R. S. Porter.

NEW BOOKS AT PORTER'S BOOKSTORE.

The Coming Man, by the Present Child.
Kate Kennedy, by Mrs. Annie Fleming.
Ellen Middleton, by Lady Georgiana Fullerton.
Friends in Council, by the author of Ten Thousand a Year.
The Gesture of the Sword, by Buchanan Robertson, illustrated.
Rock Ledge, by Schwatka.
The Life and Work of the Rugby School, by W. Taylor.
Ten Years of My Life, by the Princess Felix Salm-Salm.
The Structure and Summer-Built, by Hinkelton.
Mind Worlds, by Chambers.

R. S. PORTER.
Bookseller, Lindsay.

A. H. Levirum.

CHEAP STOVES and TINWARE.

The undersigned is now selling his Stock of

STOVES and TINWARE AT Greatly Reduced Prices.

And intends giving up that branch of his business. His Stock of

Heavy & Shelf Hardware

Will now be more complete than ever. He would call the attention of Carriage makers to his Stock of Iron, Horse Nails, Springs, Axles Patentee Sheins, Rims, Spokes, Hubs, Wheels, Carriage Hardware and Trimmings, as all other goods required by them, as he is determined not to be undersold.

GEO. H. BRUNTNAL.
Sign of the Golden Anvil, Kent St., Lindsay.
Lindsay, Feb. 1st, 1877.

Banking and Exchange.

EXCHANGE OFFICE, Dominion Telegraph office; Fire and Life and Accident Insurance effected; Mortgages, Notes, Green Backs and Drafts bought and sold; money loaned on Mortgages or other security. Broker office in Adams' new block, three doors east of the Merchants' Bank, Lindsay. A. McALPINE

ONTARIO BANK.

SAVINGS BANK

A Savings Bank has been opened at the local Branch of the Ontario Bank. 5 per cent. interest allowed on deposits of $1 and upwards from date of deposit. No notice required of withdrawal of deposit.
A. McCUBBIN, Manager

BANK NOTICE.

MERCHANTS' BANK OF CANADA

CAPITAL $3,000,000.

A SAVINGS BANK

Has been opened at the Agency of this Bank, Kent Street, Lindsay. The smallest amounts may be deposited and will earn interest at the rate of FIVE PER CENT. No notice whatever required previous to the withdrawal of Savings Bank deposits.
D. MILLEGAN, Agent.
Lindsay, 17th June, 1876.

Canadian Post.

LINDSAY, FRIDAY, FEB 16, 1877

CABINET CHANGES AT OTTAWA.

It is quite evident from the proceedings which have already taken place at Ottawa that Mr. Mackenzie meets the House of Commons with undiminished confidence in himself and his colleagues. And well he may. He has for three years fought the sectional battle under far less advantageous circumstances, and it is not likely that he will shrink from the ordeal now. Like his countryman if he falls it will be with his back to the field and his feet to the foe. But falling is just now out of the question on his side. The first fall has been that of the leader of the Opposition, who under the manipulation of somebody, presumably of Mr. Blake, has been made to bite the dust in the matter of the Secret Service Fund, of which he has been compelled at this late day to refund over $25,000. Nor is this the last downfall for Sir John this session, as both he and Mr. Mackenzie well know. The latter has one important ground of confidence in the recent changes in his Cabinet. Mr. Pelletier is a much more active and energetic man than the Hon. Mr. Letellier, whom he succeeds, and Mr Mills is even more superior to Mr. Laird. Two years ago Mr. Mackenzie had to face an active and unscrupulous Opposition without that cordial backing from the advanced section of the Reform party which he now has. Its leading men, Mr Blake and Mr. Mills, are both in the Cabinet, and the Opposition will now find it exceedingly difficult to match in debate the Premier and his three colleagues from Ontario, Messrs. Blake, Cartwright and Mills.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS.

The fiscal year of the Dominion ends on the 30th of June, and as Parliament does not meet till February the Heads of Departments have six or seven months in which to prepare their annual reports, and get them printed. Those who take the trouble of looking into the Blue Books know that this period is none too long for making such elaborate compilations, and it is therefore extremely gratifying to find so many reports ready at the commencement of the session as have already been brought down this year. Amongst these are such important documents as the Public Accounts and the Reports of Public Works, Marine and Fisheries, Inland Revenue, Trade and Navigation, etc. When Sir John A. Macdonald was in power the country might consider itself fortunate if the information contained in these volumes was vouchsafed at all before the close of the session, but all that has been changed with the advent of working ministers.

