the means of knowing what the law was and it was well said by his hon. friend (Covert) that the judges knew what the law had been, though they know not what it now is. This morning, a small instalment of the Statutes, in printed form, was laid on the tables of members. It might be looked upon, he supposed as a kind of semi-annual offering, for a member of the Government had said, a short time ago, that these instalments were to come out periodically. The portion of the law comprised in the sheets brought down was one that required no amendment and was, therefore, the most easy and available for publication, being the recent Acts of the Assembly and the British North America Act. It was quite probable that had it not been for the present meeting of the Legislature the Government would have still further indulged its tardiness, and even this small contribution towards the Consolidated Statutes which were all to be published in May would not have been forth-coming until next February.

Mr. Burns referred further to large powers given by the House to the Government, to enable them to get the Statutes in the hands of the public, to the inconvenience which their non-appearance caused in the administration of justice, in all courts from the circuits down to those of magistrates in remote parishes, and said he believed the people generally, as well as the judges and members of the bar, would be in sympathy with a vote of censure on the Government for not bringing the labors of the law commission to a close, and publishing the Consolidated Statutes in the proper time.

Mr. Elder said he had hoped that, in view of the calamity which had befallen St. John, the brief period allowed for legislation, and the expense to the country that would be caused by delay, the voice of faction would be hushed and the strifes of party deferred until a more suitable occasion. But the Opposition had decided otherwise; they had made a mistake, and their act in springing a Want of Confidence vote on the House on an occasion of this kind would not be ratified by the members of this Assembly. Even some of their own number seemed to feel this. They must mark how embarrassed Mr. Burns was in his speech, though his speeches were usually marked by so much freedom and so much force. In his reference to the publication of the laws that gentleman deplored the sad condition of the country because the Consolidated Statutes and the changes made therein were not out of the printer's hands yet. He argued on the theory that laws only go into force after their publication. He should know better, as a rule, laws take effect from the moment they are passed. The Dominion Statutes of last session were in force the moment they were passed; they relate to matters of supreme interest, but could Mr. Burns go into the Legislative Library, into the booksellers, or into any lawyer's office and find a copy of those statutes? He could not do it, for if printed they had not yet reached those places, and it was only in the office of the Collector of Customs that we can learn the provisions of the Customs Act. These facts showed that, desirable as it was that the laws should be published, some delay must take place in the printing of them for, even at Ottawa, which he had almost called one nest of printing offices, in which the entire public printing of the country was being done, the Minister of Marine and Fisheries had to apologise for delay in presenting his Report to Parliament on the ground that he could not get it printed earlier. If this was so in Ottawa should not some allowance be made for the delays incident to printing in Fredericton. His hon. friend had described the country as, for a time, without, law, but he ought to know that the country was never a day without law, and that the statement was contrary to history and to constitutional practice. The laws were on record, and before being printed any judge or barrister could have access to them and get copies. Even if they were printed it would not be his own study of law that the client would be guided by. Mr. Burns did not bring law books and decide on the merits of causes in which he was plaintiff or defendant, no, he left that matter with his counsel. In this case the Statutes of last session had to be printed before the consolidated laws and this, no doubt, prevented the Queen's printer from getting the latter out as early as he otherwise would. As it stood he noticed that the Government had laid a volume of those Statutes on the desk of hon members of the Opposition, while they left their own friends unprovided for. What did they expect to gain by so doing? Had they been able to turn aside the Leader of the Opposition from his purpose? Had they been able to induce him not to direct against them the polished shaft of his rhetoric and eloquence? Nothing of the kind.

