

The House then went into Committee, and passed the Windsor and Annapolis Railway Bill with some slight amendments.  
 Mr. Longley stated, in answer to the gentleman, that the Railway Report would be ready in a few days.  
 Mr. Annand presented two petitions on the subject of Education.  
 Mr. Balcan, one on the same subject.

WEDNESDAY, Feby. 28th.

Hon. Prov. Secretary informed the House that during the recess he had received a letter from a member of the House, Mr. G. S. Brown, resigning his seat as representative for the township of Yarmouth. A writ had been accordingly issued, and the return showing the election of William H. Townsend, Esq., was laid on the table. The usual oath was administered and Mr. Townsend took his seat.

The Windsor and Annapolis Railway bill passed its third reading.  
 Mr. Locke presented two petitions against setting fish weirs.

Mr. Miller presented one from New Glasgow on the subject of the location of the Railway Depot. Also another on the same subject from Antigonish.

**Cape Breton Affairs**—Mr. Blanchard wished to ask of the Government information respecting the expenditure of monies arising from Cape Breton Crown Lands; also whether any correspondence on placing large steamers on the Gulf of St. Lawrence, had been received, and whether the Government would not think it prudent to grant a sum of money to encourage the line or one in connection with it between Pictou and the Strait of Canso, to touch at Mabou and other points in Cape Breton.

Hon. Prov. Secy. replied that the Government had no information on the subject further than the public prints afforded. No application for aid had been received, and the matter could therefore be brought to the notice of the House by suggestions of individual members. The Government had instructed the Commissioner of Crown Lands to prepare a report, which was transmitted to the members for the Island. A great deal of difference existed between their suggestions and the recommendation of the Commissioner; the principal reason had been that very large special grants had been made to the Cape Breton counties in addition to the road grants.

Mr. Miller said that for two years they had been unable to provide for roads running through new settlements, and to open up tracts of land which had been sold, expecting to receive the grants,—and it was a great hardship for districts where there were no means of getting to market, or to church, or to the mill, to have that money lying in the treasury.

Mr. Archibald was surprised to hear references to the wretched state of the Cape Breton roads. He could not say that Cape Breton claimed more than her right in claiming these funds. Last year he made great efforts to induce the Government to expend the large sum of money voted to the Island in opening up the interior, but they preferred taking this money, which would have made excellent roads throughout the country, and expending it upon a ditch half a mile in length. He hoped that his recommendation would be adopted this year, and that this large grant would be applied to some useful purpose.

Mr. Miller said he regretted that the time had not come when the hon. gentleman could cease to grudge Cape Breton the small instalment of justice meted out to her. The Legislature having put an act upon the Statute Book to secure the completion of the Canal, that gentleman should have submitted to the deliberate action of the House; but some members seemed to be under the impression that the paltry grant of £30,000 to the Canal was a sufficient compensation for her hundreds of thousands of dollars expended in other parts of the Province. The four counties of Cape Breton yielded to the revenue, in proportion to their population, more than any other portion of Nova Scotia;—in consequence of the large development of mining, fishing, and other interests of that Island, the sum paid to the treasury being one-fourth of the whole revenue, while the population was but a fifth. Did Colchester, he ask, pay as much revenue as Cape Breton? No, not half as much, and yet the grant to the canal was continually flung in the teeth of members for the Island. He would tell the hon. gentleman that men more competent than he was to express an opinion, had given an opinion highly favorable to the work, and that however highly he (Mr. M.) might respect the opinion of the leader of the Opposition on some points, he had no respect for his opinion on this; nor had the people, who believed that the undertaking would be exceedingly beneficial.

Mr. Archibald said that if the subject of the Canal was touched his learned friend was sure to pop up like a certain object he would not mention, but that gentleman was mistaken. No one opposed the Canal from a desire to withhold the money from the island, but from a desire to see it applied in a practical manner.

Hon. Provincial Secretary was glad to be able to state that the present engineer was not only satisfied that a very efficient Canal could be constructed at a moderate cost, but that the work would be of great benefit to the Island and to the Province generally. It would be remembered that while Mr. Laurie, in making his report, considered the large outlay involved, and the then condition of the island as not warranting the expenditure, the necessities and trade of Cape Breton were now of such a different character that the Government could properly take their present course while placing great reliance on the report. Without being obliged to dis-

credit the prudential and economical considerations influencing Mr. Laurie the Government were warranted in determining to proceed with the work.

