General Business.

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Commissioners.

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LIST OF PRIZES

1 PRIZE OF	$300,000 is	$300,000
1 PRIZE OF	100,000 is	100,000
1 PRIZE OF	50,000 is	50,000
1 PRIZE OF	25,000 is	25,000
2 PRIZES OF	10,000 are	20,000
5 PRIZES OF	5,000 are	25,000
25 PRIZES OF	1,000 are	25,000
100 PRIZES OF	500 are	50,000
200 PRIZES OF	300 are	60,000
500 PRIZES OF	200 are	100,000
APPROXIMATION PRIZES.		
100 Prizes of $500 approximating to	$300,000 Prize are	50,000
100 Prizes of $300 approximating to	$100,000 Prize are	30,000
100 Prizes of $200 approximating to	$50,000 Prize are	20,000
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1,000 Prizes of $100 decided by	$300,000 Prize are	100,000
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THE MEDICAL HALL.
J. D. B. F. Mackenzie,
Chatham, Feb. 7, '88

NEW METHODIST CHURCH.
ST. LUKE'S.
Persons wishing to RENT PEWS or SITTINGS in the above Church, will have an opportunity of doing so every Wednesday evening between and 7.30 o'clock, when the Church will be open and unofficial in attendance. Persons wishing sittings should apply early as most of the seats are now engaged.
GEO WHITTAKER,
for Trustees

Miramichi Advance,

CHATHAM, N. B. - - MARCH 8, 1888.

The Lumber Industry.

Now that the claim of the Province on account of Eastern Extension Railway is to be paid, it is to be hoped that the local government will recognise the claims of the lumber industry by relieving it of a portion of the heavy stumpage burdens imposed on the plea of revenue necessity. The fact that the lumber business is much depressed, that prices are low in the world's great markets, with no prospect of material or permanent increase; that the cost of lumbering operations is growing greater every year, and that the accumulated burdens of the business have driven many operators to the wall and left many mills in idleness, ought to warn the government and legislature that the continued imposition of the existing high stumpage charges is suicidal. An opportunity is now presented for reducing these rates, and instead of new and, perhaps, needless avenues of expenditure being opened, let there be a just measure of relief afforded to our most important staple industry.

Reprehensible Conduct of Officers.

The attention of the Marine and Fisheries Department, as a whole, is directed to a stupidly unwarranted proceeding on the part of officers of the Fisheries branch of the service, who in their mistaken zeal, established some very dangerous obstructions to navigation in the main channel of the Miramichi on Saturday last. It has been a custom with some fishermen to leave their smelt net pickets in the position occupied all winter for some days after the close of the fishing season—a practice that is, of course, not to be commended—and this season's experience was no exception to the rule. It appears that the officers were determined to enforce the law to the letter this year, and as the forty-eight hours' grace after the smelt fishing season closed, allowed for removing pickets and other fishing appliances from the river, expired on Friday night, the Overseers and Wardens were on the river nearly all day Saturday to see that this important work had been done. In this they were right, for if pickets were allowed to remain, it might be assumed that nets would be set on them at some time, and if the officers had given proper warning of a departure from their usual practice and the fishermen fairly understood what was expected of them, it was only right that they should be made to suffer the consequences of their indifference, by being fined or having the pickets forfeited.

In order that the culpable stupidity of Saturday's work may be fully understood we may state that the pickets referred to are simply light spars varying from thirty to forty-five feet in length, according to the depth of water, and from nine inches downward in diameter. They are pointed at the large ends and driven firmly into the river-bottom, some of them being, in addition, weighted to ensure their remaining firmly embedded. They are generally drawn out of their position each spring, after the fishing is over, by means of levers on the stump-extractor principle, or by being fastened at low tide to a cross-head laid on the ice, which draws them as the tide rises. When taken out they are conveyed to the shore and laid away for service the following year.

