NEWS ITEMS.

The Pope has been fairly inundated with abusive offensive and threatening letters from socialists in all parts of Europe, who have been moved to anger because of his recent encyclical, and his holiness is making a collection of them.

At Tirnova, the Bulgarian capital, a correspondent saw the other day a queer sight—a dozen Bulgarian soldiers, armed with Russian rifles, conducting half a dozen Turks and as many Russian soldiers to the police court for trial.

In only eight States in the Union the postal service pays its way—New Hampshire, Massachusetts Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Michigan—the net surplus of revenue from these States being over $2,530,000.

The High Church clergy have sent to the Queen a protest against the Duke of Connaught being married in Lent, and asking that the wedding be deferred. They forget that the Prince of Wales was married in Lent by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

The municipal Council of Paris appears to have refused to allow the grand equestrian statue of Charlemagne, which was recently seen at the Exhibition, to be erected in one of the public places, the reason being that the hero in question was a "tamer of people."

A colored chaplain has been elected by the almost solidly Democratic House of Representatives in Alabama. It is a little puzzling to know what to infer from this. Do Alabama Democrats think less of the office or more of the negro than they used to do? Who shall say?

Italy has a population of 27,482,174. The average age is 27 years, and the average length of life 31 years and 10 months. The mortality of children reaches 60 per cent. Each year there are 130,000 children abandoned on the public thoroughfares or placed in foundling hospitals.

Presidents of American Colleges where the Chinese government is educating some of its young men have to be careful about dismissing them, as it has accidentally, as it were, been learned that an expelled student is promptly decapitated by the authorities on reaching his native land.

A Rome correspondent declares, that notwithstanding denials, an attempt was actually made to poison Pope Leo. He adds: "The affair is now hushed up, as it would throw too much light upon the death of Cardinal Franchi. Other threats have been received lately from members of secret societies, and Leo XIII. will probably bring the matter before the Cabinets of Europe before long.

Lord Derby does not mean to support "reciprocity," which is another term for protection. He says no advantage whatever ever could be gained by a partial or professedly temporary return to a protective system. "Reciprocity" is about as difficult a thing to define as "levelling" is. No one has yet fixed upon a common ground where either can begin and leave off satisfactorily.

Victor Hugo, the poet, politician and egotist, it is said, was the most astonished man in France at the recent resignation of MacMahon. He is generally rather negligent in his dress, but he spruced up at once, wore a black silk hat, and, according to *Figaro*, his eagle look might bear this interpretation: "It is extraordinary—they are searching for a new president of the republic. Well!" M. Grevy was elected, and Victor will probably go back to his slouch hat.

The police force of the village of Cote St. Louis, a surburb of Montreal, must parade the streets from 6 p. m. to 2 a. m. nightly; clean lights, extinguish and repair the thirty-six village lamps; keep the six public wells in order; enforce the sanitary regulations and keep the peace at all public meetings. For performing these services Chief Chennevau—which is the name of the force—receives $360 a year. He used to have $432, but a reform administration, pledged to economy has since assumed office.

Louis Schneider, the late amanuensis of the German Emperor, was a man of odd notions. The pillow on which his head rested in his coffin was the work of his own hands, and he had been engaged in making it for thirty years. It was stuffed with his own hair, which he had preserved from the clippings of his lifetime. In color it varied from the light brown of youth to the snowy white of age. In his will, Schneider described in detail the way in which he wished to be buried, and wrote out the epitaph that he desired to have placed upon his tombstone.

The list of the few remaining survivors of the battle of Trafalgar has been further diminished by the death at Portsmouth, England, of James Mills, at the advanced age of ninety. The old man joined the service when fourteen years of age, and was on board the "Defence" on the day of Nelson's memorable victory. On the celebration of every anniversary of the battle on board the "Victory," in Portsmouth harbor, the boat was regularly sent ashore for the old veteran, who used to wear his medal, and never tire of recounting his experiences of the fight at Trafalgar.

The expenditure in the Northwest should be closely scrutinised by the Public Accounts Committee. The most rediculous items appear. For example, part 3, p. 70-1, "Thomas Clarke—Wages 12 days at $2, teaching Indians agriculture, $24; John Pruden, finding a stray horse, $5; Barker & Co.,—2½ per cent. commission for transmitting $16,000 from New York to Fort Walsh, $400;,' part 3, p. 83, "Geo. Cyr, care of ox, 14 days at 50 cents, $8;" part 3, p. 46, "Driving 31 head of cattle to Lake of Woods, $280.". Items like these are scattered from end to end of the Northwest accounts. They may be all right, of course, but they have a bad ring.

The *Jewish Chronicle* remarks that it may appear fanciful to anticipate the regeneration of Palestine by human means in our own time, and yet there is much to be said in favor of the possibility of accomplishing a result which no Jew can contemplate without emotion. If the fertile land of Canaan should be made again to flow with milk and honey; if human labor should cause it once more to smile with harvests, then an age which has witnessed the liberation of Italy, and the abolition of slavery in Northern and Eastern Europe and the United States, would be memorable indeed in the history of the world. The new moral fact which must come into existence before the dream becomes a reality is enthusiastic acceptance of the duty of labor by the Jews of Palestine. No sane man would desire to rob Europe and America of their keenest merchants, lawyers, and financiers, or to settle in Palestine those whose ambition it would very naturally be to quit it as soon as possible in the capacity of Hebrew Ambassador to Paris. But there are Jews in many parts of the world to whom a return to the cradle of the race would be an improvement in their material position as well as the fulfilment of the desire of their whole hearts.

The history of the Twenty-fourth regiment of British infantry, one battalion of which was recently annihilated by the Zulus, is very interesting, and shows that it has suffered severely on many a battle field. It represents a regiment raised in 1689, which was under fire in 1704 at Schellenberg and Blenheim. It fought at Malplaquet in 1709, and afterwards in almost every quarter of the globe at Carthagena, Minorca, Bherbourg, Guadaloup Egypt and the Cape, and in the Peninsula. It just missed coming in "at the death" of the Napoleonic wars at Waterloo, was in the war of Mooltan and the Punjaub thirty years ago, and served in the Indian mutiny. On the 13th of Janruay, 1849, it was with Lord Gough at Chillianwallah, and was sent up hill to attack the Sikhs. Pennychuick's brigade, of which it formed part, made a furious charge and reached the summit in advance of the other troops, the Sikhs retired till Shere Singh, observing that the men of the Twenty-fourth were, as he said, "panting like dogs in chase," opened fire on that regiment with grape-shot, and followed this up with a terrible discharge of musketry. Sir Colin Cambell managed to come to his assistance and save the fragments of the Twenty-fourth, which had held its ground though 23 officers and 459 men had been killed or wounded. The youngest captain of the regiment came out of the fight its senior officer. It was, however, able to take revenge at Gujerat for the defeat of Chillianwallah, for the battle could hardly be called a victory in which the English lost four guns and the colors of three regiments.

