

son, Blackwood, King, S. Campbell, Coffin, Locke, Ray, Annand, Brown—16.

Against the Amendment—Heffernan, James Fraser, Shannon, Chas. Campbell, Bourinot, Hill, Whitman, D. Fraser, Churchill, Allison, Pryor, Parker, McKay, Kaulback, Hill, Tobin, Hamilton, Jost, Donkin, Longley, J. Campbell, McKinnon, McFarlane, Financial Secretary, Tupper, Cowie, Robichau, Archibald, Blanchard, Colin Campbell, Smyth, Caldwell.—32.

The last clause of the answer to the address passed by the same vote.

WEDNESDAY, March 20.

The House met at 3 p. m.

Hon. PROV. SECRETARY moved the appointment of committee for the nomination of standing committees.

MONEY VOTES.

Mr. COLIN CAMPBELL said he had a number of petitions to present in relation to money grants; the practice, he said, had been for gentlemen to hand them to the Financial Secretary in the House, stating the object; he enquired whether that course was to be pursued this season.

Hon. FIN. SEC'Y said that the rule required that such petitions should go to the Government, but members had been in the practice of presenting them in the House, so that the petitioners might see that they had not been neglected. The same end would be answered if gentlemen sent them in privately, and a weekly list could be laid on the table.

Hon. PROV. SEC'Y and Mr. LOCKE urged the adoption of a uniform course in such matters.

Hon. FIN. SEC'Y stated that the course which he proposed would be expected to be adopted by members of the House, and he would prepare such a list as he had mentioned.

ANSWER TO THE ADDRESS PRESENTED.

The House then proceeded to Government House to present the Answer to the Address of his Excellency at the opening of the session. The Speaker, upon their return, announced that his Excellency had been pleased to make reply, thanking the House for their Address, and stating that the important matters mentioned therein would receive the most careful consideration.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

Hon. FIN. SECRETARY said: In laying upon the table the Trade Returns for the year ending 30th September, 1866, I feel pleased at being able to congratulate the House upon the prosperity of the country. That prosperity, it was at one time feared, would have been largely affected by the

diminution of commercial intercourse from the abrogation of the Reciprocity treaty, but an examination will shew that our commercial relations present an aspect of prosperity truly gratifying to every friend of his country. The returns, I may here state, exhibit an increase of revenue during the last year as compared with 1865 of \$185,815. The revenue of 1865 produced \$1,040,583, the total receipts of last year being \$1,226,198, shewing an increase to the amount mentioned, and embracing all duties from customs and excise, with exception of excise on the two items of tobacco and ale, the one being \$3178 and the other \$2324. Therefore the whole duty of customs under the existing law was \$1,226,398, and of excise \$5,402, being altogether \$1,231,902.

The next question of importance is the source from which the revenue has been derived; and the House will permit me as a matter of curiosity, if not of profit, to review the progress which the country has made, and the regular expansion of its trade in the last few years, as is indicated by the consumption of dutiable goods. This is shewn by a short review of the gradually increasing receipts, because I need not tell gentlemen accustomed to deal with trade that there can be no safer indication of the prosperity of a country—no surer index of the progress that a people are making than a gradually increasing ability to buy largely those necessities and luxuries which go into the general consumption of the people.

The amount of revenue receivable depends on the population which is to buy, and the ability of that population to pay. In some countries of the same population a smaller revenue would have been obtained, and the increase of the latter, as compared with the increase of the former, shewed most clearly that the country was increasing and expanding in wealth and prosperity. In 1850 the revenue derived from customs and excise was only \$322,778—not quite a fourth of the revenue of to-day. In 1851 the amount received was \$375,052 from the same source. A fairer comparison perhaps will be to take the customs duties of a more recent period, when the circumstances of the country had been affected by the commencement of our railways. In 1856 the receipts from customs were \$571,588—somewhat more than one third of our present revenue from the same source. This indicates, as I have said, a rapid and sure progress in trade and prosperity. The next features presented by these returns are the sources from which this revenue is derived, and undoubtedly the accounts shew a peculiarity which at first might strike the house as requiring explanation, and the explanation for which will appear to every gentleman acquainted with commercial transactions. The increase in the revenue is, as I have said, \$185,000—a large per centage over last year—while the returns shew that the