On Saturday, however, the Fishery officers visited the river, and, carrying axes with them, cut these pickets or spars off even with the ice, without ceremony. In some cases they were left with their tops on the low tide level and, in others, above it, but, in all cases, as dangerous obstructions to navigation, especially to steamers and smaller craft. Unless the Marine branch of the department causes these stumps to be drawn at once we shall, probably, hear, next season, of the propellers or paddle-wheels of our steamers being broken, and of the bottoms of other craft being punctured. The fisheries officers will, of course, say that the running ice will carry the pickets away, but while this may happen in some cases it will not be so in others, for their tops, being nearly level with the ice in many cases and below it in others, they will bend sufficiently to let the drift pass over them, or not to touched by it at all—especially at high tide—and, it is well known that the greatest run of ice is on the highest spring tides. Moreover, it will be remembered that pickets about the size of those now left cut off in the channel—but with their tops well above the high water level—were left near Napan buoy as well as off Kerr's mill and elsewhere last spring and remained, a source of danger to small craft, all of last summer. This proves that such pickets are not carried away by the ice, and emphasises the reckless stupidity of the Fisheries officers in their work of last Saturday.

Many of the fishermen claim that the officers gave them until Saturday to fish and have their nets and pickets out of the way, and they say they intended to draw their pickets on Saturday night. They claim, further, that the same officers who, on Saturday, cut the tops off the pickets in the channel of the Miramichi near and below Chatham, saw fishing being carried on further down river on the same day and did not interfere. If this, and the statement that they, of their own motion, virtually extended the fishing season until Saturday, are found to be true, it will show that they, themselves, took an unwarranted liberty with the regulations, which led to many of the stakes being found still in position on Saturday, so as to give them opportunity for the display of the reprehensible use of their axes.

The immediate duty of the Marine Department is to cause these dangerous picket-stumps to be removed from the Channel, and, when the Minister pays us his promised visit, we hope he will make a strict inquiry into the circumstances of Saturday's performance on the part of the officers, with a view of preventing such exploits in the future.

Mr. Baird.

A petition has been fyled in the Election Court at Fredericton against the return of Geo. F. Baird, of Queens, by Daniel Palmer, a voter, seeking to void the election and to disqualify Mr. Baird, but not claiming the seat for Mr. King. The grounds, in addition to the usual grounds of bribery and corruption, embrace the charges of false ballots and manipulating of ballots, and all the other charges with which Mr. Baird and his agents have been accused. Mr. Geo. F. Gregory is attorney for the petitioner.

The Late Dr. Earle.

In the death of Dr. Sylvester Zobeiski Earle, St. John loses one of its best known and most deservedly popular citizens. As a physician he ranked amongst the foremost of the Maritime Provinces, and had a large practice; as a public man he possessed excellent administrative abilities, and his genial manners and fine address made him a favorite with all classes. He was twice Mayor of St. John and city Coroner for more than twenty years, besides being Chief Surgeon of the St. John Volunteer Brigade and, afterwards, of the 62nd Battalion. He had been suffering from quite a severe illness for a few weeks, but was supposed to be convalescing and drove out on Thursday last accompanied by his groom. In passing along Paradise Row he fell forward in his sleigh and was observed by Dr. Joseph Andrews, who hastened to his aid and had him conveyed to the house of Dr. Hutchison near by, where, before his wife and son—Mr. A. O. Earle—could reach him he died.

THE KENT NORTHERN Railways is said to have been opened last week, after being closed some six weeks. We hope the report of it being open is true, and we give publicity to it, although we have seen no official announcement to that effect. The Kent Northern is one of the most important local roads on the North Shore, and the business public are, to a certain extent, much inconvenienced by the "intermittent" character of its management. It would be much more satisfactory all round, and especially more just to the public, in view of the obligations of the company to the people and government, if a more honest or efficient effort were made to maintain the regular movement of its trains.

A despatch of 6th instant to the St. John *Globe* says: "The Branch road is "again blockaded—the snow fall of two "inches on Saturday and Sunday did "the work. A gang of men with en-"gine and without snow plough are "working to-day."

The fact that this road is not provided with even a snow-plow, and that the light snow-fall of Saturday, followed by rain and soft weather, was sufficient to delay its trains, indicates a condition of things that demands immediate government enquiry. The Kent Northern Company are simply trifling with the public and their style of Management is such as to bring discredit on railroading. They seem to be possessed of neither ordinary enterprise nor even a moderate sense of their obligations to the public.

Ottawa Notes.

