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The Daily News.

FRIDAY EVENING, FEB 14

☞ SEE FIRST PAGE

The attempt to abrogate dual representation has fared no better in the Province of Quebec than in Ontario. A bill to give the permissive principle of dual representation as it at present exists, introduced by Mr Marchand into the Quebec Legislature, has just met the fate of the six months' suspension, accorded in like manner to the principle in the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. The six months hoist to Mr Marchand's bill was carried on a division yeas 89 nays 21. The minority, though respectable, is powerless, and we may take it that the sentiment of the members of our two most important provincial legislatures being against the principle, it is improbable that the House of Commons will attempt to alter it.

It is feared there is not now the remotest prospect of that evacuation by France of the Roman States which the Queen was advised to say in her speech last November was desirable. Civita Vecchia is being fortified as if it were a permanent French possession; under the pretence of sanitary considerations, Viterbo has been occupied and the officers of the French army of occupation—amounting in its reduced state to 8,000 men, and susceptible of indefinite augmentation in a few hours—talk habitually, we are told, as if war were inevitable and imminent.

THE 14TH BATTALION.—Another inspection will take place on Monday evening at half past seven, when every member of the Battalion is required to be present. The Band will play at the shed during the inspection.

HAY FROM WOLFE ISLAND.—Large quantities of hay are arriving daily from Wolfe Island, as is always the case during the winter months. Hay, as a general thing, has been brought in in large quantities since the sleighing commenced, and the addition of the Island hay has of late completely filled the market on favourable days.

CITIZENS' RINK.—For the first time since the great snow storm the flag has been flying to-day from the "shanty" of the Citizens Skating Rink. With all the cleaning and scraping of the ice, and the removal of large quantities of snow beyond the limits of the rink men were still engaged this morning in cutting a large snow bank within the enclosure near the Tower. The rink is now in capital condition again, but not until after a large expenditure of labour.

POLICE COURT, Friday.—Mary Hamilton was charged with vagrancy, and being drunk on the streets, she was sent to gaol for a month. There was no further business before the court.

THE WEATHER.—The thaw which threatened during the greater part of yesterday (Thursday) gave way to frost towards evening, a change of wind having taken place. Last night the frost was very severe, and to-day is one of the coldest and most wintry days of the season.

PRESENTATION.—The Meagher Brothers, the champion skaters of this city, were presented with a pure gold medal each on the 8th instant, at the close of their engagement at the Eastwick Skating Park in Philadelphia. The presentation was made by Colonel Page, with a suitable address. On one side is the inscription: "Presented by the patrons of Eastwick Park to Daniel (John) Meagher, of Kingston, Canada, for their skill, grace, force and beauty in skating;" on the obverse side is a model skate, and underneath the words, "Philadelphia, February 1st, 3rd and 4th, 1868." The account appears in the Sunday Morning Times, which says that "the performances of the Brothers exceed those of any other performers who have ever presented themselves for public favour."

CHEAP EDITIONS.—A cheap six-penny edition of that standard work De Quincey's Confessions of an Opium Eater has been published and is supplied at Henderson's. It is remarkably well printed.

THE ROADS.—The influx of farmers and others from the country has been greater for the past two days, than for any time since the snow storm of Saturday last. These arrivals have been from greater distances, a fact which proves the roads to be again in a passable condition. The wood and hay markets, too, are more lively, both being pretty well thronged, as in the best sleighing times.

About $3 000 has been contributed by the parishes of Quebec towards to the Canadian Papal Zouaves.

The Customs Department has put a stop to the importation of immoral newspapers, such as *Police Gazette, Last Sensation*, &c.

The Bank of Montreal has issued a notice that all provincial notes stamped "St. John" will be redeemed at the St. John agency.

On Thursday (18th inst.) in the Church of Notre Dame, in Montreal, there will be a concert of Sacred Music in aid of the Canadian Corps of Papal Zouaves about to embark for Italy.

SPECIAL TELEGRAM.

FROM QUEBEC.

