

hope to be able to submit, at an early day, a proposal for such an extension of the existing lines as may render them more generally useful and still more productive.

You will be called upon to consider the propriety of providing an improved mode of transit between St. Peter's Bay and the Bras D'Or, demanded by the increasing business of that section of the Province.

The time, I think, has arrived when increased provision should be made and improved Legislation adopted for the wider diffusion of Education among all classes of the people, and your attention will shortly be invited to a measure having that object in view.

You will be gratified to learn that great activity has been exhibited throughout the year just closed, in mining enterprises, a large number of new leases for coal mines having been taken out, and the yield of gold being nearly double that of the previous year. Amendments in the laws relating to these valuable public resources, suggested by increased experience, will be brought under your notice. In connection with this subject and closely allied to it, you will be asked to consider the propriety of authorizing a Geographical Survey of the Province.

Under the Legislation of last Session, Agricultural Exhibitions were held in the Eastern and Western Districts of the County, and I am happy to be able to state, with highly satisfactory results. Some alterations, however, in the existing Enactments on that subject will be proposed for your consideration, in the hope that still greater stimulus may be given to the culture of the soil, the improvement of the stock, and the advancement of the textile manufactures of the Province.

A Bill to provide for the proper Registration of Births, Marriages, and Deaths, a subject of very great importance, will be brought under your notice.

Proposed alterations and amendments in the laws connected with the Post-office and Revenue Departments will be brought under your notice.

The correspondence between the Imperial Government and this Colony, respecting the due investigation of Ship wrecks taking place on the coasts of this Province, will be laid before you with a measure providing for marine Courts of Enquiry.

Our grateful thanks are due to Almighty God for the continued peace and prosperity we have enjoyed during the past year, marked as it has been by an abundant harvest, a successful fishery, an expanding trade, and the increased development of our great mineral resources.

On returning to the House, the SPEAKER said: "I have deferred until now making my acknowledgments to the House for the honour it has conferred upon me in electing me to the high and responsible situation of Speaker. It now becomes my duty to offer you my most grateful thanks for the distinguished honor you have done me, after a service of thirteen years in the Assembly as the people's representative. I can assure you that my best energies will be devoted to discharge the duties of this office—to advance the public business with regularity and

despatch, and with the strictest impartiality.—In maintaining the order and dignity of the House, I shall require your assistance, and I have no doubt that I shall receive it on all occasions.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The HON. ATTY. GENERAL proposed H. C. D. Twining, Esq., as First Clerk, which was seconded by the Hon. Solicitor General, and passed unanimously.

The HON. ATTY. GENERAL then proposed J. G. Tobin, Esq., for the office of Second Clerk. A. G. Archibald, Esq., moved in amendment, that A. James, Esq., be elected Second Clerk. The original motion was carried 37 to 14.

HON. ATTY. GENERAL moved, and Hon. Sol. General seconded, the nomination of Edward A. Pike for the situation of Sergeant-at-Arms.

Mr. JOHN LOCKE nominated Mr. Joyce, the late officer, which was seconded by Mr. Robertson.

The result of the balloting showed 35 votes for Mr. Pike and 16 for Mr. Joyce.

Mr. Richardson Harris was proposed by the Atty. General for the office of Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms, and there being no other candidate named, Mr. Harris obtained the office.

ATTY. GENERAL then moved that the Rev. J. C. Cochran be Chaplain of the House, which was seconded by A. G. Archibald, Esq. Both the mover and seconder referred in terms of commendation to Mr. Cochran's former term of chaplaincy. The motion was unanimously carried.

John Fitzgerald, on motion of the Atty. General, seconded by A. G. Archibald, Esq., was re-appointed messenger.

Mr. KAULBACK, of Lunenburg, introduced, *pro forma*, a bill to amend Chap. 46 of the revised statutes, of County Assessments.

ANSWER TO THE ADDRESS MOVED.

Mr. S. MACDONNELL then moved the answer to the Address. In the commencement of his remarks he expressed his pleasure in being able to refer in flattering terms to the prosperous condition of the country, and the state of the revenue. Notwithstanding that at the last session of the Legislation the *ad valorem* duties were reduced from 12½ to 10 per cent., there was a large increase in the amount of duties collected during the year over the preceding one, contrary to the anticipations of the late Financial Secretary, who in his estimate for the past year allowed for a falling off in the revenue, owing to such reduction. As a further index to the advancing prosperity of the country, the public would learn with pleasure that the amount of exports for the past year exceeds that of the previous one by about a million dollars. In reference to the Militia Mr. Macdonnell stated that in connection with this laudable and necessary movement, it was satisfactory to know that nearly 40,000 men have undergone military training during the year just past; while the militia returns show the number of acting and commanding officers to be at present no less than 2,000.

As to the Union of the Maritime Colonies, contemplated in the speech, Mr. Macdonnell contended that a uniformity in the tariffs, which, if effected, must necessarily conduce to the mu-