

THURSDAY, February 3.

The House of Assembly having returned to their Chamber—

The speech was read by the Hon. the Speaker.

After which the Hon. the Speaker announced that having received information of the demise of George W. McLellan, Esq., and Ichabod Dimock Esq., he had authorised the issue of writs for new Elections for the Counties of Colchester and Hants.

The Hon. PROVINCIAL SECRETARY laid on the table returns shewing that G. W. McLellan and Bennet Smith, Esquires, had been duly returned for said Counties.

The members elect were then sworn in before the Honbls. H. Bell and M. B. Almon, members of the Legislative Council.

BILL PRO FORMA.

Mr. W. A. HENRY asked leave to introduce a Bill, entitled, An Act to establish a Decimal Currency. Read a first time.

THE ADDRESS.

Mr. RUGGLES—The next matter for the consideration of the House is the answer to his Excellency's speech, which I intend, Mr. Speaker, to move; but before doing so I beg leave to call the attention of the House to several matters of importance, referred to in it. The first subject to which your attention is directed is the Union of the Colonies—a question of vast importance, which has occupied some of the ablest minds of the day, not only in the Colonies but in the mother country. The next question is the inter-Colonial Railway, which has been under consideration for some time, and several important steps have been recently taken for the purpose of placing the matter prominently before the Legislatures of the Colonies and the mother country, and from what has transpired we may safely conclude that at some future and not very distant day this great undertaking will be perfected. As a question of inter-Colonial policy it is of vast importance to all the Colonies, and perhaps more so to Nova Scotia than any other; and no doubt when the report of the delegation is laid on the table, it will receive that due consideration which its importance demands.

His Excellency also congratulates the Legislature on the completion of the Hospital for the Insane—an institution long required; and although it has taxed our resources heavily, yet I know not, sir, a more worthy object to which the funds of this Province could not have been appropriated. That unfortunate class of people, who, bereft of reason, are incapable of maintaining themselves, are there well and suitably provided for.

It is also pleasing to us to know that His Excellency has, during the recess, made himself familiar, by personal inspection, with various sections of the country, and expresses in the speech his intention of visiting the whole province, whereby we will be enabled the better to judge of the wants and necessities of the people over whom he has been appointed to preside.

The answer to His Excellency's speech alludes to several other matters, to which it is not my intention now to refer, I shall therefore content

myself by moving the following Answer to the Address:—

To His Excellency the Right Honorable the EARL OF MULGRAVE, Lieutenant Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over Her Majesty's Province of Nova Scotia and its Dependencies, &c., &c.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:

We, the Representatives of the people of Nova Scotia, thank your Excellency for the courteous terms in which we have been invited to resume our Legislative labors.

The communications upon the proposed Federal Union of the Provinces will not fail to obtain the attention due to a question involving considerations so important.

We thank your Excellency for informing us of the gracious manner in which Her Majesty was pleased to accept the address on the Inter-Colonial Railway, and we will consider the correspondence had by your Excellency with the Imperial Government and sister Provinces, and the report of the delegation to England on that interesting subject.

It affords us much satisfaction to learn that the Railways have been completed to Windsor and Truro.

The promised information concerning these works will obtain our careful examination.

We are gratified to find that your Excellency has become personally acquainted with several portions of our country, and that it is your intention to continue and extend those visits which cannot fail to be a source of satisfaction to the people over whom your Excellency has been called to preside.

We are glad that your Excellency was enabled to visit the St. Peter's Canal, and will bestow due consideration upon the report made by your direction.

That the Hospital for the Insane is so far completed as to be now in operation, is a source of much pleasure, and we trust that, although it has heavily taxed our resources, it will be attended with commensurate usefulness.

We desire to express our thankfulness to the Divine author of all good, for the abundance with which the labors of the husbandman have been blessed, and sincerely regret the destitution caused by the unproductiveness of any portion of so important a branch of our commercial industry as the fisheries.

It is satisfactory to know that the deficiency in the Revenue has not been considerable, and that the prospects for the future are encouraging.

In the necessary appropriations for the public service, we will not lose sight of the paramount importance of sustaining the credit which Nova Scotia has justly attained, by making due provision for all our liabilities.

The accounts of past expenditure and current estimates will receive our careful consideration.

Our best attention will be bestowed upon such measures as may be brought under our notice during the present session.

Mr. Caldwell seconded the motion.

Hon. WILLIAM YOUNG said, I presume the usual course will be adopted on this occasion and that the answer to the Address will be allowed to remain on the table until to-morrow; this has been the usage here for many years, and is the more necessary on this occasion, that we may have time to recover from our astonishment at the brilliant promises disclosed in the speech, and the