Communications.

For the "Agriculturist."

Early Amber Sugar Cane.

SIR,—In laying before your readers an account of the discovery of this Cane as promised in my former letter, I shall do so in words of T. M. Metcalf, Esq., Commissioner of Statistics for the State of Minnesota, who says:—

"After the close of the war, two men, strangers to each other, whose homes were twenty miles apart, in the heart of that immense forest known as the Big Woods of Minnesota, struggled with a tenacity and persistence that excited the mournful pity of their neighbors, to successfully manufacture molasses from the sorghum, or Chinese sugar cane. The product invariably was that dark, rank and semi-nauseous article known a little in commerce fifteen years ago as sorghum. It is my purpose to detail the slow and painful steps by which they groped in darkness, poverty and contumely towards light, knowledge, and, as it now appears, complete success. In this, as in many other instances, in which the courage of man, sustained by a faith in ultimate success, has triumphed over weary and waisting years of toil, anxiety and dissappointment, an accident revealed the wonderful and almost inscrutable secrets of nature.

One of these men chanced upon the seed of a hybrid, an acclimated species of the cane known as the "Minnesota Early Amber." From the first crop produced by that seed he was able to manufacture a syrup that was so immeasureably superior to his former productions, that he was assured of complete success at last. After that, the difficulties were of detail, some of them almost insurmountable from the lack of means, and others equally so from the very simplicity of them, and their remedies. * * * * *

I have visited recently the men I have alluded to, and whom I will now introduce my name as Seth H. Kenney and Charles F. Miller, Rice county. The St. Paul Chamber of Commerce, in the spring of 1877, invited them to exhibit to that body samples of their productions, and to that event they ascribe the deluge of letters and visitors that have poured in upon them during the past summer.

I witnessed there the manufacture of syrup and sugar, that will in time—indeed they do even now—rival in excellence the productions of Louisiana and the West Indies. Of the profits of this branch of agriculture I will not speak, preferring to leave that for them in the articles they will prepare. It is sufficient for me to say now, that I believe that the day is not far distant when every farmer in this State, possessing the soil and cheap fuel that are requisite for the growth, and manufacture of the Minnesota Early Amber cane, together with the skill and intelligence of these men, which are at the service of all who will read, or visit them, will as surely produce his own sugar and syrup, as he now does his own fruit, or any other luxury."

The adaptability of this species of sugar cane to high northern climates, may, I think, very properly be attributed to the method of acclimating adopted by the active promoters of this new industry, viz: Hon. Seth H. Kenney and Charles F. Miller, Esq., of Rice County, Minnesota, to whom we are introduced so favorably by Mr. Metcalf, Commissioner of Statistics for the State, as the discoverers of this new and valuable acquisition to the profits of tillers of the soil in northern countries, and who it appears have been for many years alternating its cultivation back and forth from northern to southern climates, until they have succeeded in getting it thoroughly acclimated in Minnesota, and its cultivation there yields the most favorable results to the farmers who engage it, and just here I will mention a fact that it would be well for farmers to remember who think of going into its cultivation, a fact discovered by Messrs. Kenney & Miller, which is that the alternating process in cultivation will require to be continued in order to keep the cane up to the highest standard of its productiveness.

In regard to the practicability of raising it in this Province, I have again had correspondence with our Minnesotta Agent, W. W. Hartley, Esq., Editor and Proprietor of the Brainard *Tribune* of Minnesota, who, as I stated in my former letter, is a native of New Brunswick, and sufficiently acquainted with the agricultural affairs of both countries to be somewhat reliable in his opinion with regard to the successful cultivation of this cane in this Province, and he informs me that such a striking similarity in the climate of the two countries that with similar methods of cultivation similar results mya, with every degree of certainty, be looked for, and that taking the "Flint," or yellow corn far our standard, and by which to judge of the possibility of its cultivation being a success in this Province, he has no doubt but it can be raised here as well as there.

With regard to this most vital and important part of my subject, viz., the certainty of its being successfully cultivated in this county, it might be interesting to know, and I will here just state, that a gentleman, a farmer by the name of Wolonton, living on the St. John River a few miles below Woodstock, in the county of Carleton, for a number of years, has been cultivating his own molasses by planting his sugar cane every spring with the same regularity he did his turnips, beans, or any other vegetable, and in the fall manufacturing his puncheon of molasses from it for his family use. I am not informed what description of cane he cultivates or what the character of the apparatus he brings into requisition in order to extract the "sweets," and prepare them for domestic use. Two important facts, however, are clearly proved by his enterprise. First, that sugar cane can be successfully raised in this country, and secondly, that there is enterprise and energy enough in this country to keep pace with the improvements of the day, and make the most of the good things with which Providence has blessed us. I hope to be able to give you some more information about his sugar business, as I intend calling on him soon to learn the result of his experiments in this matter, and find out what the description of cane, and method of manufacture he makes use of, but in the mean time I will risk him if he is enterprising enough to raise and manufacture his own sugar or syrup.

In your next issue, I will give the method of culture and manufacture into syrups and sugar, quality, productiveness, cane mills, evaporators, &c., &c., and in doing so shall make use of a circular, published by Hon. Seth H. Kenney and C. H. Miller for that purpose, it being the best authority on that subject to be obtained in America.

A. WHITEHEAD.

Fredericton, March 25th, 1879.

The Agriculturist.

FREDERICTON, N. B., MARCH 8, 1879.

A Lively Debate.

