

Parliamentary.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

The Legislature closed on Thursday last.

On TUESDAY the House of Assembly was occupied principally with the Bill for authorizing the Western Counties Railway Company to issue Provincial Debentures to enable them to proceed with and finish the railway to Yarmouth.

On WEDNESDAY the House in Committee disposed of the Road Bill and the Bill on the Railway from Wilnot to Lunenburg. The investigation of the charges against D. B. Woodworth Esq. in relation to the grant for Navigation Securities caused some feeling between certain members on either side.

On THURSDAY morning Mr. Woodworth moved a resolution censuring the government for not pressing the claims of Nova Scotia to a continuation of the subsidy on the Dominion Government with greater vigor.

The Hon. Provincial Secretary moved an amendment expressing a hope that the Dominion government would yet be induced to grant a continuance of the subsidy. The discussion of this question was somewhat warm and irregular—several members rising to speak at once. The amendment was carried by 13 to 10.

For the amendment—Hon. Prov. Secretary, Hon. Atty. General, Messrs. Robertson, Lovitt, Johnson, McCurdy, Franchville, Isenor, Boudrot, Farrell, Freeman, Gayton, McKinnon.

Against—Messrs. Holmes, McRae, Cameron, Mackay, North, Woodworth, Longley, Black, Allison, Vickery.

The following Supplementary Estimates were submitted and passed:

Table with 2 columns: Item Name and Amount. Includes Str. Neptune, Bras D'Or Lake, Halifax and North Sydney, Halifax Medical School, Str. Windsor and ports of call, Asylum for Inebriates, Packet, Cheticamp to Margaree, Deaf and Dumb, Blind Asylum, Infant's Home, Hawkesbury Road.

\$7050 00

The committee on the Kings County Investigation submitted the following report. Three of the members signed the majority report as follows:—

The Committee appointed to investigate the expenditure of the grant for navigation securities for the county of Kings for 1876 beg leave to report as follows:—

After hearing the evidence (which is hereby submitted), they find that on the 11th of April, 1876, Mr. Woodworth, one of the members for the county of Kings, drew from the Treasury the sum of nine hundred dollars (\$900), being the total grant for navigation securities for the county for that year. The Hon. Provincial Secretary consented to pay the grant in advance from its being represented to him that it was to the interests of the county to do so.

Vouchers have been produced for the expenditure of only three hundred and eight dollars and fourteen cents (\$308.14) leaving the sum of five hundred and ninety-one dollars and eighty-six cents (\$591.86) still unexpended.

A parcel containing money was placed by Mr. Woodworth in the safe of the Agency of the Bank of Nova Scotia at Kentville about the 12th day of last September, but there is no evidence before your committee to show what amount. On the ninth instant this parcel was opened by the manager of the Bank Agency, and was found to contain cash to the amount of \$591.86, which corresponds to the amount unexpended. The committee recommends that Mr. Woodworth immediately be requested to pay this amount into the Provincial Treasury, to the credit of the county of Kings, until vouchers are produced showing expenditure, and they recommend the Government for the future not to pay out any money without bonds being first given or vouchers produced. All of which is respectfully submitted,

JOHN MCKINNON, Chairman.

JOHN LOVITT, JAMES EISENHAUER.

Committee Room, 12th April, 1877.

The minority offered the following as their report:

COMMITTEE ROOM, Halifax, 12th April, 1877.

We, the undersigned members of the committee appointed to investigate the expenditure of the grant for navigation securities for the county of Kings for 1876, beg leave to report as follows:—

That after the examination of a number of witnesses we find no evidence of misappropriation of said grant; that the amount expended has been expended in a regular manner; and that the balance has been reserved, with the full knowledge and consent of the Government, to supplement the grant for the present year, to meet heavy expenditures which are required.

All of which is respectfully submitted, W. HENRY ALLISON, W. A. PATTERSON.

The House of Assembly were engaged in the discussion of these reports amidst great confusion and disorder—so great

that it was found necessary to clear the galleries. When they were reopened the disturbance had not been fully stopped and the guns were firing to announce the arrival of the hour for closing.

His Honor Lieutenant Archibald was in the Council Chamber. The House of Assembly being summoned he read the following

CLOSING SPEECH.

Mr. President and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

It affords me pleasure to be able, at this comparatively early season of the year, to release you from the arduous and responsible duties of the Session.

In doing so I have to congratulate you on the energy and zeal which have characterized your labors, and on the successful manner in which you have dealt with the various important matters which I commended to your consideration at the opening of the Session.

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

I thank you for the liberal provision you have made for the public service for the present year, and I may assure you that no effort will be spared to ensure the utmost economy in the expenditure of the means placed at my disposal.

