DOMINION PARLIAMENT.

SECOND SESSION--FOURTH PARLIAMENT

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

OTTAWA, Feb. 19.

The Speaker took the chair at three o'clock.

THE BOUNDARIES OF ONTARIO.

Mr. MACKENZIE resumed the debate on the motion of Mr. Dawson for the appointment of a committee to enquire into matters connected with the boundaries between Ontario and the Territories of Canada. He explained the grounds on which the late Ministry adopted the view that it was better to submit the question to a tribunal on this side of the Atlantic, instead of sending it to the judicial committee of the Privy Council. He defended the manner in which the Dominion case had been presented to the arbitrators, the legal gentlemen finally representing the Federal authorities being Messrs. Monk and McMahon. He denied that Ontario had claimed any territory belonging to the Hudson's Bay Company, but it simply demanded that its true boundaries should be assigned to it. He contended that in the Imperial Act of 1774, the word "northward," which indicated the direction from the confluence of the Ohio and Mississippi, on which a line should be drawn to mark the boundary of the British territory, did not mean "due north." The Government had no right to set aside the award of the arbitrators, indeed, it had no more right to do so than to set aside the Washington Treaty. Public opinion, he believed, throughout the Dominion would condemn the course of the Government.

Mr. DAWSON explained, in reference to a statement of the last speaker, that he (Mr. Dawson) had not reflected upon the integrity or ability of the gentlemen who conducted the case for the Dominion.

Mr. MACDOUGALL (Halton) said the leader of the Opposition had made some reference to his (Mr. Macdougall's) connection with this subject, and had stated that he recommended an arbitration, the award following which should be final. Hon. members would see if they examined the correspondence that he (Mr. Macdougall) had said that it was not intended that the award of the arbitrators should be definitive. It was to be a report as to which was thought to be the true boundary. This question was one of very great importance and gravity, by reason of the immense area of territory involved in it, and the material interests at stake with reference to it. As stated in a pamphlet issued by the Ontario Government, the new district included as within the boundaries of Ontario, under the award, was greater in extent than the whole of Ontario at present. Leaving out Lakes Superior, Ontario, Huron, and Erie, it would, by its addition to the Province, make the area of Ontario 200,000 square miles, or 80,000 square miles greater than the United Kingdom, 12,000 less than the German Empire, and equal to the combined areas of Holland, Portugal, united Italy, Switzerland and Belgium. So it would be seen how large a portion of the earth's surface this Parliament had to deal with. It could not be said that such a question as this should be dealt with *per saltum* by a new Parliament. Members, indeed, before deciding upon it, desired to inform themselves upon its merits, and some means should be taken whereby they would be able to give an intelligent judgment upon it. He confessed that he was not quite convinced that it was not the duty of the Government to propose the manner of dealing with the question, instead of leaving the whole matter, so far as the House was concerned, to an irresponsible sort of tribunal. Still the question had to go to the committee, and he did not know but that, as it had remained undecided for nine years, it could remain that way without doing any harm for a few months longer. As one of those concerned in the earlier discussion of this matter, he was desirous that it should be speedily settled. While dealing with it as a Commissioner appointed by the Ontario Government, he held the same opinion as the hon. member for West Durham (Mr. Blake). As soon as the Government of Ontario changed the policy it was intended to pursue regarding the matter, and, after calling upon him (Mr. Macdougall) before he had met his fellow Commissioner for a report, it instructed him to cease his proceedings as Commissioner. In fact he was uncivilly dismissed. The hon. member for West Durham (Mr. Blake) then took the matter into his own hands, and, from that time, though he and his party had subsequently both the Ontario and Dominion Parliaments under their control, they had allowed the matter to remain unconsidered and undecided; and, under these circumstances, the endeavour by those gentlemen to press a new Parliament to deal hurriedly with the matter, did not come with very good grace from them. As to the question itself, he might say that the right of Ontario to claim that her western boundary was at the north-west angle of the Lake of the Woods was very clear to him. He did not concur in the view of the hon. Minister of Justice as to the construction of the Act of 1774. In considering that Act, the matters surrounding its passage should be looked into. A report of the debates of that period had recently come to light, among some other manuscripts, in the British Museum, and a very interesting document it was to students of history. The report showed that the bill, as it passed the House of Lords, declared that the western boundary should be the Mississippi river. Subsequently, in the House of Commons, the boundary was debated, and, after some discussion, Mr. Burke, who was the agent for Pennsylvania, secured such a change in the wording of the Act as to avoid the possibility of Pennsylvania being interfered with. The circumstance had to be considered, and, he thought, it showed enough to justify the reference of the matter, unless the Parliament would willingly and freely decide that the boundary set down in the Act should be the boundary in future, to the highest tribunals in the Empire. If hon. members from Quebec and from the Maritime Provinces felt that by agreeing to the conventional boundary, which might not be the true boundary, they would give Ontario great additional political power in the future, they had a right to desire the question to be further enquired into. If he (Mr. Macdougall) were a Nova Scotian, a New Brunswicker, or a representative of Quebec, he would say he had a right to have the question judicially settled by the highest judicial authority in the Empire. When it was so settled, he would agree to it, and he was sure that all the members of the House would do the same, for there was not a gentleman who desired to deprive Ontario of her rights. What was wanted was a true boundary. In this connection, he would like to call the attention of the House to the difficulties of the question. There never had been a marked boundary; and what was wanted now was some machinery sufficiently elastic to lay out that boundary on the ground as closely as possible to the point fixed in the documents bearing on the case. The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council could not provide that. All that it could do was to deal with certain points from documentary evidence, and draw a line from the point at which what they believed to be the western boundary commenced. On the north, there was the same difficulty. Where was the southern boundary of the Hudson's Bay Company's Territory? As to the boundary settled upon by the arbitrators, it had been said that it was two distant for Ontario to control. In his opinion Ontario was quite capable of administering justice there. The hon. member for Algoma seemed to desire that it should be formed into a new Province, but in his (Mr. Macdougall's) opinion, we have new Provinces enough. We were already paying largely for Manitoba and for the North-West Territories, and for a railway to British Columbia, and he did not think it was desirable to create new Provinces until it was established that for the administration of justice, and the proper government of the people new Provinces were absolutely necessary. Ontario had probably one-half of the people of this Dominion. It was the richest and most productive Province of the Dominion. It was the only Province that to-day paid more into the Dominion treasury than it got out.

