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LL kinds of LEATHER received on Commission, A and sold to best advantage.

Best COD OIL always on hand.

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MONTREAL.

49-1y

# THE TRADE REVIEW

Intercolonial Journal of Comm ree.

MONTREAL, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1867.

#### THE FIRST PARLIAMENT OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA.

N the speech from the throne, delivered by His Excellency the Governor-General, at the opening of the first Parliament of the United Provinces of Canada. Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick, in a few brief sentences are made known to the members of the Senate and Commons, the subjects upon which they are to be called upon to legislate. The speech (after stating the fact that while the Imperial Government considered and pressed the principle of Union of the Provinces as a subject of great imperial interest, perfect freedom was left to the representatives of those Provinces to carry it out in any way that seemed best to themselves, and it became their right and their duty to reduce to practice the new system of Government now called into existence) went on to say,-

" With the design of effecting these objects, measures " will be laid before you for the amendment and assi-"milation of the laws now existing in the several Pre-"vinces relating to currency, customs, excise and "revenue generally; for the adoption of an uniform "postal system; for the proper management and "maintenance of the public works and properties of "the Dominion; for the adoption of a well considered "scheme of militia organization and defence; for the " proper administration of Indian affairs, and for the "introduction of uniform laws respecting patents of "invention and discovery, the naturalization of aliens "and the assimilation of the criminal law and the law "relating to bankruptcy and insolvency.

"A measure will also be submitted to you for the pe:-"formance of the duty imposed upon Canada under "the terms of the Union Act, of immediately con-"structing the Intercolonial Railway. This great "work will add a practical and physical connec, "tion to the legislative bond which now unites the "Provinces comprising the Dominion; and the liber-"ality with which the guarantee for the cost of its con-"struction was given by the Imperial Government, is "a now proof of the hearty interest felt by the British "people in your prosperity.

"Your consideration will also be invited to the im-"portant subject of Western Territorial Extension, "and your attention will be called as to the best means "for the protection and development of our fisheries "and marine interests.

You will also be asked to consider measures de-"fining the privileges of Parliament, and for the MORLAND, WATSON & CO., WHOLESALB

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MORLAND, WATSON & CO.,

General Agents for Canada.

FRED. COLE, Secretary. FRED. COLE, Secretary.

Inspector of Agencies—T. C. Livingston P.L.S.
9-ly

e establishment of uniform laws relating to elections' "and the trial of controverted elections."

In these few words are contained the foreshadowings of a long and toilsome session, of hard-working Committees, much intense thought on the part of conscientious men, anxious to do their duty to their country, and withal much sectional jealousy, much bickering, much party-spirit, lobb, ing and wire pulling, and an enormous waste of words.

It is early yet, before the various measures referred to shall have been introduced, to indicate the policy which it seems to us ought to be followed, on the several points mentioned. We shall however, state what we believe to be the true course to be adopted with regard to three or four of the subjects which the fact of Union makes it necessary to legislate upon.

The first alluded to in the speech is that of the currency of Canada, referring, we suppose, to the denominations and value of the coinage of the country, as also probably to the important items of bank and government notes. The most important point with regard to currency is to make selection of some system which shall contain the elements of permanency, and yet which shall not be so dissimilar to the system now in use in the major part of the Confederation as to require long years for its practical Introduction among all classes of our citizens. For our own part, we see no objection to the continuation of the present decimal system, which, for every day use in all sorts of ways, commends itself more and more as people become familiar with it and its working, and cease to be so wedded to the pounds, shillings and pence of Great Britain, with their balo of comparative antiquity. In by far the largest part of the Confederacy, that is to say, in Ontario, Quebec, and New Brauswick, the value of the dollar-the unit-is the same, and is also the same as that of the gold dollar of the United States. In Nova Scotia alone the value of the unit is less; there the dollar being the fifth part of a pound sterling, equal to 97 jc. of Canada or U. S. currency. Any change made in the currency of a people which is a real, and not merely a nominal change, must be more or less felt to be a hardship; and we are far from denying that if, in the arrangement of a uniform currency, the Nova Scotian system be made to give way to that more generally in use throughout the country, the Nova Scotians would have cause for dissatisfaction, were it not that the gain in the future of having a currency and comage the same as those of the rest of the Continent, must more than counterbalance present loss and trouble. As to coins, a twenty-five cent silver piece has become indispensable, and should at once be provided. The present Canadian and New Brunswick coins of twenty, ten, and five cents, respectively, in silver, and one cent of copper alloy, would, of course, be retained. A gold coinage would then be all that was required, and coins of the value of \$20, \$10, \$5 and \$21, might be struck off, and for this purpose a Canadian mint should at once be opened, and the product