G. B. Bertram.

VALENTINES,

VALENTINES,

LARGEST ASSORTMENT

AT

Porter's Bookstore.

Lindsay, Feb. 18, 1878. 966.

G. B. Bertram.

SKATES, SKATES.

The undersigned has just received a Second supply of

NEW YORK CLUB SKATES,

latest styles, and quality unsurpassed. Prices lower than any other dealer.

He would also invite an inspection of his Stock of

SILVER WARE,

Comprising Cake Baskets, Cruet Frames, Pickle Stands, Toilet Sets, Vases, Fruit Stands, Card Receivers, Cake Knives, Napkin Rings, Cups, Pie Knives, Butter Dishes, Sugar Bowls, &c. Quality of the goods will be guaranteed and sold at a small advance on manufacturer's cost.

Having received

Five Hundred Tons of Coal,

direct from the mines, he is able to meet competition from any quarter. His Stock of

Iron, Steel, Axes, Heavy and Shelf Hardware

is large and well assorted.

GEO. B. BERTRAM.

Dec. 18th, 1877. 953

Banking and Exchange.

A. McALPINE,

Broker and Insurance Agent.

Fire and Life and Accident Insurance effected; Mortgages, Notes, Green-Backs and Silver bought and sold; money to loan on Mortgages or other security. Office in Adams' new block, nearly opposite the Benson House, Kent Street, Lindsay.

BANK of MONTREAL.

CAPITAL, - $12,000,000.

The Lindsay Agency has been REMOVED to the building recently occupied by the Merchants' Bank, William Street, South.

C. S. L. PORTEOUS, Agent

917 tf

Publisher's Notice.

Notice is hereby given that Accounts for Advertising and Printing and Subscriptions in arrears, due in Eldon, North Mariposa, and the Nipissing Railway Section north, remaining unpaid on and after the 15th February, will be placed in the hands of Mr. T. Tremeer, bailiff, for collection.

CHAS. D. BARR.

Lindsay, Jan. 30th, 1878.

Canadian Post.

LINDSAY, FRIDAY, FEB. 15, 1878.

MR. HECTOR CAMERON'S CAMBRAY SPEECH.

Mr. Hector Cameron attempted in his speech at Cambray to reply to the critique of THE POST upon his Parliamentary work of last session with what effect we leave our readers to judge for themselves after we have done with him. We do not propose to go over the whole ground of that somewhat long and rambling address in this article, but leaving for another issue the important question of the Independence of Parliament and Mr Cameron's action in connection therewith, to confine ourselves at present to a consideration of the protective policy he seeks to force upon the country. He would rather have protection to manufactures alone in accordance with the motion of Mr. Wood, and protection to agricultural produce alone in accordance with that of Dr. Orton, than have no increased protection at all; but the all round protection motion of Sir John is the one that claims his warmest regard and most strenuous support. That resolution is as follows:

"That this House regrets the financial policy submitted by the Government increases the burden of taxation on the people without any compensating advantage to Canadian industries; and further that this House is of opinion that the deficiency in the revenue should be met by a diminution of expenditure aided by such a readjustment of the tariff as will benefit and foster the agricultural, mining, and manufacturing interests of the Dominion."

Now the first thing that strikes one on reading over this resolution which, it must be remembered, expresses perfectly Mr. Cameron's views is the omission of any reference to that important branch of Canadian industry, the lumber interest. Every body knows that this interest is and has for some time been in a very depressed condition and that if one industry needs fostering more than all others it is the lumbering one. It will be remembered also that Mr. Cameron posed last year as the lumberer's friend and protector when he paid his annual visit to his constituents, and that he assured them he would endeavour to obtain protection for lumber. It is therefore in order to ask why he has offered the distressed lumberer this year no comfort at all, and why the colours he nails to his mast are not inscribed with even his quondum *protege's* initials. It is admitted on all hands that the prosperity of the whole country is intimately bound up with that of the lumbering interest and yet both Sir John and his obsequious henchman ignore altogether in their little scheme of "ameliorating the depressed condition of the country" this most important source of the country's welfare.