He (Mr. E.) had to deplore the sad state of things that existed in the County of York, as described by Mr. Covert. Here was a constituency in which all the M. P. P.'s were Government supporters. Their constituents, whose sentiments they might be supposed to know, had not been able to bring them to a sense of their duty. How fortunate for York that there was an M. P. P. not far distant who was equal to the occasion of educating the benighted electors of York. How fortunate that the geographical situation of Sunbury was such as to facilitate Mr. Covert's efforts for the enlightenment of York. Talk of the Government of the day. Was it to be named in connection with the coolness of Mr. Covert's dealings with York? Without leave he puts the constituency in his pocket and undertakes to speak for both the electors and their representatives. He (Mr. E.) joined that gentleman in the noble sentiments of sympathy he had uttered toward St. John; he thanked him for the kind words spoken in behalf of the stricken city. In uttering these Mr. Covert had been true to his better sentiments and better judgment, but in his trying to make political capital out of the printing of the Statutes and out of the deferring of the Provincial Exhibition for a year he did not do himself justice.

He believed the exhibition ought to have gone to St. John, but when the great influence of the members for York had caused a different course to be determined upon, he (Mr. E.) resolved to aid Fredericton loyally in making the exhibition a success, and this could be far better secured when St. John was able to co-operate than in the present circumstances. He was astonished at the statement of his hon. colleague (Mr. Willis) who seemed to affirm that the absence from the exhibition of those who could not be represented on account of the St. John fire would be no drawback—they were so few. Printing had always been represented in our exhibitions, but the chief printing establishments of the city had been swept away. Photography would be represented but the best establishments in that line were burnt. Book-binding had been represented, but where were the old, well established houses of McMillan, Chubb, Barnes, etc. He might make similar inquiries and with similar results as to the door and sash factory of John E. Turnbull, the organ factory of Mr. Bent, as to the Lawton's and other saw factories, the Tack factory of Foster & Son; the Brass works of the McAvitys'; as to the Cabinet factories of Knox & Thompson and S. Corbitt—the proprietor of the latter of which had perished in the great disaster; the Biscuit factory of the Rankine's, the boat-building, blacksmith and other factories. Were all these establishments to be cut off from a chance of competing at the Exhibition? Would any one say that they would not be missed from it? Was it not reasonable that in view of the great calamity St. John should get time to recover, so that her citizens might be more free from burdens then they now were, in order to be able to help to make it a success. He felt proud of the moderation and good sense of the members for York, who were willing that this should be done.

The gentleman opposite had blamed the Government for not summoning the Legislature at an earlier day. He was not in the secrets of the Government, but he believed it was no secret in civic circles in St. John that as soon as the Government were asked to do so they promptly replied that the matter would be submitted to the Governor—that a council was called and the Legislature convened at the earliest practicable moment after the request had been made. It was a pity that inquiry had not been made before charges of that kind were sent abroad to the country.

He could not sit down without making a further reference to the sympathy so generally manifested towards the stricken city of St. John. When that great calamity occurred, when the pleasant and endeared residences, when the costly stores and their valuable contents were swept away; when the owners had to look at the conflagration which converted into ashes what represented the labor, the energy, the forethought of years, they were still able to look on without being unmanned. They could still believe that St. John would rise again, but when from Fredericton, from York, from every corner of New Brunswick and every part of the Maritime Provinces; from Ontario and Quebec and the United States and England, the noble gifts began to pour in, and when words of succor began to come from every quarter to cheer the people of the burnt city, then, and only then was it that the emotions of its citizens could not be repressed and that strong men wept like children. It reminded him of the old fable by which the comparative power of the wind and the sun was tested. When the wind would blow upon the man's garment he grasped it all the tighter, but when the sun's rays came down he relaxed his grasp on it, and owned the power of its melting influences. So it was in the great fire. And among those who had surpassed themselves in generosity he would mention here, as he had done elsewhere, the people of the city of Boston. In the promptness, the largeness, the delicacy of their gifts, and in the manner in which they were bestowed, they had placed the people of the city of St. John under a debt of gratitude which could never be repaid and would never be forgotten. The whole situation had been well described in the speech from the Throne. The address to it ought to pass without alteration or division, for in a crisis like the present those who sought to engraft politics on the relief of a stricken city would find that they did not represent the sentiments of the House, or the feelings of the country.

