

firm is concerned, will take all proper precautions; but I would submit to the Department whether it is right that these public magazines should be used for private purposes. When they are under the control of the Department, of course I assume that every care will be taken by the officers of the Department so that there will be no danger of an explosion. But that care and protection of the Department ceases when the magazines are in the hands of private individuals, and it does appear to me that it is not a proper use of public magazines to lease them to private parties. From the position of this magazine, if an explosion should occur, it would cause great destruction, not only to property, but perhaps to life, as they are situated near a thickly populated portion of the city of Portland, and an explosion would cause great damage to that city, and also to the city of St. John. I do not know whether the attention of the Minister of Militia has been called to this matter by the City Council of St. John, or the City Council of Portland, but I am aware that the question was brought up in the City Council of Portland, and they agreed to memorialise the Department about it. At present there is great risk and danger from the magazines. Of course where magazines are required for public purposes, they are under the charge of the Militia Department and of officers detailed for that purpose; but when they pass into the hands of private parties the magazines are passed under the control of the individuals to whom they are leased, or to their servants. The city is consequently exposed to considerable danger which would not exist if the magazines were employed for the legitimate purposes for which they were established.

Mr. CARON. The papers which have been asked for by my hon. friend will be brought down. I did not expect that the hon. gentleman would have made the explanation which he has made before the papers were brought down. I can tell the hon. gentleman that a portion of this fort is used by the Department of Militia for storing powder, but another portion, the Fort Howe which he has referred to, is under lease, but as far as my memory serves me, it is leased from year to year, and the lease is terminable at any moment when the fort is required by the Department of Militia. I may say to the hon. gentleman that in several other cities of the Dominion it has been considered of great advantage to the city to have the military powder magazines when not required for that purpose by the Militia Department, handed over for the use of merchants, in which to store their powder, as it could be more safely stored there than anywhere else in the city. I can also say to the hon. gentleman that, whether the fort is leased or not, the supervision of the Militia Department is still maintained over those stores during the time the lease is in existence. I shall bring down the papers, and after they come down I shall be glad to supplement the information they contain with any further information in my power.

Motion agreed to.

ANNUNCIATION DAY.

Mr. SPEAKER. My attention has been called to the fact that Wednesday next is Annunciation Day, and will therefore be a holiday. I suggest, with respect to the motion of Mr. Bergin respecting inspectors and medical inspectors of factories, that the hon. member be allowed to change the motion so that it shall stand first on the list of Public Bills and Orders, not mentioning Wednesday next. This will be done with the consent of the House.

CLAIMS OF THE ISLAND OF CAPE BRETON.

Mr. CAMERON (Inverness) moved:

That it be resolved,—

That after the Treaty of Paris the Island of Cape Breton was annexed to Nova Scotia by Proclamation on October 7th, 1763.

And that it was ordered by the Governor and Council of Nova Scotia, on the 10th of December, 1765, "that the Island of Cape Breton should be erected into a distinct county, to be known by the name of the 'County of Cape Breton,' comprehending the Islands of Madame and Scuterie and all islands within three leagues, and that a writ should be issued for choosing two representatives; and further that the freeholders should be at liberty to choose non-residents."

That "John Grant, Esq., and Mr. Gregory Townsend were elected, and proceeded to Halifax to take their seats in the Assembly, on June 3rd, 1766."

That the said John Grant, Esq., and Mr. Gregory Townsend, on the report of a Committee of the Assembly composed of Messrs. Butler, Morris, Smith, Brenton and Burbridge against the validity of their election, were prevented from taking their seats in the Legislature.

That the Legislature of Nova Scotia exercised the power of taxing the people of Cape Breton without allowing them any representation in the Assembly for 21 years, thereby creating discontent so intense and lasting that the Imperial Government as a remedy separated the island from Nova Scotia in 1784.

That during the twenty years preceding its separation from Nova Scotia, owing to the injustice done Cape Breton, its population decreased from 1,500 in 1763 to 1,100 in 1783.

That Cape Breton, while ruled by a Governor and Council, was so favorably known and desired by immigrants from the old country, that as Governor Desbarres, of the Island, writing to the Under Secretary of State on the 17th August, 1785, says: "Nova Scotia is jealous, and don't wish with thorough sincerity the success of the Government, lest its growing importance and value should raise it to the first rank amongst His Majesty's and the national favorites."

That the population of Cape Breton during the thirty-five years of its separate Government increased from 1,100 in 1783 to 26,100 in 1820.

That the persistent jealousy and intermeddling of Nova Scotia secured the re-annexation of Cape Breton without the consent of its people by a Proclamation issued on October 16th, 1820.

That the people of Cape Breton during the succeeding twenty-four years used every constitutional means to remonstrate against the re-annexation, but without success, as the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council confirmed it in 1844.

That the unjust treatment of Cape Breton by Nova Scotia from 1820 to 1867 appears manifest from the fact alone that while, during that time \$9,000,000 had been expended in Nova Scotia proper on public account, only the comparative trifle of \$168,523 was expended in Cape Breton, and that on St. Peter's canal, in the County of Richmond.

That since 1867, under Confederation, notwithstanding the enormous increase of the public debt of the Dominion, for which both political parties are responsible, and for the interest on which the people of Cape Breton are taxed in common with the people of other sections of the Dominion, no expenditure chargeable to capital account was ever yet made excepting St. Peter's canal.

That the prosperity of Cape Breton up to the present time had been retarded largely by the exercise of preponderating influences favorable to such portions of Nova Scotia as Halifax, Cumberland and Pictou, whose interests are not supposed to lie always in fairly recognizing the importance of Cape Breton.

That the area of Cape Breton is more than double that of Prince Edward Island, its population nearly as large, and in addition to their many common interests, the former possesses unlimited mineral resources which remain undeveloped owing to the want of facilities afforded to rival counties in Nova Scotia proper.

That in the opinion of this House the isolated position of Cape Breton, apart from the consideration of its inexhaustible mineral resources, entitles it to that consideration at the hands of this Parliament, which is given to Prince Edward Island, in the way of affording facilities for the development of its various industries.

He said: Before placing these resolutions on the subject of the claims of the Island of Cape Breton, apart from other sections of the Province of Nova Scotia, in your hands, Mr. Speaker, I desire to explain as concisely as possible my reasons for submitting them to the consideration of this House. The history of Cape Breton is an interesting one; but it is peculiarly interesting to the present inhabitants of the island. I do not intend to discuss the history of that island previous to the fall of Louisbourg, in 1758, but I desire to call attention to the treatment which it has received since that time. In doing so it is not my intention to find fault with the dead past. I simply desire to call the attention of this House and of the country to the fact that, if the Island of Cape Breton had been treated in a manner similar to other sections of the Dominion, its population, which is now about 84,000, would at least be double. I have here a history of the island, which I hold is the only reliable history of the island ever published, simply because the histories published in former times were derived from sources which were not reliable.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Read, read.