An hon. MEMBER—No, no.

Mr. MACDOUGALL said the hon. gentleman who interrupted him should look at Mr. Langton's report for the first six years of Confederation, and he would see that a considerable surplus was paid in by Ontario. He did not point this out in order that there might be a change in the practice, but in order that the House might see that it was a mistake to say that Ontario could not control their territories. Upon the whole, it appeared to him that there was no occasion for hostile and sectional feeling in the matter. The people of Ontario, Radical and Tory, Reformers and Conservatives, would be satisfied with a legal and conclusive adjudication of the matter. They would accept whatever territory was given them, even though it was less than many public men and public writers claimed. In his opinion, too, at whatever conclusion the Committee arrived, the Government would still be responsible for the final settlement, whatever it might be.

Mr. CASEY contended that the effect of the resolution for reference to a committee was to reject the award, and that the people of Ontario would resent the action of the Dominion Government. He argued that as soon as a committee was appointed, the award was abrogated, and the initiation of such action would be a gross breach of faith on the part of Parliament. He threatened the Conservative members from Ontario with the indignation of the people if they refused to ratify the award.

Mr. CAMERON said the threat uttered by the hon. member for West Elgin was a very weak and diluted edition of what they read in yesterday's *Globe*. The hon. member was too weak to adopt the rôle of intimidator. If there ever was a motion which he was prepared to support, it was that before the House. They had a most important subject for consideration, and one of the most difficult characters, and one, moreover, on which the great majority of the members were almost, if not entirely, ignorant. There was a large territory in dispute. An award had been made, the validity of which was in dispute, the very jurisdiction and authority of the arbitrators being called in question. It was an award of a peculiar character, one which could have no effect until it was ratified by Parliament. The House was, therefore, compelled to pronounce an intelligent opinion upon the circumstances connected with the question, and with the making of the award. He confessed he was entirely unprepared to do so. Nor was he prepared, because the Government chose to say the award should be dissented from or ratified, to agree to its verdict without having an opportunity of investigating the matter. The award required the assent of Parliament, and it was in every sense a different award from the award made at an ordinary arbitration between two parties, for it was one to which Parliament must give its assent in order to render it valid. It was desirable, proper and necessary that the subject should be referred to a select committee for investigation, so that time might be allowed to hon. members to form an opinion as to whether the award should be assented to or departed from. He entirely dissented from the view put forward that to appoint a select committee would be to disapprove of the award, and expressed his pleasure that the hon. member for Lambton had publicly announced that Ontario wanted nothing but its true boundaries. That, indeed, was the real feeling of the people. If the disputed territory belonged to Ontario legally and honourably that Province wanted it. But they did not wish to secure it by a snap judgment, given by an unqualified and unauthorized tribunal, but after careful enquiry. Therefore, the Conservative members were not alarmed by statements made either by the *Globe* or the hon. member for West Elgin, that the people of Ontario will deem it a dereliction of duty if they did not ratify the award *per fas aut nefas*, because they knew the good sense of their constituents, and of the great mass of the population would simply say, "If the land belongs to us, let us have it; the matter investigated fully by a committee or other body, and we will abide by the results." (Cheers.)

Messrs. Holton and Anglin protested against the appointment of a committee.