Of the character and contents of the various reports it is not necessary to speak at length as they will form the subject of frequent discussions before the session closes. The Trade and Navigation returns continue to show a considerable preponderance of imports over exports, but that preponderance is much less marked than it has been for some years back. The principal cause of the falling off is the necessity our importers have felt themselves under of curtailing their purchases in Great Britain. During years of inflation in trade the consumption of articles which are not amongst the necessaries of life increases with great rapidity, and when depression sets in this consumption diminishes. This is one of the ways by which the stringency is relieved, and it is satisfactory to notice that our importers have had the good sense to suit the amount and character of their importations to the times. The amount of falling off in our importations last year may be seen from the following figures. During the four years from 1866 to 1871 inclusive our importations averaged nearly seventy nine million dollars ($79,000,000) per annum. During the next four years, 1872 to 1875 inclusive, they averaged over one hundred and twenty two million dollars ($122,000,000) per annum. Last year they fell away at a single bound to $88,210,348, although for three years in succession they had reached a sum from 30 to 35 millions greater each year. As the same causes are still in operation we may safely predict a similar reduction during the present fiscal year for, as every one knows the hardest part of the hard times has been experienced since last June. It is satisfactory to not less that our exports have gone on steadily increasing since 1868, though the increase has not been quite uniform. For the first four years after Confederation they amounted to an average of over 66 millions per annum; for the next four years to an average of nearly 85 millions per annum; and last year they almost reached the sum of 81 millions, the exact figures being $80,866,495. The excess of imports over exports in 1874 was nearly 39 million dollars, and in 1875 it reached the enormous amount of over 45 millions, while last year it fell suddenly to $12,343,017. It is easy to see from these figures that the lesson taught by the hard times has not been taught in vain and that we are on the safe road to prosperity once more.

The effect of this immense falling off in imports on the revenue derivable from customs is a point of great importance. The duty on imports in 1874 amounted to nearly 14 millions and a half of dollars; in 1875 it was nearly fifteen and a half millions. In 1876 it fell to $12,485,114.48. It is quite clear at a glance that, as it is utterly impossible to reduce the expenditure of the Dominion in a corresponding ratio, there must this year be a deficit to meet. This is what we predicted last year as the result of the hard times and a reference to the Public Accounts shows that our anticipations are fully realized. The actual deficit up to the 30th of last June is $1,000,000 a sum far below the speculative amounts named by the Opposition tenters and organs, but still startlingly large. It will now be in order for the *Mail* and other journals to prove that by a protective duty this deficit would have been rendered impossible, but every person possessed of the slightest discernment must see how nonsensical such talk really is. A protective duty by prohibiting importation would have still further diminished the revenue and left the deficit still greater. When Mr. Cartwright makes his budget speech he will no doubt explain fully the way in which the deficit has accrued, but it is meanwhile quite safe to say that the falling off has taken place to a far greater extent in articles paying a high duty than in those paying a low one. In view of these facts it would be unwise to propose any increase in the tariff this year except such an increase as will operate exclusively in the interest of revenue.

PROTECTION AT OTTAWA.

It has been abundantly evident for some time past that the Tory leaders knew they were in danger of burning their fingers by handling too long the protection puzzle. In order to embarrass the Ministry they did not scruple to play the part of insincere agitators and now they must take the consequences of their own bad faith. Protection is far from being the popular cry in Ontario it was once thought to be and it is the most unpopular that can be adopted in the Maritime Provinces. The Ontario farmers need no protection, and could not possibly get any so long as the province exports more grain than it imports. But even if they did they could not be protected at the expense of the people of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, who grow no wheat worth mentioning, and want to purchase the staff of life as cheaply as possible. On the other hand the people of Ontario want to purchase coal for household and manufacturing purposes as cheaply as they can, and they will not stand a duty on what has become a necessity to them. Many of our manufacturers who are now clamouring in the most selfish and thoughtless way for a protective duty which would benefit them would spurn the boon if it could only be had by accepting along with it a tax on coal, on the cheapness of which they depend for ability to manufacture cheaply enough to compete with imported articles. Many a manufacturer who now makes a good living and that is all he can fairly claim would make a fortune if his industry and it alone was protected; but if along with the protection he desires he were to be forced to accept a tax of even fifty cents a ton on coal he would find himself compelled to put away from him the boon he has been agitating for. So clearly have the true bearings of the protection question been ascertained as the result of the discussion of the past twelve months, that it is safe to predict a decided falling off in the interest felt in the question. The evidence taken last year before Mr. Mill's Depression Committee, and the complete refutation it supplies of the great bulk of the protection twaddle to which we have been accustomed, will make every one who is not a monomaniac on the subject chary of meddling with it unnecessarily.

LINDSAY HIGH SCHOOL.

