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ADVERTISEMENTS THIS WEEK

J. Bolton.
Dr. DeGrassi.
Jack & Gregory.
Lost & Found—Wm. Meyers.
Lost—Robt. Wilson & Graham.
Dissolution—Sylvester & Baker.
Auctioneer—Robt. Dunn.
Notice—Hodgson & Barron.
Notice—Scribner and St. Nicholas.
Money to Loan and Insurance—H. A. Wallis.
Wanted Live Stock Journal—Stock Journal Office, Toronto.
Notice to Mortgagees—Robt. Dunn.
Railway.
Auctioneer's Sale of Lands for Taxes—J. R. Kennedy, Treasurer, Lindsay.

Canadian Post.

LINDSAY, FRIDAY, FEB. 28, 1879.

COMING AT LAST

The "National Policy" will soon be here. It is fairly on the way at last. The untiring and sleepless exertions of Messrs. Tilley, MacLean, Fraser and Young will soon bear fruit in a tariff that will confer manifold blessings upon a long-suffering and over-anxious community. Every line of native industry will be "promoted" and "fostered," so that high wages for artisans and rich dividends for capitalists will inaugurate and sustain a new era of wonderful prosperity for all classes. While the cost of living will be but slightly enhanced. The Yankees will be kept out by retaliatory duties if they will not give us a fair measure of reciprocity. With them the new rule will be, either reciprocity of trade, or reciprocity of tariffs. If they persist in maintaining a fiscal wall against us, we will simply build another fiscal wall against them. It will please us; and it will bring the gorged American eagle to his senses. That proud bird must be taught that the Canadian beaver has an equal geographical right to perch on the Rocky Mountains and bask, while his tail swashes the wild Atlantic waves, and one fore paw rests on San Juan isle, the other reaching for Alaska and the favoured waters of the Stickeen. The Yankees must be taught a lesson in tariffs, and Sir John Macdonald is the man to administer the dose. At least so we were told last September.

The country will heartily welcome the long-promised and frequently-deferred good times, irrespective of politics altogether. Nobody will decline to give the satanic divinity his due, and if Good Times shall step out of the brain of Jupiter Tilley next week fully equipped for the difficult task of fulfilling the abundant promises of prosperity made by the Tory leaders last summer, then shall they have all the honour and credit, and remain in long and peaceful enjoyment of the sweets of office. But will these promised countless blessings follow? The Tory organs themselves appear to dread the results of the change of tariff, for they are industriously pointing out how it will take time—even years—to realize all the untold benefits of the National P. But we decline altogether to take this despondent view. It cannot be possible after all we have heard of the N. P. that its advent is to be heralded not with gloomy forebodings at least with half-apologies and deprecatory sentences. Even Sir John himself has given the N. P. a cold douche now and then, and the *Mail* for weeks has been as wet blanket on the hope and aspirations of "distressed" manufacturers and despairing artisans. In spite of all this, however, the N. P. is bound to bring the good times. Next week or week after the sunburst will shine upon us in all its rare effulgence and under its beneficient influence money will become plentiful so abundant that all our subscribers will come in during the month of March and not only settle up their arrears but make payments in advance of the most liberal character; the prices of wheat, oats, barley and all other farm produce will take an upward bound to a region that will bring a broad smile to the face of every granger and make his pockets plethoric; the "poor" manufacturers who have been starving on ten-to-twenty per cent. dividends will turn on steam night and day and will prepare plans for marble palaces and magnificent carriages; the echoes of the everlasting trip-hammer and the hum of the wheels of industry will resound throughout the land; abundant work, sweetest of all blessings—and high wages will prevail everywhere; and all the people will rejoice and be glad. All this will be realized in a week or two; if not, the consequences of failure and disappointment will be terrible.

CAUSES OF HARD TIMES AND LOSS OF TRADE.

