

differing so essentially in idiosyncrasy as (the supposed) Sappho and the "Calculating Boy." But the instances I allude to are the notable ones of Mrs. Somerville and Miss Herschel, the former famous for her reduction of Laplace's work, which she called "The Mechanism of the Heavens," and her "Connection of the Physical Sciences;" the latter an astronomer so able as to make her the right hand of her great brother.

All the strenuous measures taken against Jack Rabbit in Australia threaten to be failures, and that individual actually seems to threaten ruin both to the squatter and the agriculturist, unless his progress can be arrested. There seems to be a suspicion that rascals who make their living by the various devices adopted against the marauder, take care that he shall not be extinguished, by letting loose a pair here and there in "fresh fields and pastures new." I should think that there would be short shrift for one of these gentry if caught in the act. Queensland is as yet free, but in dire terror. Preventive measures are actually costing millions sterling, and as yet with little result.

FRANC-THEUR.

PARLIAMENTARY REVIEW.

The government bill to restrict the expenditure by the province on educational account to the amount paid last year (\$210,000) was passed—after a debate that was practically useless, but that occupied the time of the House for three days—by a vote of 28 to 8. The only member not recording his vote was a government supporter.

This "debate" has been a curious one. All, or nearly all, who opposed the passage of the bill, acknowledged, that in view of the present condition of the provincial finances, and, taking into consideration the probabilities of the future, the present expenditure was as large as circumstances would permit.

Mr. T. R. Black introduced a bill to prevent the profanation of the "Lord's Day." The animus of this bill being plainly directed against the running of the cars on Sunday by the Halifax Street Railway Company—all other matters concerning which it pretends to deal being amply provided for by existing laws—it is probable that our country legislators will wake up to the fact that legislation that has not been asked for by the citizens through their regularly chosen representatives in the City Council and in the Assembly, or in any other way, is uncalled for on the part of outsiders. It is barely possible that this preposterous bill may find a seconder in the House, but the common-sense of the overwhelming majority will rebuke the proposition. Even—supposing an impossibility—that the bill carries in both Houses, it could not be carried out without saddling the Province with legal expenses, in the vain attempt to enforce it, that the state of the exchequer will not admit.

Mr. Hearn's bill to amend the License Act of 1886 as regards Richmond and Inverness Counties, passed its second reading without opposition, and will, doubtless, become law.

On Friday, the usual motion to adjourn till Monday was made, and was resisted by the government, so that the House only adjourned till the next day. This shows that the Local Parliament has nearly completed its labors for this year. The House and the Government deserve congratulations for the rapidity with which the public business has been transacted. Although the assembling of the Legislature was at a later date than has generally been customary in this Province, it found the executive so prepared on all points with well-matured measures for its consideration that no time has been wasted, and the order of the day has been strict attention to work. Short sessions in which little time is lost in "twaddle," tend to decrease the legislative expenses more than is apparent to those who have not given thought to the subject.

The Atty. Gen. laid on the table of the House the rules recently adopted by the Judges of the Supreme Court.

Mr. Fraser, (Guysboro'), gave notice of resolution to refer the school-book question to select committee, which shall have power to examine under oath publishers and others interested.

The Prov. Sec'y., in reply to Mr. Hearn, said that the government had not yet received any communication from Mr. Mercer about an inter-provincial conference. Also, in reply to Mr. Fraser, (Guysboro'), that the views of the government in reference to Repeal would be communicated to the House in a few days.

During the week petitions were presented from the overseers of the poor in a district in Antigonish county; for the construction of a public road to connect a proposed new settlement to be called Fielding of emigrants in Antigonish county with other and older settlements in its vicinage; from the overseers of the poor in Isaac's Harbor, Guysboro' county; from William Bolong and others for aid to a ferry; from Archibald McDonald and others for aid to a road; from certain inhabitants of a part of Kentville township to be separated from that town; for the establishment of a half-way house between Cheticamp and Pleasant Bay; from W. H. Matheson, an aged teacher of Wood's Harbor, for a grant of crown lands; from Dugald McLaughlin relative to a grant of crown lands; from the overseers of the poor in a district in Kings county; from W. Wilson and others for aid for a road in Kings county; from the inhabitants of Burlington, Kings, praying that the Provincial Engineer examine a bridge, from a Mr. Elderkin relative to certain lands of his that had been escheated; from the inhabitants of Washabuck, Victoria, for aid for a new road; from Julius Delong asking for a grant of crown lands; from Rev. Father Quinan and others asking to be reimbursed for certain expenses as school trustees; from John Morrison and others for aid to a road; from inhabitants of Ketch Harbor for aid to a road; three in favor of the passage of T. R. Black's bill respecting the Lord's Day; from Miss Hugo and others of Arichat, asking that a surveyor be sent to settle the boundaries of certain lands now in dispute.

