THE BILL,

TO PROVIDE FOR THE

UNION AND GOVERNMENT

OF

BRITISH NORTH AMERICA.

Whereas the Provinces of Canada, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick have expressed their desire to be federally united into one dominion under the crown of the United Kingdom of Great Britian and Ireland, with a constitution similar in principle to that of the United Kingdom:

And whereas such a Union would conduce to the welfare of the Provinces and promote the interests of the British Empire:

And whereas on the establishment of the Union by authority of Parliament it is expedient, not only that the Constitution of the Legislative authority in the dominion be provided for, but also that the nature of the Executive Government therein be declared:

And whereas it is expedient that provinces be made for the eventual admission into the Union of other parts of British North America:

Be it therefore enacted and declared by the Queen's most excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in the present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

I—PRELIMINARY.

1. This Act may be cited as the British North American Act, 1867.

2. The provision of this Act referring to Her Majesty the Queen extend also to the heirs and successors of Her Majesty, Kings and Queens of the United Kingdom of Great Britian and Ireland.

II—UNION.

3. It shall be lawful for the Queen, by and with the advice of Her Majesty's most Honorable Privy Council, to declare by proclamation that, on and after a day therein appointed, not being more than six months after the passing of this Act, the Provinces of Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, shall form and be one dominion under the name of Canada; and on and after that day those three Provinces shall form and be one dominion under that name accordingly.

4. The subsequent provisions of this Act shall, unless it is otherwise expressed or implied, commence and have effect on and after the Union, that is to say, on and after the day appointed for the Union taking effect in the Queen's proclamation; and in the same provisions, unless it is otherwise expressed or implied, the name Canada shall be taken to mean Canada as constituted under this Act.

5 Canada shall be divided into four Provinces named Ontario and Quebec, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick.

6. The parts of the Province of Canada (as it exists at the passing of this Act) which formerly constituted respectively the Provinces of Upper Canada and Lower Canada shall be deemed to be severed, and shall form two separate Provinces. The part which formerly constituted the Province of Upper Canada shall constitute the Province of Ontario; and the part which formerly constituted the Province of Lower Canada shall constitute the Province of Quebec.

7. The Provinces of Nova Scotia and New New Brunswick shall have the same limits as at the passing of this Act.

8. In the general census of the population of Canada which is hereby required to be taken in the year one thousand eight hundred and seventy-one, and in every tenth year thereafter, the respective populations of the four Provinces shall be distinguished.

III.—EXECUTIVE POWER.

9 The Executive Government and authority of and over Canada is hereby declared to continue and be vested in the Queen.

10. The provisions of this Act referring to the Governor General for the time being of Canada, or other the chief executive officer or administrator for the time being carrying on the Government of Canada on behalf and in the name of the Queen by whatever title he is designated.

11. There shall be a Council to aid and advise in the Government of Canada, to be styled the Queen's Privy Council for Canada; and the persons who are to be members of that council shall be from time to time chosen and summoned by the Governor General and sworn in as Privy Councillors, and members thereof may be from ti ne to time removed by the Governor General.

12. All powers, authorities, and functions which under any Act of the Parliament of Great Britain, or of the Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, or of the Legislature of Upper Canada, Lower Canada, Canada, Nova Scotia, or New Brunswick, are at the union vested in or exercisable by the respective Governors or Lieutenant Governors of those Provinces, with the advice or with the advise and consent, of the respective Executive Councils thereof, or in conjunction with those councils, or with any number of members thereof, or by those Governors or Lieutenant Governors individually, shall, as far as the same continue inexistence and capable of being exercised after the union in relation to the Government of Canada, be vested in and exercisable by the Governor General, with the advice or with the advice consent of or in conjunction with the Queen's Privy Council for Canada or any members thereof, or by the Governor General individually, as the case requires, subject nevertheless (except with respect to such as exist under Acts of the Parliament of Great Britain or of the Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland) to be abolished or altered by the Parliament of Canada.

13. The provisions of this Act referring to the Governor General in Council shall be shall be construed as referring to the Governor General acting by and with the advice of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada.

14. It shall be lawful for the Queen if Her Majesty thinks fit, to authorise the Governor General from time to time to appoint any person or any persons jointly or severatly to be his Deputy or Deputies within any part or parts of Canada, and in that capacity to exercise during the pleasure of the Governor General, such of the powers authorities, and functions of the Governor General deems it necessary or, expedient to assign to him or them, subject to any limitations or directions expressed or given by the Queen; but the appointment of such a deputy or deputies shall not effect the exercise by the Governor General himself of any power, authority, or function.

15. The Command in-chief of the Land and Naval Militia, and of all Naval and Military Forces, or and in Canada, is hereby declared to continue and be vested in the Queen.

16. Until the Queen otherwise directs, the seat of government of Canada shall be at Ottawa.

IV—LEGISLATIVE POWER.

