

estimated at \$34,500,000, and the estimated expenditure \$33,124,550. He said difficulties had arisen in collecting customs revenue, and it had been decided to change the duties on some articles from ad valorem to specific. He announced that the Government had made arrangements with the C. P. R., by which the company undertake to pay back \$20,000,000 in cash by the first of July next, the Government taking a certain number of acres of land and selling them to recoup the extra \$10,000 now secured on their lands. Cartwright attacked the Government, lamenting the slow progress Canada had made, as compared with other countries. The Government had run the country too rapidly and deeply into debt. Their errors of policy had done the damage. All might be traced to one source, the determination of the Government to maintain themselves in office. The Prime Minister was the one man who was responsible for this degradation. He declared that the deficit of the present year was really nearly five millions.

PROVINCIAL.—Wednesday, March 24th.—The bill to incorporate the Truro Condensed Milk and Canning Co., and the bill incorporating the Trustees of the Presbyterian Church at Carleton, Yarmouth Co., passed the third reading.

Mr. Gayton introduced a bill in respect to the sale of intoxicating liquors. The introducer of the bill stated that it was a consolidation of the present license laws. Its principal features are to make the laws of the Province uniform; to abolish saloon licenses; the establishment of higher license fees; and to increase the penalty for violations of the law.

Hon. Mr. Church introduced a bill to amend chap. 7 R. S. of "mines and minerals."

Thursday, March 25th.—Mr. McRae introduced a bill to repeal chap. 125 R. S., 5th Series. Mr. Fielding, a bill relating to the City of Halifax. Mr. White, a bill to amend chap. 37 of the Acts of 1885, enabling the County of Cape Breton to borrow money.

The bills amending chap. 112 R. S. of limitation of actions, chap. 29 R. S. of agricultural societies, chap. 56 R. S. of county incorporations, chap. 67 R. S., chap. 8 R. S. of regulation of mines, and chap. 7 R. S. of mines and minerals, passed the third reading.

Mr. Fielding introduced a bill respecting the education of the blind, amending chap. 32 R. S. He explained that the private donations and bequests to the institution had decreased, and in consequence the Government had decided to allow \$75 for each pupil, instead of \$60 as heretofore. A similar amount would be collected from the Municipality sending pupils, so that \$150 would be paid for each pupil, instead of \$120.

Friday, March 26th.—The following bills were read a third time:—Bill to amend chap. 112 R. S. "of the limitation of actions," to change the name of a settlement in Pictou Co., to amend chap. 39 R. S. "of the encouragement of agriculture, to amend the Act incorporating Hopewell Woolen Mills Co., to amend chap. 8 R. S. "of the regulation of mines and minerals."

Mr. Cook presented a petition from Sylvanus Morton and about five hundred others, residents of Queen's Co., asking for a subsidy for a railroad from Liverpool to Annapolis.

Mr. Church laid on the table the returns from the coal royalties of Nova Scotia from 1860 to 1885 inclusive. From the return, it appears that the coal royalties collected in 1860 amounted to \$25,062, increasing in 1866 to \$46,939; in 1873 to \$83,509. In 1876, there was a falling off in receipts to \$40,839; but in 1885, the royalties had increased to \$101,411. The largest amount received in any one year was in 1883—\$104,953.

Monday, March 29.—A bill to amend the act authorizing the removal of an abattoir in the La Planché river; a bill amending chap. 32, R. S., of the education of the blind, and a bill in reference to the manufacture of iron and steel in Pictou Co., passed a third reading.

Mr. Bell introduced a bill to provide New Glasgow with water; Mr. Fielding a bill in reference to lunatics confined in the insane hospital at the expense of the city of Halifax; Mr. Pipes a bill to amend the act enabling the municipality of Cumberland to borrow money for railway purposes.

Mr. Fielding laid on the table the report of the commission of municipal assessment, and introduced a bill to consolidate and amend the acts relating to assessment.

Mr. Church laid on the table the annual report of the department of mines for 1885. From the report we learn that in the coal trade the total sales for the year amounted to 1,254,510 tons, as compared with 1,261,650 tons in 1884. The home sales were 447,652 tons compared with 493,050, in the previous year. The decrease in the home consumption is attributed to the fact that the Londonderry iron works now use about 45,000 tons per annum less than formerly. 157,421 days labor were performed in gold mining operations during the year, and 28,890 tons of quartz were taken out and crushed, yielding 22,203 ounces of gold, being an increase over the yield of 1884 of 6,124 ounces.

Tuesday, March 30.—Mr. Church introduced a bill to amend chap. 56, R. S. of county incorporations, by giving New Germany polling district No. 50, Lunenburg Co., two councillors instead of one. He also laid on the table the report of the public printing for 1885. The cost of printing the Revised Statutes was \$6,667.78, and for other work \$9,825.26.

The report of the board of charities for 1885 was presented. It contains an account of the hospital difficulty. The bequests to the hospital for the insane amount to \$9,640.77. The contract price for the new poor house is \$48,431. The Deaf and Dumb institution had during 1885 an attendance of 40 males and 34 females. The Halifax School for the Blind had a registered attendance of 26. Since the opening of the school in 1872, 69 pupils have attended, 27 of whom completed their course. The total number of blind persons in the Maritime Provinces over 21 years of age is 554. The Provincial hospital admitted 689 patients, the majority of whom were cured.

