

which may be suggested in the Act for the better encouragement of Education—a subject so deeply interesting and important to the whole country.

It is gratifying to know that the Extension of the Railway to Pictou has been placed under contract, and will be carried on with despatch.

We will give due consideration to any proposals for the construction of the Lines provided for in the resolution which passed both Branches of the Legislature last Session.

The Report upon St. Peter's Canal will obtain our careful examination.

Fully impressed with the obvious necessity of making adequate provision for the unfortunate Insane, we will be prepared to discharge that duty in an efficient manner.

We are gratified to learn that all the various sources of Provincial Income evidence such a high degree of prosperity; and for these mercies, together with the blessings of continued peace, we desire to return our grateful thanks to the Bountiful Giver of all good.

In viewing this address, Mr. Speaker, I feel assured that it will meet the support of every member in this House. I cannot see that it will, in the slightest manner, compromise my views or action on any question. We are committed to nothing but the provision for the extension of the Hospital, the Militia service and to the International Exhibition in Dublin.

On the great question of the Union, you will all admit, that less could not have been said, and more might have been unwise. It is the intention of the Government to leave the subject as open as possible, and to the free action of any member of Government and members generally.

Mr. WHITMAN seconded the answer.

The Address was allowed to lie on the table.

The House adjourned until three o'clock the next day.

FRIDAY, 10th Feb.

ANSWER TO THE ADDRESS.

The House met at three o'clock.

The Answer to the Address was taken up, and read clause by clause.

Mr. LOCKE said, in reference to the clause touching upon the Union of the Colonies, that it did not commit any one on the question. Every one was, of course, left perfectly free to deal with it as his judgment should dictate, when all the papers connected with it were before the House. He thought it necessary to say this in order that the country might understand the position of gentlemen.

Mr. ARCHIBALD (who was only heard with the greatest difficulty) said that the proper time, of course, for discussing the question referred to, would be when all the papers were before the House. All the House was asked to do at present was to promise that every question should receive their deliberate consideration when it came in due form before them. In looking over the Speech, he found that the only measure promised was one connected with Education. He would take this opportunity of calling attention to the fact that he had last session foretold some of the difficulties, that would probably arise from some features of the bill, to which he objected at the time. He had particularly urged the appointment of a Council of Public Instruction

which was not composed of the members of the Executive Council. He had also said that, at all events, if the Government were not willing to go as far as he wished, they should place at the head of the Council of Public Instruction the Lieutenant Governor, as his presence would give to the country the guarantee that mere party considerations would not always prevail. He now begged the Government to consider carefully in any amendments to the bill they might introduce, the propriety of avoiding even the semblance of suspicion that party influences prevailed in Educational matters. He congratulated the country on the encouraging statements made in the speech,—that our revenue was very large, and all our branches of industry prosperous to an unparalleled extent. Every gentleman, whatever his political prejudices, would learn this fact with the deepest satisfaction.

Mr. Stewart Campbell said that he perfectly concurred with those gentlemen who had spoken of this Answer to the Address as being entirely non-committal in its character. Notwithstanding he held very strong opinions on the subject of the Union of the Colonies, he felt that he had no difficulty whatever in giving his concurrence to the Answer. He emphatically stated that he wished it to be at once understood that he did not endorse the action of the Government in sending a delegation to Quebec. The house had put upon its journals last session a resolution authorizing the Government to appoint delegates in reference to a Union of the Maritime Provinces. Authority, however, had been granted from some quarter to those delegates to go beyond the mission entrusted to them by the Legislature. Therefore, although he concurred in the answer to the address, he wished to guard himself from having it supposed that he at all endorsed the act of the Government in sending a delegation to Quebec.

The answer to the address then passed *nem. con.*

The PROVINCIAL SECRETARY stated that His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor would be ready to receive the answer on Monday next at half-past one. It was therefore agreed that the whole house should present the answer at that hour.

REVISING COMMITTEE.

On motion of the Hon. Prov. Secy., the following Committee was appointed to select Standing Committees of the House:—

Hon. Prov. Secretary, Mr. Blanchard, Hon. Attorney General, Mr. Locke, Mr. Killam, Mr. Archibald, and Mr. Tobin.

Mr. BOURINOT would suggest to the Revising Committee that they should place upon the Committee gentlemen who would fairly represent all sections of the Province. Hitherto that rule had not been observed with that strictness which was absolutely requisite in order to perform the business of the country as it should be. He had had occasion in previous sessions to suggest changes in this particular, and he hoped that the gentleman who represented Cape Breton on the Committee would take care that justice was done to that section in which he ought to be especially interested.

Mr. BLANCHARD said that hitherto the great difficulty had been to find gentlemen willing to serve on the committees after they had been