17. There shall be one parliament for Canada, consisting of the Queen, an Upper House styled the Senate, and the House of Commons.

18. The privileges, immunities and powers to be held, enjoyed, and exercised by the Senate and by the House of Commons and by the members thereof respectively shall be such as are from time to time defined by the Act of the Parliament of Canada, but so that the same shall never exceed those at the passing of this Act held, enjoyed and exercised by the Commons House of Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and by the members thereof.

19. The Parliament of Canada shall be called together not later than six months after the union.

20. There shall be a session of the Parliament of Canada once at least in every year, so that twelve months shall not intervene between the last sitting of the Parliament in one session and it's first sitting in the next session.

THE SENATE.

21. The Senate shall, subject to the provisions of this Act, consist of seventy-two members, who shall be styled Senators.

22, In relation to the Constitution of the Senate Canada shall be deemed to consist of three Divisions:

1. Ontario;
2. Quebec;
3. The Maritime Provinces, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick; which three divisions shall (subject to the provisions of this Act) be equally represented in the Senate as follows: Ontario by twenty-four Senators; Quebec by twenty-four Senators; and the Maritime Provinces by twenty-four senators, twelve thereof representing Nova Scotia, and twelve thereof representing New Brunswick.

In the case of Quebec each of the twenty-four Senators representing that Province shall be appointed for one of the twenty four Electoral Divisions of Lower Canada specified in Schedule A. to Chapter one of the Consolidated Statutes of Canada.

23. The qualifications of a Senator shall be as follows:

(1) He shall be of the full age of thirty years.

(2) He shall be either a natural-born subject of the Queen, or a subject of the Queen, naturalized by an Act of the Parliament of Great Britain or the Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, or of the Legislature of one of the Provinces of Upper Canada, Lower Canada, Canada, Nova Scotia, or New Brunswick, before the Union, or of the Parliament of Canada after the Union:

(3) He shall be legally or equatably seized as of Freehold for his own use and benefit of lands or tenements held in free and common soccage, or seized or possessed for his own use and benefit of lands or tenements held in Franealleu or in Roture, within the Province for which he is appointed, of the value of four thousand dollars, over and above all rents, dues, debts, charges, mortgages, and incumbrances due or payable out of or charged on or affecting the same.

(4) His real and personal property shall be together worth four thousand dollars over and above his debts and liabilities:

(5) He shall be resident in the Province for which he is appointed:

(6) In the case of Quebec he shall have his real property qualification in the Electoral Division for which he is appointed, or shall be resident in that Division.

24. The Governor-General shall from time to time, in the Queen's name, by instrument under the great seal of Canada, summon qualified persons to the Senate; and, in ject to the provisions of this Act, every person so summoned shall become and be a member of the Senate and a Senator.

25. Such persons shall be first summoned to the Senate as the Queen by warrant under Her Majesty's Royal Sign Manual thinks fit to approve, and their names shall be inserted in the Queen's Proclamation of Union.

26. If at any time on the recommendation of the Governor-General the Queen thinks fit to direct that three or six members be added to the Senate, the Governor General may by summons three or six qualified persons (as the case may be), representing equally the three Divisions of Canada, add to the Senate accordingly.

27. In case of such addition being at any time made the Governor-General shall not summon any person to the Senate, except on a further like direction by the Queen on the like recommendation, until each of the three Divisions of Canada is represented by twenty-four Senators and no more.

28. The number of senators shall not at any time exceed seventy eight.

29. A Senator shall, subject to the provisions of this Act, hold his place in the Senate for life.

30. A Senator may by writing under his hand addressed to the Governor-General, resign his place in the Senate, and thereupon the same shall be vacant.

31. The place of a Senator shall become vacant in any of the following cases:

(1) If for two consecutive sessions of the Parliament he fails to give his attendance in the Senate.

(2) If he takes an oath or makes a declaration or acknowledgement of allegiance, obedience or adherence to a foreign power, or does an act whereby he becomes a subject or citizen, or entitled to the rights or privileges of a subject or citizen of a Foreign Power:

(3) If he is adjudged Bankrupt or Insolvent or applies for the benefit of any law relating to insolvent debtors, or become a public defaulter:

(3) If he is attainted of treason or convicted of felony or of any infamous crime:

(5.) If he ceases to be qualified in respect of property or of residence: provided, that a Senator shall not be deemed to have ceased to be qualified in respect of residence by reason only of his residing at the Seat of Government of Canada while holding an office under that Government requiring his presence there.

32. When a vacancy happens in the Senate by resignation, death, or otherwise, the Governor General shall by summons to a fit and qualified person fill the vacancy.

33. If any question arises respecting the qualification of a Senitor or a vacancy in the Senate the same shall be heard and determined by the Senate.

34. The Governor General may from time to time by instrument under the great seal of Canada, appoint a Senator, to be Speaker of the Senate, and may remove him and appoint another in his stead.

