

tion of a number of farmers and others...  
The order was received, and made a petition of the day for Monday.

MONDAY, MARCH 7.  
Mr. SPEAKER took the Chair at 8.30 o'clock, p. m.

COUNTY COURTS AMENDMENT.  
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be reduced a half so that the total number of members of the Legislature to be established would be twenty-two; that fifteen of these members should be elected on the same qualification and by the same franchise as the hon. members of this House are now elected; that the remaining seven should be elected on the same franchise as the Legislative Council, and the matter there rested.

Last session the Government again introduced the Bill they previously submitted. It was supported by them that some of the hon. members in the Legislative Council, having in the meantime consulted their constituents, would be prepared to support the measure which they had before opposed. But unfortunately, although there was a strong expression of opinion favorable to the Government, hon. members of the Upper House did not apparently feel justified in giving their support. The Bill was again thrown out, and we are now in precisely the same position as we were at the outset.

We at the Government feel it to be their duty to press this matter upon the attention of the Legislature, and again to ask the consideration of the Legislature to make a new attempt for its object.

CURTAINING OF THE LARGE EXPENSE OF LEGISLATION. The Bill based on the resolution I am about to submit may be briefly summarized. As I stated before, there is undoubtedly a strong desire on the part of the country that the expense of legislation should be reduced as much as possible. It is entirely beyond the means of this Province to maintain all the legislative machinery we possessed on entering the Confederation for the performance of the

It is proposed to elect fifteen members in the several districts which now return members for this House, and it is proposed to elect seven members for the respective districts now represented in the Legislative Council. The question is, to be equalized, on the basis now existing for members of this House. All members shall have the property qualification at present required for members of the House of Assembly. Electors shall be equalized on the basis which entitles an elector to vote for members of this House. Thus all the members and all the electors will have a uniform qualification.

It is further proposed, by the Bill which will be introduced, to reduce the members of the Executive Council. If, then, we succeed in reducing the membership of the Legislature from forty-two to twenty-two, and of the Executive Council from nine to five or from nine to seven, as the case may be, I think we shall have done all that can be done at the present changes contemplated.

Several hours were also spent this forenoon in the discussion of the resolution, and an amendment was submitted by the Leader of the Opposition.

Hon. Mr. SULLIVAN submitted a Bill, entitled "An Act respecting the Administration of the County Courts Amendment Act, 1878," which was read a second time on Thursday.

Hon. Mr. SULLIVAN, the House went into Committee on the resolutions providing for a reduction of the Legislature. He submitted a resolution providing that the term of the Legislative Assembly shall be four years, and another to the effect that the Executive Council shall consist of five members. Resolutions reported agreed to.

Hon. Mr. SULLIVAN brought in a Bill in accordance with the several resolutions agreed to, to be entitled, "The Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, 1878." Read a first time, and ordered to be read a second time on Thursday.

mitted by Messrs. Sullivan, Ferguson and Campbell.  
Messrs. Coombs & Worth, who established the "Weekly Examiner" and published, deserve the highest praise for the very creditable manner in which they were brought out.

### The Weekly Examiner AND ISLAND ARGUS.

SUCCESS AND PROMPTITUDE.  
The favorable manner in which the consolidated EXAMINER AND ARGUS is being received in all parts of the country is very gratifying. Subscribers are pouring in every day about as fast as they can be taken. The advance system of payment is destined soon to become very popular with the people. Those who have not yet sent in their subscriptions will please do so at their earliest convenience. We undertake to furnish our patrons with the best weekly paper published on the Island; but we require prompt payment of our cheap rates.

LEGISLATIVE.  
The work of the session is being rapidly pushed forward. For the short time the Legislature has been in session, quite a large amount of work has been performed, and if the Opposition is patriotic enough to refrain from pursuing a destructive course on the floor of the House, the session will, in all probability, be a short one. A still debate arose on the Bill providing for the reduction of the Legislature, but in discussing this question the Government party had a decided advantage over the Opposition.

The latter, reinforced by two members of the Assembly who, till quite lately, held strong views on the abolition of the Council, still cling to a policy which is calculated to raise a deadlock between the representatives of the people, but also between the people themselves. If this policy is persevered in, it would not only injure the Province, but also the people, by the expense of the Legislature, and the expense of the Executive Council, and the expense of the Administration.

The Government having concurred that all but one of the points of difference that existed between the views held by them and those entertained by the Opposition in the Council, in regard to this question, it becomes the bounden duty of the latter to yield the remaining point, if its members are at all possessed of the spirit of compromise.

The Bill for the proposed management of the Public Accounts, which is a very important matter, inasmuch as agriculture is the main industry of the Province, and it is the duty of the Government to foster and encourage it to the full extent of its power. The Government show a praiseworthy disposition to do this. They are taking the necessary steps to have suitable buildings erected on the "Stock Farm" and a full complement of stock, and the importation of horses, cattle and sheep of improved breeds, from the Old Country. By the time that the present session of the Legislature will have expired, we have no doubt that it will be seen that they have done more towards promoting the agricultural interests of the Province than any preceding Administration.

