

the Prisons in the Province, making enquiries as to their condition. These documents, with the answers to the enquiries made, will be submitted for your consideration; and I will be glad if some means should be devised for the due inspection of all places of imprisonment, in order to promote an improvement in the system and uniformity of discipline.

9. Your attention will also be invited to the important question of Immigration, in the hope that a larger number of those seeking a new home may be made acquainted with the great advantages which are here offered to industry, capital, or skill.

10. I confidently hope that, deeply impressed with the gratitude due to a beneficent Providence for the blessings so liberally bestowed during the past year, your united deliberations will result in promoting the continued prosperity of this highly favored land.

THE LUNENBURG ELECTION.

The SPEAKER, upon the return of the House, proceeded to read His Excellency's speech.—The Speaker also announced the demise, during the vacation, of Dr. Stocumb, one of the representatives of Lunenburg, and the issue of a writ to supply the vacancy.

Hon. PROV. SEC., by command of His Excellency, laid on the table of the House, the return to the writ for the election of a member for the county of Lunenburg, which was then read, announcing the election of Abraham Hebb, Esq.

Hon. J. H. ANDERSON and Hon. A. KEITH, the Commissioners for administering the oaths, then took their places, and Mr. Hebb being introduced by Messrs. Annand and Ray, advanced and was sworn in.

The SPEAKER announced that the usual order for the franking privilege had been made.

BILL PRO FORMA.

Mr. S. MACDONNELL then asked leave to introduce *pro forma* a bill entitled "An act for the patenting of useful inventions." The bill was read a first time, and ordered to be read a second time on a future day.

ANSWER TO THE ADDRESS MOVED.

Dr. HAMILTON said—I rise, Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of moving the answer to the speech with which his Excellency the Lieut. Governor was pleased to open the third session of the twenty-fourth Parliament of Nova Scotia.

Every Novascotian, and especially the members of this House, must feel gratified that Her Majesty has thought proper to select and appoint as her representative in this colony, one of Nova Scotia's sons, whose talents and bravery have won him so distinguished a name in the British Empire, not only as the heroic defender of Kars, but in other important positions. As our Governor, we must feel confident that in the exercise of his great abilities and practical knowledge, Nova Scotia has been placed under the most favorable circumstances at this time.

It must be gratifying, too, for His Excellency to meet the Legislature of this his native Province under such favorable circumstances, for I believe never before, in the history of Nova Scotia, was every branch of productive industry in so healthy and flourishing a condition as at present.

The returns from the various sources of revenue, which have been made public, enable the Government to meet the House with no demands against the treasury, but, on the contrary, with a large surplus.

If there is one thing more than another which should inspire confidence in a Government in the management of the public affairs, it is the fact that the productive industry and the various sources of wealth are steadily on the increase.

A full treasury not only enables the Government to meet all the existing and necessary appropriations, but it does more—it enables them to make provisions for the extension of the public works, and other improvements which from time to time are required by the people.

Now, I do not feel disposed, in making these statements and exhibiting the figures which will follow, to attribute all the increase in the trade, commerce, navigation, agricultural produce, fisheries, mines and minerals, &c., to the management of the gentlemen who compose the present government, but this much I may say, that just in so far as the people have confidence in the integrity, practical ability and good intentions of those gentlemen, so far do people feel security in entering into the prosecution of those various sources of industry and trade, which result in the enjoyment not only of all the luxuries of life, but in the increase and extension of the productive sources of wealth.

I believe in every department from which returns are collected, the increase over previous years is remarkable, and as far as the productive resources of our Province are concerned, viz., the fisheries, agriculture, mines, minerals, and other departments they are all equally in a healthy and flourishing condition.

A few facts and comparisons might not be amiss, and while I do not feel disposed to make any invidious comparison with former governments under different parties, I must be permitted to refer to a few figures to illustrate the progress which has been made, and first let us take the exports of Nova Scotia.—

In 1860, under the management of our predecessors, the whole exports amounted to

\$6,619,534

While, in 1865, they were no less than

8,830,633

Being an increase of no less than

\$2,211,099

If there can be any doubt about the state of our country in this respect, a reference to her exports will prove her prosperity, and the great increase for the last six years shows pretty plainly that Nova Scotia is progressing in her productive capabilities most rapidly, and we must certainly hope it may long continue. I might mention that during the years 1861–62–63, the exports of the Province fell off no less than \$1,242,169, so that the increase has been most rapid, amounting, since 1862, to no less a sum than \$3,153,672.

These very large exports and imports produce a trade from which a large revenue is collected, and as far as the Government and the representatives of the people are concerned, nothing is more gratifying than to have a large surplus revenue to return to the people in the shape of grants for roads and bridges, schools and navigation securities, and which also en-