35. Until the Parliament of Canada otherwise provides, the presence of at least fifteen Senators, including the Speaker, shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Senate for the exercise of its power.

36. Questions arising in the senate shall be decided by a majority of voices, and the speaker shall in all cases have a vote, and when the voices are equal the decision shall be deemed to be in the negative.

THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

37. The House of Commons shall, subject to the provisions of this Act, consist of one hundred and eighty-one members, of whom eighty-two shall be elected for Ontario; sixty five for Quebec, nineteen for Nova Scotia and fifteen for New Brunswick.

38. For a Bill to be voted in the Houses of Parliament it is required to be assented to in the Queen's name, by the Governor General, or by a person or persons to be appointed by Commission under the great Seal of Canada, signifying the Queen's assent, or dissent to acts passed by the Houses of Parliament.

39. A Senator shall not be capable of being elected or of sitting or voting as a member of the House of Commons.

40. Until the Parliament of Canada otherwise provides, Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick shall, for the purposes of the election of members to serve in the House of Commons be divided into electoral districts as follows:

1.—ONTARIO.

Ontario shall be devided into the counties, ridings of counties, cities, parts of cities and towns enumerated in the first schedule to this Act, each whereof shall be an electoral district, each such district as numbered in that schedule being entitled to return one member.

2.—QUEBEC.

Quebec shall be divided into sixty-five electoral districts, composed of sixty-five electoral districts into which Lower Canada is at the passage of this Act divided under chapter two of the Consolidated Statues of Canada, Chapter seventy-five of the Consolidated Statues for Lower Canada, and this Act of the Province of Canada of the twenty-third year of the Queen, Chapter one, or any other Act amending the same in force at the union, so that each such electoral division shall be for the purposes of this Act an electoral district entitled to return one member.

3.—NOVA SCOTIA.

Each of the eighteen counties of Nova Scotia shall be an electoral district. The county of Halifax shall be entitled to return two members, and each of the other counties one member.

4.—NEW BRUNSWICK.

Each of the fourteen counties into which New Brunswick is divided, including the city and county of St. John, shall be an electoral district. The City of St. John shall also be a separate electoral district. Each of these fifteen electoral districts shall be entitled to return one member.

41 Until the Parliament of Canada otherwise provides, all laws in force in the several Provinces at the Union relative to the following matters or any of them, namely, the qualifications and disqualifications of persons to be elected or to sit or vote as members of the House of Assembly or Legislative Assembly in the several Provinces, the voters at elections of such members, the oaths to be taken by voters, the Returning Officers, their powers and duties, the proceedings at elections, the periods during which elections may be continued, the trial of controverted elections, and proceedings incident thereto, the vacating of seats of members, and the execution of new writs in case of seats vacated otherwise than by dissolution—shall respectively apply to election of members to serve in the House of Commons for the same several Provinces

Provided that, until the Parliament of Canada otherwise provides, at any election for a member of the House of Commons for the District of Algoma, in addition to persons qualified by the law of the Province of Canada to vote, every British subject, aged twenty-one years or upwards, being a householder, shall have a vote.

42 For the first election of members to serve in the House of Commons the Governor General shall cause writs to be issued by such person, in such form, and addressed to such Returning Officers as he thinks fit.

The person issuing writs under this section shall have the like powers as are possessed at the Union by the officers charged with the issuing or writs for the election of members to serve in the respective House of Assembly or Legislative Assembly of the Province of Canada, Nova Scotia, or New Brunswick; and the Returning officers to whom writs are directed under this section shall have the like powers as are possessed at the Union by the officers charged with the returning of writs for the election of members to serve in the same respective House of Assembly or Legislative Assembly.

43 In case a vacancy in the representation in the House of Commons of any electoral district happens before the meeting of the Parliament, or after the meeting of the Parliament in this behalf, the provisions of the last foregoing section of this Act shall extend and apply to the issuing and returning of a writ in respect of such vacant district.

44 The House of Commons on its first assembling after a general election shall proceed with all practicable speed to elect one of its members to be Speaker.

45 In case of a vacancy happening in the officer of Speaker by death, resignation or otherwise, the House of Commons shall with all practicable speed proceed to elect another of its members to be Speaker.

46 The speaker shall preside at all meeting of the House of Commons.

47 Until the Parliament of Canada otherwise provides, in case of the absence for any reason of the Speaker from the chair of the House of Commons for a period of forty-eight consecutive hours, the House may elect another of its members to act as Speaker, and the member so elected shall during the continuance of such absence of the Speaker have and execute all the powers, privileges and duties of Speaker.

48 The presence of at least twenty members of the House of Commons shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the House for the exercise of its powers; and for that purpose the Speaker shall be reckoned as a member.

49 Questions arising in the House of Commons shall be decided by a majority of voices other than that of the Speaker, and when the voices are equal, but not otherwise, the Speaker shall have a vote.