Mr. McCARTHY said that, as threats have been uttered as to what might be done fo Ontario representatives if they did not support the award, it was well in their own interest, if not in the interest of the Dominion, that those hon. members who intended to support the motion of the hon. member for Algoma should state the grounds for the conclusion at which they had arrived. He agreed that when an award had been made, it ought to be adhered to by the parties who had agreed to it unless strong reasons could be adduced for contrary action, but at the same time, he did not understand that a reference of the matter to a special committee to enquire and report on the various points on which it was very desirable that hon. members should be informed before passing a decided opinion on the validity of the award, was in any sense a declaration that the award was not to be upheld. There were good reasons why before adopting the award the House should receive further information than it now possessed. Let him recall the position of the case. By the British North America Act, the limitations of the various Provinces were defined, those of Ontario being the boundaries of Upper Canada before the Union. No power was given either to the Dominion Parliament or to a Local Legislature to alter or change the limits of those boundaries. There was a boundary on the north-west as well as upon the north, although it might have been difficult perhaps to determine where the boundary line was. Still the line had an existence, just to the same extent as there is a boundary line between two farms, although their owners may dispute as to its precise locality. A dispute arose between Ontario and the Dominion as to where the boundary line happened to be. It was first proposed, as appeared from the papers, that the question where the boundary line was should be referred to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, the highest tribunal to which an appeal could be carried. That proposition met with a counter proposition, and it was agreed upon, and the hon. leader of the Government had charge of the matter, that we should create a tribunal. An arbitrator was selected by the Dominion, another by Ontario, and a third was chosen by consent of all parties, and it was provided that this Court should meet and do what they could to ascertain where the boundary was. That question lay at the threshold of the discussion. He doubted very much whether many hon. members from a perusal of the papers, and they had to go to the Ontario Legislature to see the papers, were able to say, except from statements on the floor of Parliament, what question was submitted to that tribunal. He understood from the hon. member for Bothwell, who had engaged in the matter for several years, and his view was corroborated by the hon. member for Lambton, that the question submitted to the arbitrators was not to determine a conventional line, but to ascertain where the true boundary was, and that only. No Act of Parliament was to be found empowering a reference by the Dominion of that question to arbitration, but the Ontario Legislature, which acted more carefully than the late Dominion Government, passed an Act naming an arbitrator, and authorising the Lieut.-Governor to appoint a substitute if necessary. Although there was an order-in-Council passed in 1874 on the recommendation of the present leader of the Opposition, and although it suggests that legislation should be had in order to give to the Governor-General-in-Council power to appoint an arbitrator, yet he failed to find any Act by which the Government was empowered to submit the question to arbitration. He looked in vain for a record of any kind to show the question which was actually submitted, and he was driven to the records of the Ontario Legislature to see what the Governor-General, acting on the advice of hon. gentlemen opposite, thought proper to submit. These were circumstances which rendered it more than usually necessary that the proceedings of the arbitration should be investigated by a committee. He did, however, find that whatever the arbitrators decided upon was to be subject to the approval of the House and of the Ontario Legislature, and before the award obtained any validity, or possessed the slightest value, it had to receive the sanction of the Parliament of Canada. Were they to be told that, in the absence of all information in the sessional papers, knowing that the matter was treated so carelessly by the hon. gentleman in charge of it that he never thought proper to submit a bill to Parliament, or prepare a formal deed of reference, it was not proper that the question should be referred to a committee for investigation? The hon. member for Bothwell had declared that the arbitrators were to find the true boundary between Ontario and the Dominion; yet, looking at the Provincial Act of 1874, most lawyers would come to an opposite conclusion. It was indeed apparent that while the Dominion thoroughly understood the arbitrators were charged to enquire as to the true boundary, the Ontario Government went in for a conventional line. That furnished another ground for referring the the question to a committee. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. MILLS—Not at all.

Mr. McCARTHY said the hon. member for Bothwell was much biased. It was unfortunate the hon. gentleman happened to have been the paid agent of the Ontario Government when he received his first impression on the subject, and that when he became a member of the late Dominion Administration, he was called upon to present the other side of the case. That was another ground why the reference should be made. (Cheers.)

Mr. MILLS said that after he became a member of the Government, he took no part in submitting the question, that work being performed by the then First Minister and the Minister of Justice.

Mr. McCARTHY said he had supposed the Government was an unit. If the hon. gentlemen felt himself incompetent to take part in the question as a Minister, perhaps he felt equally so in his capacity of a private member. When the House was told by the hon. member for Algoma (Mr. Dawson), who had taken great interest in the question, as the territory would be almost wholly within his constituency, that the Dominion case was not fully presented, it afforded a further ground for inquiry, and why they should not go it blind. If the arbitrators were authorized simply and solely to ascertain the true boundary line, and if they did proceed to determine the true boundary line, there was very strong reason for submitting to the award, although they did not think it proper or right. But if it should turn out that they did not agree as to what was submitted to arbitration, it was manifest the award could not stand; that the whole matter was open to review, and must be reviewed by some tribunal. There was another view to be taken of the question. Hon. gentlemen opposite all agreed that no person had pretended prior to the pronouncing of the award that the line which the arbitrators established was the true line.

