

THE DAILY EXAMINER

APRIL 18, 1899.

**A LATE SESSION AND
A BIG PROGRAMME.**

The calling of the Legislature together within a fortnight of the first of May to discuss and deal with the important questions and measures referred to in the Lieutenant Governor's speech is outrageous.

First, there is the action to be taken in respect to the construction of a bridge over the Hillsborough in connection with the proposed Belfast and Murray Harbor Railway, involving the outlay, direct from the treasury, of many thousands of dollars a year, a considerable portion of our small revenue. This is a point towards which we have all been working for years. But the Opposition and the country are entitled to the fullest possible information as to all the details of the arrangement made with the Dominion Government. The whole is greater than a part, and care ought to be taken that in providing this great boon for the section of the country south of the Hillsborough all the conditions are just and fair, and such that the interests of the province at large will not be hampered. This matter demands full publicity and ample time for discussion.

Then, there is the decision of the Privy Council as to the fisheries. What does it involve and what had better be done about it? This, also, is a matter of first-class importance, and not to be hastily or lightly dealt with. The Legislature and the people ought to know precisely the position of the province in this regard. Our fisheries may be developed into a great source of wealth to the province, or they may be practically ruined. A false step at this juncture may be fatal to this important interest, and a false step may be made,—indeed, is likely to be made—unless ample time is afforded for investigation, discussion, and consideration of the points in the case.

We are also told that measures are being prepared to the end that the Province may be placed upon a more substantial financial basis. Certainly, this is very desirable; for after six or seven years of Liberal rule, with no resources except agriculture, with a debt amounting to half a million, decaying assets, increasing taxes, and nothing done to promote the interests of the people, the financial condition of the Province is not enviable. But how it is to be bettered by taking on the care and expense of the inshore fisheries is hard to see. A clear comprehension of the promised measures and all that they involve can only be arrived at after full discussion, and for this time is needed.

In addition to these there is to be a much needed revolution in our corrupt road service together with the transaction of all the ordinary business of the session. What about the new Prince of Wales College and Normal School? What about the annex to the Provincial Hospital for the Insane, for want of which patients are compelled to lie about in the halls and corridors, and in respect to whom the medical superintendent can do little or nothing towards cure? What about the accounts of last year which have not yet—nearly four months after the close of the year—seen the light?

All these questions, and more, ought to be fully considered and discussed. Yet Premier Farquharson and his followers have called the Legislature together at the season in which, ordinarily, our people are compelled to devote all their time to preparation for ploughing and planting. Such lag-

gardly conduct is; we hesitate not to say, outrageous and scandalous. The long winter is past, navigation is open, work is begun;—and our Liberal rulers have just awakened to the fact that there are important measures to be talked about, thought about and dealt with by the Legislature of the Province.

A GOOD SPEECH.

A perusal of the recent speech of Mr. A. C. McDonald, M. P., as reported in Hansard, will prove that what the despatches have stated concerning its excellence was not overdrawn. Mr. McDonald's speech was a capital one from every point of view, and well worthy the representative of King's County. We reproduce a portion of it to-day—that portion which refers to the action of the Government in respect to its prohibition plebiscite,—and hope to be able to publish other parts of it at a later date. By the way, we notice that the Guardian—which again protests its absolute independence—has been unable to find room for this part of Mr. McDonald's speech. Temperance and prohibition matters have lately taken second place in the Guardian; and it is now utterly opposed to the use, by temperance advocates, of violent language in respect to our "Lum Government."

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

—Yesterday's trip of the little Princess was an eye-opener for the Stanley.

—Hon. members from the Government side of the House will have to handle themselves livelier than they did yesterday or the Legislature will be in session till the 17th of September next.

—The swearing in of the new members yesterday afternoon was a slow function. The most remarkable thing about it was, the placing of Hon. William Campbell in the seat for the first district of Queens occupied by ex-Premier Warburton!

—As an index to the conduct of Mr. Flint, the prohibitionist leader, who has lately been trying to make it easy for the Government, the Halifax Herald suggests that "the prohibitionists can't give Mr. Flint a County Court Judgeship, but the Government can."

—Freight shipped at Montreal on the second of March was received here to-day. Such is the accommodation for our business men afforded by the Government which despatched a steamer and train on Sunday to bring Mr. Peters right along to bolster up the tottering Liberal Administration of this Province!

—Lucky man, Mr. Peters. Find a steamer and trains waiting to take him right along, on Sundays as on other days. All provided by the Business is Business Government which supplies horse teams to carry our mails, and compels our merchants to wait for their goods,—while it collects two rates of freight instead of one.

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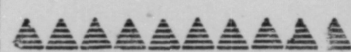
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