In the house as lively a debate as has yet taken place, occurred on Wednesday over the bill introduced by Mr. Marshall, to relieve the city of St. John from contributing to the support of the schools outside its own bounds. There is no chance of such a bill passing. It asks exceptional legislation for St. John, and would destroy the most beneficent provision of the School Law, whereby the property of a county is taxed for the education of the children of a county, and without it probably many of the poor districts would not be able to maintain schools at all. The city of St. John certainly stands in an exceptional position, it has been sorely tried, and it is severely burdened, it has made large contributions to the support of the schools in Portland, and the out-lying parishes, but the members of the County, at any rate, disclaim the idea that the city wishes to come cap in hand to the Legislature and beg special favors. The debate was interesting, not because it will lead to anything to any important change in the School Law, but because it revealed the springs of action that set much legislation a going. The principal question was not after all the principle of the bill, but the sincerity of the mover in bringing it before the House. It was asserted by some of the speakers that the mover brought it in merely to redeem pledges given to his constituents, and he was told that as he had served his purpose he had better withdraw it. Mr. Marshall bore the weight of the arguments against the principle and the imputation cast by one of the St. John representatives, that his bill was the redemption of an election pledge, and nothing more, very quietly, but he was aroused by the legal and critical member of Northumberland, Mr. Davidson, who accused him of bringing more doubtful bills before the House than any other member and who moved the three months hoist. He protested his entire sincerity if his protestation did not produce entire conviction in the minds of the House, it is because there is an element of furtive humor in his character which will break out. If he had been perfectly sure of his position, he would not have treated his opponent from the north in the way he did, and seriously asked "what business the member of the backwoods had to meddle with the affairs of the city of St. John." He afterwards smoothed over his attack, but if the member of Northumberland had no right to doubt Mr. M.'s sincerity in bringing in his bill, he had a right to doubt the sincerity of the apology to himself. But it must be said for Mr. Marshall that he was baited during the debate, and it was probably a feeling of this that induced Mr. Hill and the Secretary generously to interpose and save him from the indignity of having his bill summarily kicked out. Discussions on such bills do not advance the business of the country, but they bring out members, and enliven the proceedings of the House.

Marine and Fisheries.

We have received the annual report of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, 1878. From the statement of the Deputy Minister, W. Smith, it appears that the amount expended on the various branches of this service was $983,645, the amount voted, $1,001,804; 1,708 persons were engaged in the outside service. The number of Light Stations in the Dominion was 427; lights shown, 518; which is an increase in ten year, from 1868 to 1878 of 229 stations and 291 lights.

The New Brunswick Lighthouse Division, embracing all the lighthouses, fog whistles, buoys and beacons, on the coast, is under the charge of Mr. J. H. Harding, St. John. The lighthouse tower erected on the outer end of the breakwater, at Negro Point, St. John, which was completed on July 24th last, cost $2,274,84, an expense which will have to be re-undertaken. Work on two range lighthouse towers, near the beacons, on the south beach at Richibucto, and on new lighthouse at Musquash Harbor, County of St. John, are being, at present, proceeded with. Tenders have been invited for the construction of lighthouses at Salmon River, Grand Lake, Queen's County; Petit Richer, Gloucester County; and South Head, and Grace Harbor, Grand Manan. Alterations and additions have been made to the beacon lighthouses at Bathurst Harbor; a new tower has been erected during the past season, in place of the western tower, and the western one removed to the site occupied by the eastern or lower tower. The total amount expended on account of the construction of lighthouses was $12,028,13; for the maintenance of lights, buoys and beacons, $54,220.

The oil required for the lighthouses is supplied, (under contract for three years) by Messrs. F. A. Fitzgerald & Co., Union Petroleum Company, London, Ontario, at the rate of 24 cents per gallon, at St. John and Halifax, and a little less in the other Provinces; the quantity of oil supplied last year was 109,409 gallons.

The amount expended for the maintenance of the Dominion Steamers—"Napoleon III," "Druid," "Newfield," "Glendow," "Lady Head," "Sir James Douglas," was $97,901. The expenditure on the "Northern Light," employed in maintaining communication during the winter season between P. E. Island and the mainland, was $25,704; the amount received for the carriage of freight and passengers, $2,832.

Under the operation of Order of Council, 7th May, 1877, reducing the tonnage duty from ten to four cents, for every ton entering the ports of Cape Chatte, Gaspe, Amherst and House Harbor, Magdalen Island, Bathurst, N. B., Richibucto, N. B., South Bay, Ingonish, the amount collected last year was $1,965, whereas it was $2,397 for the year, ending June, 1877.

Under the head of Steamboat Inspection, it is stated, that 1,202 certificates were granted to engineers, of all classes and ranks; 771 steamers, having a gross tonnage of 155,064 tons, and 94,377 tons register were inspected; 58 new steamers were added to the list of steamers in Canada; and 38 steamers were lost, broken up, or put out of service, showing a gain of 20 steamers, and of gross tonnage, 2,940 tons, and 1,778 tons register.

Under the head of "wrecks and casualties," it is stated, that the number of disasters that happened to British, Canadian, and Foreign sea going vessels, in Canadian waters, and to Canadian sea going vessels in waters other than those of Canada, was 310, representing a tonnage of 129,143 tons register, and a loss, both total and partial, of $2,770,000, 116 lives—13 in Canadian waters, and 103 in waters other than those of Canada, were in connection with these disasters, lost. The ship "Cambian," of St. John, 1124 tons, owned by Joseph Pritchard, St. John, was abandoned at sea on the 26th of May, 1878, when on a voyage from Patillon de Pica to Cork, with a cargo of guano, estimated at $30,000, The "Edith Troop," 1,223 tons, with a cargo of rye and wheat, while running before a gale broached to, and was hove on her beam ends, shifting the cargo and straining the vessel. She was righted and put into Halifax for repairs, damage to cargo, 20,000 bushels of grain,—to ship, $15,000. "The Empress of India," owned by Messrs. Troop, of St. John, struck a sunken wreck at Bremerhaven, while making that port on the 25th of November, 1877, with a cargo of guano from Patillon de Pica, and became a total loss.

The total number of vessels, including old and new, sailing vessels, steamers and barges, remaining in the register books of the Dominion on 31st December, 1878, was 7,469. measuring 1,333,015 tons. Assuming $30 per ton as the average value, it will give the value of the registered tonnage as being $39,990,450, or £7,928,090 stg. 339 new vessels, 109,873 tons, were built in the Dominion, and registered at the different ports of registry, the value of which at $45 a ton is estimated, as being $4,567,770. There were on the registry books of New Brunswick, on 31st December, 1,142 vessels, 335,965 tons.

In his preliminary report, W. F. Whitcher, Commissioner of Fisheries, states, that the Canadian fisheries are improving; their produce in 1877 was valued at $12,029,957, and in 1878 at $13,373,486, an increase of nearly a million and a half dollars. This was principally in the cod, mackerel, salmon and lobster fisheries. The value of the fish exported was $6,929,366, against $5,874,360 in 1877.

We beg to acknowledge the receipt of the Annual Report of the Common, Superior, Grammar, and Normal and Model, by the Chief Superintendent of Education. We shall notice it next week.

The Government of P. E. Island have been defeated on a motion of want of confidence, by a vote of 19 to 10.