We have frequently called attention to the insincere character of the above resolution a character perfectly well-known to Mr. Cameron, unless, as we half suspect, he is too obtuse on this question of protection to be open to instruction or argument. Sir John knew perfectly well when he moved it that the Government were doing their utmost to keep down the annual expenditure and that in spite of the very burdensome engagements he left for them to fulfil when he went out of office they had succeeded in cutting down the controllable annual expenditure to a much smaller amount than it had reached in the last year for which he himself was responsible. He knew that this resolution did not bind him to adopt a protective policy should he come into office, and that, had it not been for its censure of the administration there was nothing to hinder every supporter of the Government from voting for it. But supposing that it did bind him to convert our present revenue tariff into a protective one what would be the result of such a change? In the first place our revenue already insufficient would rapidly fall off still more, leaving a larger and what is worse, a chronic deficit, and compelling us to resort eventually to direct taxation. In the next place and we wish to call particular attention to this it would completely ruin our lumber interest and render utterly impossible a trade at present carried on under extreme difficulty. The principal market for Canadian lumber is and must continue to be the Eastern States of the Union. What we cannot sell there must to a great extent lie on our hands, and in that market we encounter competition so keen that it is almost impossible for us to sell at all except at a loss. In favor of the Michigan and Wisconsin lumberer there is a specific duty of $2 per thousand feet, there is the keen rivalry amongst railways competing for freight, and above all there is the practically unlimited field from which he draws his supplies. With these advantages he is enabled almost to crowd his Canadian rival out of the Albany market, and, as we shall presently show, it requires only the adoption of such a policy as that outlined in Sir John's resolution to complete the Canadian lumberer's disability and compel him to stay at home and leave his boards rotting in his yard. A protective duty on manufactures would at once add very much to the cost of the lumberer's tools and machinery. At present owing to the fact that iron and coal are found so close to each other in the United States, and in such immense quantities, it is utterly impossible for us to think of producing wrought iron as cheaply as we can import it, and yet protection to iron is one of the tariff reforms contemplated by Sir John's "omnibus" resolution. Protection to iron means a higher price for the lumberer's saws, axes, steam engines, and iron plant of every kind. Take the case of a purchase that recently came under our notice. A well-known Canadian lumberer required 4,000 yards of iron rails to lay down for his trucks to run on and they had to be made to order for him with a weight of 14 lbs. to the yard. These rails he could and did get rolled to order in Cleveland for 2½ cents per pound, whereas he could not obtain them anywhere in Canada for less than 4 cents per pound a difference to him on his little railway of $840. This will serve as an illustration of the effect protection to mining would have on the production of lumber.

Turn now to agricultural protection. The lumberer consumes in his business immense quantities of pork, flour, hay, corn and oats. Omitting the hay altogether let us see how a duty on the other articles affects the cost of production of lumber. A firm manufacturing 10,000,000 feet per annum will require about 400 barrels of pork, on which there is already a duty of $2 a barrel; 10,000 bushels of oats, on which Mr. Cameron would place a duty of say 10 cents per bushel; 3,000 bushels of corn, on which he would put a duty of 20 cents a bushel; and 2,000 barrels of flour on which he would put a duty of say 50 cents per barrel. The tariff account would then stand thus:—

400 barrels of pork at $2	$ 800
10,000 bushels oats at 10c	1,000
3,000 do corn at 20c	600
2,000 barrels flour at 50c	1000
Total	$3,400

Or 34 cents of an increase on the cost of every thousand feet, to say nothing of the enhanced cost of machinery, tools and wearing materials. The above is the actual exhibit of a lumberer's account and is understated. To follow up the line indicated by Sir John, therefore, would be to diminish the profits of a firm manufacturing 10,000,000 feet by not less than from $4,000 to $5,000 a year. What firm could keep on under such circumstances. It is barely possible to compete at Albany now with the western manufacturer; under the operation of such a tariff it would become perfectly impossible, to say nothing of the absolute necessity for importing large quantities of supplies into some lumbering regions while navigation lasts and before the Canadian farmer could furnish them.

Mr. Cameron's argument is that the Pig would bring a higher price if it had more protection. Admitting that for the moment would the farmers prefer to get a little more for the pig and have the lumber trade stopped and ruined when of course the pig and the oats could not possibly command more or would they prefer a fairly prosperous lumbering trade under the present tariff. The existing lumber depression, it is hardly necessary to state, has been caused by circumstances with which our tariff had nothing whatever to do, though there was a time when Mr. Cameron did not think so.

We have said enough on this point for the present, more especially as it may be necessary to recur to it again.

A NATIONAL TESTIMONAL TO LORD DUFFERIN.

Mr. Charlton, in the course of an excellent speech seconding the address in reply to the "speech from the throne," said:

"The second paragraph of the address made allusion to a coming event which he could fain have wished and no doubt his sentiments were shared by the great mass of the people would take place in the more distant future. He referred to the probable early departure of the Governor-General. He could not help paying his tribute to the excellent qualifications of Her Majesty's representative in Canada. (Cheers.) Lord Dufferin had shown a just and generous appreciation of the advantages and resources of Canada and of the intelligence and energy of its people. He had made praiseworthy and energetic efforts to make himself acquainted with every Province of the Dominion, and certainly the assertion would not be an invidious one if he (Mr. Charlton) said that none of the predecessors of Lord Dufferin possessed his knowledge of our advantages, resources and wants. (Cheers.) In various ways the Governor-General had conferred benefits upon Canada, but notably by the influence of his speeches, which had necessarily attracted great attention. (Hear, hear.) Those speeches did Canada full justice. They made the people of Europe acquainted with what Canada had to offer immigrants, and were of more service to us in this respect than all our agents in Europe. (Cheers.)

"Sir JOHN MACDONALD.—Except the Agent General. (Laughter.)