In a timely letter in another column our respected townsman, Mr. John Knowlson, briefly alludes to the causes of hard times and to the loss of trade, and urges the importance of adopting stricter economy and other remedies indicated. The article referred to by Mr. Knowlson is one in the London *Tablet*, based mainly upon a letter in the London *Times* on the present condition of manufacturing industry in Great Britain. This is an all-absorbing topic, and is receiving attention from every quarter. An attempt is being made on this side the Atlantic to show that "foreign competition" is the principal cause of the prolonged depression of which we have had distressing pictures, and that Protection is the only remedy for the present disastrous state of affairs. Those who thus argue take only one view of a very large and many-sided question. The writer in the *Times* is a high authority and as summarized by the *Tablet* ascribes "the present condition of our manufacturing industry to various causes besides that of foreign competition, such as overproduction, the injurious action of trades' unions, the drunkenness and improvidence of the working classes, the adoption of short hours and long wages, the antipathy of our workmen to machinery, and the obtuseness of masters who prefer to reproduce the same class of goods from generation to generation instead of adapting themselves to the advanced ideas of the age." The opinion of this eminently practical authority is that foreign competition as a cause of commercial depression would not be formidable "if our masters and men were to study each others' interest more, and if the leaders of trades' unions were to employ their funds in educating the men technically, or in relieving disabled members, instead of wasting their resources in fighting their masters." The want of prudence and forethought in the British artisan is illustrated in this anecdote, and we may add that many precisely similar occurrences have been since reported:—"An iron master in Bilston told me a year or two ago that a large order for hoop-iron had been offered him from a Russian source at a certain price; but he could not accept the order unless his men were prepared to reduce their prices. He could not do so himself without giving the men six months' notice. He therefore called them together and stated the case. The men consulted, and said, 'Let us draw cuts' (draw lots); and they ultimately voted against a reduction. They were then earning from £5 to £6 per week. The master told them that the order would go to Belgium and that their obstinate blindness was fast driving the trade out of the country. The result is that these men are now living on meal and water, and that the master whose counsels they set at nought is obliged to take care of their wives and children." The writer had a large contract with the war office for locks, and obtained his goods in the United States, because he could get a better and cheaper article—one of modern style, with the latest improvements and more highly finished—than he could in England. The English artisan arbitrarily adhered to the plans and styles of his father or grandfather; the American on the other hand, is more progressive, enterprising and tasteful, ever ready to adopt new ideas and styles. The result of all this depression and keen competition from every quarter will be a wide awakening of English workmen and manufacturers from their deeply-rooted sense of superiority, and the adoption of the necessary numerous measures to maintain the supremacy of old England, if only the labouring classes and capitalists can be brought to work harmoniously in the needed line of improvement.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

—Three official assignees in the last *Gazette*.

—Hon. Mr. Bull, of Hamilton, has been called to the vacant place in the Senate.

Mr. F. J. Bell has accepted the Reform nomination for West Peterboro' for the Local.

The East Hastings new election has resulted in the return of Mr. John White by a majority of only 74.

Grip on the Toronto Post Office appointment:—

Patterson, Patterson, my little man,
Stamp all the letters as fast as you can,
Fix 'em and sort 'em and mark them with T.
(ponto)
And try and be useful as Lowe-s-lie-E.

—Brockville *Recorder*:—The question was, what will the Government do with Mr. Macdougall? The question is, what will Mr. Macdougall do with the Government?

—In his address to the electors of North Hastings Mr. A. F. Wood says he will endeavour, as "a Conservative, to work with the Conservative party, but he will not follow the party in pursuing a factious policy."

—Mr. Tilden is coming into favour as the Democratic Presidential candidate for 1880, the famous "cypher" revelations having benefited rather than injured him. Gen. Grant and Secretary Sherman are in most favour for the Republican candidate.

—The nomination of candidates for the Local Legislature by both parties is going on steadily throughout the province, and so is the work of organization for what will be undoubtedly the most keenly contested local election we have yet been blessed with.

—The *Monetary Times* was inclined to favour the N. P. in the early days of last fall, but now it says:—"The miller who grinds wheat may be protected by shutting the door in the face of his foreign rival; but it is difficult to see how the grower of wheat can be protected in a country that produces wheat in excess of its own wants."

—Speaking at Charlottetown before the late elections Dr. Tupper said:—"If you cannot displace United States "coal by a duty of fifty cents per ton, "*follow it up with a still higher one;*" . . . . "but I would say, *let us* TO-"TALLY DISPLACE *the coal from the* "*United States by the imposition of a* "*high tariff.*"

—Our genial friend Nicholas Flood Davin is "battling with the starry skies" at Winnipeg, and an Ottawa report assigns him a superintendency of Industrial Schools for Indian children in the North West Territories. Then will the future historian repeat Sir Francis Head's criticism about the results of missionary labours so noticed in the focus of the paperoon.

—The Ottawa *Free Press* states that "nothing can exceed the sneer with which the Conservatives of Toronto, and generally of the West, regard the appointment of Mr. Patterson to the postmastership of that city. Sir John, it is said, begins to feel that a mistake has been committed. To give Mr. Leslie a huge retiring allowance, when he is quite capable of fulfilling the duties, and to give Mr. Patterson $2,000 a year as a green hand, with absolutely no claim on the party, is looked upon as a huge blunder, which Sir John will live to regret."

—Mr. Justice Arthour has given his decision in the North Ontario election case, unseating Mr. Wheeler, and disqualifying him on the arrangement with Hurd. Several of the minor charges were held proved.

—A bill prohibiting Chinese emigration to the United States has passed Congress and the Senate and is now before the President. The New York *Sun* calls upon the President to veto the bill on the ground that it is a breach of the treaty entered into with China in 1878. It says that if the treaty existed between the United States and France or Great Britain Congress would not have dared to introduce such a measure as they would know that war would be the result.

