

purposes of traffic excepting in defiance of the terms of their lease.

The claims of this company upon the Province have also assumed a new complexion. Not content with using quietly the right which they claim of digging and selling the minerals, they have within the last year asserted the privilege of exercising a control over our civil rights. They now claim, and have exercised the right, on the part of their laborers, to vote at our elections; and we have witnessed the strange spectacle of men imported into this country, whose only occupation is the digging of coals, and who, while they are in the country, are not of the country, as they pay no taxes, contribute nothing to the local funds of the counties, and but little to the general revenues of the Province, led to the polls by their employers, and claiming the same rights that the owners of the soil are entitled to.

I will allude only to one other subject noticed in the speech. In presenting this answer to the House for their acceptance, honorable members are invited to offer their congratulations to his Excellency upon the improved condition of Government House. This is all very well, and I presume will not be objected to; but I hope that while doing so, honorable members will see the propriety of setting our own House in order. The new members view with surprise the dilapidated appearance of this Hall, and its extremely shabby state, when contrasted with the elegance of the apartment in which the members of the other branch assemble, whose functions and duties we generally—without intending to say anything disparaging of that august body—consider to be of much less consequence than ours. To speak of the red benches is now a mere fiction, and it is to be hoped that before long a committee will be appointed to take this matter in charge, and have this apartment put in a state more creditable to the Province than it now is. I beg leave, sir, to move the first clause of the Address.

FRANKING PRIVILEGE.

The Hon Speaker announced that he had received from the Postmaster General a request to know what arrangement should prevail with reference to the franking privilege.

Hon Attorney General moved that the privilege be decided in the usual form.

Several members complained that the members of Council had greater privileges in franking than this House enjoyed.

Members of Government explained that the public business of members only applied to their constituents, and therefore franking should be confined to the Province.

Other gentlemen replied that they often wished to get Legislative information, which was for the benefit of the whole people, from Canada, other Provinces, the United States and England, and the extra expense would be trifling.

The discussion closed at dark without any decision, and as the matter is one peculiarly within the internal regulations of the House, and was debated the next morning within closed doors, we have passed it over, with the mention of its substance.

The House adjourned.

W.

FRIDAY, February 1.

THE ADDRESS.

The Address in answer to His Excellency's Speech was read.

Hon. J. W. JOHNSTON said that he had no objection to the Address, as it was merely a response to the Speech of His Excellency.

The Address passed without division.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVILEGES.

Mr. Archibald moved that the Hon. Attorney General, Hon. Mr. Johnston, Hon. Solicitor General, Mr. Tupper, Mr. Wier, Mr. John Campbell, and Mr. Wade be appointed a standing Committee on the Privileges of the House. The Hon. Gentleman stated that he named these gentlemen so that both sides of the House might be fairly represented.

The motion passed.

REPORTING.

Mr. Anrand moved that a committee be appointed on reporting the debates and proceedings of the House, which, being seconded and put, passed in the affirmative, and the following gentlemen being respectively moved and seconded, were appointed:—Mr. Anrand, Hon. Solicitor General, Mr. Marshall, Mr. McDonald, and Mr. Wilkins.

PRESENTING THE ADDRESS.

The House adjourned till half-past 11 o'clock to-morrow, for the purpose of being ready to present the Address to his Excellency the Lieut. Governor at 12.

C.

— SATURDAY, Feb. 2.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.

Hon. Attorney General said—Mr. Speaker, by command of the Lieut. Governor, I lay on the table of the House the most material portion of the public accounts—to a few of the leading items of which I beg leave to turn the attention of hon. gentlemen. The first is the cash account of the Receiver General with the province—showing a balance in the treasury on the 1st of January, 1856, of £23,730. The colonial and light duties collected during the year amounted to £118,000—£90,000 of which was collected in Halifax, and £28,000 in the outports—to which is to be added £7,000 realised from the distillery licenses, making in all £125,000.—The only reduction to which this sum is subject is £4,000 paid out for drawbacks—leaving £121,000, being the actual cash receipts for 1855. This sum is between 8,000 and £9,000 less than was collected in 1854—the decrease being attributable to the withdrawal of duties consequent upon the passage of the reciprocity bill. The casual revenue yielded about £18,000, which, added to the £121,000, makes a grand total of £139,000. On the credit side of this account is also a sum of £21,500 received from the Savings' Bank. There was an issue of provincial notes during the year which amounted to £34,000, making with other small sums the whole amount received into the treasury in 1855, independent of railway funds £208,000.—There was a balance on hand on the 1st of January, 1855, of £11,000, making in all £219,000. Turning now to the payments it will be found that they amounted to £196,000 in all. Taking the most material of these, I may observe that the accounts connected with the Board of Works shew the