50 Every House of Commons shall continue for five years from the day of the return of the writs for choosing the House (subject to be sooner dissolved by the Governor General,) and no longer.

51 On the completion of the census in the year one thousand eight hundred and seventy-one, and of each subsequent decennial census, the representation of the four Provinces shall be readjusted to such authority, in such manner, and from such time, as the Parliament of Canada from time to time provides, subject according to the following rules:—

(1) Quebec shall have the fixed number of sixty-five members:

(2) There shall be assigned to each of the other Provinces such a number of members as will bear the same proportion to the number of its population (ascertained at such census) as the number sixty-five bears to the number of the population of Quebec (so ascertained):

(3) In the computation of the number of members for a Province a fractional part not exceeding one half of the whole number requisite for entitling the Province to a member, shall be disregarded; but a fractional part exceeding one half of that number shall be equivalent to the whole number:

(4) On any such readjustment the number of members for a Province, shall not be reduced unless the proportion which the number of the population of the Province bore to the number of the aggregate population of Canada, at the then last proceeding re-adjustment of the number of members for the Province is ascertained at the then latest census to be diminished by one twentieth part or upwards:

(5) Such re-adjustment shall not take until the termination of the then existing Parliament.

52 The number of members of the House of Commons may be from time to time increased by the Parliament of Canada, provided the proportionate representation of the Provinces prescribed by this Act, is not thereby disturbed.

Money Votes; Royal Assent.

53 Bills for appropriating any part of the public revenue, or for imposing any tax or impost, shall originate in the House of Commons.

54 It shall not be lawful for the House of Commons to adopt or pass any vote, resolution, address, or Bill for the appropriation of any part of the public revenue, or of any tax or impost, to any purpose that has not been first recommended to that House by Message of the Governor General in the session in which such vote, resolution, address, or Bill is proposed.

55 Where a Bill passed by the Houses of Parliament is presented to the Governor General for the Queen's assent, he shall declare, according to his discretion, but subject to the provisions of this Act and to Her Majesty's instructions, either that he assents thereto in the Queen's name, or that he reserves the Bill for the signification of the Queen's pleasure.

56 Where the Governor General assents to a Bill in the Queen's name, he shall by the first convenient opportunity send an authentic copy of the Act to one of Her Majesty's principal Secretaries of State, and if the Queen in Council within two years after receipt thereof by the Secretary of State thinks fit to disallow the Act, such disallowance (with a certificate of the Secretary of State of the day on which the Act was received by him) being signified by the Governor General, by speech or message, to each of the Houses of the Parliament, or by proclamation, shall annul the Act from and after the day of such signification.

57 A Bill reserved for the signification of the Queen's pleasure shall not have any force unless and until within two years from the day on which it was presented to the Governor General for the Queen's assent, the Governor General signifies, by speech or message to each of the Houses of the Parliament or by proclamation, that it has received the assent of the Queen in Council.

An entry of every such speech, message or proclamation shall be made in the Journal of each House, and a duplicate thereof duly attested shall be delivered to the proper officer to be kept among the Records of Canada.

V—PROVINCIAL CONSTITUTION.

Executive Power.

58 For each Province there shall be an officer, styled the Lieutenant Governor, appointed by the Governor General in Council by instrument under the great Seal of Canada.

59. A Lieutenant Governor shall hold office during the pleasure of the Governor General; but any Lieutenant Governor appointed after the commencement of the first session of the Parliament of Canada shall not be removable within five years from his appointment, except for cause assigned, which shall be communicated to him in writing within one month after the order for his removal is made, and shall be communicated by message to the Senate and to the House of Commons within one week thereafter if the Parliament is then sitting, and if not then within one week after the commencement of the next session of the Parliament.

60 The salaries of the Lieutenant Governor shall be fixed and provided by the Parliament of Canada.

Every Lieutenant Governor shall, before assuming the duties of his office, make and subscribe before the Governor General or some person authorized by him oaths of allegiance and office similar to those taken by the Governor General.

62. The provisions of this Act referring to the Lieutenant Governor extend and apply to the Lieutenant Governor for the time being of each Province or other the chief Executive officer or Administrator for the time being carrying on the Government of the Province, by whatever title he is designated.

63. The Executive Council of Ontario and of Quebec shall be composed of such Persons as the Lieutenant Governor from time to time thinks fit and in the first instance of the following Officers, namely—the Attorney General, the Secretary and Registrar of the Province, the Treasurer of the Province, the Commissioner of Crown Lands, and the Commissioner of Agriculture and Public Works, with in Quebec, the Speaker of the Legislative Council and the Solicitor General.

64. The Constitution of the Executive Authority in each of the Provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick shall, subject to the provisions of this Act, continue as it exists at the Union and until altered under the authority of this Act.