—The Tory Napanee *Standard* candidly confesses the speech from the throne is "rather disappointing than otherwise to protectionists." Admitting that it "shouted itself hoarse" for a great "National Policy," the *Standard* plainly intimates that it will not be satisfied with revenue tariff juggling. Our distraught Napanee cotemporary proceeds:—"We did not expect the new tariff in detail in the Speech, and to fall back upon such an inquiry is simply throwing up the sponge. We did expect, however, and the country expected, as it had a right, nay, was bound to expect, that a National Policy, pure and independent, would have been distinctly assumed by the Government. We are mortified to see no such words as "National Policy" in the whole speech, and shall look to it that we shall not be chargeable with conspiring to deceive the people of Canada." A note of warning from the Peterborough *Review* for Sir John's special benefit would now be in order.

We venture to offer our assignine cotemporary our most sincere condolence on the prospect of an early termination of his "official" career. It seems Mr. Colby proposes to abolish the Insolvency Act altogether, with the dark design of getting even with those dyed-in-the-wool Tories who kept him out of the cabinet and afterwards got their friends and relatives appointed official assignees. There is considerable probability that unless the power of the Government is thrown against Mr. Colby the bill may pass, and then will hundreds of deserving Conservative office seekers be brought to ruin and starvation just as a bright picture of fees and pickings opened before them. This is too cruel, and the winter only half through, and no soup-kitchen—at least not in Lindsay. This are the cherished dreams and ambitions of a young life dashed to the ground in one fell moment. Never mind, there is the Weights and Measures to be "reorganized" and "economized," and therein a more suitable field for fame and fortune may present itself.

ECHOES FROM THE CAPITAL.

THE EX-SPEAKER'S APPOINTMENTS—KIEL ONCE MORE—MORE "NEPOTISM"—SUDDEN ILLNESS OF MR. MASSON—A STARTLING INCIDENT—A BREEZE IN THE SENATE—THE FRENCH LEADERSHIP.

[Special correspondence of The Post.]

OTTAWA, Feb. 26, 1879.

EX-SPEAKER ANGLIN'S APPOINTMENTS.

The principal event of last week was the comparatively short but highly interesting debate on the appointments made by Mr. Anglin after prorogation and the general elections, and concerning which it will be remembered the Conservative press made a great "fuss" in their characteristic style. Mr. Anglin brought the matter up by moving for correspondence with Mr. Patrick, Clerk of the House, and made it clear that under the act of 1868 he was still Speaker for the purposes affecting the internal economy and administration of the House, and so remained until his successor was selected, and that he had a perfect right to make the appointments in question. Mr. Anglin also showed that he had taken action only on the urgent representation of Mr. Patrick, and upon a report of a Chief Clerk of the translation department, that the appointments were urgently needed in order to carry out the work that was required to be done. Mr. Anglin proceeded with due and proper deliberation in the premises; his appointments were mainly promotions, without regard to political considerations, and were in themselves unobjectionable. But the spectacle of an office being filled by any one else than themselves was too much for the Tory leader and his followers. Sir John accordingly expressed his opinion to Mr. Patrick in very strong terms, and that functionary discreetly backed down from the position he had first taken, that it was competent for Mr. Anglin to fill the vacancies. The new officials were dismissed; and Sir John's nominees appointed. Mr. Anglin took high ground as to the interference with the privileges and independence of Parliament; and there is no doubt from his remarks and from the opinion expressed by Mr. Macdougall that the Premier had no right to interfere, and that his interference was an arbitrary and dangerous exercise of power which Parliament should rebuke. But fancy the present Parliament rebuking the Tory leader even if the case were as clear as noon day, or the offence a shocking one! It is not to be done. All that Mr Anglin can do is to place on record a protest against the usurpation. Sir John's defence was a weak one; and in the course of it he was cornered as to his extraordinary treatment of Mr. Piche, the late Assistant Clerk of the House. He was compelled to admit that Mr. Piche had not been dismissed; he was still drawing salary, but the duties were discharged by another, a protege of Dr Tupper's, promoted to make room for a second camp-follower. Mr. Piche is to be superannuated or provided for in some way. Really one does not know who is an official and who is not. Further evidence of the prevalent "economy" is to be found in the employment of nearly three times the number of pages, doorkeepers and sentinels that were required last session, and they were in sufficient numbers then.

A PERTINENT QUESTION.