Some doubt having been expressed as to the accuracy of our statement in a recent number concerning the comparative standing of the Lindsay High School, as shown by the Government grants to High Schools, and a desire having been manifested for "more particulars," we publish the official regulations providing for the distribution of the grants in question. These show the position our school holds. We think Lindsay ought to rank in the second class; and all directly concerned would do well to consider what measures are necessary to attain that place, and why the present rating is so low. No doubt the fact that this is a comparatively new country, and that there is not so large a proportion of our young people going in for higher education has a good deal to do with it. Then again, as in the case of Galt and Whitby, a brilliant or a first-class reputation as a school attracts the cleverest youth from a much wider section, and it is in a measure less difficult to keep up the standard. But we contend this position should be won by Lindsay; and we have not the least doubt there is plenty of "local talent" if parents will give it an opportunity of coming out. Some persons would at once place the whole responsibility for this unsatisfactory exhibit on the shoulders of the Principal; but that would be taking a superficial view of the situation. The Board of Education have their share, and until the ratepayers see to it that respectable and intelligent men are elected school trustees they cannot expect to have their educational matters in a satisfactory condition. Instead of having the best men in town at the Board they have some of the worst, men who are not fit even to be councillors, much less school trustees. A good deal of blame is to be placed at the door of the school building. It is of itself enough to discourage teachers and scholars; and the first step to be taken is to batter it down, and put up a building on a common sense plan. Lindsay High School ought to be able to draw all the young people from Lake Simcoe to Peterboro, and from Lake Scugog northward; but we have heard of several in Eldon and Mariposa who go to Port Perry and Whitby. This should not be. The subject is a many-sided, and we shall likely have occasion to refer to it again. The official regulations of the Department provide that the High School grant shall be distributed as follows:—

I. A grant in the payment of a fixed allowance to each school.

II. A grant on the basis of average attendance.

III. A grant on the results of inspection.

IV. A grant on the result of the Intermediate Examination.

Under head III. the grant for the last half year of 1876, viz., $5,000, is appropriated as follows:—

Six schools shall receive $160 in each, namely, Stratford, Galt, Hamilton, Ottawa, St. Catherines, Toronto.

Thirteen schools shall receive $119 each, namely, Berlin, Brantford, Chatham, Cobourg, Collingwood, Kingston, London, Peterboro, Port Hope, Port Perry, St. Mary's, St. Thomas and Whitby.

Four shall receive 88 each, namely, Barrie, Brampton, Harriston, Hespeler.

Fourteen shall receive 68 each, namely, Alnwick, Belleville, Brampton, Bruce Mines, Dundas, Georgetown, Gananoque, Goderich, Owen Sound, Perth, Strathroy, Sunbury, Walkerton, Waterdown, Wiarton, Woodstock.

Four shall receive 89 each, namely, Guelph, Chatham, Port Hope, Richmond Hill.

Twenty shall receive 34 each, namely, Arnprior, Aylmer, Clarksburg, Drumbo, Erin, Fergus, Forest, Gravenhurst, Harriston, Hespeler, Kincardine, Lucan, Mitchell, Newcastle, Oil City, Paisley, Port Perry, Renfrew, Simcoe, Smith's Falls, Uxbridge, Vienna.

The first six are Collegiate Institutes.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The Electoral Commissioners have awarded Florida to Hayes and Wheeler, and are now considering the Louisiana case.

The Ontario Legislature is now engaged with "concurrence," in the supplies, and will, it is expected, bring the session to a close in about another week. The Hon. Mr. Fraser is to be entertained at a banquet at Toronto shortly after.

This sharp thrust is from the Hamilton *Times*: Sir John's newspaper thinks the Ottawa Government has not as long a list of measures to present to the House as it should have. How would it like a bill introduced to provide for an examination into the expenditure of the Secret service money during the years Sir John was in office?

The Conservative "reaction" has gained a Pyrrhic victory in Frontenac in the election of the octogenarian D. D. Calvin to the Legislature by a handsome majority. The total vote cast was as follows:

Calvin	747
Dawson	588
Murray	209
Rawlen	296
	1839

The Imperial Parliament has been opened by the Queen in person with ceremony more than usually magnificent. The speech is largely devoted to the eastern question. The policy of the Government will be vigorously attacked by the Opposition, and it is understood that the relations between the Premier and the Marquis of Salisbury are far from friendly. The session promises to be an exciting and eventful one.

The London *Advertiser*: It is rumored that an *entente cordiale* scarcely exists between Sir John A. Macdonald and Dr. Tupper. Under Sir John's snavity there lurks a considerable fund of watchful jealousy. It has always been Sir John's policy to remove or politically slaughter any colleague who became dangerously prominent, and the "War-Horse of Cumberland" may next be led to the shambles. Like the Turk, Sir John can bear no rival near the throne.

Our neighbours are dissatisfied with their insolvency laws, as may be seen from the subjoined extract from an article in the New York *Shipping List*: "Congress might greatly assist in the restoration of legitimate trade by the amendment of the national bankrupt law. That instrument, as it now stands, acts as a premium on fraudand dishonesty, and compels the solvent business man to compete with the bankrupt, whose stock represents for himself, anything from ten to fifty centson the dollar, and for his creditors, disappointment, disgust, and perhaps ruin. Our law makers have been so often reminded of these defects that it is strange they remain so passive." A similar state of things obtains in this country.