Mr. Miller said that any one looking at a map of Cape Breton must see the necessity for a Canal, and must admit that the time would come for its construction. That time had come, and had come sooner than had been expected, and there was not the slightest ground for basing on that report an objection to the undertaking. Any one viewing the large development of the prosperity of Cape Breton must admit the justice of the expenditure.

Mr. Blanchard was glad to hear it admitted by the leaders of the Government and Opposition that the claims of the Island were great, and hoped the result would be practical and beneficial.

Mr. Archibald contended that the large amount of coal raised from the mines would not come through the lakes, but would come along the coast to Halifax or go to the United States. It was true that the condition of Cape Breton was vastly altered, but it was in such a way as to require more rapid communication with the capital for persons transacting business, and the canal would rather obstruct that than otherwise.

Mr. Churchill said he would be disposed to concur in the opinion of Mr. Archibald but as the work had been begun on a certain principle, the Legislature should not deviate. He thought there was no doubt that in course of time the work would be more beneficial than was generally supposed, for new resources were being every day developed in the island, and in course of time a considerable quantity of coal would find its way by that route if the Canal was ever finished.

Mr. Miller said that mines were being discovered along the borders of the lake which could not be worked until navigation was opened. The leader of the Opposition was therefore astray and it was gratifying to know that the opinion of the hon. member for Hants was against him.

Hon. Prov. Sec. remarked that the name Bras d'or Lake ought to be a sufficient guarantee for an auriferous character.

Mr. Archibald replied that there would be as much gold as coal shipped by the Canal.

Mr. Archibald called attention of the Government to the condition of our laws in reference to lunacy. He suggested that a bill to remedy these anomalies be introduced, and at the request of Hon. Prov. Secretary agreed to undertake the task of preparing such a measure.

Hon. Prov. Secy. suggested as the hon. member had turned his attention to the subject, he should himself prepare a bill.

Mr. Kaulback presented a petition of Jas. Risser and 200 other inhabitants of LeHave asking for a lighthouse on Mosers Head LeHave River, and urged its favorable consideration.

Also a petition concerning assessment for the support of schools.

The house then adjourned.

THURSDAY, March 1st.

Mr. Bourinot moved the second reading of several mining bills. He also spoke on the expenditure of monies derived from the sale of crown lands and pronounced in favor of the St. Peter's Canal.

Mr. Miller expressed satisfaction with the proposals made by the government on that subject.

Mr. Colin Campbell introduced a bill to incorporate the Trustees of the Infirm Ministers Fund of the Western Baptist Association of Nova Scotia; also several petitions of a local nature.

Hon. Mr. McFarlane presented a petition for amendment of the Militia law.

Mr. S. McDonnell presented a petition from Inverness Co. complaining of the Act uniting the two Presbyterian bodies and obtained leave to introduce a bill in accordance with the prayer thereof.

Some discussion arose on a petition from Messrs. Conlon for compensation in consequence of the City Horse Railway putting a stop to the omnibuses.

An irregular discussion arose on Mr. Annand asking for a comparative Table of the revenue derivable under a Canadian tariff. It was decided that any private member could obtain the information as well as the government.

Hon. Prov. Sec. laid on the table a return from the Halifax Poor's Asylum, which was referred to the Committee on Humane Institutions.

Hon. Prov. Secretary laid on the table the Report of the Immigration Agent for the past year, and took the opportunity of explaining to the House that a perusal of the document would show that something more had been accomplished in this department than in previous years. When difficulties occurred in the construction of the Railway to Pictou, the urgent nature of the case demanded that the Government should take the responsibility of appointing agents in London, Liverpool, Glasgow, and, as soon as possible, in Dublin, for the purpose of distributing information and of obtaining direct transport at cheap rates to Halifax, or some port in the Province. Capt. Lietman agent for a Hamburg line of steamers. Mr. Boggs at London, Mr. DeWolf at Liverpool, and Mr. Campbell at Glasgow, were duly authorised to make arrangements for cheapening the passage money because the Government had ascertained that these were the means so successfully employed by agents of the United States. Under these circumstances a Minute of Council had been passed, authorising these gentlemen to act for the Province and assuring them of a return of \$10 for each able-bodied emigrant landed here.