Louis Riel seems fated to be the Frankenstein, or as a prominent Canadian legislator said some years ago, the "Wallenstein" of the present Premier. Riel has remained in obscurity during the past two or three years, and it is even now unknown whether he has been in a lunatic asylum or a Lower Canadian seminary. Some project for his pardon and political resuscitation is floating about in the air; and who more likely to facilitate this than Sir John A. Macdonald, after all that Riel has done for him and for his Tory friends. There was therefore an instinctive look of interest perceptible in the House the other day when Mr. Fiset enquired whether the Government had "colleagued" and recommended the pardon of the famous rebel. Sir John's negative and evasive reply, answering one point and skipping around the other, was not by any means an expressive and definite one as to have been expected from the man who made the pantomime declaration that "he wished to God he could quash him," but then that was backed by a thousand dollars in hand the "earnest" out of the country. Further developments in this Riel bit of railleries are awaited with interest.

HOME "NEPOTISM."

The advantages of relationship with M. P.'s on the right side and with Cabinet Ministers are this session strikingly apparent. Several instances have already occurred, and to the list are to be added the appointments made the other day to the staff of the House. M. Tassé, a brother of the industrious M. P. of that name, is made a clerk of special committees at a comfortable $1,200 per annum; Mr. Moffat, relative of a Cabinet Minister, is provided with another $1,200 as Clerk of the Railway Committee; and Mr. I. B. Taylor, an ex-editor of the *Citizen*, who had long worn the harness, gets only $1,000, in a secondary position. If any M. P.'s forty-third cousin up in your section want offices send 'em down here and they'll be provided for. The country is rich, and all the "able-bodied relations" must be satisfied to the tune of $1,200 to $2,500 a year.

A STARTLING INCIDENT.

The proceedings of the House have been comparatively quiet this session so far, but the "even tenor of its way" was disturbed Friday afternoon by an incident that created a decided sensation, and awakened deep sympathy for Mr. Masson. Sir John Macdonald somewhat lugubriously and Mr. Mackenzie somewhat constrainedly had spoken to the address of condolence to the Queen on the death of the Princess Alice, when Mr. Masson rose to support the motion in French. He had spoken but a few words when, pressing his hand to his head, he fell to the floor in a fainting fit. This event caused the utmost consternation and there was a rush of members to the prostrate Minister, and had it not been for the presence of mind of the Speaker and Mr. Mackenzie, there would have been a crush with serious consequences. As it was, the medical members, Drs. Frost and Tupper, were allowed necessary scope, and the usual restoratives promptly applied, so that in a short time Mr. Masson was removed to the Speaker's apartments, where he has been steadily improving since. He is in very delicate health, however, and it will require prolonged rest and recreation to ensure his recovery. His presence in the House this session is hardly expected, and his early resignation is talked of, in which event Mr. Chapleau would, it is believed, take the vacant place. Mr. Masson is personally one of the most popular and highly respected members of the House, and his absence as French leader would be a serious loss to the Government. Mr. Langevin could not take his place in this respect, although nominally holding a joint position as leader, for he has never recovered from the damaging effects of the notorious $52,000 affair. Mr. Chapleau would be worse still; though he has what is commonly called "cheek" enough for anything.

A LITTLE BREEZE IN THE UPPER HOUSE.

Their lordships in the Senate electrified political circles one day last week—few keep a record of Senate sessions—by walking into the Government pretty strong. That is, a few French senatorial *Bleus*, led off by that war horse, Mr. Bellerose, indulged in a little spicy diversion. Their particular grievance was that they, as French Canadian Senators, were not represented in the Cabinet, as in the late Ministry, and when poor old Mr. Chapais attempted an explanation and defence, his whilom friends fell upon him vigorously, and quite crushed him for not insisting upon French senatorial rights. Their lordships' dignity was asserted say way; and the country will now breathe more freely. I fancy Sir John does not care a continent, and the public will not be hard on him for his neglect of the fine old gentleman in the Upper House; but it would serve him right, after the obstructionist use he has made of the Senate if they were to turn on him now and give him a heap of trouble.

AGRICULTURAL PROTECTION.

As the self appointed champion of the farmers, Dr. Orton, is not here, owing to a difficulty about the count in Centre Wellington, it might be assumed that our agricultural interests would suffer in the presence of eager deputations from all industries that are pressing their demands upon the Government, and bothering the life out of poor Mr. Tilley. But there are quite enough true friends of the farmer in the House to see that he is not neglected; besides there is no doubt "agricultural protection" will be used once more as a "decoy duck" by the wily manufacturers. In the Upper House, an old farmer, Senator Reesor, has the following motion:—"That in any readjustment of the tariff, due regard should be had to the interests of our farming population and the development of our vast agricultural resources, an interest in which the future greatness of the Dominion is intimately involved, and in which fully 80 per cent. of our entire population is directly interested." The same Senator has taken action in a matter of prominence and special interest just now, by moving for all copies of correspondence between the Dominion Government, the Imperial Government and the Government of the United States on the subject of the importation into Great Britain of cattle from America, and for copies of correspondence with and reports of any officer appointed by the Dominion Government to enquire into the disease of pleuro pneumonia said to exist among cattle in the United States.