Mr. MILLS—Many did.

Mr. McCARTHY said he had failed to find any evidence that the line established by the arbitrators was ever contended for by any politicians prior to the announcement of the award.

Mr. MILLS—The hon. member for Halton did.

Mr. McCARTHY—That hon. gentleman distinctly stated that the award has established a line no person had ever previously contended for. It was the contention on the part of the Dominion that the line should be drawn northward from a point at the junction of the Ohio and Mississippi, while it was the contention on the part of Ontario that the boundary lay along the bank of the Mississippi. The arbitrators adopted neither of these. Then the arbitrators adopted as part of Ontario, land reaching to Hudson's Bay. No person contended for that prior to the award. The facts, therefore, clearly pointed to the line decided upon as a conventional line, and erected a line which could only be adopted under the Act of Parliament. Everyone knew that it was not the intention of the Dominion to allow the arbitrators to settle upon a new boundary, in view of which the whole matter should properly be referred to a committee. The hon. member for West Durham took high ground in his speech on the subject. He argued that it was immoral for the House now to attempt in any way to repudiate this award, the result of an inter-Provincial treaty, but the members of the House had their duties to discharge. They were bound to see that Dominion rights were protected, and if in this matter the late Administration had shown great carelessness, it behoved the house now to deal with it broadly and fairly, both to the Dominion and Ontario. The award had been compared to the Geneva and to the fishery awards. Why, did any one suppose the Americans would have accepted the fishery award if they had not a loophole out of which to jump, but the fishery award arose out of a treaty which had been previously approved of by Congress.

Mr. MILLS—No, the Senate.

Mr. McCARTHY—Yes, the Senate, it is the treaty-making power.

Mr. MILLS—The King is the treaty-making power here.

Mr. McCARTHY said his new friend would, no doubt, object if the Crown made a treaty concerning Canada, which this Dominion had no opportunity to ratify. The Government award arose out of no such treaty. The proposition to refer the matter to arbitrators was not before this House, and, even if it had been, it was not likely that the House would delegate to arbitrators the power of determining the boundaries on a conventional line. The determining of such boundaries was made by Act of the British Parliament, a legislative act, and, as such, it could not be delegated to arbitrators. As to the merits of the award, he could not adopt the views of the hon. member for Halton, who said that the Act of 1774 was to be read by the light of documents. In his opinion the language of the Act had to be considered alone, for going outside of the Act, mistakes as to its meaning were likely to arise. Only recently an incident occurred which illustrated the desirability of being guided by the wording of an Act. The Attorney-General of Ontario was arguing before the Supreme Court in an insurance case, arising out of a bill passed in the Ontario Legislature. He said that when he passed the bill he intended that it should mean what he was contending for. The counsel on the other side replied that he was a member of the Legislature at the time the bill passed. He voted for it, but would not have done so had he thought it would bear the construction the Attorney-General was placing upon it. He had nothing further to say, except to add that looking at the case in whatever way one chose, the only conclusion to be arrived at was that the House should have further information before accepting the award. (Cheers.)

A division then being called for, the motion was carried by a vote of 123 yeas to 52 nays.

YEAS—Messrs. Abbott, Allison, Arkell, Baby, Barnard, Beauchesne, Benoit, Bergeron, Bergin, Bill, Boileau, Boulthee, Bourbeau, Bowell, Brecken, Brooks, Bunster, Burnham, Cameron (Victoria), Caron, Cimon, Colby, Connell, Costigan, Coughlin, Coupal, Currier, Cuthbert, Daly, Dacoust, Dawson, DeCosmos, Desaulniers, DesJardins, Domville, Drew, Dugas, Farrow, Ferguson, Fitzsimmons, Fortin, Fulton, Gigault, Girouard (Jacques Cartier), Girouard (Kent), Grandbois, Hackett, Haggart, Hay, Hesson, Hilliard, Hooper, Houde, Hurteau, Ives, Jackson, Kaulbach, Keeler, Kilbert, Kranz, Kirkpatrick, Landry, Langevin, Lantier, Little, Longley, Macdonald (Kings) Macdonald (Victoria, B.C.), Macdonald (Cape Breton), McDonald (Pictou), Macmillan, McCarthy, McCuaig, McDougall, McInnes, McKay, McLennan, McLeod, McQuade, McRory, Masson, Massue, Mermer, Methot, Montplaisir, Mousseau, Muttart, Ogden, Ouimet, Perrault, Pinsonneault, Platt, Plumb, Pope (Compton), Pope (Queen's) Pouparre, Richey, Robertson (Hamilton), Robinson, Rochester, Ross (Dundas), Rouleau, Routhier, Ryan (Marquette) Rykert, Schultz, Shaw, Sproule, Stephenson, Tasse, Tellier, Thompson (Caribou), Tilley, Tupper, Vallee, Vansuse, Wade, Wallace (Norfolk), White (Cardwell), White (Hastings), White (Renfrew), Williams, Wright—123.