Mr. President and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

I regard with much interest the resolution you have adopted to invite a conference with representatives of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island on the subject of a Legislative Union of the Maritime Provinces, with a view to its ultimate consideration by the people of the several Provinces.

I have had much pleasure in giving my sanction to the bill for amending the County Courts Act, believing that the new measure will tend materially to promote the efficient working of that important Act.

I have given my assent to the several bills you have passed for aiding in the completion of our railways, with a feeling of confidence that the prosperity of the country is largely involved in the development, by railways, of the means of communication between its different sections.

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

In view of the prospective loss of a portion of our revenue, I am glad to observe that you have endeavored to exercise a rigid economy in the various departments of the public service and to reduce the amount of our expenditure.

Mr. President and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

I have with pleasure given my sanction to the Act for transferring the duties of the Crown Land Department to the Attorney General's Office, thereby effecting a considerable saving in the public service.

In returning to your respective counties you will possess the gratifying consciousness of having promoted the welfare of the country by the labors of the session, and I feel confident you will exercise the great influence which, as representatives of the people, you justly possess, in the diffusion of those sentiments of loyalty and regard to our laws and institutions which have ever characterized our people.

Allow me, in releasing you from your arduous duties, to express my sincere wishes for your happiness and prosperity on return to your ordinary avocations.

DOMINION & FOREIGN NEWS.

DOMINION OF CANADA.—In the House of Commons on Tuesday extradition resolutions and an address to the Queen were adopted. Government expenditures on the St. Francis Canal and at Rainey Lake were under discussion. The resolutions denouncing them were rejected by 107 to 59.

On Wednesday the discussion on the motion for prohibition lasted to a late hour. A division was taken on the amendment moved by Mr. Ross, (Middlesex), to the effect that the Government could not now introduce a prohibitory liquor law. This was carried—104 to 50.

The matter of the public printing being done by Mr. Anglin, the Speaker of the Assembly, was before the Committee on Privileges and Elections, on Thursday and Friday. Mr. Anglin denied that the work had been given him because he was a member of Parliament.

Mr. Gibbs moved a vote of want of confidence on Mr. Cartwright's last loan. After debate the division was taken, 111 to 60.

Mr. Costigan offered a resolution in favor of amnesty to O'Donoghue, Riel's Fenian Colleague in the Northwest troubles.

In the discussion it was affirmed that were it not for O'Donoghue, Scott would never have been shot. The motion was defeated by a vote of 105 to 60.

The following from the telegram to the Chronicle will be read by Nova Scotians with interest: Dr. Tupper spoke of the success that

had attended the effort to make Halifax the winter port and congratulated the Government on their action in that matter.

Mr. Jones, (Halifax), said it had now been demonstrated beyond the possibility of doubt that we possessed a winter port within our own borders, and were independent of our neighbors, (cheers). He said the last mail which left Halifax, early Sunday morning, had reached Ottawa on Monday afternoon, and it was the best time ever made with English mails to this place. He took advantage of the opportunity to enquire of the Government whether there was any truth in the report that they were making efforts to have the Australian and American mails landed at Halifax all the year round, and if so what prospect there was of a successful result.

Mr. McKenzie replied that the Government were extremely anxious to make Halifax the permanent port for landing and embarking all the mails for the continent. The success that had attended the working of the Intercolonial had shown that if a bridge was built at St. John, the American mails could be landed at Halifax and delivered in New York at least twenty-four hours in advance of the direct route. The Government had opened correspondence with the British Government with the view to secure the landing of both the American and Australian mails at Halifax, and that correspondence was still going on. The Government had offered to carry the Australian mails to Detroit over the Intercolonial and Grand Trunk at a uniform rate of speed, even though it involved some loss to the Dominion in a money point of view, believing that it would be more than made up by the prestige it would give the country and particularly Halifax, as being the point where all mails were landed and embarked.

He expressed a very strong belief that the day was not distant when such a policy would be carried out, and though there might be some difficulty in the way of bringing it about at once the Government would continue to press the matter on the Imperial post office authorities, and he was sanguine that, sooner or later, it must result in success. (Cheers.)

The report of the Coal Committee is to be printed before its presentation to the House.

Notice was given that Mr. Shelby would on Monday move for a Committee to enquire into the expediency of the Government relinquishing the maintenance of the Rideau canal, as a loss of revenue accrues by its retention.

The so-called French Canadian Pilgrims to Rome via New York left Montreal on Wednesday last.

The Montreal Harbor Commissioners met on Thursday and presented a satisfactory report as to the condition of the trust; also, as to indications and preparations for the coming season.

It was decided in the court held at Montreal that the local authorities have no right to deal with such cases as that of the Sun Insurance Company arising out of the Quebec License Act.

The report of the committee on Public Accounts relating to Secret Service matters was adopted on Saturday afternoon by a vote of 82 to 60.