The Stratford *Beacon*: "One result of this debate will be that the guards at the Central Prison will have to be doubled and the extra expense of course paid by the country. The thieves and burlars there now know that the Opposition are making capital out of their insubordination, and as a natural consequence they will grow more insolent and violent. We congratulate the Opposition on their newly-found friends and allies. Their chieftian, Sir John, was elected by penitentiary votes, and as Mr. Blake said, 'one does not know whom to congratulate most, the member who has such constituents or the constituents who have such a member.' Precisely the same difficulty meets one when he thinks of the union which has been formed between the Ontario Opposition and the discarded officials and inmates of the Toronto Central prison."

The St. Thomas *Home Journal* takes to task those Reform journalists who "joined in the chorus" which was raised by the Tory organs about the so-called "salary grab." As one of the Reform journals that condemned that transaction we beg to say that we are quite indifferent in discussing a matter of that kind whether the Tories approve or condemn, and we certainly did not join in their "chorus." We have some regard for harmony in sound if not in politics. We condemned the increase as much for the manner in which it was done as for the amount involved. The spectacle of a body of legislators agreeing secretly to take a large amount of public money of which they were custodians to increase their own indemnity is far from reputable. If the proposition for an increase had been made one session and carried the next session if public opinion favored it the question would have been simply one of amount, and many who now condemn might approve the increase. The debate the other evening partook largely of the nature of a farce; but it had one advantage it was public, and the electors can now form their own conclusions. While we think a reduction to $800 should have been made, we do not consider the matter of sufficient importance to oust any constituency to reject a good member because he voted for the $840; or to re-elect a member solely because he is in favor of $600 or nothing at all.

From a careful examination of recent British official returns the *Scottish American* is forced to the conclusion that the expectations of a better state of trade in Great Britain and Ireland for 1876 have not been realized. Some lines of business have improved, and in others there is a falling off. The aspects of things in other European nations, says our cotemporary, "is not a whit more satisfactory or cheering. With all the attempts which are made to conceal the fact there is no question that a state of very peculiar financial embarrassment prevails in Austria, Germany and Russia; whilst there has been in France a depreciation of at least 375,177,000 francs on about one hundred securities. During the last year the issues on the Paris Bourse amounted to only 583,000,000 francs capital, against 1,080,000,000 in 1875. This is a tremendous decline; and as *L'Imbuistrie* shows the Bank of France has fallen off to the extent of 63,000,000 francs, whilst the reduction at the Credit Foncier amounted to 50,000,000 francs. At present there is no apparent indication of financial improvement; and it is hardly to be expected that any such result will be experienced until there is brought about a more settled state of things politically. The apprehension of war has had much to do in producing a sort of commercial panic, and it is impossible that confidence can be fully restored until the causes of the present disquietude are in a measure removed. To a certain extent the same remark will apply to the effect upon the trade of this country of the complications and uncertainty which have been thrown around the Presidential election. If there be any change at all in the trade and finances of America it is for the better; and with so much still to encourage, the people here and in Europe may yet hope for returning prosperity. After the long dark night a bright and sunny day must dawn ere long."

The subjoined speculations of the New York *Nation* about the Eastern question are of interest just now: "The belief that Russia will retreat from her position and find some plausible excuse for not fighting, are, first, the great change which took place in Ignatieff's demeanor after the conference met. One of the chief objects of the Conference was supposed to be to restrain him, and prevent him from presenting the Porte with an intolerable ultimatum backed by a threat of instant war. When the Conference met, however, and began to tone down its demands, so as to see what were the low est terms on which Turkey would settle, he was found to be the most conciliatory and accommodating of all the diplomats present. Second, the growing financial distress in Russia, and the accumulating proofs that war, especially if protracted, will produce a financial crisis of considerable gravity. Third, the surmise that Bismarck has let out that he really wishes Russia to fight, and fight alone, so as to be well crippled and put in a condition in which, in case of a fresh complication between France and Germany, she will not be in a position to aid the former. The notion has been strengthened by the appearance at Constantinople of Dr. Busch, one of the Prince's confidants, with secret instructions for the German representative, which, however, caused the latter to exchange a very menacing for a very conciliatory attitude towards the Turks. Lastly, the growing uncertainty as to the policy of Austria, arising out of the increased and increasing friendliness of the Magyars for the Turks. Without any effort against an Austrian movement on her rear, and the invasion of the Danubian provinces by Russia would be dangerous or impossible. Everything considered, however, the probabilities seem to us to be that Russia will, in the absence of a positive threat from Austria or Germany, strike, and strike vigorously, as soon as the roads are in a fit condition—and is to say, within about six weeks from the present date."

OUR TORONTO LETTER.

THE LEGISLATURE—THE ORANGE BILLS AN EXCITING DEBATE—THE "SALARY GRAB"—SALARIES OF MINISTERS—CREDIT VALLEY RAILWAY—"THE MAN FOR GALWAY."

[Special correspondence of The Post.]

TORONTO, Feb. 13th.

