

tual benefit of those Colonies, could never be accomplished until such union took place. In speaking of the Railroad he said that the increasing productiveness of the road strongly recommended its extension to Pictou; that the country would be glad to learn that the proceeds of the road for the last year exceed those of the previous by \$10,000, and those of the first year the road was in operation to Windsor and Truro, by \$41,000. Mr. Macdonnell stated that the time had arrived when the question of the extension of the road to Pictou should be disposed of, and he hoped that the whole House would lend its cordial support to a bill for the immediate construction of the road.

On the subject of education he said he was glad to find this important subject mentioned in His Excellency's address. He charged the Legislature of the country with an omission of duty in failing for many years past to make a sufficient or additional provision for the better advancement of Education, and hoped that before the close of the present session something would be done to ameliorate the educational system of the Province. While all other subjects received increased legislative and provisional attention and aid, our educational system had remained for years intact, and the school grant, notwithstanding the rapid and large increase in our population, had for a long time remained stationary—thus proving that the facilities for educating the people instead of improving, tend to the opposite direction.

He expressed his gratification at the fact that the amount of gold raised from our gold fields during the year just ended had more than doubled the amount raised within the preceding year, as well as the revenue derived from this source; also, that within the year ended no fewer than one hundred applications were made for gold mining leases. Mr. Macdonnell spoke of the necessity of passing a law providing for the Registration of Births, as much hardship and litigation arise from the want of such records. In conclusion Mr. Macdonnell repeated his expressions of gratification at the satisfactory condition of the Province, and read the following

ADDRESS.

To His Excellency Major-General C. HASTINGS
Dorset Administrator of the Government,
Commander-in-Chief in and over Her Majesty's
Province of Nova Scotia, and its Dependencies,
&c., &c., &c.

May it please Your Excellency.—We Her Majesty's Commons thank your Excellency for the Speech with which your Excellency has been pleased to open this Session of Parliament, and assure your Excellency that we shall endeavour, to the utmost of our ability, to maintain the power and advance the interests of the Province.

We shall be glad to receive the Public Accounts, and are gratified to learn that the Estimate for the public service will be prepared with due regard to economy.

The increase of our exports and revenue for the past year affords us much satisfaction as an indication of the continued improvement in the financial affairs of the Province.

We are gratified to learn that the patriotic response of the people to the demand upon them for Militia drill, and their attention to that duty, has been such as to merit the approval of your Excellency, and we will not fail to make such provision for self defence as the occasion may seem to demand.

Any proposition calculated to increase the influence and advance the interests of the three maritime Colonies will receive our best consideration.

The correspondence touching a proposed Survey for the Intercolonial Railway will receive our attention.

The increase in the traffic in our Railway is very gratifying, and we will carefully consider any proposal to extend the existing lines for the purpose of increasing their productiveness and rendering them more generally useful.

The propriety of providing an improved mode of transit between the Bras D'Or and St. Peter's Bay will be duly considered.

We are much pleased to learn that it is proposed to increase the provision for extending the blessings of Education among all classes of the people, and any measure intended to improve the existing laws relating to that important subject will not fail to obtain our thoughtful consideration.

The increased activity exhibited in developing our mineral resources is a source of much satisfaction, and we will be most happy to aid in effecting such amendments in the existing laws as may be required to facilitate such operations, and will readily consider the propriety of authorizing a Geological Survey of the Province.

It is a satisfaction to know that the efforts to advance the Agriculture of the country by means of Exhibitions, were attended with advantage, and we will be glad to co-operate in any means taken to advance a branch of industry upon which the prosperity of all classes so largely depend.

Any measure providing for the proper registration of births, marriages and deaths, will meet with the attention so important a question deserves.

The proposed alteration in the laws relating to Revenue Department and the Post Office will secure due consideration.

The correspondence between the Imperial Government and Colony upon the subject of shipwrecks with the means providing for Maritime Courts of Enquiry will be duly considered.

We desire to thank Almighty God for the blessings of continued peace we have enjoyed during the past year, and the success which has crowned alike the labors of the husbandmen, of the fishermen, and of those engaged in developing the great mineral resources of the Province.

Mr. HILL said that it was with much pleasure that he arose to second the address in reply to the speech of His Excellency, which had been so ably handled by the gentleman who had just sat down. It was not, however, his intention to enter into a minute review of the speech, but merely to take a cursory glance at the leading propositions, which we had a right to believe would be the principal subjects of the Session. In looking over the address, he found there