Mr. MacDonald, of Toronto Centre, spoke against the report, characterizing it as unfair and calculated to blacken the character of innocent men.

About thirty Government supporters absented themselves. A. J. Smith, Minister of Marine, among the number. Sir John A. McDonald said it was a cruel injustice to him and other members of the late Administration.

The Presbyterian Witness offers the following explanation of this affair:—

"The Secret Service story in which Sir John A. McDonald is concerned is easily explained and understood. Sir John was pledged to pay for certain services, \$12,000, he alleges were claimed, but by delay he settled the claim by a payment of \$6,600. But this was paid after he had ceased to be a minister of the Crown, and here comes the trouble. No one suspects that Sir John used the money for his own purposes, but it is urged, and it seems to us, correctly urged, that having ceased to be a minister of the Crown he had no more right to handle the public money at least without the concurrence of the Prime Minister. Of course there was the obvious desirableness of completing the business that was on his hands; but still he ought to have taken his successor in office into his confidence, in the matter as far as that could be done without revealing names or betraying trust. It is not likely that a similar case will occur; though if there were a threatened invasion of our borders, we would hold even an ex-Premier justified in expending a few thousand dollars to purchase valuable secrets. It was through this policy of buying the enemy's secrets that Great Britain was able to cope with the first Napoleon and defeat his plans; and it was thus that the Fenians were so thoroughly upset in their arrangements to invade Canada."

The ice at Montreal was last week piled up very high, and in a dangerous condition. It was reported that a man and woman were driving across to Longueuil on Tuesday and broke through and disappeared. It was moving down on Saturday, but left thousands of tons on the wharves.

Potatoes still continue to be exported to the United States for the European

market, which has had the effect of raising the price considerably.

During 1876, over twenty-four and a half thousand dollars were spent by the city of Montreal in legal expenses.

A French Canadian woman 104 years old, appeared as the plaintiff in an assault case at Montreal on Saturday last. She vividly recollects the great eclipse of 1780, and gave her evidence in court with much clearness.

UNITED STATES.—The Federal troops have vacated South Carolina State House Mr. Chamberlain issued a stirring farewell address.

The Supreme Court decides that the million and a half of dollars advanced by the United States Government to the Centennial Exhibition, was loaned, and must be repaid, instead of being distributed among the stockholders.

A severe gale and high tide at Norfolk submerged and destroyed much property last week.

The Southern Hotel, St. Louis, was burned at two o'clock on Wednesday morning last. It was full of guests. The flames spread rapidly, causing a terrible panic among the inmates. The exact number of lives lost is not yet ascertained. Fifty is the estimate. Several were killed, jumping from the third, fourth, and fifth storey windows. The guests were mostly Southerners and Western people. Kate Claxton, the actress, who narrowly escaped in the Brooklyn theatre disaster, saved herself by wrapping her face in wet towels and running through the flame and smoke down the main stairway. The German Consul broke a leg jumping from a window. Several female servants occupying the attic story perished.

At Montpelier, Vt., Hiram Arbuckle, supposed insane, shot dead George Bancroft, and severely wounded George Short, finishing by shooting himself.

The steamer Lee was burned on the 13th inst., on the passage from Savannah to Nassau, during a heavy gale. Three passengers and sixteen of the crew are supposed lost in a boat. Thirteen were saved on a life raft.

On Friday last there was in South Carolina the heaviest gale and rain known there since 1854. It caused serious damage.

CUBA.—An extensive Spanish military camp, warehouses, barracks, etc., named Dominguez, was accidentally burned. Loss \$2,000,000.

ENGLAND.—The Times' leading article on Tuesday reviewing the Eastern question deprecates hasty action. The Sultan should be allowed a day of grace. It says: "The principles of the protocol are morally binding on all the powers, and the Russian Government cannot get rid of its obligation to France and Germany, to Austria and Italy, to say nothing of England, merely because St. Petersburg and Stamboul cannot agree on the question or point of form which the former has initiated between them."

Several marine disasters and three lives lost in the recent gales on the middle Atlantic coast. Strong northerly to easterly winds still continue.

A cable despatch says that the Lord Derby's reservation on signing the protocol has been misinterpreted at Constantinople. Lord Derby has since written to Constantinople categorically declaring the Porte must in no way rely upon England.

The Standard's leader says: "The last effort is being made to avert war, and the last appeal has been addressed to the Russian government in good faith. We have no confidence in its success."

GERMANY.—The Emperor William in gracious terms refused Bismark's request to be pensioned off, but accorded him lengthened leave of absence.

FRANCE.—A more pacific rumor comes from Paris, where Count Orloff, the Russian Ambassador, is said to protest against the statement that Russia would immediately enter on a campaign against Turkey. On the contrary, she is not disposed to reject fresh negotiations in case the Powers wished to make further attempt at conciliation.