Mr. Willis followed Mr. Elder in a very good speech, making his points against his opponents very well. He was succeeded as follows:—

Mr. Pickard said he regretted that the amendment had been moved, not that he did not regret the non-publication of the Consolidated Statutes at the time they were promised, but because he thought the regret of the House, if expressed at all, should be expressed in another form. The House might regret that the Government had not more correctly estimated the time it would take to print the laws, but if it did so it would be regretting a matter for which it was, itself, partially responsible, because it voted, on the advice of the Government, to bring the laws into effect in their amended form at the time which was now said to have been premature. There was a certain business the House was called together to do. Several very necessary bills, intended to facilitate the work of restoring the city of St. John, which, the House was told, ought to have been passed three weeks ago, were awaiting action by the House, and he feared if the amendment passed it might have the effect of upsetting the Government and thereby seriously delaying this very necessary legislation. There was a time to mourn, to regret, and to express regret, but he did not think it was the "imperative duty" of the House to express its regret in the matter under consideration just now. He did not think the fact that laws are not generally published before they go into affect applied as an excuse in this case, for there was great difference between the Statutes of a single session and the whole range of our Provincial laws which are embraced in these Consolidated Statutes. He believed that nearly every member of the House had heard complaints concerning the delay of the law from Union law offices, and it could not be denied that the inconvenience experienced in the matter was quite general, yet he thought it was not prudent to bring the matter up in this way, thereby causing delay in the real work of the session.

Hon. Attorney General said Mr. Pickard's verbal criticism of the amendment moved by the Leader of the Opposition was correct, for it was not alleged that the laws could have been published earlier or more rapidly than they had been; indeed his hon. friend opposite (Mr. Willis) had expressed his convictions that the work could not be done in the time specified. He (the Attorney General) himself regretted that the Statutes were not printed for the use of those who desired to refer to them, but his regret was one of a personal character. When the hon. gentleman opposite, however, made the regret the subject of an amendment to the address in reply to the speech, it was well understood that his action had a certain constitutional meaning, and that if successful its effect would be one which he scarcely thought either the House or the country was prepared to be given to it.

