

dered that nine-tenths of the people of Nova Scotia were suffering from the want of education, through the act of the Government at the last session. I consider that it was the duty of the Government to have informed themselves upon this subject during the recess, instead of absenting themselves from the country, endeavoring to form the constitution of a great nation in a few days—I say *days*, for their nights were more agreeably occupied—and then coming down to the House unprepared to bring forward a measure of such vital importance to the people of this country.

We are told by the Attorney General that the committees were organized and ready for work. I would ask him whether he has shown the example to the Post Office Committee, of which he is chairman, and I shall be surprised if he has even yet organized it. There is a great deal of force in the observations of the member for North Colchester, when he said that the change in the financial year had been made for the purpose of allowing the House to meet earlier, and I am sorry that has not been the result. I think that not only should the trade returns be on the table, but the Financial Secretary should be prepared with his estimates. I think, sir, I have shown that the government have failed in expediting the public business; and that the country has a right to ask, Have we a Government? I recollect very well, when the Provincial Secretary led the Opposition, he was constantly taunting the government with not bringing down measures, and although he may say that this is a *tu quoque* argument, I must remind him that as he comes here as the great champion of retrenchment, we of course expect better things from him.

PETITIONS.

Mr McLellan presented a petition from Onslow for the repeal of the school act; also, one from Londonderry against Confederation, and one from Dr. McRoberts, which latter was handed to Pro. Sec.

Hon. PRO. SEC. remarked that the hon. gentleman ought to be very thankful to the government for not hastily rushing public measures through the house, for if they had done so his constituents would have been shut out from expressing their views upon a great public question.

Mr McLELLAN only wished the measures laid upon the table—not to have them hastily decided.

Mr. Tobin presented a petition from William C. Moir, praying for a return of duties.

Dr. Brown from an aged teacher for a free grant of land.

Mr. Tobin also presented two petitions from St. Margaret's Bay, on the subject of the seine fishery, asking that petitioners may be heard before fishery committees.

Then the house adjourned until 3 o'clock the next day.

THURSDAY, March 2, 1865.

The house met at 3 o'clock.

Mr. ROBICHEAU presented a petition from a number of the inhabitants of Beaver River, Digby, asking the house not to go back to the old school law.

Mr. D. FRASER introduced an act to amend chap. 79 R. S. of Pilots, Harbors, and Harbor-masters.

Mr. BLACKWOOD presented a petition for a way office.

Hon. Mr. McKINNON presented three petitions—one from W. Valentine and others, another from David McNair and others, and another A. McGillivray and others—all from Antigonishe on the school act.

Mr. ROSS presented a petition, signed by Rev. J. Shaw and 132 others of Ingonishe; another from Murdoch McDonald and others of St. Ann's, and a third from the same place, all against Union of the Colonies.

COAL RETURNS.

Hon. PRO. SEC. laid on the table the return asked for by the hon. member for Inverness, (Mr. Blanchard) showing the amount of royalty paid on coal. The total receipts for the 9 months of 1864 were \$37,867; of the 12 months, \$49,079.80. The amount received from Cape Breton is \$29,387.62, and from Nova Scotia proper \$19,692.18. The amount received from the mining association is \$20,186.85, and from the other mines \$23,898.95.

RAILWAY REPORT.

Hon. FIN. SEC. laid on the table the railway report for the quarter of 1864, and alluded briefly to its contents.

The Report shows that for the nine months of 1864, ending 30th September, as compared with the same period of 1863, there has been an increase in the traffic receipts on the line of \$16,438.22.

The receipts for 1864 being.....\$119,602.12
For 1863.....103,164.50

Increase.....\$16,438.22

These receipts are derived from the several branches of traffic, as follows:

Passengers.....\$55,878 47
Horse and Waggon.....9,872 36
Freight.....53,851 89

Total.....\$119,602 72

Shewing an increase over the same period of last year, on these several services, as follows, viz.:

Passengers.....\$7,148 11
Horse and Waggon.....1,439 32
Freight.....7,850 79

Total increase.....\$16,438 79

The number of passengers carried is 86,090, exclusive of 920 members of the Legislature, Canadian visitors, &c., and 6,929 teamsters carried free; or a total of 93,939 passengers carried safely over the line in the period covered by this report,—being an increase over the same months of 1863 of 11,326.

The increase in freight carried, as shewn by the returns attached to Mr. Taylor's report, is equally satisfactory, and proves beyond doubt the rapidity and steadiness with which the facility of transport afforded by the Railway is extending and enlarging branches of trade and industry already established, and developing new sources of industry of which our people readily avail themselves.

The weight of freight moved in the nine months was 42,406 tons.

The Accountant's report shews the total gross receipts for the nine months

to be.....\$121,754 45
Total expenses.....98,24 44

Leaving a nett revenue balance of...\$23,511 55