TURKEY.—Montenegrin delegates left Constantinople on Friday, the Porte having rejected their demands.

A despatch from Scutari says:—"Fighting has been going on in the Moridite country since Thursday, Derwish Pasha having rejected all mediation. The first day the Turks were beaten, but the second day they captured Muela, a half day's journey from Scutari. The result of the last two days' fighting is unknown."

A fire in the Jewish quarter of Stamboul, Constantinople, destroyed nearly 500 houses.

The Porte's circular to the Ottoman representatives abroad does not reject the protocol absolutely, but consents to send delegates to St. Petersburg and disarm if Russia will disarm. At same time a St. Petersburg despatch to the Times says: "Bad news from Turkey, a war manifesto expected on Friday."

Turkey's circular note to the Powers, in response to Russia, declares her readiness to disarm whenever Russia proposes to do the same; says disturbances in her provinces are due to foreign instigation, and appeals to the treaty of Paris as guaranteeing non-intervention. She appeals to the conscience of the Cabinets which she has a right to consider animated towards her by the same sentiments of elevated equity and friendship

as in the past. Immediate and simultaneous disarmament would be the only efficacious means of averting the dangers by which the general peace is threatened.

A yacht arrived at Constantinople, on Sunday to take members of the Russian Embassy to Odessa, the moment they receive orders to quit Constantinople.

Constantinople will be declared in a state of siege immediately after the rupture.

The correspondent of the Daily Telegraph says the Turkish fleet in the Black Sea is in splendid condition. It consists of fifteen iron-clads.

RUSSIA.—The Grand Vizier notified Prince Nicholas that the armistice was ended, and would not be renewed. Russian Consuls in Turkey are notified to prepare to leave.

The Russian army is advancing on the Pruth.

Turkey refuses to prolong the armistice with Montenegro, and war is inevitable.

It is also stated that Russia has a secret alliance with Persia, and that Bismarck advised Turkey to reject Russia's demands.

A dispatch to the Times from St. Petersburg says the Porte's note has been received; war is manifest, though not for a week.

AUSTRIA.—The Telegraph's Vienna special says: "This Government has lost all hope that peace will be maintained; from an official source I learn that the Turks are determined to relieve Nisic in a few days, which will be a signal for an outbreak of hostilities; there has been great excitement in Vienna all day; everybody apprehends that if war breaks out, Austria will sooner or later be involved."

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

YARMOUTH, April 12, 1877.—Dear Editor:—You have already alluded to the work of grace that has been enjoyed by our churches at Yarmouth. It has been quiet, but evidently deep and extensive. Some of the results of this good movement are apparent at present, but coming days will doubtless reveal much that is yet undiscovered.

At the Temple we have shared in the spiritual feast. Thirteen have recently united with us, nine of whom it was my privilege to baptize. A much larger number have manifested a desire to become followers of the Saviour, and we feel confident that, by the Master's help, they will yet be enabled to take His yoke upon them.

Yours very truly, W. H. WARREN.

PORT WILLIAMS.—The Lord is graciously reviving this cause here. 35 have been added to the church at Hampton, by baptism, and many more are seeking the Lord.

Brother G. W. S. Young, of New Brunswick, is laboring with us and rendering valuable assistance.

J. E. BLAKENNEY.

April 7th, 1877.

PORT GEORGE, ANAPOLIS Co.—Rev. G. W. Parker sends the following in a Post script: "A glorious revival at Port George. Bro. Gaetz, Methodist minister, and your humble servant, have been holding meetings six weeks with wonderful results. To God be all the praise."

W. J. BLAKENNEY.

April 16th.

NICTAUX.—God is still refreshing us on the plains of Nictaux. Last Sabbath I baptized nine willing converts, and others are received for the ordinance of baptism.

W. J. BLAKENNEY.

April 16th.

Local News.

TEMPERANCE ITEMS.—Among the bills passed in the last days of the Legislature was one requiring the bar-rooms in Halifax to be closed at 10 o'clock instead of 11, as hitherto. Petitions for license to sell shall be in at least one week before the date at which licenses issue, and section 14 of the Act of 1876 is repealed, i. e., the section exempting Halifax from the civil damage clause.

Capt. Sheridan the diver, in grappling for the yacht Cygnat on Monday last, brought up the remains of Mr. S. Tupper, who was drowned in September last. It will be a melancholly satisfaction to the friends to have them deposited in the cemetery.

Capt. W. A. Decker was washed overboard on Tuesday last from the steamer Cortes, which he was piloting to St. John Newfoundland.

Messrs. A. & W. Smith had almost a bad accident on Monday, at their store—a barrel of flour fell from a pile through the front sash into the street and its contents were spread over the sidewalk.