"Mr. CHARLTON, continuing, said:—When at some future day the great North-west acquired its full growth of wealth and population, we must look upon Lord Dufferin as one of the foundation builders of that nationality. (Cheers.)

Mr. Charlton's modest tribute to His Excellency will be re-echoed throughout the length and breadth of the land, but we respectfully submit that it does not go far enough. We are convinced that the people of this country would heartily give a tangible recognition of Lord Dufferin's splendid services to Canada. It is generally understood that His Excellency's term of office will soon expire, and we suggest that Parliament should mark the national appreciation of Lord Dufferin's services so well described by Mr. Charlton by a special grant of say $50,000. The grant would thus have the form of a national testimonial to Lord Dufferin and would under those circumstances be most gratifying. Of course such wealthy cities as Toronto and Montreal might give additional and appropriate evidences of their appreciation of Lord Dufferin, but the whole people should in some way manifest the same feeling, and a special parliamentary grant this would be the most convenient as well as the most appropriate way.

If the press generally would take up this matter there could be some such expression of opinion as would warrant the leaders of the Government and the Opposition in taking the necessary action.

When Lord Dufferin returns home he will undoubtedly take high rank among the statesmen of the mother country, and he will have abundant opportunity of doing good service to Canada. That he will do so under any circumstances we have not the least doubt; but this should give added force to our suggestion for a national testimonial.

NORTH VICTORIA.

The preliminary Reform Convention for North Victoria is to be held in Scully's Hall, next Tuesday, the 19th of February, and not the 19th of March, as stated last week in Fenelon Falls correspondence by a typographical error. We trust our Reform friends generally throughout the Riding will take steps—if they have not already done so—to secure a good attendance. It is of importance that organization should be thorough and effective; and in order to attain this end the work should commence at once. We are not aware whether candidates are to be chosen or not, but no doubt that matter will receive some consideration.

Is it not time that the Reformers of South Victoria were taking similar action?

A WILD GOOSE CHASE.

We must congratulate Mr. Hector Cameron and Mr. Dalton McCarthy on the disinterested patriotism they displayed in posting off to Ottawa at the opening of the Session to make a grand constitutional stand against the election of a tainted Speaker. Who can admire sufficiently the noble rage which inspired these two pure and magnanimous gentlemen, each of whom had to obtain an adjournment of an important law-suit in order to be at Ottawa on Friday last, and both of whom hurried back to their briefs as soon as they had cast their votes. We wish North Victoria and Cardwell joy of their eminent representatives. What a pity their example was not followed by those "renegades" Pope and DeCosmos, and those "cowards" Costigan and McKay Wright. Then we should have seen a grand and united effort made by the whole body of the Opposition to stem the rising tide of Ministerial corruption, and to prevent Mr. Anglin from running three or four times a day between the Speaker's quarters and the Treasury vaults carrying on each return trip his pockets and boots full of specie. What a pity, too, that all the heroic self sacrifice and sacrifice of clients was in vain!

AN UNFOUNDED MUSKOKA GRIEVANCE.

As our readers are aware the townships of Muskoka are agitating the formation of a provisional county and as far as Victoria county is concerned we believe there is and has been no opposition from this quarter. If our northern friends set up for themselves this section will heartily wish them all success. No doubt they have good reasons for the movement, and we believe it would be advantageous to them and it would not be a disadvantageous to us. We find, however, in the *Free Grant Gazette* the subjoined "argument" for separation, which is unfair and incorrect, and we are glad to see that our County Treasurer, Mr. Matchett, has conclusively shown in a letter to the *Globe*, where the paragraph was reprinted, that no blame is to attach to this county.

[From the Free Grant Gazette.]

The opponents of the Provisional County scheme appear to let judgment go by default, as far as an argument is concerned, having been repeatedly challenged to state on what grounds they oppose the scheme, and having been unable to bring an iota of valid objection against it. Items of interest crop up every week in its favor. Here is one: The township of Macaulay voted an equivalent of $250 on condition that the Poor School Fund should cap it by the grant of a like sum. This the Educational Department did, and paid their $250 to the County Treasurer in March last. When do you suppose the money arrived at Macaulay? In April or even in June? Not at all. Macaulay did not receive it till the last week in December, 1877. The interest on the money for the interval, namely 9 months, at 6%, but the fact of nine months delay having occurred in its transmission, is significant and the delay, with ensuing inconvenience to teachers was not caused by the Government, but by our cumbrous county arrangement.

GOVERNMENT GRANT TO POOR SCHOOLS.

(To the Editor of the Globe.)

SIR,—A paragraph appeared in the *Globe* of yesterday from the *Free Grant Gazette*, respecting the Government grant to Poor Schools in the township of Macaulay, from which it would be inferred that the money had been improperly held by the County Treasurer from March until December, 1877. The delay is easily explained, and the following extracts from correspondence will also show it was not attributable to our "cumbrous county arrangement."

The Deputy-Minister of Education to the County Treasurer, 22nd March: "On the 19th inst. $250 were certified as payable to schools in the township of Macaulay. You will, however, please retain it, subject to the order of this Department, until the question of the legal existence of the Township Board of Education has been settled."