Quebec Feb. 14. A correspondent of the *Chronicle* states that although no mention of an income tax clause was made to the Council when the amendments to the charter were submitted to be finally decided on before presenting the petition to the local Parliament, that the clause appears in the Council's petition for amendment to the city charter. He urges the merchants to counteract this underhand work and expose those who have been instrumental in attempting to smuggle through this obnoxious tax.

Judge Genther was seized with an attack of apoplexy on Wednesday morning at Montmagny. Later intelligence received announces that he was slowly recovering.

In the Assembly yesterday afternoon Mr Dunkin said he would make his financial statement this evening.

Mr Chauveau said he would bring in two bills on Saturday, one in relation to colonization roads, and the other for the protection and encouragement of settlers on Crown Lands.

THE NOVA SCOTIA RELIEF FUND

A meeting of the collectors for the Nova Scotia Relief Fund was held in the Council Chamber this afternoon at 3 o'clock, the Mayor in the chair. It was stated that, owing to a telegram which appeared in the Toronto Globe on Wednesday, no further relief was wanted, and that the distress had been exaggerated, the collectors had suspended operations and the Secretary was requested to telegraph Sir John A. Macdonald, who it was considered might be in possession of some official information. Sir John, however, replied that he had no more information than what was contained in the papers. It was then deemed prudent to telegraph Mr E. C. Jones, of Halifax N.S., Treasurer of the Fund, and agent of the Bank of Montreal. Late last night Mr Shannon received the following reply:

"The report that no further relief is wanted arises from a misapprehension of a telegram. Toronto having been misconstrued, the distress has been by no means exaggerated.

"E. C. JONES."

At the meeting to-day Mr Thomas A. Corbett was called to the chair, Mr James Shannon continuing to act as Secretary. The latter explained the object of the meeting, at the same time giving the above information.

Mr R. M. Rose suggested the propriety of telegraphing to the Mayor of Halifax direct, and ascertaining from him if there is any necessity of making further collections.

Rev. Professor Snodgrass thought that the tenor of the above telegrams was sufficient to show that the necessity which existed among the fishermen of Nova Scotia did undoubtedly still exist.

It was afterwards agreed upon to telegraph to the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia on the subject, and a resolution, moved by Alderman Henry Cunningham, seconded by Mr J. Maule Machar, to that effect was carried.

If the reply (which is expected by Saturday morning at furthest) says that more assistance is needed, the gentlemen nominated to collect in the various wards will go on soliciting subscriptions.

The meeting adjourned until three o'clock on Tuesday.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO.

Wednesday, Feb. 12.—Several petitions were presented.

Mr Sexton's Bill relating to Registrars was read a third time and passed.

On motion of Hon. J. S. Macdonald the Bill for the Interpretation of the Statutes was read a third time and passed.

On motion of Hon. Mr Wood the report of the Committee of the Whole on the Wellington, Grey, and Bruce Railway Bill was received and concurred in, and the Bill read a third time and passed.

THE ASSESSMENT ACT.

On motion of Mr Rykert the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole on the Bill to amend the Assessment Act. Mr Sexton in the chair.

Mr Rykert explained that the most important alteration proposed was in reference to sub-section 19 of section 9 of the old Act, which exempted so much of the personal property of any person as was equal to the just debts due by him on personal property, without reference to debts. But since then, having had representations to them that this change would do great injustice to the lumbering, flour and other interests, the committee proposed striking out that section, and enacting another proviso to be added, which would give the assessors power to compel a man to make an affidavit as to the amount of his personal property.