EARLY HOURS AND EASY TIMES.

So far Parliament has kept early hours, and the Government are taking things very leisurely. Adjournments in the afternoon are the rule; and as the Government have brought down only one little bill—and a very little one—and are not pushing forward their measures, very little is being done. The cost, of course, is all the same; and those Conservative organs who were crying out against the Ontario Government for the heavy burden of expense they were heaping on the country by early adjournments for the convenience of Leader, Meredith & Co., should now turn their tremendous pasquins on Sir John A. Macdonald and his colleagues. The real cause of this idleness is the unreadiness of the Government to bring down the vaunted National Policy; and the true way to get at the cost of the country is to add to the expense of the wasted days the enormous profits of every day of the N. P. blessings. This must amount to millions alone; but only the imagination of Dr. Tupper could picture forth the tremendous loss to the country of every day's delay in bringing down this wonderful remedy for hard times.

STUBBERAS.

Minor Notes and Sentences.

It is understood that the Government has decided to allow Charlotte & Co. to complete the Georgian Bay contract.

There are 33 private bills to come before the House this session, five more than last year. Among the number are three diverce bills.

Major Denville, M. P., was at the drawing-room a cavalry uniform imported from England at a cost of $900. The "Major" is an enthusiastic talker about supporting home industries, and this is the way he does it.

A New Ministry.

It is understood that a new class of Ministers have been called into existence [illegible] in Ottawa. They are known as the Ministers-in-Waiting. Mr. Dalton McCarthy, M. P., is Minister-of-Hope; Mr. Hector Cameron, M. P., is Minister of Patience; Mr. Hafen Stephenson, M. P., is Minister of Despair; and Mr. Hardy, M. P., is Minister of Wrath. There is no doubt but that the appointments are eminently appropriate, and they bear themselves jaunty, plus the fun, and behave well, despite dignity to their official positions.

A Toronto Alderman at Court.

The Ottawa correspondent of the New York World writes:—"A few days ago a Toronto alderman of the class known as 'sports' was here looking for a Government office. During his visit he called upon the Marquis at Rideau Hall, and in the name of the people of Toronto urged him to pay that city a visit at the first opportunity. He followed to this effect:—'Your Royal Highness, you can just bet that when you come to Toronto we'll make things howl and make 'em hot. The boys in the City Council, they're good 'uns, you bet, and we'll just give you the biggest time you ever saw. Your Highness.'"

OUR TORONTO LETTER.

THE LOCAL LEGISLATURE—STEADY PROGRESS—DISCUSSING THE ESTIMATES—COLONIZATION ROADS—THE ALMANAC MAN ON PLUM TREES—SOME AMUSING INCIDENTS—GOVERNMENT MEASURES.

[Special correspondence of The Post.]

TORONTO, Feb. 26, 1879.

THE BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

has been progressing with great rapidity for a few days past, and at the present rate of going the session is not likely to last beyond the 6th or 7th of March. The estimates are all through except the Crown Lands expenditures, Refunds, Unforeseen and Unprovided appropriations, and the items for the Model Farm and the School of Practical Science. There will not probably be much discussion on the Crown Lands expenditure, the chief item in which—that, namely, for surveys, must be passed if the country is to be opened up. The only item likely to arouse much discussion is that for the Model Farm and School of Agriculture. A few sessions ago the question was often asked whether it would not be better to call the institution a failure and cease all expenditure upon it. The Government had then to choose between spending more money and letting it die. They chose to adopt the former policy and, as the result has shown, they chose rightly. The college is now becoming popular, and although the Opposition indulges in chaff at its expense they never talk now of destroying it. Some discussion arose a few days ago between the leader of the Opposition and the *Globe* as to the responsibility for early adjournments. In spite of Mr. Meredith's denial that the Opposition were responsible last week I am in a position to say that he himself on more than one occasion sent a note across the House asking for an adjournment. This denial of his under the circumstances is therefore not merely false but mean in the extreme. He knows that when he makes it Ministers are not likely to get up and charge him with sending private requests across to them, but he knows also that he did make these requests. From any other man but Mr. Meredith such a denial under such circumstances would be astounding, but Mr. Meredith's style of leadership has prepared people to expect almost anything from him in the shape of tactics.

COLONIZATION ROADS.

