

Opening of Parliament.

THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.
Quebec, Jan. 19.
This day, at three o'clock, p.m., His Excellency the Governor-General proceeded in state to the Chamber of the Legislative Council in the Parliament Buildings. The members of the Legislative Council being assembled, His Excellency was pleased to command the attendance of the Legislative Assembly and that House being present, His Excellency was pleased to open the third session of the eighth Parliament of the Province of Canada with the following Speech from the Throne:—

HONOURABLE GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL—
GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY—

In calling you together to assume the performance of your constitutional duties, I desire to express my thankfulness to a beneficial Providence, that I am enabled to congratulate you on the general prosperity and contentment of the people of this Province, and the continuance to us of the inextinguishable blessing of peace.

Outrages have been committed on the commerce and territory of the United States of America, by persons who, after the perpetration of these acts, have sought refuge on Canadian soil. In order to prevent the organization of any such enterprises within this Province, and also to ensure the discharge in an effective manner my duties towards a neighbouring power, on terms of friendship with Her Majesty, I have seen fit to organize a system of detective police on the frontier line of the United States, and with the same design have called out for permanent duty a portion of the Volunteer force of the Province.

Similar considerations have suggested the propriety of arming the Executive Government with stronger powers than it now possesses for dealing with persons who, while availing themselves of the right of asylum which has always been allowed to British soil to political refugees from all foreign countries, may be unmindful of the implied obligations which, by their residence amongst us, they contract, to obey our laws and to respect the declared policy of our Sovereign. A Bill for this purpose will be laid before you, and I ask for your early consideration.

I am happy to be able to inform you of the zeal and alacrity displayed by the members of the Volunteer Force when called upon to turn out for active service. This conduct shows that the present population of Canada has been educated and trained in the virtues which characterize the races from which it derives its origin, and that it may be relied on, under all circumstances, to respond to the call of duty either for the maintenance of internal order or to repel foreign aggression.

The Commission appointed under the provisions of the second chapter of the Consolidated Statutes of Lower Canada, to frame a Civil Code and also a Code of Civil Procedure for Lower Canada, have completed the former part of their duty. The results of their labours shall be laid before you, and I am informed that the Code of Civil Procedure is in a very advanced stage. The completion of the codification of the civil law in both French and English cannot fail to be of great benefit to the inhabitants of Lower Canada, by enabling the people of all origins to read in their own language the civil law under which they live, and which hitherto only been accessible in a language which is not the mother tongue of a portion of the people whose civil rights are regulated by it.

THE EXPENDITURE rendered necessary by calling out the volunteers for active service, and which was unforeseen when the estimates of the current year were agreed to, will necessitate a supplementary vote for that service. I have directed that an estimate for this purpose shall be laid before you.

I am happy to be in a position to inform you that the financial legislation of last year has been attended with the most successful results. The revenue has largely increased, and there has been a contemporaneous extension of the trade of the Province. I have directed the estimates for the next financial year to be laid before you, and you will find that they have been framed with the just attention to economy, combined with efficiency.

HONOURABLE GENTLEMEN AND GENTLEMEN—
At the close of the last session of Parliament I informed you that it was my intention, in conjunction with my Ministers, to prepare and submit to you a measure for the solution of the constitutional problem, the solution of which has for years agitated this Province. A careful consideration of the general position of British North America induced the conviction that the circumstances of the times afforded the opportunity, not merely for the settlement of a question of personal politics, but also for the simultaneous creation of a new nationality.

Parliamentary negotiations were opened by me with the Lieutenant Governors of the other Provinces of British North America, and the result was that a meeting was held at Quebec, in the month of October last, composed of delegates from the Legislatures, representing all shades of political party in their several communities, nominated by the Lieutenant Governor of their respective Provinces, who assembled here with the sanction of the Crown and at my invitation, to confer with the members of the Canadian Ministry on the possibility of effecting a union of all the Provinces of British North America. This Conference, after lengthened deliberation, arrived at the conclusion that a federal union of these Provinces was feasible and desirable; and the result of its labours is a plan of constitution for the proposed union, embodied in a series of resolutions, which, with other resolutions relating to the subject, I have directed to be laid before you. The general design of a union, and the particular plan by which it is proposed to carry that intention into effect, have both received the cordial approbation of the Imperial Government.

An Imperial Act of Parliament will be necessary in order to give effect to the contemplated Union of the Colonies. And I have been officially informed by the Secretary of State that Her Majesty's Ministers will be prepared to introduce a Bill for this purpose into the Imperial Parliament as soon as they shall have received notice that the proposal has received the sanction of the Legislatures representing the several Provinces effected by it.

In commending to your attention this subject, the importance of which to your selves and to your descendants, it is impossible to exaggerate, I would claim for it your calm, earnest, and impartial consideration.