NAYS—Messrs. Anglin, Bain, Bannerman, Bechard, Bisko, Borden, Bourassa, Brown, Burpee (St. John), Burpee (Sunbury), Cameron, (Huron), Cartwright, Casey, Cesgrain, Chandler, Charlton, Cockburn (Muskoka), Dumont, Fleet, Fleming, Flynn, Gillies, Gillmor, Gunn, Guthrie, Haddow, Holton, Hundington, King, Laflamme, Laurier, MacDonell (Lanark), (MacDonnell (Inverness), Mackenzie, McIsaac, Mills, Oliver, Olivier, Paterson (Grant), Pickard, Rinfret, Rogers, Ross (Middlesex), Rymal, Scriver, Skinner, Smith (Westmoreland), Snowball, Thompson (Haldimand), Trow, Weldon, Wiser—52.

THE INSOLVENCY ACT.

Mr. COLBY moved the second reading of his bill to repeal the Insolvency Act. The Act, he held, had tended to demoralize trade, and the lowering of commercial morality, and encouraged recklessness in trade. The whole effect of the law had been unfortunate and disastrous, and had thereby aggravated the commercial distress. No doubt the repeal of the law would be a source of inconvenience at first, but the country had prepared for it, and the present in view of our improving commercial circumstances was the best time for it. He had not dealt with the circumstances of banks, but, no doubt, when in Committee on the bill, the legal members would consider that point.

The bill was read a second time.

The House adjourned at 10.40.

OTTAWA, Feb 20.

The Speaker took the chair at 3 o'clock.

RELIEF FOR IRELAND.

Sir JOHN MACDONALD, in moving the House into Committee on the resolution providing for a grant of $100,000 for the relief of the distress in Ireland, remarked that he did not think it was necessary to add anything to what had been said on the subject during the debate on the address. All hon. members were, no doubt, deeply grieved to know that their fellow subjects in Ireland were suffering such in great distress, and all were anxious that Parliament should show its sympathy with that distress. In submitting the matter to Parliament, the Government had to consider what should be the sum to be granted, and after due consideration they came to the conclusion that $100,000 would be a substantial evidence of the sympathy of Canada with Ireland, while it would not in any way from its largeness diminish that exercise of private charity which was happily going on throughout the Dominion. If parliament gave a very large sum, it might be made a reason why private charity should be lessened on the ground that the sum proposed was quite large enough for Canada to give.

In Committee

Mr. MACKENZIE seconded the resolution providing the grant, and asked how the money was to be applied.

Sir JOHN MACDONALD said that the intention of the Government was to do the same as they did with regard to the money voted for the relief of the wounded in the Crimean war, namely, to send the money to the Right Hon. the Secretary of State for the Colonies, to be applied by her Majesty's Government to the purpose for which it was voted.

Mr. ANGLIN would have been pleased had the vote been £100,000 sterling instead of only $100,000. As an Irishman, he trusted he was glad to see that even the latter sum was being voted. Unfortunately the British Government had not done anything in dealing with this matter to save from hunger or from death by hunger any portion of the people of Ireland. They talked of doing much, and of provision which might, by-and-bye, be made for the relief of hundreds of thousands, but months had passed since it was first known that the people were starving in Ireland, and he doubted whether up to this day a thousand had been even slightly relieved by the action of the British Government. Probably red tape stood in the way, and care should be taken not to let red tape stand in the way of the proper distribution of the present grant. No doubt it was following the official course to send the money to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, but, for his part, he would rather that it be sent at once to the Mansion House Committee Dublin.

Mr. BLAKE quite agreed with the course the Government had taken, but thought it would be desirable that the Government in transmitting the money to the Secretary of State should indicate to what fund the money should be handed over. It was well known that the Imperial Government was preparing a measure of relief, but that measure, for some reason or other, had not come down as rapidly as possible. He, therefore, hoped that it would be made to appear to her Majesty's Government that it was the desire that the money should be sent forward to Ireland immediately, and not mingled with any slower mode of relief the Imperial Government might have on hand.

Sir JOHN MACDONALD said it was the intention of the Government to use the cable for the purpose of informing her Majesty's Government of this grant, and requesting that it be applied for the immediate relief of the poor in Ireland. The Government had thought over the suggestion of the hon. member for Gloucester, that the money should be sent to some particular fund, but had come to the conclusion that it would be better not to name the fund. There were several funds and some jealousies. The Government had no means of judging of the justice or injustice of these jealousies, but they were satisfied that the Imperial Government would devote the money as requested, to the immediate relief of Ireland. (Applause.)

The motion was carried.

DISMISSALS ON THE INTERCOLONIAL.

