

Provincial Currency.

Some inconvenience is likely to come from the adoption of the currency of dollars and cents, owing to the determination in certain quarters to reduce the value of the English shilling. Hitherto that coin has passed for a quarter of a dollar or in other words twenty-five cents; but since the 1st of January, inst., it has been reduced to twenty-four cents. By an article in a late issue of the *Montreal Gazette*, it is stated that the English shilling is declared by statute to be the legal tender for the one-twentieth part of a pound in payment of amounts of \$10, (or £2 10s) and under that sum. The following is the article referred to:

The Standard in Canada, is "the pound currency in gold; but we have not yet got coin representing it." It is what is called money of account, and by law equivalent to 101 321100 gms Troy weight, of gold of the standard of fineness now prescribed by law for the gold coins of the United Kingdom. The dollar currency is exactly equivalent to one-fourth of the weight of gold and standard fineness above-mentioned. The proportions of the different denominations to each other in money of account, are too well known to make it necessary to state them.

We next come to the value of Sterling money, out of which arises the practical difficulty, which will likely cause much general inconvenience and considerable loss, in a trifling shape, to individuals. The Pound Sterling is declared by Provincial statute to be equal to £1 as standard currency, \$4.86. The English shilling is also declared by statute to be the legal tender for the one-twentieth part of this to the amount of \$10 or £2 10s, currency. At such value, and to such amount the Government, the banks, the Courts and individuals are bound to receive it in payment; but the Banks can please themselves what they receive or refuse to receive in deposit; and we fancy they will not want to take more English shillings than necessary.

If the English shilling is only taken for 24 instead of 25 cents, the depreciation is equal to 4 per cent, of what has hitherto been its conventional value in the province and a depreciation of 2-3 of a cent below its legal value. A depreciation so great as 4 per cent. in the value of the coin in most common circulation among us, is of course serious, and it is an easier to receive English shillings at 25 cents, and pay them away for 24, his sacrifice would be severe. This would be particularly the case with railway or other companies, who daily receive large sums of money in small change.

The Canadas.

The affairs of our Canadian neighbors do not appear to interest us to the extent that they ought. We find that our contemporaries are prone to dismiss their political affairs with but a short item at the best. This is not right; we ought to study the politics of the Canadas and the growth and development of their material interests. So soon as they can shake from their shoulders the monopoly of the Hudson's Bay Company, which like the old man in the sea, in the story of Sinbad, has weighed them down and by which they have been "cribbed, cabin'd and confined," they will enter anew upon the broad road to prosperity. Few of our people fully appreciate the extent and grandeur of the British possessions in North America and the great resources, from which those possessions, ample as they are, can draw their supplies.

They have immense tracts well fitted for the cultivation of cereals and the production of grasses where the agriculturalist can find full employment and ample rewards for his industry, which yet lie waste, and whose virgin soils are yet untouched by the plough. They have also the finest fisheries in the world, and from whatever point of view we may look upon the British North American possessions, particularly upon the Canadas, we shall find that they are well worthy of our attention from their wealth and population, the position which they occupy with reference to ourselves, and our present and future commercial relations.

In the British possessions on this hemisphere are the germs of a powerful empire; and should the time ever come, and we think it not improbable in the course of human events, when they shall separate from the mother country and pass from under the imperial sway they will take their place among the nations of the earth with a vigorous youth verging into a strong and energetic manhood. With the people of the Canadas, to whom the future opens so magnificently, and whose territories strike contemporaneously with our own for three thousand miles, we are always to be neighbors. Between them and ourselves it is true that nature has, put, in part, a dividing line, in a contiguous chain of lakes and rivers the most extensive and grand in the world, but as to the rest, an imaginary line almost separate people alike in language, literature, customs, and we may almost say laws also since our own and those of Canada are the offshoots of the same strong root—the English Common Law. The only exception, indeed, that can obtain among the population of French descent in Lower Canada. The very lakes, which in the old world would widely separate, in fact, the dwellers on their shores, only serve as highways or the quicker interchange of commercial relations between us and Canada, and the large commerce which has sprung up under the fostering influence of the reciprocal, amounting, as it does, to the

sum of six millions of dollars, fully attests the truth of what we say. Among the vessels that throng our harbor the tonnage of the Canadian vessels is a large item. They are engaged in all the enterprises that attract and employ our vessels; and a stranger, unless his attention was specially drawn to the subject, or the red cross was flying, would never suspect that there were foreign vessels in a foreign port, so homogeneous are the looks of the vessels.

