

HALIFAX CITY MISSION.—The Annual Meeting of this Benevolent Institution was held in the Granville Street Church on Monday evening.

Rev. Mr. Scott opened the meeting by prayer, after which the Chairman made a highly appropriate introductory address.

Rev. Messrs McGregor and Rand spoke to good effect. W. Silver Esq., and Dr. Parker also addressed the meeting urging more consideration towards those too often considered hopeless.

The next lecture before the Young Men's Christian Association will be delivered (D.V.) in Temperance Hall, on Tuesday evening next, by the Rev. John Knox.

There will be a Temperance Meeting in the Division Room on Saturday evening.

Provincial Parliament.

Opening of the Legislature.

On Thursday last the usual ceremonies were observed at the commencement of the House of Legislature. At 2 o'clock His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor and suite attended at the Council Chamber.

SPEECH.

Mr President and Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:

Mr Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

While neighboring States are still disturbed and impoverished by civil war, and large and populous districts of Europe are threatened with destitution, it becomes us reverently to thank Almighty God that we can resume our Legislative labors in a country where peace reigns, where capital increases, where the industrious can find employment, and the humblest classes food.

I am happy to be able to inform you that the general commerce of Nova Scotia, injuriously affected by the civil war in 1861, rapidly recovered its healthy activity in 1862, and that, throughout the year, that activity has been maintained; that our Merchants have found new markets—our Shipwrights profitable employment, and our vessels remunerative freights in all parts of the world.

A bountiful Harvest, a moderately successful Fishery, a yield of Fruit almost unexampled, an expanding Coal Trade, and the fair results of our experiments in Gold Mining, have supplied the materials for commerce, and it is satisfactory to know that among all classes of the people the happy results of a year of profitable exertion have been very generally diffused.

The Public Accounts shall be laid before you without delay.

The increase of Revenue has been most satisfactory. The ordinary services have been met, the interest on our Debentures, and the sums paid, leaving, at the close of the year, a considerable surplus in the Treasury.

The income from the Provincial Railways has rapidly increased. Four years ago it was necessary to draw a large amount from the Treasury to pay their working expenses. During the last year the income has not only met the outlay, but yielded, besides, a sum nearly equal to one sixth of the interest on the cost of construction.

Mr President and Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:

Mr Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

It affords me much satisfaction to inform you that the Volunteer Corps throughout the Province still maintain their organization and efficiency.

The period which has elapsed since the passing of the Militia Bill, last session has not been neglected. Active measures have been taken for the re-organization of the Militia; and, although much difficulty and some delay were unavoidable in this construction of a force utterly disorganized by long neglect, the result has proved that the loyal inhabitants of this Province are not unwilling to assume the responsibility of contributing to their own defence.

The Report of the Adjutant General of Militia will be laid before you, and will shew in detail the steps which have been taken. Much has been done; much still remains to be accomplished; but by steady perseverance, I doubt not that the Militia will shortly attain an amount of discipline sufficient for the present requirements of the Province.

To pay and maintain the Militia as that force is maintained in England, would be difficult if not impossible; but by a constant and efficient enrollment, by maintaining a thorough system of regimental organization, by careful training of the officers, and by occasional mustering and training the men in their own districts, a force may be secured, without pressing unduly on the resources of industry of the country, at all times available for active service in the event of war.

I confidently rely on you to make such provision for this branch of the public service as its importance demands.

A despatch was received after the close of the session, from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, conveying a proposition from Her Majesty's Government with a view to the construction of the Intercolonial Railroad: and that proposition has, through out the year, formed the subject of anxious deliberation to the Governments of the three Provinces concerned.

Your attention will be invited to a measure, having for its object a fairer adjustment of the division lines of the Districts, and more judicious and equitable distribution of the Franchise.

You will be gratified to know, that, the Industrial Exhibition, Nova Scotia was honorably distinguished; that her Court was attractive, and that those who contributed to the illustration of her resources, have not, in the distribution of prizes, been overlooked.