Mr. ANGLIN moved for lists of men employed on the Intercolonial railway who had been dismissed since October, 1878. He alleged that men had been dismissed in large numbers, and only those who had not Grit proclivities were re-engaged.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER said the return would show that at present there were 460 less persons on the staff of the Intercolonial than were employed in September, 1878, as he had found that the road could be worked with a much smaller staff than that employed by the late Government. The large majority of these, however, had not been dismissed. Their services had been dispensed with. There was no truth in the allegation that he had unnecessarily dismissed political opponents. The charge made against him had rather been that he had dispensed with the services of political friends, regardless of their claims on the Government, and had retained in the service men who had always been opposed to the Government. Such was the tale that reached him morning after morning. Of course, he had, when employing persons, preferred those who were supporting the Government to those who were violently opposed to it, but political opponents who did their duty to the road he had retained upon its staff. He would suggest that in the motion the term "whose service had been dispensed with" be used instead of the word "dismissed," there being a stigma connected with the word dismissed, which should not be attached to many whose services had been dispensed with.

The motion carried.

The House adjourned at 11.45.

(Continued on Fifth Page.)

A special meeting of the New York Chamber of Commerce was held on Saturday afternoon to consider the subject of erecting a suitable monument in Wall street to commemorate the inauguration of George Washington, the first President of the United States. A resolution was adopted, referring the matter to a committee of twenty-five, to ascertain if a suitable site can be obtained for such a monument, and to decide what further means can be adopted to carry the project into execution.

THE CANADIAN ACADEMY OF ARTISTS

Preparations for the First Exhibition.

Their Excellencies' Encouragement.

OTTAWA, Feb. 19.—Mr. L. C'Brien, of Toronto, President of the new Canadian Academy of Artists, is at present in the city, and a guest of his Excellency the Governor-General. This society, it should be mentioned, is altogether apart from a similar society formed recently in Ottawa. The idea originated with his Excellency the Governor-General, who spoke of it to Mr. O'Brien about a year ago, when that gentleman was asking his Excellency's patronage for the Ontario Society of Artists. It was also mentioned by his Excellency in his speech before the Montreal Artists' Association. Correspondence was held with different artists on the subject, and the matter is now getting into shape.

PLAN OF THE ACADEMY.

The main idea is, doubtless, to have something in Canada similar to the Royal Academy in England. The exhibitions will be held, if possible, in rotation in Ottawa, Halifax, St. John, Quebec, Toronto and Montreal, the two latter cities coming last on the list, as they have local societies of their own, and it is felt desirable to cultivate the new fields first. For the first year his Excellency is to nominate the officers, the honorary members, and the members, after which the society will elect its own officers. His Excellency is patron, and her Royal Highness the Princess Louise, patroness. It has been agreed that each Academician and Associate nominated by his Excellency shall contribute a picture, piece of sculpture, or architectural design, as a representation of their professional ability, and that from their contributions their Excellencies shall choose their best work, which is to be presented by the Academy to the country as the nucleus of a National Art Gallery at Ottawa.

OFFICERS AND MEMBERS.

Mr. O'Brien has been appointed President of the Society; Mr. Bourassau, of Montreal, Vice-President; Mr. J. Smith, Treasurer, and Mr. Matthews, Secretary. The members of the Academy are academicians and associates, all being professional artists. His Excellency the Governor-General is to contribute $500 annually towards the Society, Col. Gilmour $100, and so on down. The nominal fee for honorary members is $1 per annum.

THE FIRST EXHIBITION.

For the first exhibition, which is expected to open about the 3rd of March and continue for two or three weeks, his Excellency will give a bronze medal; and a number of manufacturers interested in art are to give prizes for designs suitable to art industry. On the opening night there will be a conversazione, at which, it is hoped, that his Excellency and her Royal Highness the Princess will both be present. In any event a speech from his Excellency is expected. The exhibition will be held in the Clarendon Hotel building in Sussex street, the walls of which have been coloured in "academy red," for the better distribution of the pictures. The main dining-room is to be the main room, and a screen has been run down the centre and will be covered with antiquated tapestries to be contributed by his Excellency. Oil paintings will be exhibited here, and also in the room in the rear, in the centre of which is to be placed a statue, now being executed by Mr. Van Suppen, of Montreal. On the flight above, some twelve rooms, six on either side, have been connected, the one with the other, and will be devoted to the exhibition of water colours, architectural designs, drawings, etc. Pictures for the exhibition are beginning to arrive in large numbers, and the success of the first public display appears to be assured. As it will be the first Dominion exhibition of the kind, a good deal of interest will naturally centre in the event, and it is to be hoped a happy inaugural will form a suitable introduction to a long and successful career.

THE LUMBER TRADE.

Continued Improvement—Advance in Prices—Favourable Prospects.

OTTAWA, Feb. 19.—The timber trade continues to improve. Reports from Quebec state that a number of sales have been made at advanced rates. Recently a prominent square timber man stated to a reporter that the improvement was fully equal to 40 per cent., and that the prices now were almost as good as they were in the palmiest days of the trade. The same improvement is noticeable in the lumber trade. Prices have advanced 25 per cent. for dry lumber, and the stocks held in the Chaudiere yards have reduced fully 50 per cent. The present season has been very unfavourable for operations in the Michigan district, which has a tendency to improve the Canadian trade. The prospects for a brisk season were never brighter in the Ottawa district.