Mr. Churchill presented a petition from Mr. Churchill and Mr. Kaulback.

FRIDAY, March 2nd.

Mr. Bourinot presented a memorial from Robert Martin, Postmaster of Sydney, asking an increase of salary. He said that the application arose from the fact that that officer had now to make up a daily mail instead of a tri-weekly as heretofore, and showed that in the course of a year or two the sum realized would be more than the outlay.

Petitions were presented by Messrs Townsend, Robicheau and Coffin.

Hon. Prov. Sec., laid on the table the Report of the Secretary of the Board of Statistics in reference to Births, Marriages and Deaths.

Hon. Prov. Sec., also laid on the table copies of correspondence relating the Fishery Commission, and spoke at some length on the protection of the fisheries.

Mr. Archibald expressed his satisfaction at hearing that the Government had taken steps in connection with a matter of such importance. He had no doubt that it would be much more difficult henceforth to protect our fisheries than it had been previous to 1854. There was much reason to fear that the American fishermen would continue to resort to our waters, notwithstanding the repeal of the treaty. He thought that the Provinces should agree upon a united plan of action, in order to protect their mutual rights.

Hon. Atty. Gen. said this was one of the most important and delicate questions that could be brought before the House. There was no doubt that if the renewal of the Reciprocity Treaty was not agreed to, and the right to our fisheries hitherto enjoyed by the Americans was not continued, it would be imperative on us to take speedy and energetic measures for the protection of these fisheries. During his recent visit to Washington he endeavored to ascertain from the gentlemen representing the other Provinces how far they would be prepared to co-operate with Nova Scotia in the event of the abrogation of the treaty. He was glad to be able to report that these gentlemen did not hesitate to give him their assurance that their Governments would be most happy to unite with that of this Province in any measure that might be considered necessary for the protection of our rights. He hoped that gentlemen around the benches would consider the question with the greatest care and freedom from excitement. He was not without hopes that, before the Legislature closed its labors, they would have from the American Government an intimation of a change of views, that would preclude the necessity of resorting to the steps that would be otherwise necessary for the protection of our rights. He had been glad to understand, from a reliable source, that at least 15 or 20 per cent. would be added during the present to the aggregate of this branch of industry. In view of such an encouraging fact, it was necessary that every consideration should be given to the subject which was now engaging the attention of the House.

Mr. Locke said the fishery question would be, in all probability, the best means of bringing the Americans to their senses. If vigorous measures were taken, the American Government would be gradually brought to see the necessity of retracing the false step they had taken as respects their own interests.

Mr. Archibald explained some points in the treaty. He could understand without difficulty the position of the British Government in this matter. It was a very serious matter for Great Britain to undertake to protect these fisheries. Such an undertaking necessarily involved contingencies of a very delicate and important character, but if she saw that these Provinces were ready to do their share in protecting their rights, doubtless she would come forward and respond to our request.

Hon. Prov. Secy. said the question was one of great delicacy, for the first shot that was fired by a Nova Scotia vessel might cause war. That war would not be between Nova Scotia and the United States, but between that country and Great Britain. Under these circumstances, it was necessary for us to set forth these facts as strongly as possible to the British Government, and to ask them to take such steps as would prevent our fishing grounds being encroached upon. If it became known that the protection of the fisheries was left open to these Provinces, it would only invite aggression. He quite agreed with the remarks of the hon. leader of the opposition, when he said that this Province should contribute towards the protection of the fisheries. His colleagues and himself were not afraid to meet any responsibility, but they had thought it more judicious and respectful to lay the whole subject before the Legislature. He noticed that some of the most influential journals in the States had changed their tone since the delegates had rejected the proposals made to them with such promptitude, and were blaming the American Government for pursuing the course they had done. The hon. gentleman then proposed a special committee on the subject as follows:—Prov. Sec'y, Archibald, Atty. General, Annand, Jost, S. Campbell, Coffin, Tobin.

The motion for a special committee was then agreed to.

After some miscellaneous business, the House adjourned.

SATURDAY, March 3.