The most exciting and best sustained debate of the session, except one to which I shall presently allude, was that on the special bill for the incorporation of the Grand and subordinate Orange lodges of Eastern and Western Ontario. It was doubtful up to the last moment whether the Ministry would make it an open question, but fortunately they did so, and it was therefore treated with a good deal more freedom than it would otherwise have been treated with. I say fortunately—for if voting on the Bill had been made a question of confidence or non-confidence some supporters of the Administration would have found themselves in an embarrassing predicament. Elected by the aid of Orange votes they would have found themselves compelled either to vote against the Ministry and endanger its present existence, or vote with it and endanger their tenure of their seats when a general election came round. I trust that Mr. Mowat will continue to treat the question as an open one, and allow the House to pass or reject the Bill at its own sweet will. If he does I have little doubt of its being eventually carried, and the sooner the better for the Ministry. I must confess that, apart altogether from my own opinions in the matter, there is a strong feeling growing up here that the Orangemen's request should be granted, and if this feeling were carefully analysed I am perfectly certain that no small amount of it would be found to be due to sympathy with the stand taken by Mr. Bethune in the course of this very debate. One argument used by the Premier for the rejection of the Bill was that its passage would be offensive to the Roman Catholics. This may be true as a matter of fact, though I doubt whether it is true of all Catholics; but no matter how true it may be it is an argument which in the estimation of an increasing number ought not to have a particle of weight, and which ought not to have emanated from the Premier. Mr. Bethune's address was largely taken up with pointing out the fallacy involved in the appeal and the danger with which it was fraught if listened to and acted on. He took the bold ground that the principle of incorporation could not be refused and that *a fortiori* still less could the House fairly refuse to the Orangemen the right to choose how they would be incorporated. I have been frequently told the Bill would have carried had it not been for the article which appeared in its favor a few days before in the *Globe*. I have been assured in the most positive terms that certain supporters of the Administration, who had intended to vote for the Bill, actually turned round and voted against it lest they might leave themselves open to the taunt that they were subject to *Globe* dictation. I feel loth to believe that any member of the Reform party is so weak as to act in such a way, and I only mention the matter to show the sort of talk indulged in here about the Bill. I have no sympathy with the motives of the Orangemen, for the whole history of this agitation proves most conclusively that it is got up for the express purpose of embarrassing the Ministry. But this is only one other and a most powerful reason why Mr. Mowat and his supporters should allow the Bill to pass and thus take away all grounds for an agitation, which if its cause is not removed will certainly prove exceedingly troublesome hereafter. Taking all the circumstances into consideration I should certainly not be surprised if the Bill were to pass the Legislature next session. What the Commissioner of Public Works would do in that event is a subject a good deal speculated upon, but I imagine he has too much sense to take its passage greatly to heart after he has agreed to make it an open question. At the same time he is evidently greatly opposed to it, and though he did not speak during the debate it was plain he had to exercise a good deal of self-control in order to suppress a very natural impulse to reply to the coarse taunts of some of the members of the Opposition. The whole proceeding, both in itself and what it suggests, was a humiliating spectacle, and many of those who witnessed it must have been struck with the absurdity of transplanting to our Canadian soil such miserable exotics as the partisan and religious rancour exposed by the debate.

THE "SALARY GRAB."

I suppose this term is not strictly correct but as it is the one most commonly used to designate the increase made last year in the sessional allowance of members I may be permitted to employ it. I do not envy the member for London the glory he has achieved by intermeddling with this unsavory business this session. He has been accused to his face on the floor of the House, by colleagues as well as opponents, of being actuated by the pettiest and most self-seeking of motives. Having threatened to move for a reduction of the indemnity to the original amount he should have taken the earliest opportunity of doing so if he wished to make anything at all by the proceeding, but he delayed so long that the minds of Ministers and their supporters were made up and when the House went into Committee of Supply on Thursday of last week Mr. Crooks moved himself the reduction to $800. He advocated the higher sum in the public interest but as so much had been said and threatened in the matter he wished the House and the country to have an opportunity of passing fairly upon it. Mr. Hardy then moved that the allowance be entirely abolished and with this additional complication the debate commenced. Quite a number spoke in favor of abolishing the indemnity and when a vote was taken the motion for abolition found 19 supporters—about a fourth part of the members present. A great many on both sides spoke in favour of retaing the $800. The debate was the most free and easy, and the most interesting and able of the entire session. Member after member indulged in unparliamentary expressions and imputations of motives which at any other time would have caused them to be called to order by the chair but as the speaking went on the "mirth and fun grew fast and furious" and peal after peal of laughter rang throughd the chamber. The most serious man in the House was the member for London, who was really to be pitied if his motives were as pure as he avowed them to be. Mr. Crooks' motion was ultimately voted down by a majority of 38 to 35, and as the House was in committee the yeas and nays were not recorded. I presume there will be no attempt made to have them recorded by bringing the matter up again when the Speaker is in the chair, for all parties seem to be pretty well tired of it now as an unpleasant business. The effect of the vote is to leave the indemnity for the present at $800. I am of opinion that it will yet be reduced considerably below that figure if not entirely abolished. Some members spoke in favor of its entire abolition as a matter of principle and conviction, and they may bring it up in future sessions. To do so would be a popular move with the people but it would tend to make the member who did it very unpopular with his fellow-members. It was satisfactory to hear so unanimous an expression of opinion from members on both sides of the House in favour of keeping up the salaries of Ministers. Whatever may be said for or against the increase of the sessional allowance there is very much to be said in favor of giving Cabinet Ministers liberal salaries. In point of fact good men cannot be secured without doing so, and inferior men should not be tolerated at any price.