FEB. 29

Mr. Wallace moved in the Commons for a select committee to inquire into the working of certain combines existing in Canada. He urged that such combines were of dangerous character, that in the interest of morality and commercial freedom they should be suppressed.

Mr. Guillet supported the motion.

Messrs. Edgar and Lister thought Mr. Wallace's speech a strong condemnation of the policy of the government which he supported.

Mr. Mitchell said he had supported a high tariff in 1878 as a means of obtaining reciprocity with the United States, but now the government preferred high taxation to reciprocity. It was the duty of the government to propose to the government of the United States that there should be untramelled commercial intercourse between the two countries. The true way to kill combinations was to reduce the customs duties to a reasonable figure.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Welsh, in moving for returns in reference to the pay of captains of government steamers, charged that the captain of the Northern Light was being unjustly treated. His salary had been reduced while the vessel was laid up, although the captain of every other government steamer had his pay continued under such circumstances.

Mr. Weldon intends moving for statements showing the casualities on the Intercolonial during the past year, and also for a statement regarding rolling stock purchased for the Intercolonial last year.

MARCH 1

A long dispute took place in reference to the conduct of the speaker in writing to three French translators. Mr. Laurier denied that the Speaker had any right to interfere with the employes of the house without instructions. The report of the debates committee referring this matter to the speaker had never been adopted by the house and was therefore a dead letter. It was agreed the papers should be taken as read, and printed in the votes and proceedings.

Mr. Guillet attempted to put his question as to what action the government proposed to take in regard to Mr. Ellis, but the speaker ruled that the question was out of order, and could not be put.

Mr. Lister asked if the Government intended to take any action in regard to the action of Mr. Guillet in drawing double indemnity for one session, (Laughter.)

Mr. Davies moved for the correspondence relative to the mail service on Prince Edward Island. He complained that the natural disadvantages under which the island labored had been intensified by the perverse action of the post office and marine departments.

Mr McLelan was proceeding to reply when Sir John Macdonald asked him to postpone his speech.

THE ESTIMATES.

Sir Charles announced that he had brought down the estimates in advance of his financial statement, which would, according to the English custom, be made at a later day. The estimates are as follows:

Service.

Public debt (including sinking fund)	$11,875,381
Charges of management	185,018
Civil government	1,304,524
Administration of justice	686,324
Police	16,500
Penitentiaries	357,331
Legislation	709,090
Arts, agriculture and statistics	147,930
Immigration	116,389
Quarantine	78,864
Pensions and superannuations	336,391
Militia	1,326,500
Railways and canals (income)	273,350
Public Works, do.	1,753,350
Ocean and river service	207,000
Lighthouse and coast service	586,306
Scientific institutions	61,250
Marine hospitals, etc.	62,000
Steamboat inspection	25,000
Fisheries	375,500
Superintendence of insurance	8,500
Subsidies to provinces	4,188,454
Geological survey	60,000
Indians	1,005,702
Northwest mounted police	748,426
Miscellaneous	475,189

Collection of Revenues.

Customs	854,430
Excise	351,627
Culling timber	54,000
Weights and measures and gas	87,970
Inspection of staples	2,500
Adulteration of food	25,000
Minor revenues	4,000
Railways and canals	3,729,316
Public works	190,026
Post office	2,967,620
Dominion lands	181,268
Total consolidated fund	$35,421,440
Redemption of debt	3,094,386
Railways and canals (capital)	5,249,790
Public Works (do.)	310,700
Dominion lands	110,000
Total capital	$8,764,876
Grand total	$44,186,316

Public Works chargeable to Income.

The new appropriations are;

McNair's cove, pier repairs	$ 4,500
Bay St. Lawrence	12,000
Bayfield wharf repairs	3,500
Blue rock	3,000
Broad cove	2,300
Eatonville pier	3,000
Lismore	1,000
Mahone	1,000
Sheet harbor	2,000
Spencer's island pier	5,000
Yarmouth—removal of rocks	1,000
Total	$38,300

New Brunswick.

River St. John	$5,000
Rocher Bay	750
Baie Verte ballast pier	3,000

MARCH 2.