ORANGEISM.

Meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Ontario West.

The twenty-first annual meeting of the R. W. the Provincial Grand Orange Lodge of Ontario West, was held on Tuesday and Wednesday last, in the town of Walkerton. There was a large attendance of members, and great unanimity characterized the entire proceedings. The reports presented by the various officers indicat that the Order is in a most flourishing condition. Before the close of the meeting on Wednesday, the following brethren were elected officers for the ensuing year:—Major James Bennett, Toronto, R.W. G.M.; H. A. L. White, St. Mary's, D.G.M.; John Hoey, Rockwood, A.D.G.M.; Rev. Hugh Cooper, Listowel, G.C.; N. Clarke Wallace, M.P., Woodbridge, G. Treas.; Thomas Keys, St. Catharines, G. Sec.; Arthur Robb, Stratford, D. of C.; John Niblock, Parkhill, G. Lec.; William Magness, St. Catharines, D. G. Sec.; W. Douglas, Eglington, D. G. Lec.; Deputy Grand Chaplains, Rev. Bros. Rural Dean Cooper, E. C. Perry, W. W. Walsh, D. A. Macdonald, M.A.; W. E. MacKay, Alex. Sanson, M.A.; John A. Dowler and S. Smith. It was decided to hold the next meeting of the Grand Lodge at St. Mary's. A committee was appointed to present a testimonial to Mr. W. J. Parkhill, M. P. P., the retiring Grand Master.

THE QUEBEC LEGISLATURE.

No Meeting Probable Before April.

QUEBEC, Feb. 24.—The Provincial Legislature has been further formally adjourned until the 28th March next, therefore there can be now no session until April. The Government is very busy, as it is their intention to introduce several very important measures.

The Rum in Nova Scotia.

HALIFAX, N.S., Feb, 18.—A Pugwash correspondent says the prospects for the coming summer were never so bright. Active preparations are being made for an extraordinary shipment of lumber, and a lobster factory in competent hands is to be started. These two industries will give employment to all hands at remunerative wages. The steam grist mill is to be enlarged and drying and fulling is to be added to the work done in the old foundry. Henderson & Potts, manufacturers of paint, putty, white lead, &c., are steadily pushing on the work of preparing their new premises at the north-west arm for an early commencement in manufacturing. It is expected that operations will be begun about the first of the month.

Trade with the West Indies.

HALIFAX, N. S., Feb. 19.—Over 1,700 barrels and crates of potatoes were shipped to West India ports yesterday, besides a large quantity of dry and pickled fish, lumber, hay and oats.

STRANGE DISCOVERY IN MADOC

An Hotel Proprietor Accidentally Comes Upon Some Singular Coins.

MADOC, Feb. 23.—One of the strangest discoveries of the day has been made here. While Mr. Moon, a hotel proprietor of this place, was poking around in Coe, Mitchell & Co.'s hematite bed, fourteen feet below the surface, and imbedded in the iron ore, he discovered eight most peculiar coins. He got two loose, and brought a lump of ore to the village, where he broke it up and found the other six. The form is something the size of a quarter dollar in circumference, and about one-sixth of an inch in thickness. To explain the characters on the coins would be impossible. Some of the characters represent females, a fish, crown, stars, spears, etc. They must be very old indeed, as no one seems to have ever heard of such coins ever being used in Canada. Probably some Indian tribe years ago may have buried them there. In the same bed of ore, eighteen feet below the surface, have been found deers' horns in different shapes.

TORONTO AND OTTAWA.

Bonus By-Law Carried in Peterboro' County by a Large Majority.

PETERBORO', Feb. 21.—The vote in the County of Peterboro' on the amended by-law granting aid to the Toronto and Ottawa Railway, allowing the whole of the $150,000 to be expended east of Peterboro', took place to-day, and although the returns so far are but partial, sufficient have been received to warrant the belief that the by-law has been carried by a handsome majority. The following are the returns so far as heard from:—

	For.	Against.
Norwood Village	112	None.
Asphodel No. 2	44	6
Asphodel No. 3	75	6
North Monaghan	59	None.
Lakefield, maj	..	15
Douro No. 1, maj	..	9
Ashburnham	115	11
Smith No. 1	60	12
Dummer No. 2	55	1
Blairton	69	None.
Belmont No. 2	44	5
Westwood	5	46
Villiers	9	50
Smith No. 1, maj	..	28
Harvey No. 3, maj	..	28
Totals	608	217

Majority, so far as heard from, 391. The by-law is undoubtedly carried by a majority approaching 400.

THE CHINESE QUESTION.