In the discussion of the amendment a great deal of ground had been gone over by the mover and his friends. The hon. gentleman had watered his speech until it became very thin indeed, dragging in a large number of old and settled questions, which only reminded the House of the defeats the hon. gentleman and his party had sustained. He had introduced even the preparation of the racing track in Fredericton, and reiterated his former references to the grant of $25,000 to aid St. John, and wound it all up by threatening the terrors of June next. In reference to the probable events of June next he (Attorney General) presumed they were a source of quite as serious anticipation to the hon. gentleman (Mr. Covert) himself as to any other member, but, so far as he (Attorney General) was concerned, he could assure the Leader of the Opposition that the terrors of so remote a period as next June were not sufficiently great to affect the ordinary Governmental mind. He could afford to pass over the slighting remarks concerning the importance of the St. John manufacturers who had suffered by the fire, made by the hon. member from St. John (Mr. Willis) who had last spoken, as his colleague (Mr. Elder) had dealt with that part of the subject as it merited. Though the hon. gentleman, (Mr. Willis) seemed so far astray in his estimate of St. John manufacturers, he must give him credit for occupying an unenviable position as a manufacturer of facts. That hon. gentleman had referred to the matter of the proposed guarantee to the Trust and Loan Society, and in another place had stated to the public that the Local Government was afraid to take the responsibility of dealing with the matter and had used its influence with the Common Council of St. John to prevent the subject coming up to be dealt with by the Government. The hon. gentleman had charged that while the matter was pending before the Council, and after certain members of it had expressed themselves one day in committee in favor of a guarantee, he (Attorney General) had induced them before the next day, to alter their decision and vote in Council against their position in committee—all for the purpose of relieving the Government of the responsibility of dealing with the guarantee question. He could only say the hon. gentleman's assertion had no foundation, whatever. In fact, during the time referred to he was absent from home and knew nothing of the decisions of either the committee or Council until after they had been made and the proceedings of Council published in press. He, at no time used any efforts to alter or direct the course of the Common Council or any of its members in the matter, other than such as a citizen had a right to use, and though the hon. gentleman (Mr. Willis) had intimated that he (the Attorney General) would hardly be believed if he said he had not interfered as stated, yet he thought the people of St. John would accept his statement as the truth. Referring to the matter of the Statutes, he said he regretted they were not printed, and he would state to the House some of the circumstances which led the Government to make an effort to get them out in May, or by the first of June. It was at first the intention not to bring the law into operation until Nov., 1877, but at the time of the passage of the Municipality Act it was found to be difficult, by the use of any general term, to make some of the provisions which related to Sessions, apply clearly to Councils about to be established. There were strong reasons why the Municipality Act should go into effect the 1st of May, 1877, and it was thought that by extra effort the Consolidated Laws could be got ready about that time, and, to obviate any difficulties such as those alluded to, it was determined that the whole of the laws should come into effect at the same time. The Government thought it could get out an edition of 2,000 copies by the 1st of June. About the close of the session, however, Government received a request from Ottawa to have all the Acts of the session sent up within six weeks after prorogation, and it was to meet this request that it was determined to get the general as well as the local Acts of the session out first—within six weeks—leaving the Consolidated Statutes, which it was not possible to get out so soon, of necessity to be printed afterwards. This was the reason why the Acts of last session appeared in type before the Consolidated Laws. Then, after the work was placed in the hands of the printers, Government came to the conclusion that it would be best to have 4,000 instead of 2,000 copies printed, and it was found that this extra press work took nearly fifty per cent more time. It was the press-work and not the type-setting that consumed the time. It might have been wrong for the Government to order the larger edition, but they thought that while the forms were up it would be economical to have it struck off. Then, working copies which were in St. John at the time of the fire were burned, and it became necessary that new ones should be got out to replace them, and this caused an additional delay, but for which, even with the other unforseen delays, the whole work, would, doubtless, have been published by 1st July. He had seen an absurd statement somewhere, to the effect that the original copy of the Consolidated Statutes had been burned in the St. John fire, but it was known to those who were disposed to inform themselves correctly, that the original copy was always on record in Fredericton, but he presumed it was not a hard matter under the circumstances for an uninformed person to confound one of these working copies with the original copy.

Mr. Covert here asked whether the consolidated Statutes were prepared for the printer at the time of the fire.

Hon. Attorney General said the working copy was all prepared and dozens of chapters were always in the printer's hand ahead of composition and press work.

It was not such an unheard of thing that laws should come into force before they were printed. The Dominion laws of last session were not yet issued in book form, and yet they included criminal laws of great importance, and men had already been tried and imprisoned under them. The liberty of the subject is one of the greatest privileges of our citizenship, and the imprisonment of a man without warrant of law is one of the greatest outrages that can be perpetrated, and if law is not law until it is printed, then a good many men have been wrongly incarcerated and punished since the Dominion Parliament rose. The Quebec laws are being consolidated in a manner similar to those of New Brunswick and the Quebec judges, bar, and the public are in the same position in respect to them as our own, so we are not in such an unheard of position after all.

Respecting the assertions that the Government had secured to itself unusual powers authorizing them to change the character of the laws, he might say there was no authority for it. He understood that the power conferred by the Act of last session to authorize only the correction of verbal errors and the elimination of unmeaning and unnecessary local references, so it could not be said with any show of reason that the Government was authorized to amend the law so as to effect its principles in the slightest degree. He had known the judges to send to the Provincial Secretary's office quite often to examine manuscripts of laws before they were published, so all this argument that because the law was not published, therefore there is no law, was childish, foolish, and indicative of ignorance of both custom and law.

Mr. Covert here rose and called Mr. Speaker's attention to the words of the Hon. Attorney General, and said it was unparliamentary for the hon. gentleman to apply such language to other hon. members.

Mr. Speaker said he could hardly be expected to decide whether the arguments of hon. members were childish, foolish and indicative of ignorance or not. [Great laughter.]