The experience of a year has enabled the proper officers to collect such information as will aid the Legislature to improve the measure passed at the last Session for the regulation of our Gold Fields. When the Commissioner's Report and accounts have been laid before you, your attention will be called to the consideration of the changes and modifications which would seem to be required.

For many years a stream of emigration has been passing the British Provinces into the United States. The Governments of Canada and New Brunswick have made very creditable efforts to draw into those Provinces some portion of the surplus labor of the Mother Country, and it is desirable that we should follow their example. You will be asked to consider a measure, to provide for the distribution and settlement of industrious emigrants, who may be attracted into this Province by the new light recently thrown on its resources.

Though the agricultural interests of the Province are steadily advancing, the annual Exhibitions, which, in other countries, create a generous emulation in all branches of husbandry and in the improvement of stock, are much required here. Your attention will be turned to the means, by which it is hoped the want may be supplied.

In committing to your charge the great interests of the Country, I confidently rely upon the zeal, intelligence, and public spirit, with which I know your high duties will be discharged.

After the reading of the Speech, the "Commons" withdrew and His Excellency left the Council to their deliberations.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

After the Speech had been read Mr. Blanchard introduced pro forma a bill to provide for the Registration of births, marriages and deaths.

Mr. Stewart Campbell moved the Address in answer to the Speech; which was seconded by Mr. Coffin.

Dr. Tupper then arose and asked the Hon. Provincial Secretary to state to the House the position he now occupied under the Imperial Government.

Hon. Mr. Howe replied that the Imperial Government had offered him the office of Fishery Commissioner, the active duties of which would not commence until next spring. He would further say that it was his intention to retire from the Provincial Secretaryship soon after the close of the present session.

Mr. Wade then asked Mr. Howe if he was now drawing salary from the British Government, to which the latter replied that Her Majesty the Queen seldom employed any person without paying them for their services.

Dr. Tupper then addressed the House in reference to what he deemed a violation of the constitution under which we live, and of the principles of responsible government. He showed that the Fishery Commissioner had to act under the Reciprocity Treaty between the United States and Great Britain and the interests of Nova Scotia were largely at stake.

Hon. Mr. Howe said he was surprised that the hon. gentleman (Dr. Tupper) was unwilling

to let a public man after twenty-five or thirty years of service to his country pass out of the turmoil of political life quietly. He thought it would have been more consistent for a leader of the Opposition to have erected a bridge over the political chasm to facilitate the flying enemy's retreat. He (Mr. H.) gave a narrative of the Crimean campaign and the urgent demands of England for troops, and believed he was serving his country, when at the request of Sir Gaspard de Marchant he had engaged in the endeavour to raise troops in the United States.

Hon. Mr. Johnston said he considered that the appointment held by the Provincial Secretary, did touch the interests of Nova Scotia, and that consequently there was great impropriety in his retaining his office, and seat in the Assembly. We have been told that Earl Russell would not pursue a policy detrimental to the interests of the province, but he (Mr. J.) did not want the destinies of this province to depend on the opinion of any man. He would feel gratified as far as the personal and private interests of the Prov. Sec. were concerned, at the appointment, but not that the independence and character of the Legislature should be imperilled by it.

FRIDAY, Feb. 13.

The debate on the Address was resumed by Dr. Tupper rising to reply to the speakers of the previous day. He was surprised that the Attorney General had said, when rising to speak, that there was no question before the house, when one of so much importance as the Address had been moved and seconded.

Hon. Mr. Howe said the attempts of the hon. gentleman to damage him by such epithets, in reference to the enlistment business, as "a fugitive from justice," he considered unmanly. The expressions in his speeches on the Northern States, he believed were warranted by the circumstances at the time of their utterance.

