

Mr. Scott, Barlow was engaged in the exploration of the coal fields of Cumberland Co., N.S.; full reports of this have not yet been published. Mr. Hugh Fletcher, B. A., spent the summer examining the country lying between Sydney River and St. Anne Harbour. The rumours respecting the discovery of workable seams of coal west of Sydney Harbour proved to

be unfounded. East of the harbour was a seam of inconsiderable thickness. Iron ore was found in large quantities in two or three places and copper at Eagle Head in Gabanus Bay, and gypsum beds of great size. Very large deposits of a felsite were found, from which by the addition of 1 per cent of lime excellent fire brick can be manufactured.

Parliamentary Summary.

The FOURTH Session of the THIRD Parliament of Dominion of Canada opened on the 8th Feby., 1877. The Governor General in his speech mentioned his visit to B. Columbia; the vigorous prosecution of Pacific Railway surveys; the extradition question; the prosecution of the works on the Welland and Lachine Canals, and the advisability of deferring the other works contemplated; the completion of the Intercolonial Railway; the Centennial and Australian Exhibitions; Reduction in Expenditure; the Fishery Claims; Treaties with Indians in N. W. Territories; changes in Joint Stock Companies and Life Assurance Companies Acts; the extension of the powers of Admiralty Courts to Inland waters; amendments in Customs Laws, Excise Laws, Weights and Measures Acts and other Acts; the Geological survey; and the estimates and accounts. After introduction of new members and presentation of some reports, the Houses adjourned.

February 9th—SENATE—Answer to address moved by Hon. Mr. Hope, seconded by Hon. Mr. Haythorne.

COMMONS—Answer to Address moved by Mr. Guthrie, seconded by Mr. Béchard. Sir J. A. Macdonald characterized the speech as a very meagre bill of fare. He alluded to the proposed postponement of the contemplated improvements in the canals. He asked for some explanation with regard to Ministerial changes since last session. Hon. Mr. Mackenzie, in reply, said he would propose a change in the Address in the paragraph relating to the canal works and made a general defence of the speech. Mr. DeCosmos and Mr. Thompson protested on behalf of B. Columbia against delays in commencing the work on the Pacific Railway. The address was read a first and second time and passed.

Monday 12th—SENATE—Address postponed till Tuesday.

COMMONS—The question of opening the House with prayers as in the Senate, was brought up by motion of Mr. Macdonald of Toronto. After a few words by Hon. Mr. Mackenzie, Sir John Macdonald suggested the appointment of a committee to see how the suggestion could be carried out, which was agreed to by Mr. Mackenzie. Hon. Mr. Mackenzie made explanations respecting Ministerial changes. These had been consequent on the appointment of Hon. Mr. Laird to be Lt.

Governor of the N. W. Territories, of Hon. Mr. Letellier to be Lt.-Governor of Quebec and of the resignation of Hon. Mr. Geoffrion from illness.

Mr. Mills had succeeded Mr. Laird, Mr. Laflamme Mr. Geoffrion. Mr. Pelletier had at first declined to accept Mr. Letellier's place, and it had been offered to Mr. Joly who had not felt disposed to accede, and upon reconsideration Mr. Pelletier had accepted.

Tuesday 13th—SENATE—Debate on Address. It was carried unanimously.

COMMONS—Committee appointed to report on desirability of using a form of prayer.

Wednesday 14th—Ash Wednesday, no Session.

Thursday 15th—SENATE—Routine business.

COMMONS—Sir John Macdonald made explanations respecting Secret Service Fund. Mr. Mackenzie followed contending that the late Administration ceased to have any control over this fund when they went out of office. A long discussion took place on several motions of Mr. Domville for statements respecting Intercolonial Rwy. Some discussion also arose on a motion of Mr. Desjardis respecting the Sugar Duties, and on a motion of Mr. Béchard for a committee to enquire into some petitions regarding Mr. Justice Loranger.

Friday 16th—SENATE—A large number of petitions read and papers presented.

COMMONS—House went into Committee on Mr. Cartwright's motion for amending and consolidating Insurance Acts. The resolution was agreed to, with the understanding that the whole subject should be carefully investigated and a better method of managing Life Insurance obtained, if possible.

Monday, 19th Feb.—SENATE—Routine business and forming of committees.

COMMONS—Prayers in the House—Committee reported in favour of using a form of prayer. It was decided that the form of prayer agreed upon be read by the Speaker in the language most familiar to himself, copies being laid on the desk of each member, in both languages, at the opening of the Session. House went into Committee of Supply. Mr. Bowell moved for a return of Post-office Printing during 1875 and '76 other than that done by the contractor at Ottawa.

February, 20th—SENATE—Routine business; Divorce cases of Martha J. H. Holi-