In the house of commons, to-day, Hon. Mr. McLellan resumed the debate on the motion of Mr. Davies, in regard to the Prince Edward Island mail service. He defended his attempts to save money, and said that if Mr. Davies had made his speech a week ago it was doubtful if the special train would have been granted.

Mr. Davies—You don't consider the justice of a matter then, but are guided by prejudice?

Mr. McLellan said that the statements of Mr. Davies would have prejudiced the minds of the ministers.

Messrs. Robertson, Welsh, Perry and McIntyre supported Mr. Davies' statements and complained that Prince Edward Island was being injustly treated.

Mr. Davies, in closing the debate, said that as special trains were to be granted, the postmaster general seemed to have been over-ruled by his colleagues and yielded very reluctantly. He denied Mr. McLellan's statement that Prince Edward Island paid less revenue per head of population than the other provinces and charged Mr. McLellan with seeking to libel the Island and mislead the house.

In answer to Mr. Weldon, Hon. Mr. Pope said the total amount spent on the Intercolonial railway during the past four years and charged to capital was $3,924,000.

Mr. Weldon obtained orders of the house for returns showing the number of casualties on the I. C. R. during the last year, as well as for accounts of rolling stock purchased.

M. Flynn presented a petition from the people of l'Ardoise praying for extension of the lobster fishing season.

Before the house adjourned Sir Hector Langevin paid a tribute to the memory of the late Mr. Robertson, M. P. for West Hastings. Hon. Mr. Laurier also referred in warm terms to the good qualities of the deceased gentleman.

MARCH 5

In the House of Commons today, Mr. Laurier made a touching reference to the death of Mr. Clayes, M. P. for Missisquoi, who died last night. He spoke of the deceased as a gentleman of high culture and great abilities, whose loss would be deeply deplored.

Sir Hector Langevin also spoke of the deceased in high terms.

Replying to Mr. Charlton, Sir Charles Tupper said the papers in connexion with the fishery treaty arrived on Saturday, and would probably be laid before the house before it rose. He expressed his great disappointment at the contents of the protocols. He had intimated that they might contain some references to negotiations respecting the commercial relations of Canada with the United States. While he was ill at Ottawa, however, Mr. Chamberlain wrote suggesting that the protocols should be merely formal. He telegraphed to Mr. Chamberlain at Washington, but an answer came back that they had already been signed. The protocols, therefore, would contain nothing more than had already been made public by the senate of the United States. Sir Charles Tupper said he would communicate with Mr. Chamberlain by cable on the subject, and also with Sir Lionel Sackville West.

Mr. Charlton urged that the formal proposal made to the United States government with answers thereto, should be laid before the house.

Sir Chas. Tupper promised to communicate with Mr. Chamberlain and Sir Lionel Sackville West on the subject, and to obtain permission to lay the matter before the house.

Hon. Mr. Mackenzie rose to protest inviting Mr. Chamberlain or any outsider to interfere in this matter. The British commissioner had nothing whatever to do with trade negotiations between Canada and the United States. Mr. Mackenzie spoke with great difficulty, being supported by Mr. Charlton. He was loudly applauded on both sides on taking his seat.

Hon. Mr. Mitchell did not see why it was necessary to get permission from Mr. Chamberlain to bring down proposals which had been made to the United States government, when the finance minister could telegraph to Washington and obtain permission required in half-an-hour. He ridiculed the idea that Canadian legislation or trade negotiations must wait on Mr. Chamberlain's convenience. It would be difficult for Sir Chas. Tupper to convince the public that he had not sacrificed Canada's interests.

Replying to questions put by Messrs. Mulock and Casey, Sir Charles Tupper said that the men who prepared the protocols were the secretaries of the commission. It had been decided at the outset that the proceedings should be private and that only when a result was reached should anything be made public. The question as to what the protocols should contain was not decided when he left Washington, but he presumed that the proposals made on both sides would be correctly reported. He would endeavor to obtain permission to make the proposals public as soon as possible.

In answer to Sir Richard Cartwright, Mr. Pope said that the receipts of the Intercolonial Railway in 1887 were $1,691,029, and working expenses $2,050,353.

Mr. McIntyre, in moving for a report of the engineer to Naufrage, (?) P. E. Island, in 1885, pointed out the importance of the work in question and urged that the government fulfil its promise to carry it out.