The report of the debt and subsidy account was also laid on the table.

[FOR THE CRITIC.] SESSIONAL NOTES.

FREQUENT TON.—A Bill which would involve a constitutional change, is that brought forward by Mr. Ellis, to abolish the Legislative Council. In introducing it, he reviewed the history of the Council from the formation of the Province to the present time, pointing out that until 1832, it included Executive Council and other office holders, and conducted its sessions with closed doors. There were numerous conflicts between it and the Assembly, and occasionally a dead-lock. In 1880, a bill passed in the Assembly to make the Council elective, but was thrown out in the Upper House. The various subsequent attempts to abolish the Council, or make it elective, met with the same fate. Its functions seemed now to be only corrective. Its abolition would save \$12,000 a year. Ontario, Manitoba, and British Columbia, as well as some European countries, are governed satisfactorily with a single chamber. In concluding, Mr. Ellis urged some very strong objections against making the Council elective. The vote was immediately taken with the following result:—

Yeas—Hon. Messrs. Blair, Gillespie, Ryan, Mitchell, Ritchie, Turner; Messrs. Colter, Nadeau, Glasier, Whiten, Wilson, Loughton, Ellis, Stockton, McManus, Lewis, Hibbard, White, Perly, Black, Humphrey, Burchill, Pugsley, Palmer—24.

Nays—The Speaker, Messrs. Wetmore, Leblanc, Latillois, McAdam, Morton, Hon. Mr. McLellan—7. Absent, 9.

The committee of the Legislative Council, appointed to report on (1), The financial condition of the Province; (2), The means of economizing, and (3), The substitution of biennial for annual Sessions, have arrived at the following results:—The Public Debt in 1840 amounted to \$696,000, in 1883, \$1,227,202.09, in 1885, \$1,696,918.43. These amounts include floating debt, which was \$291,202.09 in 1883, but by bonding, has been lowered to \$11,718.43 in 1885. There remains also to be paid on railway subsidies \$188,500, which may have to be added to the permanent debt. The interest now paid annually on the debt amounts to \$86,863. The Revenue, of which the largest items are from Dominion subsidies, Export Duty Indemnity, and Territorial Revenue, amounts to \$603,735.70; and this sum subtracted from the Government's estimates for the present year, leaves a probable deficit of about \$20,000. The committee recommend, (1), The abolition of all heads of Departments; (2), Reduction of the Executive Council to six members; (3), Abolition of departmental reports; (4), Reduction in printing; (5), Abolition of grants to agricultural societies; (6), Reduction of departmental staffs; (7), Reduction in contingencies of Council and Assembly; (8), Adoption of biennial sessions; (9), Reduction in the rate of stampage. The Report is signed by Hons. R. Young, T. B. Jones, A. A. Davidson, and J. C. Barberie.

KING'S DIVISION GRANGE, NO. 47, PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY.

Pursuant to adjournment, King's Division Grange met in Jackson's Hall, Coldbrook, Feb. 16th, at one o'clock, p. m. In the absence of the Worthy Master, the Worthy Overseer occupied the Master's Office. On account of the badness of the roads the more distant brethren were not largely in attendance, although a very good and influential number of Patrons in the vicinity were promptly on hand.

The Auditor's report showing a credit of \$42, and the Secretary's statement conveying the information that the Division Grange had increased fifty six members during the past year, were well received. The committee appointed at the previous meeting of the Grange to meet with the Temperance Alliance, to aid in the formation of the cause of temperance, reported that their joint labors were of a very interesting and profitable nature.

The delegates to the Maritime Provincial Grange reported that no action was taken looking to reform in the method of electing officers. The session was reported to have been of a profitable and pleasing character.

As the evening session was to be open to the public, and the subject of Parliamentary Representation was to be discussed, short speeches on this theme were made by many brothers present, which were characterized by a determined intention to sustain and vote for those candidates only who were uncompromising in their efforts to put down the demoralizing rum traffic, and to legislate in favor of the important industries of the country.

The good sisters having prepared a sumptuous tea in the ante-room, the Grange was closed and the usual feasting promptly attended to.

The public soon assembled and the hall was filled with a very respectable audience.

The subject of Parliamentary Representation, as already announced, was introduced by the Chairman, brother A. A. Pineo, which brought on a pleasant and instructive debate. The brethren of the Grange—prominent farmers—and members of the Temperance Alliance, appeared to vie with each other in their determination to cast their influence in favor of a better system of parliamentary representation and legislation, and while the members of the Alliance advocated the imperative necessity of legislators being avowed Temperance men, and pledged to carry out their principles in the legislation of the country, irrespective of party politics, the good Patrons fully joined in this view, and contended that educated agriculturists—pledged to the advocacy of Temperance reform and the best interests of agriculture, were the most suitable men to represent us in the Local or Dominion Parliaments.

This meeting, held under the auspices of the Patrons of Husbandry, may be classed as a union meeting of the best intelligence of the county, and was remarkable for the zeal and harmony of its proceedings.

JOSEPH T. JACKSON,
Secretary King's Division Grange.