Hon. J. S. Macdonald, while giving the honourable member for Lincoln credit for his energy and ability as Chairman of the Assessment Committee, thought that honourable gentlemen was pushing the measure too hastily. By the repealing clause, section 4, sub-sections 15, 19, 21, 22 and 23 of section 9; section 10, sub-section 1 and col. 4 of sub-section 4 of section 21; sections 26, 30, 35 and 36; sub-section 12 of section 61; sections 83, 87 and 176 of the Act are repealed, and a number of other sections and sub-sections were introduced. Now, that was not explicit enough to enable the House to understand the measure fully. As far as he was concerned, he had had so little time to devote to this important measure that he would not like to undertake the responsibility of assenting to its passage. It would be better to defer any measure of this kind. What necessity was there on the part of the House for this immediate action on the Assessment Law? He apprehended the best thing that could be done would be to have the suggestions made by the committee printed for circulation throughout the country—leave them stand till next session—let the people and municipal councils throughout the Province take up the scheme and comprehend it—and next session let a comprehensive measure on this subject be brought down. Besides, one of the changes proposed by the committee—that relating to the defining of personal property, clause two of the new Bill—was little less than revolutionary.

Mr Rykert—It is only a change of three words, and has been the law of the land for twenty years. The new Act includes in personal property "interest on mortgages," and that is the only change made.

Mr Blake said it was true the measure before the House was of great importance, and after the statement just made, that the Government had not considered the provisions of the Bill, he did not think the House ought to proceed with the measure then. As soon as it pleased the Premier to make himself acquainted with the measure, then the committee might sit again. Most of the clauses of the Bill before the committee had unquestionably met with the approbation of the House and the country. The committee considering the measure had been moved for at an early period in the session, and had been sitting ever since working diligently, and it was to be hoped the House would not now be told that all their labour was to be thrown away.

Hon. J. S. Macdonald said that the hon. member for South Bruce is his own pleasant way had hoped that the House was not to be told that all the labour of the committee had been in vain. He (the Attorney General) took the position that a measure of this kind ought to be laid over—as measures of the kind usually were—until the country had an opportunity of discussing it. At all events, in a day or two the Government would be better prepared to give such an opinion on the different changes submitted in this Bill as would command the confidence of the whole House. But up to this time the Government had not had that time to attend to it which a measure of its magnitude required. In his opinion it was not best to make immediate changes. One very important change contemplated had reference to taxing mortgages. By such a measure a number of gentlemen in England and elsewhere, holding this description of property, would be considerably affected. And as to the propriety of the step he had not made up his mind. He thought that immediate action in such a matter would cause great loss in some quarters. Persons having an interest in that direction should have an opportunity of selling out their mortgages if this was to become law, and investing their means in some other direction. These were matters requiring consideration—and it was hardly correct, without any previous discussion on the subject, that people should be suddenly taxed in this way.

Mr Rykert said he was greatly surprised at the action of the hon. the Attorney General in this matter. If he (Mr Rykert) wanted anything to convince him of the total ignorance of some gentlemen in that house as to the merits of the Assessment or Municipal Bills, he would only have to refer to what was just taking place—when the Premier of the Province was found to rise in his place and denounce the changes proposed as sweeping and uncalled for. Why, these very amendments had all been made by the request of municipalities throughout the Province, and fully nine-tenths of the people of the country were now in favour of it. The Attorney-General rose to tell the House that he had not had an opportunity of examining the question. Well, if he had not done so, it was owing to neglect of duty. (Hear, hear.) Some days ago that hon. gentleman had requested that the measure be postponed until to-day. Now he asks to throw it over altogether. (Hear.) Was that fair to a committee which included among its members men occupying the highest positions in the country? It was an insult to that committee and the House to say that the measure under discussion should not be passed that session. He was not prepared to submit to it, and no matter what the consequences were, was prepared to divide the House on the subject. He was not desirous that the bill should be pressed through with undue haste. But, on the other hand, he would not allow it to be burked if he could possibly help it. (Hear, hear.) He had been sent there to legislate, and would endeavour to discharge that duty faithfully and honestly. He maintained that the requirements of the country demanded this measure. Even the Attorney General himself admitted that some things in the old Act required to be changed. (Hear.) Exception had been taken by that hon. gentleman to taxing the mortgages of gentlemen in England. But there he had gone wrong again. He had only to look at sec. 37 of the Act and see that this description of property was excepted. It was not fair that the bill should be burked in that way.