Hon. Attorney General said those laws of the Province about which certain hon. members desired to raise such a great cry were not new—they were but the consolidation of old and familiar laws—and though while in course of consolidation they had been amended yet the changes made did not involve more new matter than would equal in amount the statutory enactments of a single legislative session, nor where they greater than the law changes made last session at Ottawa, and which had not yet, so far as he was aware, seen the light of day in print.

He held that though it was a matter of personal regret that the laws were not yet out of the press there were circumstances to account for the delay which to any fair mind, would shield the Government from censure in connection with it, and he believed when the vote was taken it would be found that such case was the judgment of the House.

Mr. Davidson being about to address the House, the Attorney General said he thought it would have been only fair, as there were a number of legal gentlemen on the other side, and the matter was one which particularly affected his department, that they should not hold back until he had spoken and was thereby debarred from answering any new matter that they might bring up.

Mr. Davidson said he knew of no rule or practice by which the time when any member should address the House in debate should be fixed. The Attorney General had passed very lightly over what was of the greatest importance in the whole matter, while he dealt on the minor points at length. Whether the Attorney General or the Government were sorry for the delay or not could not effect the consequences of their neglect upon the country. He would ask whether it was childish or not to argue that because the Canadian Statutes were not printed in proper time, therefore it was right that the New Brunswick Government should break its promise in reference to printing the Consolidated laws of the Province. When it was established that two wrongs make a right, then such an argument might be accepted as sound and tenable. the country was suffering on account of the Government's course in the matter under discussion—the judges did not know what the laws were—and if a case was to be tried with ordinary care it was necessary that the expense of obtaining a certified copy of the chapter of the Consolidated Statutes required should be incurred, and even after that as a tax upon those engaged in litigation, there was no certainty of its being right for, although the Attorney General had asserted there was no authority given to the Government to make other than verbal changes, in the preparation of the law for the press, yet by an Act passed about the end of last session, authority, which seemed to go very much further than the hon. gentleman admitted was given to the Government, as shown by one section which he read as follows:

"If, by reason of the great number and length of the consolidated statutes it appears to the Lieutenant Governor desirable so to do, he may strike out of any chapter any part having merely a local application and may, if necessary, strike out the whole chapter; and may re-number the Sections and make such alterations as may become necessary in consequence thereof; and in that case he shall strike out of Schedule (A) of the chapter of the consolidated Statutes the Acts or parts of Acts of which the same is a consolidation; and such Acts or parts of Acts so struck out of Schedule (A) as aforesaid shall not be repealed by the coming into force of the consolidated Statutes."

He believed that under this Act a large number of alterations had been made while the law was in process of preparation for the printers—alterations which changed the law in principle in some cases—and until the amendments thus made were published no man could know to a certainty what the laws of the province really were. The judges could not know and it was quite certain that magistrates were even worse off in attempting to administer justice. It is said that there was once a law-giver whose authority extended over a whole country, who wrote the law in small print and put it up on a high post, but the government of this province bettered that, for they secured to themselves authority to make the law as they pleased, and, after they made it, they did not let it see the light of day in print of any kind.

On the 16th of March last the Government alone were in a position to know how far the Consolidated Statutes were advanced; they alone knew whether they were in such a position as to justify the promise that they could be published in May or June, and if they had not a reasonable prospect that the work could be done in May they should have asked for a postponement until such time as they thought necessary. He believed the Attorney General's reasons for the delay of the work futile, for he observed that the same type which appeared in the *Gazette* was used in the printed copies of the law laid on the members' desks, and, therefore, the time lost in printing the enactments of last winter was only that which could be consumed in re-imposing, (he believed that was the correct phrase,) the forms, and the press work. If the Queen's printer could not strike off the sheets fast enough, that was his fault, for the accommodation of that office was a matter of public concern. If he could not do the work in proper time, some one else would if opportunity were afforded them, and they ought to be employed.

He did not think that incarcerating without law was, as the Attorney-General had stated, the most serious thing that could happen to a subject, for there were many persons who believed it worse to have their property endangered or lost through misunderstandings or misapprehensions of law, entailing present distress and involving the future prospects and rights of individuals and families.