The Treasurer of Macaulay to the County Treasurer, 1st November: "I am receiving cheques from H. Reazin, his sector payable to the school teachers of Macaulay, and I have no funds. He expected I would have had two hundred and fifty dollars Poor School Grant before this time. Please to forward the money or else let me know what I am to do."

The County Treasurer to the Treasurer of Macaulay, 3rd November:—"The $250 grant to Poor Schools in Macaulay was received on the 24th March last, but was not remitted you, and is still held for the reason stated in the Deputy-Minister's letter of 22nd March, a copy of which I enclose. It would be advisable, I think, for your authorities or Mr. Reazin to communicate with the Department on the subject."

The Deputy-Minister to the County Treasurer, 27th December: "The County Inspector reports the money as now ready to be paid to you in that township (Macaulay). I will therefore thank you to forward the two hundred and fifty dollars without delay to the Treasurer of the township so that the money can be paid out at once."

The money was forwarded on the 31st December, the earliest date possible after authority was given. Yours truly,

T. MATCHETT,
Treasurer County of Victoria.

Lindsay, 29th January, 1878.

Since the foregoing was in type the following has been published in the *Globe*, and it will be seen it completely exonerates Mr. Matchett:—

SIR,—With reference to the letter of Mr. Matchett, the County Treasurer of Victoria, re the delay in forwarding the school moneys from the County Treasury of that county to the school of Macaulay, allow me to say, on the part of the Board of Macaulay (from whom the information embodied in the article complained of by Mr. Matchett was obtained) and by his request, that there was no intention on the part of the Board or on that of the promoters of the Provisional County scheme to throw blame on Mr. Matchett or on his management of county finance, but only on the system under which we are now split up and annexed to outside communities. This system, the promoters of the Provisional County scheme contend, is alone to blame for the delay above referred to, which has caused so much inconvenience. The "cumbrous county arrangements" are not the fault of Mr. Matchett, a cautious and painstaking official, but of the legislative enactment under which Muskoka is now parthioned. The Medora and Wood Committee, it would appear from your last issue, have "examined the working of the Provisional County Councils in other parts of Ontario." Some people here thought that there was only one Provisional County in this Province, namely, that of Haliburton, and would like a list of the others.

I remain, Sir, your ob't servant,

W. E. HAMILTON.

Bracebridge, Feb. 6, 1878.

—Having heard that Mr. Mackenzie is to "spring the elections on the country in May" the *Mail* resounds the note of warning and "puts the bugle" to its lips. Probably it has been putting something else to its lips as well.

—The Toronto *Telegram* pointedly remarks:—"It is a matter of some curiosity where the members of East Peterborough and South Renfrew in the Ontario Assembly spend their time. They appear once in a while in their seats in the House, and as the theory that they may be away rusticating is falsified by this occasional appearance, the cause of their usual absence is left open to conjecture. To prevent misconstruction, the gentlemen indicated ought to show up not only oftener but longer at a time; if they do not, their constituents ought to see to it that their interests are looked after by representatives who are not above sitting at least an hour a week during the session."

EDITORIAL NOTES.

—The Ontario Legislature is expected to adjourn about the first week in March.

—We are indebted to the Hon. S. C. Wood for valuable public reports and parliamentary documents.

—We have received a copy of the Ontario Consolidated or Revised Statutes—two handsome volumes. This work was greatly needed, and has been done carefully and well.

—The Conservatives of Cobourg are determined to have their boots and washing "franked" through the post office in the event of a change in the powers that be, and have nominated the Hon. Jas. Cockburn for West Northumberland. He's a good candidate for the other side to beat.

—The London *Advertiser*:—At the Tory Caucus in Ottawa things were getting flat and MacCallum, of Monck, called out "Jos., old boy, sling em something poetic." There was a general burr of delight and expectancy, as the laureate opened his lips in response to the invitation, and rippled forth the following:

If I had time
To make a rhyme,
My theme would be Sir John,
It's now so late,
I hes-i-tate
To venture on my song.

I see that Tupper
Wants his supper;
Our Chieftain's looking glum:
No doubt he's dry,
And so am I,
Yours truly, *J. Burr Plum.*
His X mark.

—Mr. Blake's resignation has caused great regret throughout the country both from the loss of his services and from the fact that this step has been necessitated by continued ill-health, which nothing but prolonged repose and recreation can apparently overcome. The Opposition organs have not scrupled to declare that the resignation was caused by serious differences with his colleagues, notably with regard to the choice of a Speaker, but this is not the case, as is evidenced by the fact that he voted against Sir John's amendment to the motion for the election of Mr. Anglin. We sincerely hope Mr. Blake's health will be fully restored.