No more severe commentary on the "economy" furore of the Opposition could possibly be afforded than the one furnished the other evening by the discussion which arose on the vote for colonization roads. There was no dispute as to the necessity for this appropriation, and very little as to the care with which the money had been expended last year. The point mainly in dispute was the old one of "supplies." I am not going to argue whether it would be better to purchase as much of the required provisions on the spot or to purchase them, as now, at Toronto and distribute them to the various localities. There is something to be said on both sides, as the debate showed. Dr. Boulter began this part of the discussion by alleging that flour could have been purchased cheaper in the vicinity of the work on the Hastings Road, than it was purchased in Toronto last summer, and Mr. Miller on the other side of the House stated that he had always contended for the local system of purchase until he gave up in despair all hope of seeing it introduced on account of the persistent clamour of the Opposition for the tender system. Mr. Louder then fiercely assailed the Government for purchasing without tender and Mr. Lount, an extensive provision dealer of Collingwood, completely contradicted him and sustained the contention of Mr. Miller. This shows that no matter which system the Government may adopt they cannot hope to please all sections of the Opposition and therefore they are justified in doing what they think best in the premises and trusting to the country for justification.

AMUSING INCIDENTS.

I have already referred, I think, to the proverbial courtesy of the Treasurer to the Opposition in all matters connected with his department; a specific instance occurred the other evening. Mr. Creighton, who with all his industry and eagerness to shine as a legislator, is looked upon by the House as a source of amusement when he does not too persistently bore it, brought in a bill for the purpose of preventing the spread of black rot in plum-trees. The title of the bill and some of its provisions put the house at once into a laughing humour when he got up to move the second reading. It was chaffed unmercifully by Mr. Currie and one or two others amidst the laughter of the members, and the poor author of the measure was evidently about to succumb to the cries of "withdraw" which reached him from all sides when relief came from a most unexpected quarter. Mr. Meredith, evidently bent on keeping up the lark for sometime longer, called on the Minister of Agriculture to give his opinion of the Bill, and to the surprise of the House Mr. Wood, in a few well chosen sentences, stated very seriously that the Bill was exactly in the direction that the Horticultural Association was moving in, and asked the House to grant the second reading and the reference of the bill to a special committee. Mr. Creighton was at once relieved from his embarrassment and was correspondingly elated and grateful.

When Mr. Watterworth's bill providing that a majority of the directors of an agricultural society must be residents of the riding to which it belongs came up for its second reading, Mr. Currie spoke in favour of the measure and voted, either by design or accident against it. With a keen perception of the humor of the situation he got up from his seat and went and sat down beside Mr. Deacon, who had a day or two before spoken against Mr. Mowat's Jury bill and then voted for it. The House saw the joke and laughed immoderately as a matter of course, and to-day Mr. Harpwift, with an air of most imperturbable gravity, brought an umbrella into the House and held it for some time over his head while the business was going on, his object being to protect himself against the water which was coming down through a crack in the ceiling of the Assembly room.

GOVERNMENT MEASURES.

Mr. Mowat has passed several bills through all their stages, and has a few others well on their way. Mr. Crooks has secured the second reading of his School Bill and has had one discussion of it in committee. To-day Mr. Hardy brought in his Jury Bill, which some characterized as too liberal and others as too conservative. The most prominent feature about it are the simplification of the mode of selection of jurors, the fixing of a regular property qualification, the reduction of the grand jury to 13 members, and the reduction of the number necessary to the standard still to 12.

A noticeable feature of the School Bill discussion was the strong stands made against the school frauds so to the municipal one. After a full discussion the proposal to do so was thrown out by a majority of 25 to 25, on a strictly non-party vote. The fate of a proposition to introduce the ballot into public and separate schools also [illegible]

Communications.

THE CAUSES OF HARD TIMES.

The Most Effective Remedy.

[*To the Editor of* THE CANADIAN POST.]

SIR,—I take the liberty of sending you a leading English journal in which is an article showing the principal causes of the prevailing depression of trade and the serious distress and misery which the labouring, artisan and other classes are now suffering to a degree unprecedented in Britain—England and Scotland.

The perusal of this article suggested to me the idea that it was worthy of an extensive publication throughout this Canada of ours. Of course it might be somewhat condensed, giving its leading and most important features. More than this I am strongly persuaded that if in connection with this the principal causes of the distress and general stagnation of business which now prevail in this Province and the sister province of Quebec were also prominently set forth, a certain amount of good would probably result from such publication.

In order to bring the knowledge of these causes within the reach of the greatest number and to give them an opportunity of reading and inwardly digesting them, I would respectfully suggest that action be taken in concert by the whole press of the country, say through the instrumentality of the Press Association, or such other channel, as you are better able to point out than I am—printing the most prominent and generally admitted causes in large type, for I am firmly of opinion that if the true reasons were fairly exhibited it may fairly be inferred that the great bulk of the community would be led to see that in order to restore better times very much will depend upon future individual action, self-reliance, etc., for, instead of calling upon Jupiter or the N. P. or any other helper, we have, just as sure as we exist, to put our own shoulders to the wheels if we wish to get out of the deep ruts into which we have carelessly driven from lack of prudent forethought; imagining, or rather dreaming, that the smooth, pleasant road we have been traveling for the previous eight or ten years would never exhibit a breach or require repairing. Yes, individual practice, physical and mental, in a better direction than heretofore is absolutely needed; patriotic self-denial, wiser conclusions, more judicious performances; which being interpreted means fewer luxuries, reduced imports, increased exports, an improved system of farming among the masses, more skill and better management in every department connected with agricultural operations, more frugality and method in domestic affairs, fewer expensive carriages amongst certain classes, fewer pianos, less whiskey, a more limited credit system with business men, besides other beneficial changes which might be effected and which every one in his own sphere can do something towards promoting, as well as in abating the general commercial distress.