Mr Cameron was satisfied there were provisions in it which would not be very acceptable generally—although they were to some extent improvements on the old Act. One of these had special reference to the interest of cities, and related to the manner in which the value of property was to be ascertained. It was said that rental was to be taken as representing 6 per cent of the actual value, and that property in Toronto, for instance, was to be assessed in that way.

Mr Rykert—Eight per cent. (Hear and laughter.)

Hon. Mr Cameron—The committee has, it appears, changed it to 8 per cent. That alteration would bear hardly on a certain class of property, and would excite a good deal of opposition. It was a question with him, too, whether interest derived from mortgages ought not to be subject to taxation, whether the money came from king and or elsewhere. Altogether it was not desirable that a measure of the importance of this on assessment should be hurried through the House when there was no immediate necessity for it, and the assessors had already begun to do duty under the present law.

Hon. J. S. Macdonald rose to oppose the section proposed in lieu of section 87. By the new section it was proposed that the statute labour in the township in respect of lands of non-residents, shall be commuted at the rate of one dollar for each day's labour. This was really specially stinging already those having wild lands paid pretty smartly for them, and now it was proposed to put on 100 per cent taxes in statute labour. That was a complete change, and after the discussion, the Government would state how far they would sanction a measure like that before the house, which affected the interests of so many in the country.

Mr Trow said, as a member of the committee, he had felt, in regard to the taxation of mortgages, that property ought to be taxed wherever it was found. Something should, in his opinion, be done in the matter this session.

Mr Currie knew that a change was required in the present assessment law. He was rather astonished when the Attorney General was pointing out his objections to hear him state, with reference to non-resident lands, that the change was objectionable and looked like class legislation to raise the taxes.

Hon. J. S. Macdonald—No. I said it made a material change.

Mr Currie misunderstood the hon gentleman then. It certainly was a material change, but one that the country had asked for year after year. This is the sweeping change he complained of, but there could be no doubt the country desired such a change.

Hon. J. S. Macdonald—On the other hand, it must be remembered that the non-resident already pays towards school house, school teacher, &c. He does not use the roads; but has to pay taxation for local purposes.

Mr Currie admitted that it was true they had a right to tax non-resident lands; but where the absentee was charged $5 the resident had to pay $10. Again taxation on mortgages had been objected to by the Premier. What were the facts of the case? Societies now sent their agents throughout the country, and in every way sought to induce persons to mortgage their farms. Nine-tenths of these mortgages would never be redeemed. Now this state of things should be discouraged. Let this capital go into Dominion stock or something else—any direction almost rather than the present one. The taxing of the interests on mortgages and the abolition of the sliding scale in personal property, were changes which met his approval.

Mr Rykert said, that as the Government had shown an entire ignorance of the provisions of the Act, of course it would not be proper for the House to force it on them at present. He was very desirous to instruct them, so far as the Assesment Act was concerned. (Laughter.) It really did seem strange that gentlemen on the the Treasury Benches did not understand this law. (Cheers and Laughter.) Was it not wrong for these hon. gentlemen to sit there one hour longer unless they understand the wants of the country? (Hear, hear.) To show the absurdity for postponement he would state what he supposed they ought to know—that all the clauses which had been repealed, with the exception of two, are re-enacted. One of the two had relation to personal property, and its repeal was demanded by every municipality in Canada. Again the committee had struck out the clause exempting the salaries of hon. gentlemen on the Treasury Benches from taxation. (Cheers and Laughter.) These were the only two changes in the Bill; and he defied hon. gentlemen to point out another change in the Bill which had not been re-enacted. (Cheers.) In regard to wild lands an alteration had been made commuting the statute labour at 50c. Altogether the change were so few that in five minutes' time the Government might have ascertained them all. He could not believe that the Government were so totally ignorant of the wants of the country as to pursue the course they had indicated with respect to the Bill. So far as Toronto was concerned—to which the Secretary had alluded—the fact was, the whole house combined could not legislate for them. (Hear.) The amendments sent in by the City Clerk had no sooner been adopted than five or six hungry aldermen (loud laughter) came down on the committee like wild beasts (laughter) looking for further legislation. Some special act was needed for Toronto evidently. The very provision objected to by the Secretary had been made at the suggestion of that city. (Hear.) If Government needed instruction in the act, he would spend a whole day with them discussing it; but let them be decided. Let the municipalities have such legislation as they were really in need of, or else let the Government designate their power to some one else. For his part he was willing to postpone the measure till Monday next, but not one hour longer, unless the vote were taken, and he were compelled to do otherwise.