The Fishery Award.

Sir John A. Macdonald in his speech in the debate on tho address, let fall some rather ominous words which left the impression that the $4,000.000, Canadas share, would be appropriated to meet the general expenditures. All the hopes that the Governments of the Maritime Provinces have entertained of receiving a pro rata proportion of the money, are seemingly to be doomed to disappointment. Their claims are to be disregarded—and they will receive no tangible benefit from the award which, by so long and powerful a process, was screwed out of the Americans.

In the Dominion Parliament, last week, Sir John, in reply to a question of Mr. Yeo, P. E. Island, announced that no portion of the award had been set aside for any particular Province. Newfoundland has, of course, got her proper share, but it is not likely that any satisfactory basis of settlement could be arrived at for a division of the award among the other Provinces, and therefore unlikely that any division will be made; "whatever else may be done for the Provinces in consequence of the award, a division of the money is the least likely thing that will happen." The Maritime Provinces through their Governments and Legislatures may remonstrate and send delegates to press their claims—but—they will in all probability reap no tangible benefit from the award.

The Bank Directors in Prison.

Nothing now escapes the argus eyed press. The unhappy Directors of the Glasgow Bank have had their biographies written; their portraits taken in pen and ink; their demeanor scrutinisingly depicted; their manner in which they bore the pronouncement of the sentence, and the way in which they were driven after it was pronounced in the prison van, the Black Maria, at a furious gallop, to the gaol, have been described, and lastly their daily life and fare have been laid open to the curious public. Some of the Directors old and frail men, can hardly survive the ordeal they will have to go through in Edinburgh Goal. A Scotch paper says:—

On Monday, 3rd February, Messrs. Stewart, Salmond, Taylor, Inglis, and Innes Wright, who were taken to Glasgow on Saturday, were initiated into the hard and comfortless routine of prison life. There is, of course, a great difference between the regulations under which they were confined before the trial and the rules which will mark their daily doings during the next eight months. According to the regulations affecting prisoners of the class to which the directors belong, each of them is roused at a quarter to six o'clock in the morning. An hour afterwards they are served with breakfast, which consists of eight ounces of oatmeal made into porridge and a pint of sour milk; and after partaking of this repast they have to wash out their dishes and clean up their cells. Shortly afterwards they receive 2¼lb. of oakum, which has to be teased out by 4 o'clock, and prisoners failing to accomplish their full task are reported to the governor, who deals with them in a way he thinks fit, the punishment, however, generally being bread and water rations. For half an hour during the forenoon of each day, with the exceptions of Sunday, the prisoners enjoy an airing in the "cage," and then at 12 o'clock dinner is served. The meal is made up of two scones four ounces in weight, and eight ounces of broth, while at five o'clock supper in handed in in the shape of six ounces of porridge. after four o'clock the prisoners may pass their time within their cells as they please, and at a quarter to eight o'clock the gas is turned off, by which time it is expected all have retired to rest. On Sunday there is service in the chapel twice a day—at eleven and two o'clock—but it is not imperative that prisoners should attend. The chapel, it may be mentioned, is seated for about 70 persons, and is arranged in pigeon-hole sort of boxes, so that one prisoner cannot see any of those beside or around him.

The dress which every prisoner must wear consists of a grey tweed jacket, trousers and vest, plain leather shoes, and a Kilmarnock bonnet, while the strict regulation as to visiting is that prisoners can only be seen by one relative or friend once in three months. As to the general treatment of prisoners, however, much depends on the state of health, and the prison surgeon can, if he finds it necessary, order a respite from work, and superior food. Judging from appearances, it is more than probable that in the case of one or two of the bank directors such relief will be necessary for some time at least. All the directors are confined in what is known as the Drygate wing, being the north-east section, and, it is said, the healthiest portion of the prison. Here the directors will remain until eight o'clock of the morning of Wednesday, the 1st of October next when they will be set at liberty.

The campaign in Afghanistann has been full of surprises, and the greatest surprise of all is the death of the redoubtable Shere Ali, and the prospect that the war will be brought to an early termination. Still it may present other surprises not so favorable. The British forces have no doubt suffered much in advancing in severe weather, through a very difficult country, but they have gained great advantages with far less loss than was anticipated. They are now in the possession of the strong places which are the key of the north-western frontier of India. The Imperial Government have now no object in prosecuting the war further and wonld be relieved if Yakoob Khan, the successor of Shere Ali, shows a sincere disposition to come to friendly terms. The great difficulty will be in holding the advanced frontier, and that portion of the British force which is not kept in the conquered country to garrison the strong places, may be exposed to great danger in evacuating it from the attacks of the treacherous wild tribes. Old Indian campaigners say that it is not very difficult to penetrate into Afghanistan, but it is very difficult for a hostile force to get out of it. But as everything has as yet gone on favorably, it may be hoped that the British will be able to leave the late Shere Ali's territory, when the time comes for the backward movement, as easily as they entered it.

SUNDAY SCHOOL BOOKS.—English and American Libraries, can now be supplied at Hall's Book Store cheaper than ever before.

RAILWAY ACCIDENT.—A frightful accident occurred on the Intercolonial Railway on Thursday evening. The Quebec Express for Halifax running at the rate of twenty-five miles the hour, and a special train with English goods from Halifax, running 15 to 20 miles, collided where the road makes a sharp curve the other side of Springhill station. The driver on the engine of the Quebec Express, Samuel McLeod was killed, and the conductor, fireman, also the conductor fireman and driver of the goods train were more or less seriously injured. The crash was terrific, the engines of both trains were completely wrecked, and the forward cars smashed to splinters. The accident occured owing to a misconception by Cameron, conductor of the goods train, of the meaning of a telegram sent him by the train despatcher of Moncton. If he had stopped at Springhill station, the accident would not have occurred.

The Nova Scotia Legislaiure met on Thursday, the Governor in his speech to the members of the two branches, said "you will be asked to consider whether in the limited sphere of legislative action which is now open to this Parliament, and the urgent necessity for the reduction of the public burdens, the Legislation of the Province may not be carried on by a single Chamber." The Legislature of P. E. Island, which is now in session, is asked to consider a similar question. The Governor of that "tight little Island," in his speech—said "it is dangerous to make constitutional changes without the greatest and most cautious consideration.

Bible Society Meeting.

On Wednesday evening the annual meeting of the Fredericton Auxilliary Bible Society took place in the City Hall. There were a very respectable but somewhat small attendance. His Honor the Lieut. Governor who has become patron of the Society, took the chair. On the platform were the Rev. Messrs. Sym, Brewer, McLeod, Dr. Rand, George E. Fenety, Esq., S. D. Macpherson, Esq., A. Whitehead, Esq.