I fervently pray that your minds may be guided to conclusions which shall redound to the honour of our Sovereign, to the welfare of her subjects, and to your reputation as patriots and statesmen.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Quebec, Jan. 19.
The members having returned from the Council Chamber, the Speaker announced the seats that had become vacant since last session and the members who had been returned.

The newly elected members having taken the oath were then introduced and took their seats.
Hon. Mr. Cartier moved the usual *pro forma* motions at the opening of the session. The Speaker laid before the House the Speech from the Throne, the reading of which was dispensed with.

Hon. Mr. Cartier moved that the Speech be taken into consideration on Monday next.

Hon. Mr. Holtz thought this an unusual delay, and was surprised at it. The English practice was to take up the Speech at once, adopt the address, and then go to general business, without more than one day's delay after the opening of the session. Hon. Mr. Cartier said, the gentleman opposite would have been more surprised, if he had moved to take the Speech into consideration at once. They were all aware what English practice was, and he approved of the Canadian Parliament disposing of the address immediately. Then, if the Speech which contained so many grave subjects for the consideration of Parliament were taken up at once, absent members might be surprised at the haste displayed. It was because the Speaker contained these grave questions, and because so many members were absent, that he had thought proper to move the resolution.

The motion was then carried.

Hon. Mr. Cartier moved the appointment of a Select Committee to strike the Standing Committee. Carried.

Hon. Mr. Cartier also moved formal resolutions on Bribery and Corruption. Carried.

The Speaker laid on the table the report of the Librarian.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Cartier the House then adjourned till Monday.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Quebec, Jan. 19.
The Hon. Messrs. Giguere, Durocher, Lafontaine, and others, were present.

On motion of Sir E. P. Tache, the consideration of the Speech was postponed until Monday next.

The House then adjourned.

AMERICAN NEWS.

New York, Jan. 20.—The *Tribune's* Washington special says:—One of the results of Secretary Stanton's visit to Savannah is to solve a doubt as to the soundness of General Sherman in the negro question. This soldier's view and policy are those of the Government. His treatment of the negroes of Savannah has inspired with confidence, and they rely on him wholly. He has borne in his heart a great scheme for the benefit of their race in Georgia, and it is understood here that the country will be electrified in a few days by an order from him, partitioning among them the abandoned lands and property of fugitive rebel planters, and establishing them in their new freeholds, and laying the foundation of a new social condition in the South, whose superstructure but few politicians in the country are now permitted clearly to see.

The *Herald's* Washington special says:—F. P. Blair, senior, will start for Richmond again to-morrow. Since his return he has been in frequent and close conversation with the President and other leading members of the Administration, but what the character of his communications has been, or with what authority he is now clothed, is as yet unknown. That he should soon return is indicative of his having been charged with some communication by Mr. Davis, the tenor of which has not been made public, and which, in connection with the successes achieved by our forces since his interview with the rebel ex-Confederate, will tend to give satisfaction to the Southern people to continue the war, induces a belief on the Administration that the resources of statesmanship may now be usefully employed, in connection with a vigorous prosecution of military and naval operations to bring about a termination of the existing difficulties. At all events it is certain that he returns at once to the rebel capital. This would indicate that Mr. Blair's first mission was far more successful than was allowed to transpire.

Halifax, Jan. 21.—There are no signs of the Steamship Canada. Weather fine. Philadelphia, Jan. 20.—The Bulletin says, a letter has been received in Philadelphia from a prominent gentleman in Washington, who says, that F. P. Blair, Senator, returns to Richmond, with full authority from President Lincoln, to give a safe conduct to Washington for peace commissioners from Jefferson Davis. Mr. Blair is expected to be in Richmond this evening.

LANARK COUNCIL.

Middleville, 16th Jan., 1865.
Agreeably to Statute, the councillors elect for the Township of Lanark, met this day at 12 o'clock, noon, and made, in the presence of the Town Clerk, the requisite declarations of office.

Mr. Ryan moved, seconded by Mr. Reid, That Mr. Mathie be Reeve for this year.

Mr. Mathie having declined to accept of the office, it was

Moved by Mr. Yell, seconded by Mr. Mathie, That Mr. Ryan be Reeve for the present year.

Mr. Ryan made the declaration requisite in such cases.

The rules of order and mode of conducting the business of the municipality were, after some modification, adopted.

The minutes of last session of council were then read, approved, and signed; and the following petitions, accounts, &c., were presented and read.

provide for Licensing Grocers in Lanark Township.

Moved by Mr. Reid, seconded by Mr. Mathie, That the By-law to provide for the appointment of certain municipal officers be read a first time. Carried.

The Reeve appointed James Stewart of Middleville, Merchant, an Auditor.

Moved by Mr. Mathie, seconded by Mr. Afock, That the first blank in the above said By-law be filled with the names of James Stewart and John Blackburn; the second with the sum of \$150; the third blank with the name of John Campbell; the fourth blank with the sum of \$36; the fifth blank with the name of William Scott; the sixth blank with the sum of \$80; the seventh blank with the name of Peter McLaughlin; and the eighth blank with the sum of the portion of the By-law be then read a third time and passed. Carried.