Some further discussion ensued, when the committee rose, reported progress, and obtained leave to sit again on Monday.

The House adjourned at eight o'clock.

NOVA SCOTIA—AMENDMENTS TO THE REPEAL RESOLUTIONS.

First.—The law-making power ever since the Province of Nova Scotia possessed a Legislature, subject always to the Royal prerogative and constitutional enactments of the Imperial Parliament, whether exercised in reference to the existing constitution or to any other subject of a Provincial character, is, and ever has been, vested, and of right ought to vest in the Lieutenant-Governor, the Legislative Council, and the House of Assembly for the time being.

Second,—The right of the Imperial Parliament to provide, to change, or to alter the constitution of a British Province or Colony, is undoubted, has been repeatedly exercised, and cannot and ought not to be called in question.

Third.—The resolution of the 10th of April, 1865, which passed both branches of the Nova Scotia Legislature, did not necessarily contemplate a Confederation of all the British North American Provinces, nor were the delegates to be appointed thereunder in any way limited or instructed as to how many or which of the British North American Provinces should be included within such Confederation, nor whether Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland should or should not be of the number. Nor did the terms of that resolution require that each of the Colonies should be represented by an equal number of delegates.

Fourth,—That before the Committee of Public Accounts have reported upon the financial condition of the Province, and in the absence of any reliable data to show the effect of the working of the new constitution, the British North America Act of 1867, and her Majesty's proclamation thereunder, have not been in operation sufficiently long to warrant any authoritative expression of opinion on the part of this Legislature as to the effect to be produced upon Canada, or any Province of Canada, much less justify an assertion that it will reduce the Province of Nova Scotia to the degraded condition of a dependency of Canada. Nova Scotia being, by the Act in question, a constituent part of Canada with a fair representation in both branches of the Canadian Legislature.

Fifth.—That the Railway debt of Nova Scotia in the year 1863 amounted to four million dollars, upon which interest was chargeable and paid at the rate of six per cent per annum, amounting to two hundred and eighty thousand dollars and upwards, which, if the British North America Act of 1867 had never passed, would have necessitated a very considerable rise in the Tariff of Nova Scotia, even if there had been no falling off in imports or a greatly diminished vote for the public service.

Sixth,—That fundamental and material changes of the constitutions of British Provinces, both in the Eastern and Western hemispheres, have, from time to time, as occasion required, been made as well by the Imperial Parliament as by despatches emanating from Downing street, and the constitution of Nova Scotia has existed and at present exists, and in many other of its most important features rests upon the authority of despatches of successive Secretaries of State for the Colonies.

Seventh,—That the Legislature of Nova Scotia in the session of 1867 recognized the British North America Act of 1867, and chapter one, after providing for a reconstruction of departmental offices and the salaries of incumbents, in section nine, specially refers to said Act as about to be brought into full operation by her Majesty's proclamation; chapter two, passed during the same session, reducing the number of representatives in any future House of Assembly, adapted the local constitution to the condition of things; chapter three disables Senators and members of the House of Commons of Canada to hold seats in the Legislature of Nova Scotia; and chapter seven provides where the election of members to serve in the House of Commons is to be held.

Eighth.—That the expression of opinion on the part of the Nova Scotia Legislature of the date of 10th April, 1865, that it was desirable that a Confederation of the British North American Provinces should take place, was as much a constitutional declaration of the then existing Legislature and entitled to as much credit as any subsequent contradictory declaration of the recent or any future Legislature can be.