Mr. Parker presented a petition on education. Mr. Locke enquired whether any action had been taken by the government relative to the tariff which would be in operation on the expiration of the Treaty. He said that nearly all country merchants made their importations from the 17th to the 31st of March, and if the tariff were to fall back to what it was before the Treaty a great loss would be occasioned.

Hon. Atty. General replied that the government had taken action, and the officers had

notified that on and after the 18th of March the tariff would be relieved from the exemptions caused by the Treaty, and that the duties would be collected on all articles included in the free list.

Mr. Longley presented a petition from A. H. Harris, asking compensation for damage sustained by his vessel in coming into collision with Bear River Bridge.

Hon. Attorney General then proceeded to make the annual Financial Statement of the Accounts, portions of which were read.

Mr. Archibald expressed his gratification that our affairs were in so satisfactory a condition. The difference between our imports and exports, however, was a matter deserving of serious attention. Whilst we were importing to the value of fourteen millions, we only exported produce and goods worth eight millions. Such a disparity was certainly very large, and should be accounted for.

Mr. Townsend could not agree with Mr. Archibald as to his remarks on the balance of trade being against this Province. That hon. gentlemen had lost sight of one fact, and that was, this country had a great shipping interest. He had not allowed enough for the value of the shipping interest to the country. Our vessels were earning money steadily, and giving the country the means of buying largely.

Hon. Attorney General said there was no doubt that our returns of exports were by no means as correct as it was necessary. From Antigonish for instance, horses and cattle were constantly shipped, of which no record was made, and the same was equally true of other places.

Hon. Provincial Secretary laid on the table a copy of a despatch from Lord Monck enclosing a proclamation on the inshore fisheries. Also, the Report of the Superintendent of Education.

The House adjourned till Monday.

### American and Foreign News.

#### LATEST FROM THE U. STATES.

Our telegrams from the United States have become almost a mere record of the Fenian swagger and their filibustering threats. We have accounts of great meetings in the neighborhood of New York. One on Sunday last is said to have had 100,000 people present. The burden of the speeches were—*money is wanted.* At another on Saturday \$15,000 worth (?) of bonds of the Irish Republic were sold.

The following is the Monday evenings telegram:—

NEW YORK, 5th March, P. M.—The *Express* says, it is estimated at the Fenian Head Quarters to day, that nearly one million men are ready to move for the liberation of Ireland, upon the order to march.

Several thousands are said to have joined the service since Thursday. The same paper has a report on good authority that negotiations are now in progress in Washington, to obtain from the United States Government the recognition of Ireland as a belligerent power. Sir Frederick Bruce has, it is also stated, protested against any such application being received, on behalf of the British Government. Gold 138.

#### LATEST FROM EUROPE.

##### FRANCE.

The Marquis de Boissy amused the French Senate recently with his usual denunciation of Perfidious Albion. On the following day M. Rouher, on the part of the Government, thought it necessary to protest against what the Marquis had said.

In the Senate on the 10th ult., Marshal Forey made a statement in reference to Mexico which will arouse some suspicion. He said that the return of French troops would not take place as soon as the country appeared to desire. Indeed he advised that reinforcements should be sent out. M. Rouher came forward on behalf of the Government again, and declared that these opinions were those of the Marshal himself, and that the views of the Government were embodied in the address.

##### ITALY.

Italian affairs do not yet go smoothly forward. The session of the Chambers has been prorogued, and the committee, appointed to examine the budget, recommend its provisional acceptance until the end of April.

The Pope has been making a speech at the English College at Rome, in which he regretted that England "should be forgetful of her glorious title of the Holy Island." His Holiness hopes, however, that her prosperity and greatness, her immense possessions and boasted institutions, will by and by "serve the cause of the faith."

#### THE CAPE AND NATAL.

The Cape mail, with ten days' later advices, reports a continuance of the drought and of the Bauto war. In Natal, the Colenso difficulty was still unsolved. Every Sunday the Bishop was officiating at two services in Pietermaritzburg Cathedral, and the Dean at three, one ecclesiastic directly opposing or condemning the views promulgated by the other. Only one clergyman in the Diocese adhered to Dr. Colenso, and he had been repudiated by his parishioners. In connection with the Bishop of Natal a curious fact is recorded in the papers from India.