65. All powers, authorities, and functions which under any Act of the Parliament of Great Britian, or of the Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britian and Ireland, or of the Legislature of Upper Canada, Lower Canada, or Canada, were or are before or at the Union vested in or exercisable by the respective Governors or Lieutenant Governors of those Provinces with the advice, or with the advice and consent, of the respective Executive Councils thereof, or in conjunction with those Councils, or with any number of members thereof, or by those Governors or Lieutenant Governors individually, shall, as far as the same are capable of being exercised after the Union in relation to the Government of Ontario and Quebec respectively, be vested in and shall or may be exercised by the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario and Quebec respectively, with the advice or with the advice and consent of or in conjunction with the respective Executive Councils, or any members thereof, or by the Lieutenant Governor individually, as the case requires, subject nevertheless (except with respect to such as exist under Acts of the Parliament of Great Britian, or of the Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britian and Ireland), to be abolished or altered by the respective Legislatures of Ontario and Quebec.

66. The provisions of this Act referring to the Lieutenant Governor in Council shall be construed as referring to the Lieutenant Governor of the Province acting by and with the advice of the Executive Council thereof.

67. The Governor General in Council may from time to time appoint an Administrator to execute the office and functions of the Lieutenant Governor during his absence, illness, or other inability.

68. Unless and until the Executive Government of any Province otherwise directs with respect to that Province, the Seats of Government of the Provinces shall be as follows, namely,—the City of Ontario, the City of Toronto; of Quebec, the City of Quebec; of Nova Scotia, the City of Halifax; and of New Brunswick, the City of Fredericton.

LEGISLATIVE POWER.

1.—ONTARIO.

69. There shall be a Legislature for Ontario consisting of the Lieutenant Governor and one House, styled the Legislative Assemby of Ontario.

70. The legislative Assembly of Ontario shall be composed of eighty-two members, to be elected to represent the eighty-two Electoral Districts set forth in the first schedule to this Act.

2.—QUEBEC.

71. There shall be a Legislature of Quebec consisting of the Lieutenant Governor and of two Houses, styled the Legislative Council of Quebec and Legislative Assembly of Quebec.

72. The Legislative Council of Quebec shall be composed of twenty-four members, to be appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in the Queen's name, by instrument under the Great Seal of Quebec, one being appointed to represent each of the twenty-four Electoral Divisions of Lower Canada in this Act referred to, and each holding office for the term of his life, unless the Legislature of Quebec otherwise provides under the provisions of this Act.

73. The qualifications of the Legislative Councillors of Quebec shall be the same as those of the Senators for Quebec.

74. The place of a Legislative Councillor of Quebec shall become vacant in the cases, mutatis mutandis, in which the place of Senator becomes vacant.

75. When a vacancy happens in the Legislative Council of Quebec by resignation, death, or otherwise, the Lieutenant Governor, in the Queen's name, by instrument under the Great Seal of Quebec, shall appoint a fit and qualified person to fill the vacancy.

76. If any question arises respecting the qualification of a Legislative Councillor of Quebec, or a vacancy in the Legislative Council of Quebec, the same shall be heard and determined by the Legislative Council.

77. The Lieutenant Governor may from time to time, by under the Great Seal of Quebec, appoint a member of the Legislative Council of Quebec, to be Speaker thereof, and may remove him and appoint another in his stead.

78 Until the Legislature of Quebec otherwise provides, the presence of at least ten members of the Legislative Council, including the Speaker, shall be necessary to constitute a meeting for the exercise of its powers.

79 Questions arising in the Legislative Council of Quebec shall be decided by a majority of Voices, and the Speaker shall in all cases have a vote, and when the voices are equal the decision shall be deemed to be in the negative.

80 The Legislative Assembly of Quebec shall be composed of sixty five members, to be elected to represent the sixty five electoral divisions or district of Lower Canada in this Act referred to, subject to alteration thereof by the Legislature of Quebec: Provided that it shall not be lawful to present to the Lieutenant-Governor of Quebec for assent any bill for altering the limits of any of the electoral divisions or districts mentioned in the second schedule to this Act, unless the second and third readings of such Bill have been passed in the Legislative Assembly with the concurrence of the majority of the members representing all those electoral divisions or districts, and the assent shall not be given to such Bill unless an address has been presented by the Legislative Assembly to the Lieutenant-Governor stating that it has been so passed.

3.—ONTARIO AND QUEBEC.

81 The Legislatures of Ontario and Quebec respectively shall be called together not later than six months after the Union

82 The Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario and of Quebec shall from time to time, in the Queen's name, by instrument under the Great Seal of the Province, summon and call together the Legislative Assembly of the Province.

To be Continued.

Lord Brougham, in the House of Lords strongly urged the adoption of the principle of manhood suffarage.

Chicago at present contains hundreds of houses ticketed "To be let," and the newspapers say that rents are declining.

☞ The largest anchor in the world has been completed for the Great Eastern at Wolverhampton. Its weight is eight tons, exclusive of the stock; length of the shank, twenty feet six inches. The anchor has been proved, and found to stand the strain of one hundred tons.