Ninth.—That however desirable it may seem to be, it has never been essential to the validity or constitutionality of an Act of Parliament, either in a British Province or in England, that it should first be submitted to and obtain the assent of the people at the polls.

Tenth—That the people of Nova Scotia have ever been conspicuous for their loyalty and attachment to the British Crown, and by their obedience to the laws of the Empire they have ever had the protecting arm of the mightiest nation in the world thrown around them, their sea coasts have been zealously guarded by the British navy and their principal city garrisoned, fortified and protected by British troops, all at Imperial expense; they have no fears, therefore, that Great Britain will invade their rights or inflict injustice upon them, or suffer it to be done by others.

Eleventh—In view of the defenceless condition of the Province of Nova Scotia, unsupported without, this Legislature gratefully appreciates the interest displayed on the part of her Majesty's Government, and cheerfully recognizes the right and the just authority referred to in the despatch of the Right Hon. Mr Cardwell, principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, under date of June 24th, 1865, in which, among other things, it is declared, looking to the determination which this country has ever exhibited to regard the defence of the Colonies as a matter of Imperial concern, the Colonies must recognize a right and even acknowledge an obligation incumbent upon the Home Government to urge with earnestness and just authority the measure which they consider the most expedient on the part of the Colonies with a view to their own defence. Nor can it be doubtful that the Provinces of British North America are incapable when separate and divided from each other of making those just and efficient preparations for national defence which would be easily undertaken by a Province uniting in itself all the resources of the whole.

Twelfth—That if it be the opinion of her Majesty's Government, and those whose previous military training qualifies them to speak with authority upon the subject, that a confederation of the British North American Provinces was prudent and desirable, and requsite for their defence against any aggressive force from without that might be aimed at them or any one of them, then it is the duty of every loyal subject to respect that expression of opinion, to co-operate with her Majesty's Government, to make all reasonable sacrifices in order to preserve the existing connection with the fatherland, and cheerfully to aid in moulding the institutions of the country in the manner best adapted to secure so desirable an object.

Thirteenth—That as regards the course adopted by the Government and Legislature of Nova Scotia to bring about Confederation, it was under the instructions and nearly as possible in accordance with the recommendation of her Majesty's Government, as set forth in a despatch dated the 3rd of December, 1864, written after the sitting of the Quebec Conference, and addressed to Lord Monck as Governor General, in which, among other things, occurs the following: It appears to them (her Majesty's Government,) therefore, that you should now take immediate measures, in concert with the Lieutenant Governors of the several Provinces, for submitting to the respective Legislatures this project of the Conference, and if, as I hope, you are able to report that these Legislatures sanction and adopt the scheme, her Majesty's Government will render you all the assistance in their power for carrying it into effect. It will probably be found to be the most convenient course that, in concert with the Lieutenant Governors, you should select a deputation of the persons best qualified to proceed to this country that they may be present during the preparation of the bill, and give to her Majesty's Government the benefit of their counsel upon any question which may arise during the passage of the measure through the two Houses of Parliament. And this recommendation was but the embodiment and reiteration of the sentiment of her Majesty's Government, as was delivered by the late Duke of Newcastle, expressed in relation to the same subject, and to be found in a despatch to the Earl of Mulgrave, dated the 6th July, 1862; after referring to some such conference or consultation as that held at Quebec, that great statesman and friend of the colonies remarked; but whatever the result of such consultation might be, the most satisfactory mode of testing the opinion of the people of British North America would probably be by means of a resolution or address proposed to the Legislature of each Province by its own Government.

SIR HENRY SMITH'S GAME BILL.

We have received several communications on the Game Bill of Sir Henry Smith, which are too long to give in full, yet so interesting and important that we insert below tolerably lengthy extracts from them. We take them in the order of their dates.