If the Legislation by its N. P. or any other policy can do anything to aid in removing our serious difficulties, well and good. The country will eagerly accept such from any quarter, but for my part I must confess that I have little or no faith that any important relief is likely to result from the N. P. No, the community must adopt a different practice, a different mode of procedure. The principal faults have originated with ourselves and it principally devolves upon ourselves to correct them; and unless we make a united effort with that object we may expect the hard times to continue for an indefinite period. It is, I think, therefore highly desirable that as many as possible should be led to understand and made sensible of the responsibility that rests upon them in order that they may see how absolutely necessary it is for each and every one to govern himself accordingly; for I am led to believe the causes of the present distress have been similar in character throughout the whole of our own Province, if not in some of the others.

J. KNOWLSON.

LINDSAY, Feb. 5, 1879.

COMMERCIAL GOSSIPERS AND THE DARK SIDE OF THINGS.

[*To the Editor of* THE CANADIAN POST.]

SIR,—Will you kindly allow me space enough in your paper to enter a protest against a class of men who are to be found in these times of financial disquietude and commercial depression who seem to revel in the "luxury of woe" and are always on the alert to pick up bad news of every name and nature. If they hear of a failure they must rush forth in eager haste to make proclamation of it; or if news of a business error reaches their ears they are not at ease until they have circulated the story with numerous additions in every nook and corner in the community. They affect a sympathetic look all the while they are going their rounds, which is ridiculously in contrast with the satisfaction they derive from being the bearers of evil tidings. Their disguise is altogether too thin to conceal the palpable relish with which they spread every detail of their budget. They get so accustomed to recounting the miseries of mankind that they feel a sense of disappointment if there is an occasional blank in the record of mercantile casualties. Within the last few weeks these bipeds have been unusually active in this vicinity—going about enquiring of everybody they meet, "Have you heard the news? Blank & Co. have failed—liabilities immense—assets small—very bad affair—and Messrs.—are in awfully heavy—there is talk of other concerns going—what fearful times these are—can't tell who to trust—Blank & Co.'s paper is selling at very high rates—I hear they are borrowing from M—& Co. at one per cent. a day—there is trouble there, you may bet your pile on it." If a country crossroads storekeeper stops payment these Paul Prys will infect a whole neighbourhood with melancholy by relating that another house has gone to the wall, taking care not to mention the insignificance of the event. The desire for gossip grows by what it feeds upon. Some people are so fond of being purveyors of news that they are glad of the chance of having something to tell whether it be good or bad. The practice is an abominable one whether prompted by thoughtlessness or wilfulness, and I would suggest that the persons who follow it should receive an occasional reminder of the fact by being treated to a dish of cold shoulder.

I now and again meet one of these offenders against good taste, and they try my patience a good deal more by the forebodings of their imagination than by the importance of their facts. They rarely confine themselves to what is, but generally branch out into oracular predictions of what is to be. Now, Mr. Editor, it requires a remarkably cheerful temperament to put up with such prophets of evil, and with all my faith in the economy of nature I find it impossible to conceive any good purpose which a traveling hypochondriac of this class can subserve. Just at present the horizon surrounding trade circles being somewhat cloudy, it is particularly annoying to have every little cloud magnified and made the occasion for predicting a hurricane. There is so much real healthfulness in all trades of our great Dominion, such great strength in it as a whole in contrast with the weakness which an unusual strain has developed in the smaller parts of the structure, that I am disposed to thrust every dismal prophet as an intolerable pest. Thanking you for the space you have allotted me in your valable journal,—I am, yours truly,

HOPEFUL TRADER.

LINDSAY, Feb 26, 1879.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

—The snow storm of last Thursday night, which was so general on this continent, appears to have visited Europe as well. Six inches of snow fell in London; there was a heavy fall in Paris, and the continental telegraph wires were interrupted by the storm.

—On Sunday last an invalid member of St. Paul's church, Montreal, while in his house, a quarter of a mile from the church, heard the sermon by means of a telephone, the receiving apparatus of which was attached to each side of the pulpit.

—The hog cholera is spreading in the Western States. The only way yet suggested for prevention of spread of the disease is by killing the animals. It is estimated that swine to the value of $60,000,000 or $30,000,000 perish every year.