THE FUTURE CAPITAL of the Dominion of Canada.—The London *Star*, in an article having what we may call a semi-official character, says that Ottawa is to be the capital of the new Confederation; but that the Queen's prerogative is preserved, and that it is probable that a more central point will have to be chosen.

Dublin, March 10.—The band of Fenians which was previously reported to have taken possession of the barracks at Kilteel, in Kildare, have been dispersed by the troops.

The existence of a Fenian Council, which has been secretly in session in this city, has been discovered, and its members have been arrested by the police. Gen. Burke, one of the Fenian leaders in the south, has been captured at Tipperary.

Huron Signal.

GODERICH, MARCH 14, 1867.

THE FENIANS.

Are we to be troubled again by Fenian raiders? is a question that is being asked by a great many, who, however ready they might be to defend their hearths and homes to the last extremity, would much prefer attending to the ordinary occupations of peaceful life. Montreal papers speak of suspicious movements of Eastern Fenians, and we publish elsewhere an article from a Buffalo paper which, if true, proves that an unusual activity prevails amongst the F. B.'s of that section. It is believed by the wise in there matters that even if thoroughly thwarted in Ireland, (which is pretty sure to be the case) an effort will be made to divert attention from the failure of the enterprise by making a blow at Canada this spring. We should be sorry to assist in creating an excited state of public feeling when there is no occasion for it, but we should not be at all surprised if an attempt of the kind were made on a much larger scale than that of last year. That there are indications of it is obvious enough. If we are to be exposed to another invasion, the query is not, Will our people defend themselves?—but, What have they to defend themselves with? Our Governor General is absent, a number of the most influential members of the Canadian Cabinet are also out of the country, marrying, eating good dinners, and enjoying themselves generally, (all right enough, in place,) while the Volunteers of the country are being neglected.—After the regular forces in the Province come the Volunteers, as a nucleus around which the brave of the land could rally, but unfortunately, in some cases, the Volunteers consider themselves so shabbily used that it might be difficult to get them in the field with the alacrity and enthusiasm of June last. And then, supposing that a body of thirty or forty thousand Fenians should be thrown upon our shores, what provision has been made for arming and equipping a force of stalwart militia men large enough to hurl them back? Where is the supply of artillery, rifles, ammunition, &c., to come from, in a sudden emergency, for the defence of Upper Canada? Nothing could give us such a sense of security as to know that we were fully prepared to meet the enemy, at any point, on terms of equality, and our military authorities will be guilty of a gross dereliction of duty if they neglect to prepare for any trouble we may be called upon to meet.

That the mad scheme of braving the power of Great Britain on Irish soil can succeed is utterly impossible. A nation that could stamp out the great Indian Mutiny many thousands of miles from home, is surely able to put a sudden stopper upon a cabbage garden blaze, within a few miles of the centre of the greatest power on earth. The Fenians are welcome to all they can get in Ireland, and we think they will speedily receive enough to satisfy them that they have been all along making consummate fools of themselves.

CANDIDATE NUMBER ONE.

John Holmes, Esq., Ex-M. P. P., has named himself as a candidate for the suffrages of the electors of North Huron. What branch of the Legislature he intends to grace with his presence is known, as yet, only to himself and the "many electors" who have asked him to re-enter upon a life of which, we believed till now, he had seen quite enough. Mr Holmes brings his grist to the political mill thus early, under the impression, no doubt, that the miller's golden rule of "first come first served," will prevail, but we seriously question whether the electors of the North Riding will see the matter exactly in that light. Mr Holmes has, of course, a perfect right to take time by the forelock, independent of caucuses and conventions, and he will at all events have the satisfaction of putting his name before the public, and having his merits and demerits canvassed with that fullness and freedom which all may expect who, either by their own election, or the request of their fellow citizens, set themselves up as targets for the shafts of public opinion; but he will find, we think, that those he wishes to represent will exercise their prerogative and pick and choose for themselves. Mr Holmes is by no means a bad sort of man—in private life his character is considered irreproachable—and we are not prepared to say that any of the errors of his public career grew out of corrupt or unworthy motives. So far, good, and yet the merest novice must know that desirable as *negative* goodness may be in those who surround us, many a negatively good sort of body is of no more use in Parliament than a tobacconists' sign would be, except for voting purposes, and even then, the chances are that, having no very clearly-defined opinions on any important subject, he will place half his votes in the opposite bag, by way of balance, for fear that the other half might have been *too positive*. If he does little good, he claims that he does as little harm, and hence the irreverent multitude vote him a very *chip in porridge*.

Mr Holmes, in such a short announcement, could hardly be expected to state what political party he intends to lean upon, (for it appears that party strife must be engaged in), but we presume that he will raise the conservative standard, when he comes to define his position more fully, in which case he will, as a matter of necessity be taken up by the conservatives of North Huron. We must, however, defer further consideration of his prospects until he either comes out fully, or is crowded out of the way by a less cautious candidate on the same side.