THE CREDIT VALLEY RAILWAY.

I cannot close without according my tribute of praise to Mr. George Laidlaw—not for his straightforward dealing with the municipalities along the line of his road, but for his energy and "cheek." He made an exceedingly bold request of the Legislature when he asked it to compel municipal councils which had once aided him to submit a second bonus to the ratepayers whether they would or not, but it turned out that he had over-shot the mark and now he has got his "little Bill." If the people of the east will only persist in the course they have taken Mr. W. H. Scott, who is not consumed with energy, and member for Scarlow Brockbridge of this city will soon find out the exact amount of vitality in their scheme. If it can be pushed through at all he is the man to do it, and while I admit there is something in it I am quite prepared to believe that it needs some pushing and engineering.

ECHOES FROM THE CAPITAL.

THE OPENING—THE USHER OF THE BLACK ROD—NEW MEMBERS—DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS—THE HANSARD—SLEEPERS FROM THE GALLERY.

[Special Correspondence of The Post.]

OTTAWA, Feb. 14.

THE OPENING.

In my last letter I gave your readers an outline of the ceremonies attendant on the opening of Parliament, and it is unnecessary that I should add much more. The day opened clear and fine, "Old Sol" was in the best humor and everything seemed to smile benignantly on the Mackenzie Government. The attendance at the opening itself was extremely large, and the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, Mr. Kimber, informed your correspondent that there had not been such a demand for tickets of admission for many years. The galleries were densely packed while the scene on the floor of Senate was of an unusually brilliant nature. In three deep rows on each side of the room were placed the ladies, all attired in full dress, and each rivalling the other in the costliness and magnificence of their costumes. It is no wonder that the opening is sometimes termed the "millinery show." The members of the clergy and a few others occupy seats on the floor in the centre of the chamber. On the throne sits His Excellency surrounded on either side by his A. D. C.'s and the staff officers. At the reception in the evening for the first time in two or three years, Sir John A. and Lady Macdonald were presented. But I must hasten on. I was present at the House when the

GENTLEMAN USHER OF THE BLACK ROD

entered, and after making three most dramatic bows, exclaimed in stentorian tones: "Mr. Speaker—His Excellency the Governor-General commands this Honorable House to attend immediately in the chamber of the Senate." Then carefully retreating backwards, bowing as he went,—the Usher retired. So well was this little by-play enacted that the House, regardless of decorum, applauded to the echo. As a general rule, very few of the members attend on the Senate when thus required, but this year there were very few vacant seats left in the House. On the

FIRST DAY

but little business is ever transacted, and the House adjourned early. After the members had returned some merely formal business was transacted, such as the introduction of new members. The list was very evenly divided, the Government having a majority of one in the count. At this rate it will be a long time, some forty years, before the "Conservative re-action" will effect much damage. On Friday

THE DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS

was in order. Mr. D. Guthrie, the new member for South Wellington, moved the adoption of the address. Mr. Guthrie is a clear, distinct and deliberate speaker, and although his speech can scarcely be called a rhetorical effort, it was full of "meat." He was highly complimented on his effort. Mr. Bechard, of Beauce, seconded the Address, and then Sir John rose to criticize the address in reply to the speech from the throne. In stereotyped phrase he complained of the meagreness of the bill of fare as regards legislation, and then a moment later he found himself stating that this country could do without any material legislation for several years. The duty of the Opposition being merely to criticize the administrative acts of Government. He reviewed the various clauses of the address in the usual way, and was followed by the Premier, who in a happy way called Sir John's attention to the fact that when the present government presented a dish they did not withdraw it until it had been disposed of, while the late government often presented a bill of fare, not one prominent dish of which ever reached its intended destination, and often, after having been placed in decent shape by his opponents was then swallowed by the hon. gentleman himself. Mr. Mackenzie answered the various objections raised by the leader of the Opposition and closed by inviting him to repeat in the House the charges made during the recess—an invitation not likely to be accepted. Mr. DeCosmos and Cariboo Thompson ventilated the grievances of down-trodden, oppressed British Columbia and threatened secession unless a salve were at once applied. This closed the debate on the address and the House then adjourned until Monday.

PRAYERS FOR THE COMMONS.

At the sitting on Monday one of the first questions considered was a motion made by Sir John Macdonald, of Toronto, that a form of prayer shall be read before the business of each day's session was commenced. Such a practice is already in vogue in the Senate, and has also been adopted by many legislative bodies. Objection is made to it, however, by the Catholics, who, of course, are not inclined to have a form of worship contrary to their belief. Protestants, too, would object to the ministrations of a priest, and when parties are so nearly divided it would seem that it would perhaps be better after all were no devotional exercises engaged in. This appears to be the felings of the members generally. Mr. DeCosmos opposed it point blank, and said he thought they could legislate just as well for the country without any prayers at all. The question has been referred to a committee, and it is very difficult to state what action they will take.