Mr F. W. G. Austen, of Quebec, says that the Bill appears to contain very little indeed that requires amendment, except that it seems to be the intention to exempt certain kinds of ducks from protection. Against this Mr Austen protests, and in support of his views writes as follows:—"It must be remembered, as a general rule, that all the feathered game belonging to this continent and which resort to Canada in the spring of the year, do so for the purpose of incubation. Nearly all kinds of ducks breed in both Ontario and Quebec; certain coarse sea-ducks merely passing through to Labrador and other remote regions. The black duck, the best and most common of the duck tribe that comes to us in the spring, commences breeding in the neighbourhood of the city of Quebec in the end of April, if the season be an ordinary one. These birds, teal, and other edible kinds, make their nests in the vicinity of every retired lake and stream in the country. On the 3rd May, 1866, I shot a female dusky duck, and gave instructions that it should not be dressed unless I were present to examine it. I did examine it, and found ten ova in the abdomen, one of which was ready for laying. This circumstance at once put a stop to my spring shooting, although I was residing at the time within a short distance of the marsh." At that time all the birds of the duck tribe were observed to be in couples, from which Mr Austen very naturally concludes that it is obviously a mistake to destroy any of that species of game in the spring.

Mr Austen urges also that the snipe ought to be protected in the same way. Like the duck, the snipe resorts to the Canadas and Nova Scotia, or rather let us say to the Dominion of Canada, to breed. As far as the neighbourhood of Quebec is concerned, Mr Austen says he has observed the habits of the snipe for thirty years, and has no doubt of this being the fact. He has, he says, shot young birds in July just able to rise, and his opinion is that the same thing holds good of Ontario, and that these excellent little birds will be found to breed in every retired suitable place in this Upper Province. They are protected in Quebec, and even as a matter of courtesy to their brethern down the St. Lawrence, he thinks that the sportsmen of Ontario ought to aid in protecting this interesting game.

It will be seen that the Bill very much meets Mr Austen's wishes.

Another correspondent, B, defends the Bill and its promoters from the complaints of our correspondent A, in reference to the hurried manner in which it was pushed through the House, as also from the exception which A takes to some of its provisions. B asserts that every facility for discussion was afforded, and that the more the matter was ventilated, the more the Bill was seen to be necessary, if the game of the Province was not to be exterminated. He instances deer. Animals of this class are killed every year in hundreds by parties of "pot-hunters" from the States, and are sometimes slaughtered merely for the skin. This, it seems, can only be done to anything like profit after the ice has taken on the back lakes, and therefore the close time was fixed to commence on the 1st of December. Besides, however, B argues that "it is well known that the running season with this species of game commences in October, and continues through November. Dozing and after that period the flesh of the buck, as every sportsman knows, becomes so rank and strong as to be hardly fit for human food. This is the case with nine bucks out of ten—and therefore they ought not to be destroyed after that season. The does at the same time ought to be protected, because the destruction of one doe after the 1st of December, is generally the destruction at the same time one, if not two unborn fawns."

"B" also refers to the very obvious consideration that, during those months of winter when the herbage is withered, deer are not in good condition for human food, though to be sure, we have heard old settlers say that they have killed deer during the winter so fat as, with them at any rate, to be scarcely eatable.

Another correspondent "Hubert," who claims to be an old sportsman, writes also in strong approbation of Sir Henry's Bill. He has, he says, been actively engaged in the pursuit of "fur, fin and feather" over a thousand miles of Canadian frontier, and for the last thirty years, and may therefore claim that, at any rate, he speaks with the authority of experience. The conclusion at which he arrives is that Sir Henry's bill is the best ever introduced, so good in fact, "that it will not bear modification." To show the necessity of the enactment about deer, he mentions that in his "last visit to the forks of the Madawaska, in January, 1859—the camp of an Indian family was hung with fawns as big as rabbits. I should say to the number of 40—having been subjected to the Cæsarian operation."

In reference to woodcock, he gives the following piece of personal experience:—"On the flats of the 16 creek in 1840, I flushed a woodcock from a wild gooseberry bush in dense cover, and underneath was a chick scarce a day old. The date I cannot swear to, but the gooseberries I well remember were ripe, I think, therefore, it must have been near the middle of August." He agrees with Mr. Austen that birds migrating even to the north of Canada, in the spring, ought *not* to be killed *en route*, for they certainly are migrating for breeding purposes, and in many cases the ova are already formed, and even far on to maturity. The snipe, he is quite sure, breeds in Ontario; aye, and in the more southern parts of it.

