

**PROVINCIAL.**—Wednesday, May 5.—Mr. Fielding gave notice of a resolution declaring that it was to the interest of Nova Scotia to withdraw from confederation. The resolution set forth, among other things, that previous to the union, the Province was in a healthy condition; that at the time of the union strong objections were taken to the financial terms; that an appeal was made to the Imperial Government for repeal, which was refused until a further trial of the union was had; that in a despatch the Imperial Government requested that the Dominion Government would modify any arrangement respecting taxation and the regulation of trade or fisheries which might prejudice the interests of Nova Scotia, in answer to which the Dominion Government expressed their readiness to relieve Nova Scotia, in case the pressure of taxation should be shown to be unequal or unjust; that the Dominion Government have never carried out the desire or request of the Imperial Government; that after nineteen years, it has been found that the objections urged at the time of the union apply with greater force at the present time: that Nova Scotia, previous to the union, was in a better financial condition than any of the Provinces, but is now in an unsatisfactory and depressed state, owing to the terms of the "British North American Act," combined with the high tariff and fiscal laws of the Dominion; that it now appears that the interests of the Maritime Provinces now incorporated with Canada are identical, and it is the opinion of the Legislature that the financial and commercial interests of these Provinces would be advanced by withdrawing from the Canadian federation, and uniting under one Government; that if it be found impossible, after negotiations for that purpose, to secure the co-operation of the respective Governments of the Sister Maritime Provinces in withdrawing from confederation and entering into a Maritime union, then that Nova Scotia should ask permission from the Imperial Parliament to withdraw from the union.

The House then went into committee on bills, and passed several of a private and local character.

Thursday, May 6.—The railway bill came up for the second reading. Mr. Bell made a lengthy speech against the bill. He denounced it as an election kite. The Government were not sincere in presenting the bill. The consolidation scheme is dependent upon the Dominion Government handing over the Windsor branch, and subsidizing the missing link. If the Government were sincere, they would not have given notice of repeal until they had obtained those concessions.

The Attorney General defended the portion of the bill relating to Cape Breton as being the best that could be proposed. The alternative scheme was practicable, and would open up and accommodate a large and populous section of the island.

The debate was continued by Cook, Mack, Spence, Whidden, McKee, and McDonald.

Friday, May 7.—The railway debate was resumed. Speeches were made by Corning, Pipes, Spence, Mack, Longley, Gayton, and others.

Mr. Fielding closed the debate. He said that the Government could do no more than it does by the railway measure. The Dominion Government should build the railroads in Cape Breton, but the Local Government were willing to assist to some extent in their construction. The Western Counties railroad at the present time was almost worthless, and unless the western roads become consolidated, the missing link would never be built. The promoters of the joint stock association who reside in this Province are a guarantee of good faith, and he believed that the scheme would prove a success. The bill then passed a second reading.

Mr. Fielding introduced a bill in regard to the Halifax graving dock; also a bill to pay the claims of C. C. Gregory.

Saturday, May 8.—The bill respecting railways, and the bill to incorporate the Joint Stock Association passed a third reading.

Mr. Fielding introduced a bill respecting the Western Counties railway.

The repeal resolutions were then introduced by Mr. Fielding in a lengthy speech. He gave a history of the negotiations for Confederation, and the efforts put forth by Nova Scotia to remain out of the union. The manner in which the union was effected had generated a feeling of bitterness and hostility that will not pass away for generations. He referred to the efforts made to obtain better terms for the Province, but without success. The answer lately received from the Dominion Government was unsatisfactory, and no other course was open to the legislature to adopt than the direct issue of repeal from Confederation. The Province has not received due return for its share of the Dominion taxation. Railways and public works are more necessary in Nova Scotia than the North-West. He believed that the people of Nova Scotia are almost unanimous in the opinion that repeal is desirable, and the government were prepared to stand or fall on that issue.

Mr. Weeks seconded the resolution, and said he believed the government would receive on the repeal issue the full confidence and support of the electors.

The contention was raised that the resolutions embodied two distinct issues, maritime union, and separation from Canada, and were therefore out of order.

Mr. Bell believed no greater calamity could befall this Province than to go out of the union and occupy a position of isolation. In our present relationship we occupy a position at once more honorable and more prosperous. Since the federation of the provinces Nova Scotia had made tremendous strides in the accumulation of wealth and the enjoyment of prosperity. He would not say that there was not much to be desired, as he himself would agitate for better terms, but he held that if we were reduced to a state of isolation we would be in a far worse position than at present. As far as the industries of Pictou county were concerned, a severance of the union meant death to them. We would have no market for our manufactures. None of the other provinces or the United States would have anything to do with us, and we would be met in every direction, outside of

Great Britain, with hostile tariffs. If annexation is the aim of repealers it is an unholy one for Nova Scotia to engage in. He claimed that the effects of free trade with the United States would ruin all but the most primitive of our industries. Should we withdraw from Confederation, there were but two alternatives for us—annexation or isolation.