☞ We have heard it rumored that A. Lofory, Esq., barrister, of Goderich, will be a candidate for North Huron (for the Commons) at the ensuing election.

An Idea worth pondering.

In addition to the extra financial advantages to be derived by the Eastern Provinces of Canada, under Confederation, there is one way in which they will reap a rich harvest, which we have not seen in print, although we have heard it spoken of privately. It is well-known that, when Confederation is consummated, the Intercolonial Railway is to be commenced at once, and pushed towards completion with all despatch. The road will cost, no doubt, somewhere in the neighborhood of twenty-five millions of dollars, and as the principal portion of the line will pass through the Province of New Brunswick, it is calculated that the immense amount of British capital to be spent therein will give *two hundred dollars* for every man, woman, and child therein! Happy Blue Noses! Why, there is not money enough afloat in Ontario to furnish the inhabitants with more than five dollars apiece. Little wonder that New-Brunswick should, with *apparent* reluctance, consent to enter a Confederation, the *quid pro quo* of which is to pour untold wealth into her lap. It is evident that for many years, to come Ontario must beg pretty hard for such small favors as she may receive, and rest content at all times with the barest end of the bone. If the maritime Provinces unite with the Quebecers, on money questions, we may look out for "breakers ahead." Ontario may send men of great talent and intelligence to represent her interests, but a vote's a vote, and "de'il tak' the hindmost" will probably come to be the watchword. However, the thing is about as good as done, and we should take what comfort we can in the thought that the change will be for the general good, on the whole.

A WASTE OF KINDNESS.

A local tory sheet gets off a sickly joke about our inability to furnish liberal candidates for the two ridings of Huron, and names certain persons as likely to be the men. We do not profess to be manufacturers of candidates, and if we were fools enough to name half-a-dozen good ones on this occasion, who might or might not decide upon running, we should get just as little thanks as the editor of that paper did from the eight or ten whom he proposed last fall as fit and proper persons to become members of the Legislative Council. We shall be in the field in good time, never fear, and have full confidence that we will be able to give a good account of the liberal candidates at the end of the contest, if, indeed, there is one. It would behove the gent. who gives his gratuitous advice, to trot out *his own candidates*. Does he intend to have any? Has he selected them? If so, who are they? Or, does he think it will be useless to enter the field at all? Out with it, now; don't be ashamed; name a dozen or two on *that* side of the fence!

County of Bruce Directory.

We have been presented with a Directory of the County of Bruce, published by Mr. J. W. Rookledge, which for accuracy, and neatness of arrangement compares favorably with any of the kind we have seen. Besides a large amount of useful general information, it gives the names of all the householders with their place of residence, description of the County and its numerous Villages, and in fact embraces all that could be desired in a Directory. We hope the enterprising publisher will meet with a large sale for the book.

CONFEDERATION BILL.—We publish to-day a moiety of the Confederation Bill, and in order to do so have been compelled to postpone several matters of interest. We strongly urge our readers to preserve the two copies of the *Signal* containing the Bill for future reference, as, if passed, it will be the great guide in the working of our political machinery.

The Convention.

The following gentlemen from the North have been appointed delegates:—

ASHFIELD.—Wm Mallough, Thomas Anderson, John Murdoc and R. Clendenning.

WEST WAWANOSH.—Chas Girvin, Jno Mallough, John Savage, Robt Taylor.

☞ Mr. Francis Hurdon, of Kincardine, has received a very large requisition, asking him to allow himself to be brought forward as a candidate for the House of Commons under Confederation. There can be no doubt of his walking the course when the time comes. Mr James Brocelbank will probably be the candidate for the local legislature in the same riding.

MR. CONNOLY'S LECTURE AND READINGS.

In the Victoria Hall last night, gave great satisfaction to the audience. A true Irishman himself, of the live sort, he excels in the delineation of the character of his countrymen, from the peasant in the ditch to the warm-hearted poet or high-minded orator. His voice is sonorous, capable of perfect modulation, and moreover has a round, rich smack of the "rale brogue." Hence the fine effect with which he renders the resistless humor of Lever, Lover, &c. Mr. Conoely intends to give readings on Monday evening next, in the same Hall, from the first English, Irish and Scottish authors, and as the treat will be a rare one, we hope to see a crowded house. It would do Goderich no harm to encourage entertainments of this high order! Mr. C. will also visit Seaforth shortly, where we bespeak for him a good reception.

AT WORK AGAIN.—Buyers from the States are scouring the township of this County and purchasing cattle at such rates that the farmers feel satisfied *they*, at least, are not paying the duty. One or two droves have been brought in already for transportation by rail.

THE AMERICAN AGRICULTURIST for March has been forwarded to this office by the publishers, Orange Judd Co., N. Y. It is a fine number of what we consider the best of all American agricultural papers. Club agent at Goderich, Mr. Alexander Watson.