A rather interesting fact is mentioned, which we give in our correspondent's own words, as an additional argument against destroying birds of passage in the spring. "How many of your sporting readers have heard, or made the remark, that during the American rebellion, and immediately subsequent thereto, there was a marked increase in the quantities of duck and other wild fowl in Canada? I myself can bear testimony to the fact, and have heard many old sportsmen comment upon the same phenomenon. But had the Southern sportsmen not been otherwise engaged, and had they killed all the birds in the spring, merely because they went North to breed, I fancy we of the North and they of the South, would alike have to deplore the scarcity of wild fowl." All sportsmen, says "Hubert," are agreed that spring shooting ought not to be allowed. And the only argument any offenders urge is that "if they don't, others will."

Surely the gallant Knight of Frontenac will be gratified by "Hubert's" closing remarks:—"All true sportsmen (I do not include the pot-hunters that infest many of our towns and cities,) have long hoped and prayed for just such a bill as Sir Henry Smith's, and I for one heartily thank him for braving the onslaughts of the Beattys and Camerons who led the van of his assailants."

We don't profess to be any great authority on the subject, but we are very willing to let both sides have a hearing. This we, however cannot but add, that game laws and game preserving have been the occasion of more crime in Britain and elsewhere, than any one thing which could be mentioned. Certain wild animals must give place before the tide of population, and a good many of not the worst people of the country will readily say, "Let them go."—*Globe.*

Some of the Chinese in San Francisco eat rats on wagers, ten for a dollar being the usual rate of compensation.

Scarlet Fever prevails in Ottawa at present to a very unusual extent. Hitherto it has appeared to its mildest forms.

Waterloo county, Ont., is to have a House of Refuge, and Industrial Farm, for the accommodation of the indignant portion of the floating population.

The annual meeting of the directors of the Northern Railway Company was held on Wednesday last, and the annual report presented. The receipts of the year exhibit an increase over 1866 of nearly $50,000.

The recent decision of Mr Justice Shiels fining a Miss Hamilton of Dartmouth (N.S.) school, five dollars for punishing a chil, has given some dissatisfaction, and the residents of Dartmouth will hold and "indignation meeting" at the Mechanics' Institute on Thursday evening.

A Peoria (Ill.) policeman was astonished the other night, while watching the debarkation of some passengers at the depot, by being hugged and kissed by a charming young lady who mistook him for her brother.

Anxious to ascertain the amount of traffic on the Upper Ottawa, with a view to extend their line to Pembroke, the manager of the Brockville and Ottawa Railway stationed a man on the road near Sand Point to count the sleighs as they drove past. He counted two hundred and twenty heavily laden sleighs in twelve hours.

The Bill for the Incorporation of the Toronto and Nipissing Railroad on narrow guage came before the Railway Committee on Wednesday. After considerable discussion, the Committee adopted the narrow guage principle. Mr Cumberland, M.P.P., of the Northern Railway, the greatest opponent of the narrow guage principle, particularly as applied to the proposed railway from Toronto to Grey and Bruce, has withdrawn his opposition. He accepts the verdict of the public meeting lately held in the St. Lawrence Hall, which was in favour of the Toronto, Grey and Bruce Railway, an independent line on the light narrow principle, and against his scheme to supply railway service to Grey and Bruce by means of a branch of the Northern Railway on the bread guage. There was considerable opposition to the Nipissing Railway Bill in the Committee from those interested in the proposed line to Hamilton, but the Northern Railway opposition being withdrawn, no serious difficulty was experienced in adopting the bill. Mr Fox, an engineer, of the firm of Sir Charles Fox & Sons, London, England, explained to the Railway Committee in a very satisfactory manner the advantages of the light narrow guage railways.

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