—A statement is going the rounds to the effect that it "has leaked out that Sir John, convinced that it must at the next general election be impossible to carry any constituency on the vague cry of additional protection, has issued instructions to his lieutenants to drop the subject. Mr. Tom White, therefore, like others, has been made to swallow the revenue tariff which was acknowledged by the vote of the Opposition Board of Trade the other day. It must be very trying to the faithful." This determination must have been arrived at after "Lieutenant" Hector Cameron, M.P., started off to address his constituents or he would not have dandled that Pig duty before the honest farmer.

—Mr. James Young's name has been mentioned in connection with the vacant Presidency of the Council. Mr. Young's ability and experience would make him a desirable acquisition to any Government, but we should prefer to see him at the head of the Post Office Department. Mr. Young's thoroughness and careful attention to details would make him a most valuable Postmaster-General and we are confident he would be able to effect many desirable improvements in the department, however effective it may be at present. Mr. Young's financial ability it is true qualifies him for portfolios apparently more important; but the office we have alluded to is second to none in utility. It is not derogatory to either to say that Mr. Huntington would *fill* the presiding chair more thoroughly, while Mr. Young would be more likely to master the details of the postal department.

—We published recently a paragraph or two regarding a case of alleged harsh treatment of a pupil by Mr. Hector Baxter, of Brougham, in South Ontario, for which he was brought before a magistrate and a slight fine inflicted. Knowing Mr. Baxter by reputation as an experienced, kind and capable teacher we expressed our doubts at the time as to the "harsh treatment," and we gather from correspondence recently published in the Whitby papers that he was the victim of some petty local spite partly originating among some opponents of the temperance cause of which he is an earnest advocate, and partly originating in other ways. The proceedings against Mr. Baxter were absurd and illegal, and the magistrate has expressed his regret that he acted as he did. Mr. Baxter's many friends in this county will be glad to learn that he is fully exonerated, and will sympathize with him in the trials he has, owing to the malice of others, been compelled to undergo.

ENGLAND AND THE WAR.

RUSSIAN AMBITION CHECKED.

The British Fleet at Constantinople.

ANOTHER WAR EXPECTED.

AN ANGLO-AUSTRIAN ALLIANCE REPORTED.

The gravity of the situation in the East has greatly increased and though an outbreak of hostilities had not taken place up to the latest hour last night, it is difficult to see how war between England and Russia can be averted unless the latter power backs completely down from the position it has covertly taken. The indignation and excitement in England as each phase of Russian policy became known have been most intense. Reports of a very sensational character have been telegraphed. The Mediterranean fleet under Admiral Hornby has been ordered to go up the Dardanelles, with or without Turkish permission, and has appeared off Constantinople. The Turks, completely at the mercy of the Russians, have played into their whilom adversary's hands and against England. Russia has given notice that the advance of the British fleet will necessitate the occupation of the Turkish capital by a large Russian force, but the English iron-clads could soon make it hot for them, if war were unfortunately to break out. The latest telegram states that the Czar is hesitating about the occupation of Constantinople. Personally he dreads war, but he may be impelled by Russian ambition and Anglophobia, and hesitation may cost him his crown. To-morrow or a few days must decide the crisis if indeed it has not already been decided.

The Russian demands for the retrocession of Bessarabia and the practical control of Bulgaria excites the opposition of Austria and Roumania, and it is expected that Austria will cast her influence against Russia. This may prove to be in the interest of peace, as Russia would hesitate before encountering such heavy odds at this juncture. There is great excitement in Vienna; and the feeling against Russia is very strong. The Hungarians would like nothing better than an opportunity of revenging the crushing of Kossuth by Russian battalions.

The march of the Grecian forces into Thessaly has increased the complication, for the Greek "interests" are important, and have not latterly been cordially treated by Russia.

—At St. Benoit, about thirty miles west of Montreal, the wife of a French Canadian gave birth to a child some days since with two heads but only one pair of legs. This strange freak of nature is living and, as well as the mother is doing well.

OUR TORONTO LETTER.

THE LOCAL LEGISLATURE—IMPORTANT PUBLIC BILLS — PUBLIC SCHOOL INSPECTORS—GOVERNMENT MEASURES—CHECKS ON IMPROPER LEGISLATION—THE MAGISTRACY.

[Special correspondence of The Post.]

TORONTO, Feb. 13th, 1878.

THE SESSION.