Mr. Robertson spoke in a similar strain and Sir Hector Langevin promised to produce the papers asked for.

A lengthy discussion took place on a motion of Mr. Barron for correspondence in reference to the Trent Valley canal.

Mr. Mulock charged the government with making promises before the election in reference to this work which they never attempt to carry out, and now they proposed to go through the farce of appointing a commission to report on the feasibility of the canal after spending millions of money upon it. This was simply a part of their general policy of corruption and humbug.

General Laurier, replying to a statement made by Mr. Mulock that he had been elected by means of promises, said that the only promise made by the government in his election was that the representations he might make would receive consideration. (Opposition cheers and laughter.)

The motion was then carried and the house adjourned.

THE LEGISLATURE.

The Legislature was formally opened at Fredericton on Thursday last, the usual guard of honor, salute by firing of cannon and similar demonstrations accompanying the event. The Speech delivered by His Honor, Lt.-Governor Tilley, was as follows:—

Mr. President, and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:
Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

"It is my pleasing duty to welcome you on again assembling for your legislative duties, and to congratulate you on the general contentment, and the many evidences of increased business prosperity throughout the country.

"I have great pleasure in informing you that the unsettled claim of this Province, growing out of the Eastern Extension matter, has be pressed vigorously upon the attention of the Dominion Government, and I have no doubt Parliament will be asked to make an appropriation in settlement thereof at the present session.

My government has felt it to be its duty to claim a preference as a crown debt for the balance of provincial funds on deposit in the Maritime Bank at the time of its suspension. As the liquidators of the bank have been advised that this claim for a preference is not sustainable, I have approved of a special case being stated for the opinion of the courts upon the question.

On the invitation of the government of the sister Province of Quebec, delegates from my government attended a conference at the city of Quebec, in October last of gentlemen representing the Executives of four of the Provinces of Canada to consult upon questions of interprovincial interest.

The resolutions unanimously adopted at the conference will be communicated to you, and I invite your favourable consideration to such bills as may be found necessary to lay before you in furtherance of the conclusions at which the Conference arrived.

I have caused plans and specifications to be carefully prepared with a view to the erection of the departmental buildings mentioned at your last session, and I trust these plans will be found on inspection to provide for the departmental offices and records at a moderate cost, and with the needed security and accommodation.

With a view to stimulating a branch of agricultural industry for which this Province is particularly adapted, I shall ask you to make a grant for a considerable importation of sheep.

From the readiness with which you have always responded to calls in aid of the farming interest I look with confidence for a liberal appropriation in respect of this and other proposals of a like character which shall be submitted to you.

Under the authority of the act passed at the last session of the Legislature, a commission was appointed upon whom I devolved the duty of examining into the whole subject of the constitution of existing civil courts in the Province, and the law practice and procedure with a view to the suggestion of such amendments therein as might be deemed expedient. The commission has entered upon its work and has made a partial report, which will be laid before you.

I shall invite you to consider the present laws relating to agriculture, embracing the question of the Provincial Board, the distribution of local societies, and the disbursement of the agricultural grant, I am led to entertain a doubt whether, under existing conditions and circumstances, the best results are being attained of which the present expenditure is capable.

Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

I have directed the accounts of the income and expenditure for the past year, as well as a statement of the receipts and payments of the current year up to the opening of the present session, to be laid before you.

Estimates of the probable income and expenditure for the current year will also be submitted to you, and I think you will find that the estimates of the expenditure have been prepared with a due regard to economy and the requirements of the public service.

The resolutions of the Inter-Provincial Conference, agreeably to one of the conditions upon which the same received the unanimous support of the conference, will be submitted for your approval.

Mr. President, and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council,
Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,

In addition to the measures I have indicated—

A bill to make provision for the organization of the Public Departments,

A bill for the consolidation and amendment of the laws relating to lands and other property of the crown,

A bill relating to mines and minerals,

A bill for the consolidation and amendment of the game laws; and other measures of importance will be laid before you, and with full confidence in you patriotism and zeal in the public service, I leave you to your deliberations.

At the conclusion of the speech the assembly members returned to their chamber.