The friendly relations which from the condition of things have necessarily sprung up between us and our colonial neighbors in the north, we hope always to see sustained. And we hail with pleasure the great advance which within a few years past they have made in every branch of national life. They stand second to no other people of the population in the great national improvements of the day—canals, railways and telegraphs. And one thing must be accorded to them—that all improvements are of the most substantial character. What they have done is well done; and in this we think we can take a lesson from them to our advantage.

Chicago Times. (See *Standard*.)

Sepoy Victims in England.

The *Medical Times*, says—It has become the fashion for certain writers to throw doubts upon the truth of the reports of the atrocities committed by the Sepoy mutineers upon our countrymen in India.

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New Advertisements this Week.

Moffat's Life Pills and Phoenix Bitters.

Note Lost—Peter Jones.

Notes and Letters &c. for Sale or to Rent—John Linforth.

Note Found—John Bench.

Private Bills—Legislative Assembly Notice.

Formation of Horticultural Society—Hamilton.

Formation of Horticultural Society—Niagara.

Special Notices.

Crown Lands' Department—Notice.

British Tribune.

RICHMOND HILL, JAN. 29, 1858.

Our election contests are now over, and the strong and wide-spread agitation occasioned by them will soon have wholly passed away. The excitement in the public mind may, indeed, be kept up for a time by the demonstrations which the reform party are holding in different places throughout the country; but even of these the people will soon become tired, their elevated spirits will gradually subside, and matters will long settle down again in their ordinary and routine condition. Wise men will then have time for reflection. Parliament will soon be called together for the dispatch of business. Her Majesty's Opposition, who have made such ample professions of attachment to the people's interest, and boasted so long and loudly of their increasing strength and good intentions, will then have an opportunity afforded them of showing what, with their collective wisdom, they are capable of accomplishing. They are, no doubt, of opinion that the management of our Provincial affairs is soon to come into their hands, and that they are the only party who are able to supply an antidote for all the supposed ills with which the country is afflicted; but even were this the case (which is not at all likely) they might find the government of the country a task more difficult to carry out than they had previously anticipated. According to their showing, they have gained a triumph, especially in this section of the Province. They assert that an accession has been made to their ranks by the late appeal to the people, and that they are likely to have a trial of the reins of government is a matter about

which they seem to entertain no

West Riding of York Agricultural Society.

A public meeting was held at Weston at Eagle's Hotel, on Wednesday, the 20th inst., pursuant to notice by the Warden of the County, for the purpose of organizing an Electoral Division Agricultural Society for the West Riding, under the provisions of the Act 20th Vic, cap. 32.

Upwards of fifty persons having sub-

scribed to the legal declaration required,

and paid the sums opposite their names,

the meeting proceeded to organize the Society, and the following officers were elected for the current year:—

President, E. W. Thomson; Vice Presidents, E. Milson, J. P. Bull; Secretary and Treasurer, H. C. Thompson; Directors, John Dew, Donald McFarlane, John A. Donaldson, John Brown, R. L. Denison, Henry Howland, H. J. Boulton; Auditors, J. Stoughton Dennis, and William Tyrrell. The following gentlemen were nominated to serve as members of the Board of Agriculture of Canada West, to supply the places of those retiring by rotation:—Wardens, E. W. Thomson, York Twp.; R. L. Denison, Toronto; Henry Ratton, Colborne; George Alexander, Woodstock.

The late dates from China were not telegraphed, but active preparations for a combined attack on Canton continued to be made at Hong Kong.

Some reports say the French would not take part in the operations.

From Australia we have news dated at Sydney the 11th, and Melbourne on the 12th.

Trade at Melbourne continued depressed.

One requesting aid to repair the bridge across the Yarra.

Two from the Board of Public Instruction, asking for grants to their Secretary, and information to be granted to their Secretary, and the second praying that a mile be paid to the members of the Board in accordance with the resolution of the Council passed at its meeting in June last.