After the singing of the choir, and service Mr. Creed, the Secretary, read the annual report. It presented an encouraging view of the position of the British and Foreign Bible Society. Notwithstanding the depression of trade, and prevailing distress, the income of the society for the last year considerably exceeded that of the previous one, and nearly three million copies of the Bible, in whole or in part had been distributed, a larger number than had ever been disposed of in any year, since the Society had been in existence. Tribute of respect was paid to the memory and the distinguished services of the late Hon. L. A. Wilmot, Ex-Governor of the Provence, and patron of the Society. The loss by death of two respected members J. R. Robertson, and G. E. Hunt, Esqrs., was feelingly noticed. Interesting extracts from the annual report of the Parent Society were read. The Secretary also read the report of the Ladies Branch, which showed that the collections had been liberal, and that the Society would consequently be able to remit home, a larger sum this, than they had the previous year. The Report was adapted.

In moving the resolution that the report be printed and circulated. Dr. Rand spoke of the stimulating character of the Secretary's admirable report, and made an address fraught with much earnest thought, showing the many deep and striking points of antagonism between heathenism, paganism, and christianity. Rev. Mr. Sym in seconding, spoke eloquently, his theme the bible. A collection was then taken up. Mr. Whitehead read the list of the officers of the Society for the ensuing year, which was adopted. George E. Fenety, Esq., who is elected President, returned his thanks for the great honor conferred on him, and read a resolution embodying an appeal from the Parent Society to the liberality of the auxiliary Societies throughout the world.

Rev. Mr. McLeod moved a resolution of thanks to the Ladies Branch. The ladies, he said, did all the work of the Fredericton Auxilliary Society. Rev. Mr. Brewer made a brief address. A resolution of thanks was carried to the ladies and gentlemen of the choir who had contributed much to the pleasure of the evening. The meeting closed with the singing of the Doxology.

South Africa.

War, in one way, is an instructor of the people, it leads them to the study of geography. Very little was known by the mass of readers, of European and Asiatic Turkey, until the troubles in the East compelled journalists to "get up" those countries, and enlighten their readers by letter press descriptions and sketch maps; so it was with Afghanistan. Now newspaper readers are now receiving instructions in the geography of South Africa, of which, hitherto, their ideas have been extremly hazy.

South Africa comprises Cape Colony, which occupies the vast mass of British territory in that quarter of the world, extends from the Orange river on the north, down to the sea on the south and east and west to the Atlantic and Indian Oceans. It contains 70,000 inhabitants, of whom only a third are whites, and among that third, about 2,000 are British.

The capital is Cape Town, founded 200 years ago, and containing a population of 30,000. It has a bishop, (who has not heard of Colenzo?) Governor and Legislature; both houses are elective, and a Kaffir, if he has the necessary qualification, $100 a year, and can command the requisite votes, is eligible for a seat in either. The next important colony is Natal, an exchange says:—

Natal was, like the British South African possessions, taken from the Dutch in order to enable England to keep the peace between the Dutch and the natives. Natal is 400 years old, so it cannot be an attractive locality or it would have come to something ere this. There are about 17,000 to 20,000 white people in this colony; the natives are as many as 300,000. Natal has its legislature also, its railway, its mail coaches and other signs of advancing civilization. At Pietermartizburg there is a hotel, "The Royal," and a club and Bishop Colenso. There are about 4,000 to 5.000 white people there, and the natives are about 3,000. Last year there were about 1,200 or 1,500 soldiers there and soon there will be an army burning to wipe out the stain of partial defeat and avenge the death of comrades. Northward from Natal is Zululand. The next most important and interesting localtity is the Transval. Like all the rest, it is Dutch in origin; and was Dutch in fact, a free Dutch Republic, till Sir Theophilus Shepstone in 1877 took it into his head that it should be British territory; and British it accordingly became. There are about 40,000 white people, mostly Dutch, and about 250,000 natives. It is remote from the sea, and wants a railway. Its land is badly divided. But it posesess a noble climate for every production under heaven. Pretoria is the capital town, and no doubt a more lively place since the British troops got up there after the annexation. Fnally comes Grequa Land West, or the Diamond Fields so-called, the population of which, from returns since the "rush," is about 15,000 white and 30,000 natives in the diamond region. Of course the place is interesting for nothing but its diamonds, and just now cold steel is the metal most in favor with white people in South Africa. If the reader will take any map and look it over by the light of such facts as are here set fourth, he will be able to get a more accurate understanding of what South Africa is and what its divisions are. The present disturbance may be an era in the history of the whole region; for the savages may be so beaten as to render them harmless, and so give a greater chance of population coming in; or the struggle may be so desperate as to render the Colony of Natal forbidden ground.

THE W. C. T. U. CONCERT.—The grand concert which closed the course of lectures inaugurated by the ladies of the C. T. U., and which was given in the City Hall, last Tuesday evening, was a fine and pleasing entertainment. The Reform Club Band "opened the ball," with a brilliant overture, and played a selection of fine pieces in the course of the evening. The vocalists and instrumentalists performed their parts in quartetts, duetts, and solos, to the great satisfaction of the crowded audience. The sweet singing of Mrs. Pnair, the brilliant instrumentation of Miss Vavaseur and Mr. Ellis, in duett, and each singly, were particularly admired. The singing of the little ones, Miss Jennie Hogg, and Miss Mabel Estey, had its own charms, and "Nancy Lee," by Mr. Lemont, brought down the house. Mrs. T. H. Hogg presided at the pianoforte. The ladies of the W. C. T. U. must be gratified by the success of their closing entertainment."

L. O. A. LECTURE COURSE.—The next, the fifth lecture of the L. O. A. course, will be delivered by C. H. Lugrin, Esq., "on the resources of the Upper St. John, and a scheme for their development." This subject—provincial and practical—is one in which all New Brunswickers are interested and should draw a large audience.

The Grand Southern Railway.

Mr. Blair has shown that he is determined to earn the honor conferred on him, of leader of the opposition. If we may so speak, he has been instant in season and out of season in giving notices of motions, making enquiries. From the scope of his inquiries, it is plain he is bent on unearthing anything or everything that can tell against the Government. A want of confidence motion has peeped out in every call for papers he has made, in every question he has asked. But the manner in which the Provincial Secretary this forenoon answered his inquiries touching on the Grand Southern Railway, must have dampened his hopes of success in any future attack he may make. To every question he was able to give a categorical negative, as follows:—

1. Whether any application has been made to Government by persons interested in the Grand Southern Railway for a guarantee or assurance that advances to the amount of $180,000. or any other and what sum, would be made to assist or enable the Company or any person interested in the Road to purchase iron for the Road?—*Answer*. No!