—The firm of Gooderham & Worts, distillers, Toronto, anticipating an increase in the excise duty, paid on Friday over half a million dollars to the Inland Revenue Department on stock in bond in their storehouses at that place.

—A peculiar explosion took place on the Ottawa River Thursday morning, about 100 feet square of ice, 20 inches thick, being thrown up in the air, followed by a loud report. It is supposed to have been caused by gas from a deposit of sawdust in the bed of the river.

—From late accounts the famine in Ceara, Brazil, which has been raging for the past two years, is one of the most terrible ever known. The country has become depopulated, the deaths being estimated at over half a million. Cases of cannibalism have been quite frequent, and to add to the other horrors, a very fatal plague has broken out, which kills fully 50 cannibals those who have escaped the famine.

LITERARY NOTES.

PALLISER'S MONTHLY HOMES.—In the notice of this publication last week we should have stated that Dawson Bros., Montreal, are the wholesale agents for the Dominion.

THE NATIONAL LIVE STOCK JOURNAL.—We wish to call the attention of our readers to the prospectus of *The National Live Stock Journal*, which appears in this issue of our paper. No one who is at all interested in live stock of any kind should fail to subscribe for this paper, as he will find a great deal of valuable and interesting matter in it. The wealth of every county would be largely increased if all farmers would pay more attention to stock raising and they should read the *Journal* regularly and profit by the experience of those who contribute to its columns from all parts of the country.

ST. NICHOLAS.—(Scribner & Co., New York.)—The enterprising publishers of this admirable magazine for girls and boys are maintaining with increasing efficiency the high standard of excellence in letterpress and illustrations with which they set out six years ago. It is the best possible antidote for the "dime-novel" poison and there is nothing better adapted for a family of young folks, and nothing out of which they will get more pure entertainment, while at the same time picking up a large fund of information. It is carefully edited and copiously illustrated, and combines amusement and instruction in a happy and effective way. Readers of THE POST can get it at a specially low rate as will be seen from the advertised club-terms elsewhere.

THE INTERNATIONAL REVIEW.—(A. S. Barnes & Co., New York.)—The February number contains timely articles on art, commerce, history, biography science and literature, by writers of note in France, Great Britain, Germany and America. Mr. Hamerton begins a series of two articles on English and American paintings at the Paris Exhibition of 1878. In another article he will note American artists. Professor Trowbridge tells us what is to become of gas stock in the presence of electricity and other dis turbances. J. H. Dise Debar describes from personal recollections the first commune in Paris. Karl Blind concludes his very interesting account of the views of Mazzini on "Russia and the East," based upon his own recollections. The other notable papers are entitled "An American Wedge," "Robert Browning," "Expressions of Emotions in the Human Countenance." The department of contemporary literature is full and strong, covering a wide range of thought and illustrating the literary movement in England, France and Germany.

THE LONDON QUARTERLY.—(The Leonard Scott Publishing Co., New York.) We have received the authorized reprint of the *London Quarterly Review* for January. The first article gives a summary account of the life and writings of Lessing. A paper entitled "Aggressive Nonconformity" has been called forth by the arguments against the Established Church, as set forth in the *British Quarterly Review* and the publications of the "Liberation Society." It investigates the present position and actual strength of the Liberationists, and the probable effect of disestablishment on the church and the country. Another article is "The Reflection of English Character in English Art. "Prince Bismarck" is a most interesting paper, based on Von Busch's recent Boswellian volume. Other articles are "Our Schools and Schoolmasters." "Is Political Economy a Science?" "Dr. Smiles' works on Self-Help," and "Russia and the Indian Frontier." The periodicals reprinted by The Leonard Scott Publishing Co. (41 Barclay-st., N. Y.) are as follows: *The London Quarterly, Edinburgh, Westminster*, and *British Quarterly Reviews* and *Blackwood's Magazine*. Price, $4 a year for any one, or only $15 for all, and the postage is prepaid by the publishers.

SCRIBNER'S MAGAZINE.—(Scribner & Co., New York).—The conductors of this popular periodical commenced the new year with a determination to make it brighter and more attractive than ever, and more worthy of the generous support it has received, and judging from the January and February numbers now before us they have succeeded in coming up to their high ideal. *Scribner's* has achieved a high reputation for its admirable and copious illustrations, and for the sterling character of its editorial matter and the high standard of its editorial supervision. While noted for the variety of its contents it has admitted to its pages some very able contributions on theological questions of the day and valuable papers on political issues. In fiction and poetry it is unexcelled; while its descriptive papers afford an exhaustless fund of entertainment and instruction. Special attention has during the past year been paid to Canadian subjects and this feature is to be continued. Its editorial departments, and its review of culture and progress, of the world's work, and its notes of home and society make *Scribner's