Shocking State of Affairs in China Town, San Francisco.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 21.—A warrant has been issued for the arrest of Mr. Parrott, on the charge of employing Chinese in the Sulphur Bank Quicksilver Mining Company, of which Parrott is President. The case is made up to test the constitutionality of the Act recently passed by the Legislature prohibiting corporations from employing Chinese. Parrott has applied for a writ of *habeas corpus*.

At a meeting of the Board of Health to-day the report of the committee appointed to investigate the Chinese quarter was read. The report details the state of affairs found to exist there, and is disclosures of crowding, filth, disease, crime, utter disregard of all considerations for the preservation of life, health and property is even more startling than expected. The report closed with a recommendation that China town be condemned as a nuisance, and calls upon the authorities to take the necessary steps for its abatement without delay. The report was unanimously adopted. It is expected immediate action will be taken. The workingmen are highly gratified at the action, which it is believed will meet with little opposition except from interested parties. The Board of Trade and Chamber of Commerce to-day appointed a committee to consider the best course for alleviating the distress among the working classes.

Petroleum Producers' Council.

TITUSVILLE, Pa., Feb. 19.—The Petroleum Producers' Grand Council discussed an agreement upon which the Standard Conspiracy suits have been withdrawn. Forty-five delegates were present. The agreement provides that producers shall make no opposition to the abrogation of rebates, drawbacks, and secret rates of freight. The Standard Oil and United Pipe line will not receive any rebates which the railroads are not at liberty to give other shippers of petroleum, and there shall be no discrimination used by the pipe lines between or against their patrons. The rates of pipage shall be reasonable, uniform and not be advanced except on thirty days' notice. The Standard Company pipe lines agree that there shall be no difference in the price of petroleum between one district and another except such as may be based on the difference in quality. The pipe lines will make every reasonable effort to transport, store and deliver the oil tendered them as long as the production does not exceed an average of 65,000 barrels a day during fifteen consecutive days.

A Youth's Singular Death.

ST. JOHN, N.B., Feb. 19.—A boy named Aube met his death in a peculiar manner at Bathurst the other day. While returning from school, he amused himself by turning somersaults from a very high snow bank. He was in the act of turning one when he struck on his head, and in trying to right himself, strained his body. He was assisted home and went to bed as usual, but awoke about five in the morning bleeding profusely from the nose and mouth, and died in a few minutes. He was about sixteen years of age, and was the main support of his family, his father having lost both his eyes and arms in a blasting accident during the construction of the Intercolonial railway.

Knoblloch & Leabenstein, German bankers, of New York, have collected about $9,000 for the famine sufferers in Silesia. Assistance is urgently needed.

Mr. T. D. Tims, Financial Inspector, and Mr. Collingwood Schrieber, Chief Engineer of the Government railways, left Ottawa on Friday night for Winnipeg, on railway business.

Mr. Adams, of Ottawa, who has not had his natural rest for the past seven or eight months, has left for England, in the hope that the sea voyage will improve his condition.

Several arrests were made at Cleveland, O., on Saturday, under the law punishing persons employing children under fourteen during school hours, when not compelled to work on account of poverty.

It is reported in Quebec that a girl in a disreputable house in that city, who is in a very dangerous state, has been accidentally poisoned by the mistake of a young man who is practising medicine without a licence.

It is rumoured at Washington that M. De Lesseps intends to offer General Grant the presidency or vice-presidency of his company, and expects to secure the placing in the United States of half his proposed capital stock.

Messrs. Arthur Sullivan and W. S. Gilbert, authors and composers of "H.M.S. Pinafore," and R. D'Oyly Carte are at Clifton. Mr. Arthur Sullivan leaves Clifton to-day for Ottawa on a visit to his Excellency the Governor-General and H.R.H. the Princess Louise.

Disturbances are feared at Port au Prince owing to the loan question. The Chambers oppose the Executives' proposal to recognize the integral debt. The Executive is determined. The belief prevails that the matter is a job between the President and the loan contractors. Military preparations have been made at Port au Prince.

Jacob Abdallah, who says he is a centenarian, has been admitted to the General Hospital at Ottawa. He claims to be 106 years of age, but whether that is correct is not known. One thing is certain, he is very old. He says he is of Arabian descent, and claims to have fought at the battle of Trafalgar under Lord Nelson. For the past year or so he has sold apples and oranges around the streets of the capital.

CANADIAN ITEMS.

An Acton man named Angus McDonald celebrated his 104th birthday on Thursday last. He is a survivor of Waterloo.

Mr. John Small has purchased thirty acres of the Rapeljie estate, Yarmouth Heights, from Mr. Phillips, for $2,100.

The new button factory, to be started in Boehmer's brick block, Berlin, by Messrs. C. Nordhause & Co., will be in operation in about three weeks.

Mr. Wm. Greenwood, of the 4th con. of Maryboro', has purchased the north half of lot 106, con. D, from Charles Bolton, for the small sum of $1,280 cash.

The members of the I. O. O. F. are cautioned against relieving one Wm. H