SELECT COMMITTEE.

On the motion of Mr. Tyrell, a select committee, consisting of Messrs. Tyrell, Bridgford, James, Price, Smith, Stiles, and Wheeler, was appointed by ballot to strike the Standing Committee for the current year.

The Council then adjourned until two o'clock.

SELECT COMMITTEE.

On the re-assembling of the Council, the Select Committee appointed by ballot to examine the Standing Committee reported as follows:

Finance and Assessment—Messrs. Price, Wheeler, Smith, Musson and Sutherland.

Education—Messrs. Tyrell, James, Clark, Hale, and Starrett.

Roads and Bridges—Messrs. Wright, Tradgeon, Wells, McLeod, and James.

County Property—Messrs. Bridgford, Stiles, Smith, Jones, and Egerton.

Contingencies—Messrs. Street, Hannah, Evans, and Anderson, and Sprague.

Printing—Messrs. Richardson, Hurty, Faulkner, Button, and Hart.

Assessment Rolls—The Committee further named the following persons as suitable to be a Committee to equalize the Assessment Rolls—Messrs. Phillips, Wallis, Jeffrey, Hanah, and Stiles.

Mr. TYRELL, chairman of the Select Committee, moved that the gentlemen nominated to serve on the Standing Committees for the current year, be elected, which was carried.

PETITION.

A petition was received from the Trustees of the Mackay County Grammar School, praying for \$490 towards the expenses of that school.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.

The Treasurer—J. S. Howard, Esq., submitted his annual statement for the financial year ending October 31, 1857, and called the attention of the Council to the reduction of the amount now being received from Government, toward the expenses of criminal justice, owing to the large and increasing population of the city priors. It would be observed that there was a sum of £15 18s 2d due to the clerk of Assizes, since October 1856, being a balance of fees on cases entered for trial at the end of the year. It was originally much larger, and had been reduced to the present amount. But the Treasurer having failed to obtain it, after making application to the Clerk of Assizes, he called the attention of the Council to the matter.

Mr. TYRELL seconded the motion.

A MEMBER said he had no objection to Mr. Hartman, but it was a question in his mind whether they ought to proceed with the election now, seeing that a number of members were absent, including the members for Peel.

Mr. WHEELER said he was not aware that the Council had any control over the members for Peel. It was their duty to be present. But he understood they were prevented from attending by a meeting taking place in their county for the election of a Provisional Council.

Mr. TYRELL said he had no objection to the election of Wardens, but it was a question whether the election was delayed.

As an act of courtesy to the members for Peel he should prefer that they were present.

He saw one of them on Thursday, and he told him that if here at all they could not be here until the evening. Whether they had since made any arrangements by which they could arrive earlier, he (Mr. Hartman) did not know. As regards the election, he believed they had no alternative but to proceed with it, to-day.

They might, however, if they thought proper, defer it until a later hour in order to give the gentlemen time to arrive.

As far as he was personally concerned such a course would be the best course.

The Clerk put the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

THE WARREN electing having taken the chair.

On Wednesday the Council met at the usual hour, the Warden presiding.

A special meeting was directed to be held on Friday the 29th inst., to appoint a committee to meet in concert with the Provincial Inspectors of Prisons, in accordance with the Act of last session for the better provision of goals for young offenders and the regulation of prisons.

NOTICE OF MOTION.

Mr. HANNAH gave notice that he would move on-to-morrow, that Mr. Street be added to the Special Committee for revising the assessment for the year.—Carried.

The tabular statement accompanying the treasurer's report, was no doubt advertised.

The Council then adjourned.

THE PRISON ACT.

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APPOINTMENT OF AN AUDITOR.

Mr. PRICE moved, seconded by Mr. Wheeler, that Mr. Nathan Gatchell be appointed one of the auditors of the county accounts for the coming year.—Carried.

COUNTY ATTORNEYS.

Mr. TYRELL gave notice that he would, on-to-morrow, move that the Council do resolve itself into a Committee of the whole, to consider the business of one or more suitable persons to be appointed County Attorneys for the United Counties. This was a matter of importance, and he thought the Council would be well advised to do so.

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