There is another Bill before the Legislature, which is by no means an unimportant one. We refer to the measure under the provisions of which the duties now collected on the importation of spirits will be divided with a summary manner. Within a brief week of a very serious of the city during the past year by the importation of spirits, which were destroyed by various means, that are continually recurring at will without their masters. The measure now before the Legislature is designed to protect the public health and to prevent the loss of revenue.

THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.  
A SATISFACTORY EXHIBIT.  
The Reports of the various Public Departments were laid before the Legislature Wednesday evening. They are very creditable documents both in the style of printing and the manner of arrangement by the several departments. We have no need to say more than that they are a credit to the Government, and we propose to lay before our readers to-day, a summary of the Report of the Provincial Auditor, which is very complete, and shows a good exhibit of the financial position of the Province—one which we are glad to see, and which we are sure will be able to surpass, and with which, we venture to say, they will have some difficulty in finding fault.

The total expenditure for the past year was \$27,232,838, showing a surplus for the year of \$12,295. In his Budget Speech last session, the Leader of the Government estimated the expenditure for 1880, at \$27,000,000; it has exceeded this amount by \$232,838, but a very examination it will be found that this excess is due either to expenditure over which the Government could exercise little control, or for various reasons for the benefit of the Province. It is certain that the excess is not due to extravagance and is a result of the fact that in many instances the expenditure was considerably within the appropriation.

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Reduction of the Legislature.  
THE NEW MEASURE.  
The Government have often been criticised by the Opposition for being insincere in their efforts to reduce the Legislature in the Province. But the fact that they now show a disposition to meet the Legislature more than half way, after having put forth repeated but vain efforts to abolish that body, shows that they are thoroughly in earnest. The very clear and thorough of the new measure, given by the Leader of the Government, will be found in another column.

Peopling the Northwest.  
OUR readers will have seen by our special article yesterday, that the Pacific Railway Syndicate has already taken steps to assist in peopling the Canadian Northwest. A Mr. Whellans, of Rapid City, leaves Ottawa to-day for England to take charge of the first batch of emigrants to be sent out to Canada by the Syndicate. It will be the best of us to know, that an Emigration Agency the Syndicate will accomplish more in the way of causing a tide of immigration to flow into the Northwest, than all other influences, North and South, combined. It will be the best of us to know, that an Emigration Agency the Syndicate will accomplish more in the way of causing a tide of immigration to flow into the Northwest, than all other influences, North and South, combined.

Direct Trade with Great Britain.  
THE "PRINCE EDWARD" TO BE SUBSIDIZED.  
A few days ago, we brought to the notice of the "Ocean Steamship Co.," the desirability of taking some steps to improve the commercial arrangements hitherto existing between this Province and Great Britain. We are now very pleased to see that our representatives at Ottawa are alive to the necessity that exists for taking such steps. On Thursday last a deputation of Island Members and Senators at Ottawa, consisting of Messrs. Macdonald, Montgomery, Hackett, Brecken, Macdonald and Corwell, had an interview with the Premier and Minister of Finance, with a view to obtaining a subsidy to enable the steamer "Prince Edward" to ply regularly between the Island and Great Britain, with very satisfactory results. They succeeded in obtaining a grant of \$100,000 per year, or a gross amount of \$500,000 for the season of 1880, on the condition that the steamer should be subsidized for the whole season. Thus, whatever a subsidy of \$100,000 per year can be paid to the steamer, it will, in all probability, secure to the Island, the service of the steamer for the whole season. Thus, whatever a subsidy of \$100,000 per year can be paid to the steamer, it will, in all probability, secure to the Island, the service of the steamer for the whole season.

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Local and Other Items.  
HANLAN states that he will not row a race for the next two weeks.

Several robberies are reported from Kensington. Geo. Coffin has W. P. Colville's (last 73) HANLAN has had a "magnificent reception" in Toronto.

The U. S. Funding Bill has been vetoed by the President.  
The Bears have sent a message of condolence to Lady Colville.  
CHAMPION egg stories are appearing in New Brunswick papers.

NEWBORN JONES will probably be elected Mayor of St. John, N. B., by acclamation.  
We regret to hear that William Sanderson, Esq., of Georgetown, is lying dangerously ill.  
The Progress asks: "Would some enterprising man start a starch factory in Prince George?"

The "Cassian," which arrived at Halifax on Friday last had nearly 1,100 tons of freight.  
Owing to the scarcity of coal, wood is being brought into Summerside in large quantities for fuel.

The "Gambler," Adams, master, arrived at Georgetown, on the 22nd, from Antigonish, for the Gulf.  
CLETON is the name given to the settlement lying between Margate and Clifton, New London.

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