On the reassembling in the House the new members were sworn in by Chief Justice Allen, Mr. Morrissey being introduced by Hon. Blair and Hutchison; Mr. LeBlanc by Hons. McLellan and Mitchell; Phinney by Hons. Turner and Ryan, and Theriault by Messrs. Ketchum and Burchill.

Hon. Mr. Ritchie introduced a bill amending the act providing for the registration of births, marriages and deaths.

Mr. Phinney moved and Mr. Morrissey seconded the address in reply to the speech.

Mr. Phinney.

Relying upon the forbearance and favor which I am pleased to learn is usually extended by the house to new members who are called upon to discharge the duty which to-day devolves upon me, I desire to occupy your attention, sir, and the attention of the house for a short time while I briefly refer to some of the important subjects of legislation and of public interest mentioned in the speech of his honor and in the reply which I have had the honor of moving. It must be a matter of satisfaction to members of this house, sir, that notwithstanding the statement that is so frequently here made by chronic grumblers and pessimists that the province is not making satisfactory progress, that his honor has felt justified by the condition and prosperity of the country to make use of the expression contained in the first paragraph of the address. I feel assured, sir, that with the industrious, enterprising and patriotic people we possess, aided by proper legislation and good government, New Brunswick will continue to progress in the future as she has in the past. It is certainly a matter of congratulation that the long-standing claim for interest arising out of what is known as the Eastern Extension claim, which has been so persistently pressed by different governments of the province has at length been recognised by the Dominion Government. The present administration at Ottawa as well as the government of this province are alike to be congratulated on the result. There are many important subjects of legislation proposed in the speech and which taken in connection with the legislation passed by this house during the past few years go far to justify the existence of

THE LOCAL LEGISLATURE

as an important factor in our own Canadian constitution and to contradict the statement we sometimes hear made that with the union of the provinces the local legislatures have sunk into insignificance and that the legislation with which they have had to deal is of very trivial importance. It is true that since confederation many of the important questions which hitherto came before the local parliament have been relegated to the Dominion parliament. Much is still, however, reserved for the consideration of the local legislature, and it is highly important that the rights and privileges reserved to the province under the constitution should be strictly guarded and protected. In this view the resolutions adopted by

THE INTERPROVINCIAL CONFERENCE

recently held at Quebec, and which, we are informed, will be submitted to the house, become of considerable importance. As they are not yet submitted to the house it will not be in order, nor will I be expected to refer to them in detail. I may be permitted to say, generally, that it is no reflection upon the statesmanship of the prominent Canadian statesman who framed the B. N. A. Act, that after a lapse of 20 years important and serious objections should be raised to the working of the act in some particulars, and to defects which equally wise statesmanship should ever seek to remedy. The act of confederation was a new departure in the government of British colonies and it is not too much to say, that in some respects especially as far as the rights, powers and prerogatives of the provinces are concerned, it is capable of improvement. One of the objections to the constitution, and one to which the resolution may be expected to refer, is that of the extreme power given by the constitution to the Dominion government, a power which is not limited or defined by any express words, and the proposed increase of which has already given rise to strong remonstrance on the part of the government and legislature of New Brunswick. Such sir, is the remonstrance on the part of the government and legislature of New Brunswick. Such sir, as the remonstrance made by the government of this province to the proposed disallowance of the school law.

[Mr. P. here referred to the ruling on the question expressed by Mr. Justice King or Mr. Justice Wedderburn, then attorney general and provincial secretary of the province.]

I do not refer to the question for the purpose of recalling any discussion on the school law, now so happily settled, but for the purpose of the constitutional question raised at that time. With the view then expressed by the leader of the local government all will now be disposed to agree.

Then on the other hand are questions dealt with by the resolution, which will be considered when they come up for discussion. They will, I believe, be forced forward on a broad and liberal basis, and in no way can they properly be construed as an attack upon the present Dominion government, or at all compromising the friends of that administration in this house. They will, I trust, be considered by the house in that patriotic and non-partizan spirit which all constitutional questions should be considered and with the sole desire to preserve intact our rights in the constitution.