The blanks were accordingly filled, the By-law read a third time and passed.

The By-law providing for the repeal of a By-law passed on the 10th day of December 1864, providing for Licensing Grocers, was, on motion of Mr. Mathie, seconded by Mr. Afock, and carried, read a first time; on motion of Mr. Yell, seconded by Mr. Mathie, and carried, read a second time; and on motion of Mr. Afock, seconded by Mr. Mathie, and carried, read a third time and passed.

Moved by Mr. Mathie seconded by Mr. Reid, That as Thomas Graham is not possessed of the property qualification for the office of Assessor this council cannot entertain his petition for that office. Carried.

Moved by Mr. Yell, seconded by Mr. Afock, That this council, though sympathizing with Edward Closs, yet having no power to interfere in judicial decisions, must dismiss his petition. Carried.

Moved by Mr. Mathie, seconded by Mr. Reid, That an order be made in favour of the clerk for the sum of \$6; such sum having been advanced by him of the municipality for the Town Hall. Carried.

Adjourned till the 11th March.

WILLIAM SCOTT, Town Clerk.

Lanark, January 18th 1865.

Arthur Leech has written a communication to the London Times, complaining of the decoration of his farm in the village of the Village of Pakenham, containing Dwelling House, Barn, Stable, Shed, and Well, and being within a few rods of the River and within five minutes walk of the village, together with all the farming utensils on the premises.

Apply, if by letter, prepaid, to Mr. HILL, of the Village of Pakenham, Commercial Hotel, or to Mrs. BURTON on the premises.

ROBERT BURTON, Pakenham, January 17th, 1865. 19*

MARKETS.

Brookville, Jan. 18, 1865.
Fall Flour @ 100 lbs. \$2 75 @ 3 00
Spring Flour..... 2 50 @ 2 80
Spring Wheat..... 0 80 @ 0 90
Buck Wheat..... 0 35 @ 0 38
Indian Corn, @ 56 lbs. 0 40 @ 0 45
Barley @ 48 lbs. 0 40 @ 0 45
Fall Wheat..... 0 90 @ 1 00
Potatoes..... 0 25 @ 0 30
Rye..... 0 55 @ 0 60
Oats..... 0 30 @ 0 35
Peas..... 0 50 @ 0 55
Onions..... 0 35 @ 0 37
Hay @ ton..... 10 00 @ 12 00
Beef @ 100 lbs. 5 00 @ 6 00
Pork @ 100 lbs. 14 00 @ 16 00
Pork, Prime Mess..... 0 30 @ 0 40
Butter..... 0 17 @ 0 19
Eggs..... 0 15 @ 0 17
Turkeys..... 0 20 @ 0 25
Fowl @ pair..... 0 20 @ 0 30
Sausages..... 0 10 @ 0 12
Dried apples per 22 lb. 1 50 @ 1 75
Buck Wheat Flour per 100 1 75 @ 2 00
Corn Meal per 100 lb. 1 75 @ 2 00
Lard..... 0 10 @ 0 12
Hardwood..... 2 00 @ 2 50

An elderly lady, telling her age, remarked that she was born on the 22nd of April. Her husband, who was present, observed, I have thought you were born on the first of April. "Pleasant might well judge so," replied the matron, "in the choice I made of a husband."

TO RENT.

THE SUBSCRIBER will rent from the first day of April next, for the term one, two, or three years, his farm in the village of the Village of Pakenham, containing Dwelling House, Barn, Stable, Shed, and Well, and being within a few rods of the River and within five minutes walk of the village, together with all the farming utensils on the premises.

Apply, if by letter, prepaid, to Mr. HILL, of the Village of Pakenham, Commercial Hotel, or to Mrs. BURTON on the premises.

ROBERT BURTON, Pakenham, January 17th, 1865. 19*

RETURN OF CONVICTIONS.

FROM THE SEPTEMBER GENERAL QUARTER SESSIONS, 1864, TO THE DECEMBER GENERAL QUARTER SESSIONS, 1864.

son, since 1868, in the 16th regt, of the 1st div., 2nd corp., who was killed at Haverhill, Mass., has been a resident of Ramsey for over 36 years, and was highly respected throughout the Township. His death is deeply lamented by a large circle of friends and acquaintances.

At Nashville, on the 16th ult., from the fleet of a ball passing through his head, Corporal Ross Hamilton, son of Wm. Hamilton, Esq. of Ramsey, in the 41st regt. of his age, who was under command of Capt. John K. Pollock, who (in a private letter to Mr. Hamilton's wife) speaks in the highest terms of his abilities as a soldier and his conduct as a gentleman. He had, in a previous battle, been shot through the jaw, and was within 8 months of the expiration of his engagement.