2. Whether application has been made to the Government to make a deposit of any sum to be drawn upon in payment or part payment of the rails for the Road?—*Answer*. No!

3. Whether any guarantee or assurance has been given or promised to be given that advances would be made?—*Answer*. No.

4. Whether any guarantee or assurance has been cabled to Europe by or on behalf of the Government to enable or assist parties to purchase iron or other materials for the said Road?—*Answer*. No!

5. Whether any advances in money or debentures have been made since 1st May last on account of the Grand Southern Railway?—*Answer*. Not any by the Government.

6. What are the terms and conditions upon which advances, if any, are to be made?—*Answer*. No advances has been requested or promised.

7. Whether it is within the knowledge of Government that Land Damages and other claims against the Company or Contractors to a large amount have not been paid?—*Answer*. No. [Members of the Government have heard that certain Land Damages, amount unknown, have not been paid; in reference to which Awards were prepared by a Jury, because the Jury refuse to deliver the Awards to the Company until their claim of Fees is paid, and the Company refuse to pay that claim on the ground that it is excessive and exorbitant.]

8. Whether the work on the said road has not been almost entirely suspended since 1st May or June last, or how long has it been suspended? *Answer*. The Government have been informed and assured that the work of grading has been suspended since 1st May or June last; that the business of obtaining materials, plans and specifications for the erection of Bridges, of the Engineer's office, and the general work necessary and preparatory to the completion of the Road have not been, and are not now suspended.

9. Since the suspension of the work, has any investigation been made into the ability of the Company to complete the Road, and if so, when and by whom, and has any report thereupon been made to the Government?—*Answer*. The Government has no knowledge of any such investigation; if any was had, no report has been made to the Government. [In the Fall of 1877, Hon. Messrs. Perley and McQueen, members of the Government, made a personal inspection of the whole line of the Grand Southern Railway, and thereupon assured the Government that the grading of the whole line was nearly complete, and the general work satisfactorily progressing.]

A Bold Villain.

Charles Peace who was executed at Leeds on the 20th ult., for the murder of Arthur Dyson, civil engineer, on the 29th of November 1876, ran through a curious career of crime. It was not until the beginning of this year that the murder was brought home to him, and on the 17th of January, he was placed before the bar at Cleveland, on the charge. The examination was adjourned on the 22nd to Sheffield. He was placed in a second class carriage with two prison wardens. He pretended illness and the irons were removed from his legs. On the way he made a desperate effort to escape:—

Coming within thirteen miles of Sheffield the train ran through a lonely and wooded section. The ground was covered thick with snow. All about not far from the track were numberless stone pits, and in these or among the woods a fugitive would have good opportunity of losing himself. Peace had evidently considered this, for all at once, starting to his feet, with a single bound he sprang through the little window in the side of the compartment, which he had asked to have lowered a moment before. The window was scarcely more than a foot square, but the man went with the quickness and accuracy of a pistol shot, head first, while the train was going at the rate of fifty miles. It was more instinct than intention that led one of the warders, as the body of the burglar flashed by, to make a grab after him but that grab was rewarded. The hand of the warder fell on Peace's boot, and he held fast.

The other warder attempted to break the glass over the danger rope, in order to give the signal to stop, but could not affect his object. Fortunately, however, the attention of some passengers in the next compartment was attracted, and they were successful in giving the signal to the driver, who straightway slackened up. Meantime Peace had doubled himself and struck the warder, who held him, repeatedly with the heavy irons in which his wrists were confined. But the warder though bleeding, did not relinquish his grip. Then Peace fell back, and, working the foot that was held, succeeded in drawing it from the boot. The warder was not able to prevent it, and Peace fell as the train rolled on, and only the boot was left in the hands of the destracted warder.

The train ran a full mile after the giving of the signal. Heads were out of every window, and all saw the daring burglar slip from the grasp of the warder and fall headlong. As soon as the train stopped men ran back along the track. Peace was found unconscious. His head was cut and bleeding where he had fallen against the footboard. Had he made his bold leap clear, undoubtedly he would have landed in the deep, soft snow unharmed.

☞ Sunday School Papers will be furnished by M. S. Hall, at publishers prices. Samples furnished on application.

FIRES UP RIVER.—At a quarter past eight on Thursday night, a fire broke out in Fort Fairfield, commencing in J. B. Trafton's, block, and spreading with great rapidity, destroying the block and five other buildings, in which there were several stores. The loss is estimated at $20,000. Some of the principal business men of the place, were sufferers most of whom had no, or only partial,, insurance As Fort Fairfield seems to have had no fire engines, or a convenient supply of water, it's not the place where Insurance Offices would care to take risks.

On Thursday morning, there was a fire at Andover, caused by the careless storing of ashes, by which the barn of Richard Tomlison, Tomlison settlement, was destroyed along with a span of horses, twelve sheep, a lot of oats, and several tons of hay.

On Tuesday, about five o'clock in the afternoon, a lumber camp on the Miramichi, owned by Mr. Geo. Seely, was destroyed by fire. Beyond loss of property no casualty happened.

Hon. Mr. Tilley has recovered his health, and is able to take his place in the House of Commons. It was reported that the hon. gentleman was affected with temporary blindness that has happily passed away. It would hardly be wondered at if he—in the difficult circumstances in which he is placed—could not see—his way. He will deliver his budget speech next Friday, and all will be anxious to learn if he has struck into the right path.

Mr. P. McPeake desires to notify his friends and customers that it is his intention next May to remove the tailoring department of his business to the store occupied by him as a Dry Goods store.

Local Legislature

Last Saturday the business in the House was confined to the introduction of bills, giving notices of motions and appointment of committees. Mr. Hutchinson gave notice of motion for information in reference to the appointment and dismissals in connection with the Tracadie Lazaretto Board of Health for Northumberland and Gloucester during the years 1878-9.

Mr. Willis for expenditure for repairs of the Marsh Bridge.

Dr. Vail for a statement of the expenditure connected with roads and bridges in King's County, between May and September, 1878.

Mr. Barbarie for suspension of rule to introduce a bill incorporating the Dalhousie Branch Railway.

Mr. Blair for information relative to expenditures, balances &c., in connection with the various provincial services.

Committees on standing rules, mining and agriculture were appointed.