ANOTHER IMPORTANT REPORT

that will, we are informed, be laid before this house is that of the law commissioners. Their labors, I am informed, are not yet completed, but it will be found that they have made very considerable progress. I am not prepared to indicate the exact character of the changes they propose, but from the recognized ability and professional standing of the gentlemen who constitute the commission, I have little doubt that the recommendations will have very great weight with, and be adopted by the house. Within the past three years very important changes have been made in connection with the constitution and practice of the higher courts, and further amendments in the same line would be approved by the legal profession and the public generally. The commissioners may be expected to deal with the constitution of the courts of probate and the inferior courts. The office of J. P. is one of the most ancient and important known to English law. I am pleased to know that the large majority of the gentlemen who hold the commission of the peace throughout the province are well qualified for that position. It is no reflection upon those in the house to say they are not at all qualified to preside as judge and try and determine the rights of suitors and that the number of magistrates might very properly be limited.

AGRICULTURE.

The important subject of agriculture and the agricultural interests of the province are brought before our notice in the 6th and 8th paragraphs of the address. This is one of the most important subjects that can be brought before this house. In all the provinces of the Dominion and by the general government it is receiving year after year enlarged attention with a view to realizing the very best results. In some of the provinces it is under the special control of the executive, and in the province of Ontario it is now proposed to establish a special department of the government with a minister of agriculture. It is a question whether a department of a somewhat similar character would not be advisable in this province. The board of agriculture as now constituted does not give satisfaction. Its members only meet once or twice a year and are engaged chiefly in auditing the accounts of the local societies and very rarely originate anything of a practical character in the interest of agricultural improvement. Nearly all the legislation that has been enacted in that direction has originated with the executive of the province. The distribution of the provincial grant amongst the local societies also calls for consideration. Under the present law only four societies can be established in any county, whether large or small, and as the grant must be equally divided, great injustice is done the larger counties. The time is opportune for the consideration of the whole subject. The advisability of

CONTINUING THE STOCK FARM

is also a question for the consideration of the house. The results do not justify its retention. Out of an annual expenditure of $3,000, only some $700 or $800 is realized, while only some 17 or 18 calves are raised each year. The money, it is thought, can be more beneficially expended in the importing of stock and its distribution over the province. The importation of horses recently made by the government has given very great satisfaction and further importations of a like character would meet with approval. The advantages of New Brunswick as a sheep-raising country are well known, and particular attention is now being directed to that branch of the agricultural industry. If a large importation of high grade sheep were made and distributed to all parts of the province very much better results would follow from the expenditure of the provincial grants than now result from the stock farm.

The important subject of mines and minerals is also brought to our attention and legislation is promised on it. The state of our legislation on this subject has never been creditable to the province and in this respect our neighbors and our sister provinces are very much in advance of us. Our mining interests are, it is true, limited, but are no doubt capable of considerable extension under proper legislation. All the subjects to which I have referred, Sir, are as I have remarked of very great importance, and when supplemented, as I trust they will be, by a good lien law adapted to the wants and requirements of our mechanics and lumbermen, and a law largely extending the franchise—universal suffrage to the youth, will tend very largely to improve the material and political condition of our people and make them contented with their lot, resolved to do their part in building up our province and making it, as it is well calculated to be, one of the most important sections of our great Canadian federation under the folds of that flag that—

Has braved a thousand years,
The battle and the breeze

and formed the ties of sympathy and patriotic love to the mother country, which, whatever her detractors may say to the contrary, I am proud to know is still recognized, and I trust, with the blessing of Providence, will, in the future, continue to be recognized as the first nation in the world, in all that constitutes true national greatness. (Cheers.)

Mr. Morrissey.

In seconding the address, said Mr. Phinney, by his able speech, had left him little to say. He was glad to hear that the Dominion government was about settling the eastern extension claim. He was glad for several reasons. One was that he had always been a staunch supporter of the present Dominion government, and another was that he believed the leader of the government always worked in the best interests of the people. He was glad to see a reform promised in reference to agricultural matters and thought the proposals of the government would meet with the approval of all having the interests of the province at heart.