Bills were introduced as follows:—By T. R. Black to incorporate the Cumberland Lodge of Knights of Pythias. By McKinnon to change the name of a settlement in Inverness. By the Prov. Sec'y. relative to the City of Halifax. By McGillivray to amend chap. 97, Acts of 1886, of the Cape Breton and Pictou Railway Company, limited. By T. R. Black to prevent the profanation of the Lord's Day. By Weeks to amend chap. 50, Acts of 1886, relating to the Nova Scotia Judicature Act. By the Prov. Sec'y. to change the name of the City and Provincial Hospital to the Victoria Hospital, and to borrow \$20,000 to add a new wing thereto. By Rind to amend the Act incorporating the town of Kentville. By R. L. Black to confirm certain poor districts in Cumberland. By the Prov. Sec'y. to authorize the sale of an old Presbyterian church in Musquodoboit. By R. L. Black to amend chap. 56, R.S., of county incorporations. By the Prov. Sec'y. to incorporate the Halifax Young Ladies' College in connection with the Presbyterian Church of Canada. By McCoy to enable the municipality of Barrington to borrow money to build a poor house. By McNeil, (Digby), to unite Long Island and Briar Island in one poor section, and to partially remove them from the control of the municipal council of Digby. By Laurence to incorporate the Onslow Breakwater and Marsh Company. By McCoy to amend 42 Victoria, chap. 75, of the laws respecting the Benefit Building and Loan Society.

The bill to change the name of the hospital and to borrow \$20,000 to build a new wing was carried by a vote of 29 to 6.

The bill to prevent the profanation of the Lord's Day passed its second reading by a vote of 19 to 17. Mr. Roche, however, stated that he voted in the affirmative at that stage, reserving the right to vote against it when it returned from committee unless it was radically amended. It is understood that the member who was absent will vote against it on the final stage.

The Prov. Sec'y. gave notice that he would move an address to Her Majesty on the occasion of her jubilee.

COMMERCIAL.

The condition of trade has been without material change since our last report. Though the snow-blockade of the railways was broken at the end of last week, stormy weather has continued to such an extent as to seriously impede movements, and has affected the volume of business transacted in nearly every department. Despite all the drawbacks, as much progress has been made as could be expected, though the markets have presented a generally quiet aspect. Payments still continue slow, but they will undoubtedly improve with better weather. The general feeling in mercantile circles is healthy and confident. The results are so far better than they were a year ago at this date, while the outlook for further improvement in the near future is encouraging.

A new revelation *à re* the late disastrous failure of the Maritime Bank of St. John has been made. It is, that on the 16th of September last an anonymous circular letter was mailed in London, G. B., to all the principal banking houses in Canada, cautioning them against the suspicious business transactions of Stewart Bros., of Fen Court, London, and R. A. & J. Stewart, of St. John. This document asserted that the Stewarts issued drafts from Canada on companies in London, discounted them with Canadian bankers, and appropriated the proceeds, in order to meet the accommodation bills that they made daily in connection with other firms, in order to keep themselves afloat. The circular further stated that the Stewarts and their debtors were doomed to fail shortly, and sink a lot of people with them. Also, that when the drafts were melted in Canada the proceeds were transferred by cable to Stewart Brothers, of London. Although this document was anonymous, still, its predictions and assertions have since been proved so true in all important particulars, and the circumstances attending the failure of the Stewarts, and the breaking of the bank that was for many months their main stay and support, that they cannot fail to attract the attention of even the most careless. Had the Maritime Bank accepted the warning conveyed to it over six months ago, and been guided thereby even partially, it would have been far more creditable to its managers, and better for their unfortunate depositors and shareholders. Other banks and bankers were not too self-opinionated or reckless to take proper precautions to see that, if the assertions of that document were true, those who had entrusted them with their funds would not find them swept away.

The Street Railway Company will at once commence the work of constructing the branch through Ball's Lane and Granville street, and will also shortly lay the rails on the branch through Buckingham, Argyle, Jacob, Brunswick, Cogswell, Gottingen, and other streets through the North end of the city, where the sleepers and ties were placed last fall. This will be followed by completing the construction of the branch through Spring Gardens, Inglis street, and connecting thoroughfares. It is expected all this will be accomplished by about the first of June next. Further extensions are projected, and a final decision concerning carrying them out only awaits the return of the President, who is just now absent on business of the company, but who is expected back in a few days.

The Toronto *Merchant* reports that what may be called the annual meeting of the Dominion Grocers' Guild, was recently held in that city. The business under consideration was principally of a private internal character, but it is understood that negotiations have been commenced with the object of securing, if possible, the appointment of a permanent committee to fix the price of granulated sugar throughout the Dominion each week. Another matter of discussion was the regulation of uniform rates of discount on cash sales, proportionate with the increased rates of interest latterly; the majority of houses are in favor of allowing a discount of 3 per cent on sales at fifteen days, and 2½ per cent on sales at thirty days. No action whatever was decided upon.