For some time past the work of the session has been progressing much more rapidly than it did for a few weeks after the House met. A large number of private bills have been either passed or carried through all the preliminary stages, and not a few of that class of measures known as Public Bills have been either withdrawn thrown out, or advanced through several stages. These latter are public measures quite as much as Bills originating with the Government but they are, unlike them, introduced by private members. As examples of the class I may quote Mr. Mosley's Bills for the Preservation of Game and of Insectivorous Birds, which purport to effect improvements in the laws relating to these subjects, and which have both passed a second reading and been referred to special committees; Mr. Bethune's Bills providing for non-unanimous verdicts from juries, and for cumulative voting in municipalities according to the amount of property owned by the voter, both of which have yet to come up for a second reading; and several Acts to amend the Municipal and School Acts, introduced by Mr. Bethune, Mr. Hay, Mr. Ross, Mr. Scott, Mr. Mills and Mr. Bishop. These latter Bills will, if passed and none of them have yet come up for a second reading, effect comparatively slight changes in the laws proposed to be amended, and the amendments contemplated have in all cases been suggested to the promoters by local circumstances. For instance Mr. Hay's Bill respecting Public School Inspectors has for its object to make the office of school inspector perfectly non-political, or rather to prevent its occupant from taking a part, other than by voting in any political contest, and the trouble with Mr. Hay is that, as he alleges, the Inspector of his riding has been using his position for the purpose of undermining him (Mr. Hay) politically. It is, of course, a most unseemly thing for a Public School Inspector to oppose in this way a member of the Legislature under whose authority he holds his office, but it is not at all probable, nevertheless, that the Bill will be allowed to become law. Unfortunately Mr. Hay's case is not unique for Mr. Deacon complained a year or two ago of similar treatment at the hands of another inspector; but the cases in which such complaints can be truthfully made are fortunately comparatively few.

GOVERNMENT MEASURES.

As the Government are bound to take upon themselves the oversight of all Private and Public Bills in order to see that no provision is allowed to slip through the House that would conflict with the general legislation of the Province or be an iniquitous invasion of the rights of parties affected by them, one member of the Cabinet, at present the Hon. Mr. Fraser, is appointed chairman of the Private Bills Committee, and another, at present the Hon. Mr. Pardee, chairman of the Railway Committee. In this way, what with the checks imposed by the routine of the House, the watchfulness of private parties, and the scrutiny of the Government no one is likely to suffer any serious loss or injury without being granted full compensation. As an instance of the care which is exercised we may refer to two provisions struck out of the Owen Sound Water Works Bill by the Private Bill Committee. The first which authorized the Water Commissioners to distrain for water rates on all personal property in the possession of the water-taker, whether it belonged to him or not, was aiterwards restored by the House in spite of the opposition of the Commissioner of Public Works who contended that although municipal tax-collectors were endowed with the power of distraint and though the water commissioners in all places where they have as yet been appointed were also endowed with it, a provision enabling the collector to seize the goods of a stranger who had nothing to do with taking or using the water was vicious in principle, but the majority in its favour was so small as to show that legislation of the class in question is not regarded with much favour. The striking out of the other provision exempting from seizure all contractor's material in which the water commissioners had advanced any money was confirmed by the House by a majority sufficiently large to be emphatic on the point and to show that hereafter water commissioners will, like other private parties and for that matter like the Government, have to protect themselves in the ordinary way by a clause in the contracts or by a chattel mortgage on the material to be kept from seizure. Of Government measures proper the Maritime Court Act has been passed, and I may add, though the matter has not yet been made generally public, that Judge Mackenzie of this city will be the first, and for some time the only Judge of it, and that the rules of procedure are under consideration and will be promulgated in a very few days. Mr. Mowat's bill for winding up joint stock companies, the most elaborate measure of the session, is based largely on the English measure for the same object, and it has passed without opposition and almost without amendment through every stage but the last. The Bills providing for the employment of prisoners outside of gaol walls, confirming the Revised Statutes, for preserving forests from destruction by fire, and respecting the magistracy, have all been read a second time and will with little or no amendment pass into law. Very little progress has been made during the week in voting supplies as this order of business has not been reached on Government days. As soon as the bulk of the Private Bill legislation is worked off additional days will be appropriated to the use of the Government and when this takes place, as it will probably do next week it is a sure sign that the end of the session is near.

THE MAGISTRACY.

I think I have already noted the fact that the rural magistrates have come in this year for a more than ordinary amount of discussion. The reference to them commenced when it was announced that the Government had resolved to distribute to them copies of the Revised Statutes *gratis*, and they have come up again and again in connection now with this subject now with that until they bid fair, through no fault of theirs, to become a perfect bore. Their latest appearance on the scene took place last night when Mr. Mowat's Bill respecting the Magistracy came up for its second reading. Although the title of this measure is unassuming and non-committal, and although it apparently works very little change in the status or functions of the local, unpaid, time-honored magistracy of the country, it is really a most important measure. As Mr. Macdougall pointed out the Bill includes all the classes of provisions, one of which would if standing alone have passed without question and almost without comment, while the other class could never have passed without strenuous opposition. The first class mainly provide for the recognition of the Supreme and Superior Court Judges as justices of the peace in this province and exempt them and all other justices from penalties or actions on account of decisions given by them in good faith under Acts of Parliament which may subsequently turn out to be invalid on account of being *ultra vires* or, I suppose, from any other cause. To these provisions no objection has been offered, but not so with those of the other class, which authorize the Government to appoint unsalaried police magistrates in any district which may seem to require such an appointment to be made. These officers are to be paid by fees on all cases whether convictions ensue after trial or not, and they are not required to be possessed of a property qualification like ordinary magistrates. It does not appear that they must even be residents of the municipality for which they are appointed, though they will no doubt as a rule be so. Like other police magistrates when they have once been seized of a case no other magistrate can claim to sit in judgment with them as ordinary magistrates can now do with each other, unless the special magistrate consents to the arrangement. The Premier frankly confessed that the immediate occasion of the introduction of the Bill was the impossibility of securing in some parts of the County of Grey the conviction of offenders against the Dunkin Act, the obstruction being a number of local magistrates who were in the habit of going from place to place wherever liquor prosecutions were set on foot and packing the Court with persons bound to stretch a point, to put it mildly, in favour of the liquor seller. In such localities under the Government measure, if it becomes law, a police magistrate will be temporarily appointed before whom the inspector will bring his information and who, if he once gets a case into his hands, must be left unmolested to "try it alone," as they say in euchre. I venture to say that the hot opposition offered to this Bill would not have been half so keen or persistent but for the sympathy felt on the Opposition side of the House for the Licensed Victuallers. The necessity for the measure is apparent unless the Dunkin Act, and even the Crombe Act, is to become a dead letter, and that both should become dead letters is precisely what the Licensed Victuallers and their political *proteges* on the Opposition side of the House desire. The second reading carried by a majority of 33 to 31, Mr. Hunter of South Grey, Government supporter, voting with the Opposition, is influenced doubtless by the reflection cast by the Bill on the magistracy of his own constituency.