Mr. Hanington

said it was fair to assume, since the practice had been changed during the past four years by taking up the address immediately, instead of delaying a day or two, the government did not intend that members should have time to fully consider the subjects of the address. He would therefore not enter into any detailed discussion, but briefly refer to a few of the points contained in the speech. He wished first to congratulate the mover and seconder upon the ability they had shown in their speeches, and he had no doubt the house, like himself, wished them every success as legislators. He agreed with the mover in his remarks in reference to the

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

He gave a history of the efforts of different governments in behalf of agriculture. Thirty years ago a measure was inaugurated creating a board of agriculture, which it was supposed, would specially represent the interests of the farmers. The result of its labors was not successful. The board was abolished and agricultural affairs were managed by the executive, assisted by the agricultural societies. When he (Hanington) had a seat in the government, to meet the feelings of the agricultural classes that they should be directly represented, the present board of agriculture was created. It was to meet the wishes of the farmers that such a board was organized. His own personal opinion was not in favor of it. He always thought as he did now that the subject of agriculture should be dealt with directly by the executive.

While willing to say that the government promised some important legislation and that he would be inclined to give them his support on some matters mentioned in the speech, he was not so sure about his position in reference to the resolution adopted at

THE QUEBEC CONFERENCE.

If the house was to be asked to approve all the resolutions adopted at Quebec he would oppose such a proposal. It looked to him as though the Quebec conference had been in the interest of a certain political party. His view, in this, was strengthened by the fact that the principles adopted there has been adopted by one of the liberal leaders as the chief plank in the liberal platform. This question of commercial union was one that this country was not prepared to accept, and he felt satisfied that there was patriotism enough in the country to warrant this opinion. The tendency of the substantial resolution passed by the conference is against the liberal-conservative government of Canada. That resolution involves a principle dangerous for this country to adopt. A spirit of hostility to the Dominion government pervaded many of the resolutions adopted at Quebec. One was so obnoxious and hostile to our interests that the New Brunswick delegates, he was glad to say, refused to subscribe to it. In reference to the matter of disallowance he was prepared to say that no matter which party was in power at Ottawa, he would prefer to have the power of disallowance there than in England. He said this not because he doubted the loyalty of our people to the British empire. He knew they were loyal and that the British government desired to foster a national spirit among the people of the colonies and to do what was just. He preferred having the disallowance power at Ottawa because we have representatives there from all parts of the country, and they being acquainted with our affairs were in a position to judge properly. While interested specially in his own province, he thought Canadians should feel that they are one people, and it was only by such a feeling that we can successfully work out the great problem of confederation and be an honor to ourselves and to the empire to which we belong. He felt that our interests would be safer at Ottawa than elsewhere in that respect.

THE LAW COMMISSION, ETC.

He next spoke of the able men on the law commission, and while glad that they were making a report regretted they had not been able to conclude their labors. After a few remarks in answer to Mr. Phinney's reference to a lien bill, Mr. Hanington said he hoped the government with the increased amount from the Eastern Extension claims and an increased annual subsidy since 1882, when the last railway subsidy bill was introduced by the government of which he was a member, would find the financial condition of the province such as to justify them in granting further aid to railway enterprises. If so, a large and important section of the noble county of Westmorland required further railway facilities, as did also, no doubt, other parts of the province. He had always favored necessary aid in railway construction, and would again gladly do in that direction everything that he could.

Hon. Mr. Blair

said he was very glad for himself, personally, and he was sure every member of the house was glad, to hear his honorable friend with his old time vigor addressing himself to the business before the house. He (Blair) would join with the last speaker in expressing the great pleasure which he in common with all present felt in welcoming to the house the two members who had so efficiently discharged the not always easy duty of moving and seconding the address in reply to the speech from the throne. He very gladly recognized the addition which these gentlemen would be to the intellectual strength and force of the house and he thought, irrespective of their being supporters of the government, that the two counties which

(*Continued on 3rd page*)

Marriage with an African.

AN ENGLISH DECISION THAT MAY OVERRIDE A CANADIAN ONE.

LONDON, Feb. 21. There is considerable interest in the opposition raised by Mr. Justice Stirling's decision that the young English gentleman who married an African native woman according to the nuptial rites of her people was not married at all, and that the black widow has no claim to his estate. The ground of his decision was that the tribe in question practiced polygamy, and there was nothing to show that the man might not have married another native woman if he liked. The dec