The Agricultural Committee is composed of one member from each county. Messrs. Black, Lynott, White, McManus, Johnson, Morton, Theriault, Gillespie, Butler, Barbarie, McLellan, Covert, Beveridge, Colter and Turner.

MONDAY, 3rd March.

Nothing of general importance was done in the forenoon session.

In the afternoon, Mr. Blair gave notice of motion for all minutes of Council made since the 1st of May last, relating to the appointment of a Committee of Council to investigate any matter connected with the Chatham Branch Railway, and asking detailed information as to what had been done in the matter.

At three o'clock, Address, the order of the day, was taken up, the speaker in the chair.

Mr. Sayre, in moving the address, took up paragraph after paragraph. All would assent to the expression of sympathy with the Queen, in the death of Princess Alice, a loss which had almost broken Her Majesty's heart. All would agree with the sentiments of the paragraph relative to the appointment of so distinguished a nobleman and eminent a statesman as the Marquis of Lorne to the position of Governor General. If the Marquis administered the affairs of the Dominion as well as Earl Dufferin, he would do well. The Princess Louise had received a right royal reception from the people from all parts of Canada, gathered at Halifax, and in all places of the Dominion through which Her Royal Highness had passed; and he was rejoiced to think that the people of New Brunswick would have an opportunity of manifesting their respect. Mr. Sayre, (par. 6) spoke of the hard times, and did not know what could be done to alleviate them, and (par. 7), of the Provincial Exhibition, which, if not a financial success, was otherwise a success; coming to par. 8, he highly approved of what the government had done in importing Stock and Wheat Seed, and thought (par. 9), that a large proportion of the soil of the country was well adapted to the cultivation of sugar beets. He (par. 10) did not pretend to say that it was necessary to have new Legislative Buildings, but he was pleased that the plans and specifications would be laid before the House. After referring to the Province claims for Eastern extension on the Dominion Government, he took up the 12th paragraph, the most important in the address. He entirely concurred in the proposition that the Legislative Council should be abolished. He thought it a matter of great importance, if, by the amendment of the constitution of the Supreme Court, business which was now blocked, could be more expeditiously transacted. He (par 15) said with reference to inspectors of schools it was very important that there should be a change. There was now an inspector for every county, and the bill to be introduced he believed would propose to consolidate several counties into one district, and divide the Province into three or four districts. Inspectors were very poorly paid, and it was impossible to expect that men of high qualifications could be obtained for the salary given; with regard to the amendment of the "Free Grants Act," (par 16) he was willing to hope that when the bill was introduced it would be found to be a move in the right direction; when the measure regarding trespasses on Crown Lands, (par 17) was before the House it would, he was assured receive a thorough investigation.

Mr. Woods spoke briefly in seconding the adoption of the address.

Mr. Blair said that his observations would be directed not so much to the matter that was contained in the address as to what was not contained in it. He thought it better to say at once, that it was not his intention or the intention of any member of the Opposition to move any amendment. He saw that his friend, the Secretary, looked anxious, and he hoped this statement would relieve his mind. He quite agreed with the remarks of the mover in referring to the death of Princess Alice. He spoke of the manner in which H. R. H. had endeared herself to the nation when ministering at the death bed of Prince Albert, and attending the sick couch of the Prince of Wales. We all, he said, felt a great deal of sorrow when we heard of the untimely death of the Princess Alice. He saw in the appointment of the Marquis of Lorne, an acknowledgement that the policy of the Imperial Government was now the consolidation and not the disentegration of the Empire. He was prepared to find mention made in the speech to the Parliamentary Buildings; the leader of the Government during the election campaign had pledged himself to see the matter carried out. For himself he would not hesitate to give a measure for the erection of new buildings every support in his power. It was quite time that the question was definitely settled, as the uncertainty now hanging over it was a loss to property holders in the city. He was disappointed after all that had been said in previous speeches that the claim against the Dominion Government had not been settled—that the money had not found its way to the Treasury. He was surprised to find that the Government had put the paragraph in the speech relating to the proposed change in the constitution. He had understood that the leader of the Government had put down his foot on the question of the abolishment of the Legislative Council, and declared that if it was passed he and his colleagues must separate. But he must now suppose that there was nothing in the reports that were noised abroad. Yet, he hardly thought that the leader of the Government would have appointed so many of his supporters to seats in the Legislative Council if he had anticipated that a movement would have been made to abolish it. Strong pressure must have been brought upon him. With regard to changes in the Supreme Court he was disposed to aid the Government in carrying out a reform.

These were all the matters in the address that seemed to him to call for notice. But he felt it to be his duty to enter his protest against the re-organization of the Government. When the leader of the Government went to the country, he (Mr. B.) thought that the impression that he received was not to his liking. Mr. Blair went on to charge the leader with overlooking friends who had given him hearty and loyal support, and appointing to office over their heads, those who had been deadly opposed to the Government. In the whole history of the Province, he contended, there is no other act of such gross political morality as had been committed by the members of Westmorland and Northumberland in entering the Government of which they had been the bitterest opponents. He congratulated the Government on having captured the member of Kent, (Mr. Sayre) and spoke of the Government having appointed so many members of the legal profession to offices of emolument.

The Attorney General said he would be prepared to join issue with the leader of the opposition at proper time, and justify the reconstruction of the government. The Hon. gentleman of Westmorland was not an opponent of the government. His position left him entirely free to enter it without loss of self respect. He (Atty Gen.) was prepared to defend the course taken in bringing the members of Northumberland and Westmorland into the Government.

Turning to the address he spoke in appropriate terms to the appointment of Marquis of Lorne as Governor General, and referring to the coming of Princess Louise, one of the brightest jewels in the crown, to Canada, he expressed himself sure that in no place in the Dominion would H. R. H. receive a heartier welcome than in New Brunswick. With regard to the Legislative Buildings he would carry out the pledges he had given in the county. If his collegues would not go with him in the course he wished to pursue, he knew what course it was incumbent on him to take. He had no disposition to break away from this pledge. The plans and specifications for the new buildings would be laid before the House, in order to give members the fullest information. He then spoke to the paragraph relating to the propriety of changing the constitution. He freely and entirely accepted the responsibility of it. He expressed a hope that, if a bill were introduced to abolish the Legislative Council, it would be discussed in a manner so as not to affend the feelings of gentlemen who had done good service to the country. He closed by complimenting the mover, and seconder of the address. The address was then passed, and Messrs. Sayre, Woods, Hannington appointed a committee to present it.

TUESDAY, 4th March.

In course of the forenoon session, Dr. Vail gave notice of a motion for a statement of amounts paid, due and unclaimed on account of the St. Martin's and Upham Railway, &c., King's County.