ECHOES FROM THE CAPITAL.

THE ELECTION OF A SPEAKER—THE TORY FIASCO.

The result of Thursday's proceedings, says the Montreal *Witness* correspondent, are looked upon as a very good start for the Government on the business of the session. Ministerialists are jubilant, while the Opposition are rather downcast as much at the way in which the Premier replied to Sir John Macdonald's speech as because of the vote. In regard to the latter their explanation is that the Premier had notified all his supporters to be present, while they had not taken any trouble in the matter. The proceedings were out of the ordinary yesterday.

On returning to the Commons Chamber Mr. Patrick, the clerk, began to read out the seats which had been vacated and the writs which had been returned, when the Opposition leader came to his feet with the protest: "Mr. Patrick you cannot perform any of the duties of Speaker," but Mr. Patrick, after hearing him, quietly went on, and Sir John compressed his lips with a significant nod. Then came the nomination of Mr. Anglin by the Premier in a few careful words; which were received with Ministerial cheering. Sir John's technical argument was attentively listened to, but was very difficult to follow. His contention was that Mr. Anglin was not a member until he had been presented to the Speaker, and so could not be chosen Speaker. This argument was so strained that he himself did not show any enthusiasm until he denounced the Government for permitting Mr Anglin to continue Speaker after they had discovered the fact that he had been receiving money for printing. Through the technical part of the speech, Mr. Blake gave some derisive cheers, laughs, and once or twice whispered to the Premier from the seat immediately behind him. The Opposition cheered their leader when he took his seat, the last part of his speech warming them up, but being fewer they could not do so well in that line as the Ministerialists did for the Premier on his rising. Mr. Mackenzie did not go much into the technicalities, but insisted that the chief point was that there should be proof that the member had been chosen by the people. In regard to the usages of the Canadian Parliament he completely floored Sir John by reminding him that he himself, after being re-elected, had taken his seat without being introduced to the Speaker. Sir John demurred to the statement that he had declined to be introduced, but the Premier turned the laugh on him by asking if he had been like Dr. Keneely and could not get two members to introduce him. As for the practice in the English Parliament, it was plain that it could not apply, as the whole proceedings there were different. The Speaker is there chosen before the members are sworn in, while here they take the oath in private before the clerk. The finishing touch was put to the speech by Sir Erskine May's letter approving of the course taken. The Ministerialists all agree that the Premier's speech was of the knock-down order, and the heavy Ministerial majority heightened the effect of the speech, especially as it was not all owing to greater exertions on the part of the Government. All the independents, including Mr. Haddow who voted with was greeted with great Ministerial cheers, were with the Government, and even so decided a Conservative as Mr. Pope, of Prince Edward Island, and others of the Opposition, declined to vote. There was of course great Ministerial cheering at the majority of sixty-three. As far as the Ministry are concerned, this session will be a brief one. They intend that it shall be finished before Easter, but the Opposition can easily make it as long as last session if they wish. In parliamentary circles there are as yet no rumours of continuing the war over the Independence of Parliament Act. Members whose seats have been obliged to be forfeited voted in force.

TEMPERANCE LEGISLATION.

The proposed liquor legislation is stated to be in the way of an improved Permissive Bill, rather, to be entirely prohibited, there being no five gallon clause. Every local authority, from villages up to provinces, are to be empowered to adopt it. The vote is to be by ballot, with only one day's polling, and the subdivisions of municipalities are to be the same as in other elections. The Bill is to be brought down in the Senate, and is in the hands of Mr. Scott.

DOMINION PARLIAMENT.

THE SPEECH FROM THE THRONE.

Hon. Gentlemen of the Senate:
Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

In again summoning you for the despatch of business, I am glad to be able to say that nothing beyond the ordinary business of the country requires your attendance.