THE HANSARD.

On the first day's sitting Sir John A. Macdonald enquired what steps had been taken regarding the publication of official reports of debates. He was informed that the report of the committee of last session had not been adopted and it remained with the House to state if publication would be continued. A select committee was appointed to consider the matter and they have reported a scheme placing the total cost at not more than $5,500. The staff is to consist of a chief reporter and four assistants, and, without the consent of the committee, none of its members are to furnish any reports for newspapers. Upon this proposal tenders have been invited, but the result is not known yet. The *Hansard* staff of last year is scattered and not one member is available. Under these circumstances a new staff can hardly be formed without depleting the force of some of the newspapers having representatives at the capital. The great trouble appears to be that the House expects an almost verbatim report of the debates at a cost altogether disproportionate. The reports of the debates last season were very unsatisfactory. The staff was too small for the work, and the remuneration would not admit of its increase. Demoralization ensued, and towards the end of the session there was great laxity, a very important speech made by Hon. Mr. Blake on one occasion being omitted. The *Hansard* is a useful institution, however, and no doubt a good scheme may be devised which will be satisfactory to all parties.

THE PROSPECTS.

There is every prospect of a lively session. To 'be sure the "speech from the throne" does not promise much in the way of legislation, out yet there will be plenty to do. Several spats have already taken place, one of the most interesting being a violent attack made by Mr. Masson, the member for Terrebonne, on the President of the Council. The latter took it very coolly, however, and during the whole of Mr. Masson's ill-tempered remarks, amused himself by drawing fanciful pictures on paper.

THE BUDGET SPEECH

will likely be made next week, and from some remarks let fall by the Minister of Finance it would appear that there will be revision in the tariff, undoubtedly in regard to petroleum

ASH WEDNESDAY:

The House has hardly got to work yet, and no night sessions have yet been held. There is no sitting of the House to-day (Wednesday) on account of its being Ash Wednesday. A notable feature in the Legislature when he asked it to compel municipal councils which had once aided him to submit a second bonus to the ratepayers whether they would or not, but it turned out that he had over-shot the mark and now he has got his "little Bill." If the people of the east will only persist in the course they have taken Mr. W. H. Scott, who is not consumed with energy, and member for Scarlow Brockbridge of this city will soon find out the exact amount of vitality in their scheme. If it can be pushed through at all he is the man to do it, and while I admit there is something in it I am quite prepared to believe that it needs some pushing and engineering.

SKETCHES FROM THE GALLERY.

I purpose occasionally to give you pen-and-ink sketches from the Gallery, portraying a few of the most prominent characteristics of our public men. Had your readers been seated in the House of Commons on opening day they would have observed when the new members were being introduced, a comparatively young looking man of medium stature but of very intellectual cast of countenance, presented to the House by the Hon. Messrs. Mackenzie and Blake, the members on the ministerial side applauding heartily as he entered. That was

HON. DAVID MILLS,

member for Bothwell, and the new Minister of the Interior. Mr. Mills is of Puritanical descent, and was born in the county of Kent in 1831. He is consequently 45 years of age at the present time, although he appears much younger. He was first returned to Parliament in 1863, and is one of the most advanced Liberals in the country. He has been accused by Conservatives of a desire to form a new party with the present Minister of Justice at the head, but I have every reason for stating that he is in thorough accord with the Premier. He has written many political pamphlets, and wields a terse and forcible pen. There are few politicians who care to come under his lash. In 1869 he wrote a pamphlet entitled "The Present and Future Political Aspects of Canada," a document which attracted a great deal of attention; and again, in 1871, he attacked the existing Government for the blunders committed by them in connection with the North-West territory. He is supposed to have contributed largely to the London *Advertiser* and other prominent Reform journals, the articles in the former journal respecting Hon. William Macdougall's eligibility to a seat in the Ontario Legislature being generally ascribed to his pen. He is possessed of a special admiration for the Senate and has already made an effort for reformation of that ancient body so as to make it elective. He is a capital speaker, is always well informed and always holds the attention of the House when he has the floor. He will be a source of strength to the Ministry,—particularly in regard to debating talent—and, as Minister of the Interior, will devote all his abilities to the successful administration of the duties of the office.

WALLACE.

OTTAWA NOTES.

A NICE LITTLE GAME.

A curious development of the Quebec Local Government policy has leaked out here in connection with the North Shore Railway scheme. They hope to obtain a Conservative majority from Quebec in the Commons and then force the Dominion Government to purchase the North Shore and Northern Colonization lines from the Local Government as part of the Pacific Railway. This programme will hardly succeed.

SHORT HOURS.