COUNTY COURT AND QUARTER SESSIONS.

These Courts opened to-day (Tuesday) at 10 o'clock before His Honor, Judge Brough and J. V. Detlor Esq. and B. Pollock Esq. J. P's. The following gentlemen of the Grand Jury answered to their names and were duly sworn in, viz:—

John Mallough, foreman.	
Jno. Elder,	T. E. Finlay,
Geo. Forrest,	Samuel Holmes,
Wm. Lannon,	D. McTavish,
Jno. McEwan,	Robert McLean,
Jno. Rodgers,	T. Routledge,
W. C. Treleaven,	Jno. Warrick
David Wilkie,	Jas. Watson,

In addressing the Grand Jury, His Honor said that, owing to the lightness of the calender, he had very few directions to give, beyond congratulating them and himself upon the fact. The congratulation should be regarded on public grounds rather than as anything to themselves.—With one exception the cases to be brought before them were of common larceny. His Honor then in a few words explained the law as regards this offence. The exceptional case was one of felonious stabbing, and the learned judge read the statutory clauses in such cases made and provided, after which the Jury was directed to enter upon its duties.

TOWN COUNCIL.

The Council met on Friday evening last, the Mayor in the chair. Present, Messrs. Horton, McKenzie, Passmore, Hays, Seymour, Cameron, Kay, Clifford, McKay, Rumball and Cattle.

Minutes of last meeting read and approved

Communication from J. Longworth, read and filed.

Propositions for town printing referred finance committee.

Petition of Mr. Herr relative to a matter of wrong taxation. Ref. to finance committee.

A reduction of $10.00 was made in the license of John Craig.

The report of finance committee recommending payment of several small amounts was adopted.

It was resolved that Messrs, Nasmyth, Gordon and John Stewart receive $4.50 each, being balance of their accounts as returning officers.

Account of J Saunders for wood furnished Engine room and keeping on fire $17.00, to be paid.

Acc't of Shephard & Strachan, relief, $7.44, to be paid.

Report of special comm. appointed to examine petition of market Clerk: That they have considered the said petition and examined the books of the market clerk, and as he has nearly three month's fees yet to receive we feel we cannot at present make any report, but beg to report progress with leave to sit again.

The special committee appointed to inquire into our position with the Northern Gravel Road Co., reported that after paying for necessary repairs the Company would have a surplus of only $567,00 out of the revenue of the past two years towards paying up the interest due the town, and recommended that all reasonable indulgence should be granted under the circumstances Report fyled, and the committee requested to continue as such.

The chairman of the Road and Bridge Com. reported that he had visited the Bridge Hill and found that the spring slide would probably render the road impassable.

The clerk was instructed to advise the Warden and County Engineer of the fact and request immediate action.

The Treasurer reported the funds to be in a low state, and asked instructions as to the payment of the County rate. Referred to Finance Committee.

The Council adjourned for two weeks.

Wawanosh, March 7, 1867.

DEAR SIGNAL,—I observe by the papers that we are likely to have quite a number of candidates at the approaching election. John Holmes is the only one as yet fully *out*, and I think will stay out. His day, when a tool was wanted, has departed. The only other person I have heard spoken of here is Dr. McDougall, of Goderich; if he will consent to stand he will command a large vote in this township, as he is much liked for his kindness of manner, straight-forwardness, and honesty of purpose. He has been a long time here, in extensive practice, and I never heard of his distressing any person, but I have heard of many kind acts of his. I hope that he may consent to stand. We would have an honest man. Not being a letter writer, but a common farmer, I hope that you will excuse this scrawl, and be kind enough to inform us in the backwoods of the proceedings in your town.

Yours truly,
AN OLD REFORMER.

HARPURHEY.

[From our Special Correspondent.]

March, 11th 1867.

Historians tell us of the rise and fall of empires and travellers have graphically depicted the Ruins of Jerusalem, Nineveh and Babylon; contrasting their former greatness with their present condition, and who will be above noticing the rise and fall of Harpurhey?

In extent, of course, she was not so great nor has she the tradition of those cities, but she *has* existed, flourished, and declined, as well as they, and she *has* a tradition. Glendinning says that

"Rome that stands on seven hills,
Was once as small as thee."

Another poet observes that the worm when trod upon, "Feels a pang as great as when a giant dies," and I have no doubt that the hopes, fears, jealousies and struggles of Harpurhey for existence, for eminence, and to retard her fall, have been as great, and as keenly felt as if she had been as large as London and as old as Athens.

With steady perseverance she progressed onwards and upwards from the wild woods to the rude log chanties, from the log chanties to the handsome frame and brick dwelling houses, stores and hotels, from mud roads to gravel roads and beautiful side-walks, trade, brisk artisans, busy industry and interprise the order of the day, and a bright future seemed to be in store for this thriving village,—but.

The best laid plans o'mice and men,
Aft gang agee."

The union of the gravel roads with the railway depot at Seaforth