Mr. S. Campbell moved the first clause of the Address which with several others were passed without further debate. On the clause, in reference to the Railway, being read. Dr. Tupper asked if the government would be prepared to submit any Railway measure. Mr. Howe replied that he was waiting to receive information from Canada, which he expected in a day or two, before he could reply to the question.

Mr. E. P. Grant here arose and referred to the failure of the negotiations for other railway extension and he considered it would be useless to longer delay proceeding towards Pictou; and gave notice that he should move for proceeding with the Pictou Railway, and that at least fifteen miles of it be located during the present year.

Several members here spoke. Mr. Jas. McDonald said the people of Pictou had been so many times deceived by proposals from the government to have that railroad constructed that they would not be likely to be caught by such a measure as that of the hon. member. He wanted the whole road and would be satisfied with nothing less.

Having to leave the gallery at this point we are dependent on our contemporaries for a report of the tempest that took place afterwards. We place their reports in juxtaposition, and our readers may draw from them their own conclusions.

From the Chronicle:—

Mr. Tobin and others followed, maintaining that if Mr. Grant was serious in his advocacy of the extension to Pictou, he should have joined them. Mr. Wier replied, defending the Government, who, he said, were deprived of the means for building the Pictou Railway, by the action of their predecessors, who had taken over £100,000 of railway funds to meet their deficiencies, and expended £60,000 to £70,000 besides in subsidizing railway contractors.

The moment Mr. Wier sat down, Dr. Tupper rose in a state of frantic excitement, applying to Mr. Wier epithets such as no gentleman would apply to another, and using language too indecent to be uttered in any assembly of gentlemen. Dr. Tupper, who was called to order, refused to sit down when commanded by the Chair, but continued speaking until the galleries were cleared.

SATURDAY, Feb. 14.

Hon. Mr. Johnston enquired if the Hon. Provincial Secretary did not intend to contradict the statement of Hon. Mr. Wier on the previous evening, that the late government had expended £60,000 in subsidizing railway contractors.

Hon. Mr. Howe said that after the withdrawal of the intemperate assertions last evening it was unnecessary to go into the subject. He thought that if his suggestion had been adopted, there might have been a large saving effected.

Hon. Mr. Johnston was not fully satisfied with that reply, and shewed that he (Mr. Howe) had subsequently acted on the same principle. He (Mr. Johnston) then went into a full explanation of the claims left by the former government, and shewed that the late government had not paid one penny but according to law. He charged Mr. Grant with inconsistency in now bringing forward a measure for a railway to Pictou after his former votes on that subject, and characterized it as similar to the sensation produced by the exhibition of red flags just previous to the last election.

Mr. Jas. McDonald said that the Pictou railroad had been a political stalking-horse, and although he had received various promises from time to time, he had no idea that there was any sincerity in the present scheme.

Mr. Grant defended his action and stated that if his colleagues had acted with him, there would have been now ten miles of the Pictou road built. He denied that his resolution had emanated from the government. He had now greater hopes for the Pictou railroad than ever before, as he believed the project for constructing the Intercolonial railroad had failed, in consequence of Canada refusing the terms on which the loan was offered.

MONDAY, Feb. 16th.

The debate on the address was resumed.

Dr. Tupper made some enquiries of the Hon. Prov. Sec. concerning the eligibility of Imperial officers to sit in the Provincial Parliament, and said that he was assured that a majority of the house were opposed to the Address yet the Opposition would not call for a division.

After some further discussion of railway matters, retrenchment, delegations, and a number of charges and counter-charges passing between several of the honorable gentlemen, the Address in answer to the opening Speech passed without a division.



IN THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

RESOLVED.—That no Bill of a private and local nature, or petition therefor, be received by the House after the fourteenth day from the opening of each session of the present House of Assembly, and that the Clerk do, one month previously to the opening of the Legislature, cause this Resolution to be inserted in five or more of the public newspapers. The above is a true extract from the Journal of the House of Assembly. Jan. 21. A. JAMES, Clerk.