Mr. Davidson concluded by summing up the points dealt with in his speech, and said if the house did not vote for the resolution it would virtually say it did not regret the non-publication of the Statutes or the inconvenience it had given rise to.

Dr. Dow regretted the occurence of the great calamity that called the House together, and the condition of the law which did not leave legislation of great importance to St. John and of exclusive interest to that city in the hands of its Common Council. He remembered that in 1865 he had urged such a change, and had it been made, its wisdom, in the present lamentable crisis, would have been apparent. He had been told by prominent St. John gentlemen, at the time referred to, that the city did not desire its charter amended in that particular, but he thought still it ought to be done. The St. John Common Council practically shapes St. John legislation in Fredericton, for the city's bills are never put through at Fredericton until they are agreed to between the members for the city and county on the recommendation of the Common Council's committees, and the assent of the Legislature is generally but a final matter. He was quite sure that he need not reiterate the expressions of sympathy which, like a thrill, passed over and through the community when the news of St. John's awful visitation was spread—that thrill of sorrow and regret was still remembered, and the general heart of the Province sympathised to-day as strongly as ever with our stricken fellow citizens of the destroyed commercial metropolis in their great affliction. When he heard the hon. member for St. John (Mr. Willis) blame the Government for postponing the Provincial Exhibition he felt proud of Fredericton and York who, in the hour of St. John's distress, said it was better to put off that event until the first dire effects of the blow had passed away, and her crippled industries had an opportunity to gather strength again. He must confess his astonishment on hearing the hon. gentleman say that the great fire would scarcely have made any difference in the character and success of the exhibition, for he should remember that St. John is the heart and centre of the business, wealth and population of the Province. When two-thirds of that city was laid in ashes and some thirteen thousand of its people left destitute, what kind of sympathy would it have been that could not prevent the exhibition from being held while the embers were almost smoking and the homeless yet unsheltered? He could only say that had the Government not made the postponement it would never have received a vote from him again. A good deal had been said also by gentlemen opposite about the failure or refusal of the Government to pay back to the Fredericton Committee the money it had expended in fitting up the racing track at the Exhibition grounds. He was as fond of good horses and as fond of driving them, too, as anybody, but he did not think it would be right for Government to pay one cent for such a purpose, and had they done it no vote of his would have sustained them in it.

He thought the Electors of York ought to be most unspeakably glad that such an able, experienced, solid politician as the hon. member for Sunbury (Mr. Covert) had come into the county to take charge of its affairs and its representatives in their present exhausted political state. What a pleasure it would be to them to know that so distinguished a gentleman—one, whose own county seemed too small for his comprehensive grasp—was travelling about with an eye to its interests and with a determination to see things go all right.

Hon. Attorney-General—And sometimes he goes to St. John for the same purpose—[laughter].

Dr. Dow—The hon. gentleman, however, bold he might pretend to be, in view of the possible results of next June's elections, must not think that even the members for York failed to know a fact which was patent to almost every one, that there were few members present who really felt more shaky about the political knees than himself. The hon. gentleman had charged that all the members for York voted on the Government side, and he intimated that they thought the Government a band of angels. How that might be he would not pretend to say, but he had heard it whispered within a week that a new Government was to be formed as follows:—The hon. member for Sunbury (Mr. Covert), Commissioner of Works; the hon. member for St. John (Mr. Willis), Provincial-Sec'y; the hon. member for Gloucester (Mr. Burns), Surveyor General—

Mr. Burns—I have said before and now say again that I seek no position from the Government during the existence of this House, and that I would accept no position if it were offered.

Dr. Dow—The hon. gentleman from Northumberland, (Mr. Tweedie) was to be Attorney General, with the Hon. Mr. McInerney, of the Upper House, as President of the Council, and several others to be provided for as members without office. Now, his impression was, that this combination did not look any more like a band of angels than the gentlemen composing the present Government