It afforded me great pleasure to have had an opportunity before my departure from Canada of visiting the Province of Manitoba and a portion of the outside territories, which visit I accomplished during last autumn. I have now had the advantage of visiting every part of the Dominion during the term of my Government of Canada.

I am happy to be able to say that the arbitration on the Fishery Claims under the terms of the Washington Treaty has been concluded. An award has been made by the Commission of $5,500,000 as compensation to Canada and Newfoundland for the use of their fisheries during the term of the present treaty. This amount is much less than that claimed by my Government, but having assented to the creation of the tribunal for the determination of their claims, my Government loyally to assent to the decision given.

The exhibition of Canadian manufactures and products at Sydney, New South Wales, was successfully carried out. I trust that the result will be the opening up of a new market for Canadian goods even in so remote a region as the Australasian colonies, shipments of Canadian productions having already been made. The expenditure will slightly exceed the estimate, but I doubt not the cost to Canada will be amply repaid by the extension of her trade.

Preparations have been uninterruptedly carried on during the last six months for securing an ample but select exhibition of Canada's products and manufactures at the great exhibition to be held at Paris during the current year. A further estimate will be required to meet this expenditure. His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, as chairman of the British Commissioners, has assigned a most prominent place to Canada in one of the main towers, where a Canadian trophy is now being erected.

A very disastrous fire occurred in June last in the City of St. John, which caused the destruction of a large portion of the city, including all the public buildings owned by the Dominion Government. My Government deemed it necessary to contribute $20,000 to assist in relieving the immediate wants of the people who were rendered destitute by so appalling a calamity. I also sanctioned the appropriation of some public money with which to commence the erection of new buildings for the public business, which acts you will be asked to confirm in the usual way.

During last summer my Commissioners made another treaty with the Blackfeet, Blood, and Piecan Indians, by which the Indian title is extinguished in a territory of 51,000 square miles west of treaty No. 4 and south of treaty No. 6. The treaty has been made on terms not more favorable than those under treaty No. 6, though somewhat less onerous. The entire territory west of Lake Superior to the Rocky Mountains and from the boundary nearly to the 55th degree of north latitude, embracing about 450,000 square miles, has now been acquired by peaceful negotiation with the native tribes who place implicit faith in the honour and justice of the British Crown.

Early in the past summer a large body of Indians under Sitting Bull from the United States crossed into British territory to escape from the United States troops, and have since remained on the Canadian side. The United States Government made a friendly but unsuccessful attempt to induce these Indians to return on their reservations. It is to be hoped that such arrangements may yet be made as may lead to their permanent and peaceful settlement, and thus relieve Canada of a source of uneasiness and a heavy expenditure.

The surveys of the Pacific railway have been pressed to completion during the past season. A complete instrumental survey of the route by the valleys of the North Thompson and Lower Fraser rivers has been made with the view to ascertaining definitely whether that route presents more favorable features than the routes already surveyed to Dean Inlet and Bute Inlet respectively. It is believed that the additional information will enable my Government to determine which route is most advantageous from Tete Jaune Cache to the sea. Full information will be laid before you at any early day of the session's work in this and other directions.

I am happy to be able to congratulate you on the abundant harvest reaped in all quarters of the Dominion, and I rejoice that under this and other influences there has been some improvement in the revenue returns, thus indicating, I trust, that the commercial depression that has so long afflicted Canada in common with other countries is passing away.

My attention has been called to some imperfections in the existing system of auditing the Public Accounts, and a measure providing for their more thorough and effective supervision will be submitted for your consideration.

The prospect of attaining at an early day greater facilities for reaching the Northwest Territories and the Province of Manitoba is sure to attract a larger number of settlers every year, and as much of the prosperity of the Dominion depends on the rapid settlement of the fertile lands in those territories, it is desirable and necessary to facilitate such settlement as much as possible. In order to effect this measures will be submitted for your consideration concerning the registration of titles, the enactment of a homestead law, and the promotion of railway enterprise to districts not touched by the Canada Pacific railway.

Your attention will be called to a measure for better securing the independence of Parliament.

Experience has shown that certain changes may advantageously be made in the Departmental arrangements existing at present. A bill will be submitted to you for accomplishing this purpose without increasing the expenditure or the number of the Departments.

It is very desirable that there should be uniform legislation in all the Provinces respecting the traffic in spirituous liquors. Hitherto that trade has been regulated by Provincial laws or laws existing before the Confederation of the Provinces, although there has been lately a conflict of authority as to the jurisdiction of the local authorities, a bill making the necessary provision will be submitted for your consideration.

Various measures found necessary for the amendment of existing laws will also be submitted for your approval.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

The Estimates for the ensuing year will be laid before you at an early day. They have been prepared with an anxious desire to provide for all the branches of the public service and the execution of pressing public works within the limits of the expected revenue without increasing the burden of taxation.

I have directed that the Public Accounts of the past financial year shall be laid before you.

BOBCAYGEON AND LINDSAY RAILWAY.