Mr. Fraser, though a friend of repeal, said that he was not an annexationist. The expenditure of Nova Scotia is continually increasing while its revenue is, in a sense, cut iron by its very nature. He believed that whatever party was in power in the Dominion, Nova Scotia would be in the same position that it is at present. By the last census the people of this Province numbered one-tenth of the whole population of the whole Dominion. The expenditure of the federal government last year was \$35,000,000, and he thought he was within the mark in saying that Nova Scotia contributed one-tenth of this amount. Only about \$2,500,000 of that amount was expended in the Province, leaving a balance of \$1,000,000. In 1867 we had a debt of \$8,000,000, now our debt account at Ottawa is \$11,000,000. He gave statistics to show the amounts collected and expended in this Province. He claimed that if we were out of the union our probable revenue would be \$3,837,212, and our expenditure \$2,550,924, leaving a surplus of \$1,286,288.

Mr. Longley said he was at first opposed to the repeal agitation set on foot two years ago. He had now no doubt that confederation is a total failure, and the system is rotten from beginning to end. Our financial position demands that Nova Scotia should not continue in this union. We have no trade relations with Canada. There is not a single product of the mine, soil, or sea, that ever found a market in Canada. We trade with the United States in spite of the heavy tariff, as that country is our natural market. He argued at great length in favor of commercial union.

Mr. Pipes said that commercial union with the States could be obtained in two ways only—by free trade or annexation. If the union was broken up how is that to help free trade? We are far more likely to get it in the union than out. If we are not to get commercial union through free trade, we must get it through union with the States. He did not believe Nova Scotia was ready for such a step.

Addresses were also delivered by other members of the House. The resolutions on division were carried by a party vote, with the exception of Mr. Pipes, who voted against it.

Monday, May 10.—The bills respecting the Western Counties railway, and in re the payment of certain claims of C. C. Gregory, passed a third reading.

The bill passed by the Legislative Council conferring upon women the right of franchise at the municipal elections was lost.

Mr. White's resolution expressing sympathy with Ireland in her efforts to obtain Home Rule, passed unanimously.

A partial report from the Committee on Humane Institutions was submitted. The committee found that with regard to the poor of Digby that some of the charges were proven, and recommended that steps be taken by the overseers of the poor to prevent a repetition of the objectionable features of the present system.

A discussion took place on a resolution to the effect that no more appointments be made to the Legislative Council. The resolution was negatived upon the statement that whatever appointments the government might make would be on the understanding that the Council must bow to the popular will.

Tuesday, May 11th.—A discussion arose as to whether the report of the Committee on Humane Institutions should be printed. After a spirited discussion it was decided not to print them. The Attorney-General introduced a bill legalizing any causes that had been tried under the new rule recently adopted by the Supreme Court and afterwards rescinded. The bill was put through all its stages and passed. Mr. Mack desired a subsidy for steam service between Port Medway and Liverpool. Mr. Fielding said that if \$500 could be spared it would be given. The bill amending the License Act was concurred in. The House was then prorogued by his Honor the Lieutenant Governor.

Mme. Adelina Patti will be a princess after her marriage with M. Nicolini, according to *The Paris Gaulois*, which declares it has its information from the most authoritative source. Nicolini is to be created a prince by a foreign chancellery. The honor has been obtained by the diva herself who being a marchioness by her first marriage, wishes to become a princess on the occasion of her second.

It was a family gathering called to name the baby. The name proposed was William. The jury retired, and in two minutes returned and reported; "No Bill."

The story is told of a famous Boston lawyer, that, one day, after having a slight discussion with the judge, he deliberately turned his back upon that personage and started to walk off. "Are you trying, sir, to show contempt for the court?" asked the Judge, sternly. "No, sir," was the reply. "I am trying to conceal it."

A coal-cart driver reported to his wife that he had been discharged. To her inquiries what he had done, he said: Nothing; only to sit in the cart when the coal was being weighed. Wife—Why, that was no reason for discharging you. Driver—Yes, it is; the new man weighs seventy-five pounds more than I do.

A parish clerk once gave out that "Mr. A and Mr. B. would preach every Sunday to all eternity;" he meant alternately. Another mistake was, "that there would be no service next Wednesday, 'kas master had gone a-fishing for another clergyman." Officiate was the word intended.