Mr. McManus gave notice of inquiry relative to transfer of the Tracadie Lazaretto to the Dominion Government. Mr. Gillespie, as to intention of Government to reduce the rate of stumpage.

At the afternoon session, Mr. Covert presented report of Contingent Committee, recommending in regard to franking privileges, that all telegrams bear the signature of the members and be franked by the Speaker; and that telegraph officials keep detailed accounts with each member, which shall be presented to the Chairman at the close of the Session. Among the Bills introduced was one by Mr. Ritchie relating to liens. Among the motions, one was made by Mr. Marshall for a detailed statement of the lands granted to the New Brunswick Railway Company. Mr. Butler made enquiry if the Government had taken steps to procure a portion of the fishery award, and was answered by the Provincial Secretary, that the Government had pressed the claims of New Brunswick.

Hon. Mr. Fraser made explanations called for by Mr. Blair, regarding the reconstruction of the Government. In consequence of the resignation of Hon. Messrs. King, Kelly and McQueen in May last, he, (Mr. F.,) accepted the office of Attorney General, thereby vacating Provincial Secretaryship which was given to Hon. Mr. Wedderburn. After the elections the vacant office of Board of Works, and that of Surveyor General vacated by the resignation of Mr. Stevenson, were filled by Messrs. Landry and Adams. Mr. Hannington was appointed to a seat in the Executive Council without office. Mr. Stevenson last January resigned his seat, which is still vacant.

A Bill to amend the Act relating to the issue of Provincial Debentures in certain cases, was passed.

Mr Blair gave notice of enquiry relating to the property of one Woodford who he supposed died intestate.

WEDNESDAY, 5th March.

In the course of the morning session amongst other business, a committee of seven, viz., Hon. Mr. Wedderburn (the mover,) and Messrs. Fraser, Willis, Vail, Hill, Sayre, and Ritchie, was appointed to whom shall be referred all matters relating to privilege committee.

Mr. Thompson gave notice of inquiry for Saturday, for detailed statement of advances to the Government prior to or on October last, of payments due from the Dominion Government, payable January 1st, 1879.

A discussion arose over question of re-appointment of Dr. Smith, as resident physician of the Tracadie Lazeretto, and the dismissal of Mr. McDougal, superintendent of the same, in which the Secretary, and Messrs. Davidson, Hutchinson and Ryan took part. The Secretary said that he would lay papers before the House.

Mr. Covert moved resolution relative to the expenses of the Osborne trial. Information was promised.

Mr. Crawford gave notice of bill to amend chap. 47, consolidated statutes, relating to memorials and executions.

Mr. Blair gave notice for papers showing the amount of the travelling expenses of the members of Government since Oct. 31st last.

Mr. Sayre introduced bill to reduce the number of members of the House of Assembly.

In the afternoon, a long and spirited discussion took place over a bill introduced by Mr. Marshall, to amend chap. 65, consolidated statutes, relating to schools. The object of the bill was to relieve the City of St. John which had paid considerable sums annully into the School Fund, more than it received back, and so re-adjust distribution of that Fund, that Portland and the parishes would get back what they paid. The other object was to substitute a solemn declaration for the oath required of the teachers. The losses suffered by the City of St. John in the great fire were pleaded by the mover in support. Hon. Messrs. Fraser, Landry, Sayre, Morton, Elder, McManus, Willis, Ritchie, Davidson, spoke against the principles of the bill, as striking at the very root of the School Law, that the property of the country should pay for the education of the children of the country. It was denied that the people of the City of St. John asked for this special legislation. Mr. Davidson moved the three month's hoist. Mr. Hill and Hon Mr. Wedderburn interposed, and finally a motion to report progress and ask leave to sit again was carried. In course of discussion, Hon. Mr. Fraser said that a Bill would be introduced by the Government which would simplify the oath taken by teachers, which was not more binding on the conscience than a solemn declaration.

THURSDAY, 6th March.

A Bill was introduced by Mr. Hannington, in absence of the Surveyor General, relating to Free Grants of Crown Lands. Mr. Lynott, a Bill relating to imprisonment for debt. In answer to Mr. White's motion for papers, &c., the Attorney General entered into explanation of the contract with D. H. Smith for reporting debates of 1877-8, which was deemed satisfactory. Attorney General, in answer to Mr. Blair's motion for copies of all Minutes of Council, &c., connected with the Chatham Branch Railway, said the papers would be shortly brought down. Progress reported on a Bill committed by Mr. Butler to amend Act relating to elections to the General Assembly. Provincial Secretary submitted the Auditor's Report, and the returns of the St. Stephen and People's Bank, and statement of affairs of South Bay Boom Company.

A further report of Contingent Committee recommending that each member be allowed to frank his own telegrams, and that the telegraph company keep separate accounts with the members, was carried.

Progress was reported, and a bill to amend chap. 90, of consolidated statutes, to remove all doubt regarding officers elected thereunder. The object of the bill is to legalise acts of such municipal councellors as fail to take the oaths as required by law.

FRIDAY, 8th March.

In the atternoon session Mr. Barbarie moved the house into committee on a bill relating to the Dalhousie Branch Railway. Its object is to give the company an extension of time to build the road, and to continue to it the benefits of the Subsidy Act of 1874, which expires on May 1st, 1879, and to authorize them to reduce stock.

Mr. White was the only member who spoke. Knowing how anxious the people of Dalhousie, and other counties were to have railways built, he would like to know what course the Government would pursue in the depressed condition of the finances. He was satisfied that the people generally thought that there was enough of railways in New Brunswick. He would not oppose the bill, but he told the Government that he would oppose any similar bill until they gave the House clearly to understand the financial condition of the Province.

Mr. Sayre committed a bill to reduce the number of members in the House of Assembly. Smiles rippled the countenances of honorable members on the introduction of this measure. The Bill proposed to reduce the representation of large counties which have four members, and Kings which has three, to two member each—(giving one member to the City of St. John,) leaving the representation of the smaller counties as it is. A long and lively debate followed, in which Messrs. Sayre, Butler, Willis, White, Johnson, McManus, Ritchie, Hanington, Lynott, Black, and Wedderburn took part. The object of the Bill was to curtail the enormous expense of legislation. The mover argued that representation by population was the fairest principle, but it was difficult to attain. The representation in the Dominion Parliament was by Counties—each County sent one member. No objection was raised to it, and he did not see why objection should be raised if the same principle was applied to the Province. On the other hand it was objected that the basis of the Bill was essentially unjust—it would