An understanding has been entered into between Mr. Blake and Sir Jon. A. Macdonald about tween the leaders of the Government and Opposition that the sessions in the Commons shall not be continued until a late hour at night. Dr. Tupper is strong on this point, and deserves some credit for his action. The Government was perfectly ready to meet these views, and efforts will be usually made to carry them out.

THE "LORDS."

Parties are now nearly evenly divided in the Senate. If all were present there would be a Conservative majority of about nine votes. In an ordinary House, the Opposition would be hard put to secure a majority. The vacancies and appointments of the last few years have wrought a wondrous change in the Upper House.

MARINE AND FISHERIES.

The report of Marine and Fisheries shows the total amount expended on various branches of that department, including salaries, during the last fiscal year was $2,088,455, being $40,555 less than the amount voted. Outside employees number 1,596. Number of light stations, 187. Steam for whistles, 24. Steamers and steamships, 3. Number of vessels remaining on the register of the Dominion on the 3rd of December, 1876, 7,192, measuring 1,260,893 tons, showing an increase over the previous year of 240 vessels and 58,325 tons. The value of registered tonnage on 31st Dec., 1876, was $87,526,790. Four vessels were built for registration outside the Dominion, adding these increases, the value of new tonnage, to $5,800,345. In a comparison of the tonnage of nations, Canada follows Italy, and stands fifth on the list, Germany sixth and France seventh.

STARTLING DISCLOSURES.

In the Public Accounts for 1875-6 presented to Parliament to-day, says the *Globe's* correspondent, appears one item which will attract general notice and suggest some more or less pertinent enquiries. It is the sum of $25,579, entered as Balance Secret Service money received from Sir John A. Macdonald. Viewed in the light of various occurrences during the last two years of the Macdonald administration, the appearance of the entry at the present time is not a little mysterious. In the first place, if Sir John A. Macdonald had a balance of any public money in hand when he resigned office in November, 1873, why was he content to wait two years before paying it over to its lawful custodians? The Secret Service Fund was supplied from time to time—to be administered by the Government on their responsibility to Parliament, not to Sir John A. Macdonald in his private capacity. From the moment he ceased to be Premier he ceased to be responsible for the peace of the country, and therefore to have any voice or legal control over this money. In May, 1872, he told the Public Accounts Committee that the payments were made frequently without anybody but himself knowing how they were applied; and that he would rather cut off his right hand than give any account of them. Is it possible that nobody but Sir John knew that there was then a large balance in his hands—that he kept the secret absolutely to himself; and that when he went out of office he hoped still to keep the secret until some happy chance made him once more the lawful custodian of the Secret Service money? Or does the refusal at this late hour come under the head of conscience money; or has some gentle pressure been necessary to induce him to hand it over? These are points the curious will desire to have cleared up, and all the more so because, if not in express terms, certainly by implication, Sir John gave the world to believe that the fund had been exhausted before May, 1872.

SPARRING BETWEEN MR. BLAKE AND SIR JOHN.

There appears to have been a little sparring between Mr. Blake and Sir Jno A. Macdonald about an historical point in the course of the debate on Cabinet changes. Sir John A. Macdonald was saying that it was unusual to elect a private member of the Lower House to be a Senator. After having been a Cabinet Minister he could have understood the elevation of the President of the Council to the Senate. There was a precedent afforded in the case of Earl Beaconsfield, but he was leader of the Government.

Mr. Blake—What about Mr. Chapais' case.

Sir John Macdonald—Mr. Chapais was a Senator before he was a Minister.

Mr. Blake—No. There was a voided election at Kamouraska; and you sent him to the Upper House and kept Kamouraska unrepresented.

Sir John Macdonald—Then he was not a member of the House. (Laughter.)

Mr. Blake—The people had refused to confer the honor, and you conferred it. (Cheers.)

"FRIGHTFUL CORRUPTION."

The correspondent of the London *Advertiser* says: "Mr T. N. Gibbs has threatened to make fearful exposures of Liberal corruption during his recent election contest in South Ontario. The particulars of the wonderful charges have not yet transpired."

RATHER WICKED.

What occurred Monday in parliament will show the harmony existing between the two Macdonalds, Sir John A. Macdonald and Mr. John Macdonald. The latter early in the afternoon moved that prayers should be read daily in the Commons as they are in the Senate. As soon as the discussion on that motion was over Sir John rose and moved for papers relating to the destruction of the Dominion Dam on Devil's Lake.—[Hamilton Times.

LITERARY NOTES.

GOSPEL HYMNS, No. 2.—Messrs. Copp, Clark & Co., Toronto, have published a neat edition of these hymns, arranged by the late P. P. Bliss and by I. D. Sankey as used by them in their Gospel meetings. They form a welcome addition to the list of sacred music. For sale at R.S. Porter's.

THE DOMINION MONTHLY.—(Montreal: John Dougall & Son).—The February number is before us. While there is nothing particularly noticeable in the list of contents there is a great deal of good family reading, and as such this publication is chiefly prized. Subscriptions taken by R. S. Porter, authorized agent for