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The Late Accident.

Port Hope, March 17.

The Mayor issued a proclamation yesterday, that all places of business should be closed from one till four o'clock to-day, during the funeral of the late Mr. Thomas Beacon. The attendance was immense and highly respectable. It is supposed there was from 1,000 to 1500 in attendance.

Toronto, March 17.

The late accident and its melancholy results is still the all absorbing topic. The history of the deceased individuals so far as known, receives attention, and each act of enterprise, charity and kindness is being brought into prominent light, while a broad mantle appears to have been cast over their failings and faults. The talk to-day especially reverted to Mr. Zimmerman and Capt Sutherland. It was said by a merchant, largely interested in the banking and railroad interests of the Province, that the loss of no ten men would be so severely felt by all classes as that of Mr. Zimmerman. No man could carry out his ideas. It was like the dropping of a thread in warp—his experience and energy eminently fitting him for the position which he occupied. The talk turned upon the funeral and it was observed with pleasure that those with whom the deceased had had some differences in public matters, took part in the proceeding, testifying their forgetfulness of the past, and their sorrow for present affliction.

In reference to the Bills of the Zimmerman Bank, it was stated that they would be taken at par at the banks formerly receiving them, also by the different private bankers. It was regretted that the impression had gone abroad that the bills were unredeemable.

The statement made in the House of Assembly yesterday, by Mr. Attorney General Macdonald that the Government, in addition to Mr. Richards, as Counsel on the part of the Crown, had sent up engineers from the Board of Works department to examine the condition of the bridge after the accident, was received, as it deserved to be, with applause. There is the strongest anxiety on the part of the public that the investigation shall be so conducted as to discover the real cause of the accident; and much indignation was excited by the intelligence that attempts had been made to burn up those portions of the bridge which would naturally form most material evidence as to the cause of the accident. Mr. Attorney General Macdonald further announced, in his statements yesterday, that it is the intention of the Government to bring in a measure to provide such supervision as will be calculated to prevent the recurrence of such calamities as that which the whole country now deplores. A precautionary measure of this kind will receive the hearty consent of all parties. Something might be learned from the admirable system of supervision with prevails in France and which renders railway accidents of such rare occurrence in that country. The details of that system, on which we cannot now enter, may be found in the files of La Presse for November or December 1856, which are doubtless preserved in the library of the Legislative Assembly. It seems to us that there may be required a government officer who shall be above the control of the railway companies and who shall have full power to do any thing that may be necessary to the safety of the public; such as the condemning of a defective bridge and stopping the running over it of the trains till it is put in proper condition. If, by some such means as this, we can prevent a recurrence of such accidents as that which occurred last week, we shall have erected a valuable safeguard for one of the most precious and the most prized of earthly things—human life.

From the Globe of Wednesday.

FUNERAL OF MR. HARKNESS.

The funeral of Mr Harkness, Quartermaster of the Rifles, took place yesterday afternoon. As the procession passed along King street, the stores were closed, and many citizens accompanied the body to the grave. The cortege was formed in the following order:—

Firing party of the Rifles thirty-two in number, four deep, with arms reversed.
Band of Rifles, playing sad and appropriate airs.
Negro band, lately under the tuition of Mr. Harkness.
Sergeant-Major Goodwins of the Artillery.
The
COFFIN,
with an escutcheon, and
the cap of the deceased, borne on
a gun carriage drawn by four horses; the
Officers of the Regiment attending
as pall-bearers.
Chief Mourners.
A large number of citizens.
Privates of the Rifles, two deep.
Baron De Rottenburgh,
Colonel Macdonald, Captain Ferris,
Captains Nickisson, Smith, and Brooke,
of the Militia.
Band of the Volunteer Rifles, No. 3.

The mournful strains of the band, the slow, measured tread of the men, added to the melancholy thoughts which are in every man's mind at the present time, produced a deep sensation as the procession moved along. The Necropolis was the selected place of interment, and the Rev. Dr. Barclay conducted appropriate services on the ground.

HOW THE ENGINEER DIED AT DESJARDINS.—The engineer (brave fellow) whistled "on brakes," and, while endeavoring to avert the catastrophe, went down with the engine. Instead of attempting to escape at the first warning, he stood until the moment when the engine was precipitated into the abyss, and was reversing the engine, endeavoring, if possible, to prevent the fatal result.—[Hamilton Spectator.

When the list account of heroes is made up, it will contain some other names than those of the soldiers we are wont to honor with the title. The engineer, who lies under the ice at Desjardins, the boy on the Central Road whose dead fingers were found clutching his brake, and hundreds of others nameless heroes on our railways, who meet death rather than desert duty are entitled to higher monuments than the stormers of Malakoffs and captors of Redans.—[Albany Evening Journal.

*** This is the right sentiment, and we are glad to see it thus distinctly declared by journals of the circulation and influence of our Albany contemporary. That is the truest courage, the moral heroism, which, without regard to consequences, performs a duty, *because it is a duty*, and needs no other incentive.

THE BRIDGES ON THE GREAT WESTERN RAILROAD.—The London (C. W.) Free Press, After commenting severely on the fragile nature of the bridge over the Desjardins Canal, the fall of which caused the late dreadful accident says:—"Scarcely any of the bridges are of that stable kind which the exigencies of the case demand. It was but a few weeks since that the bridge at Dorchester sunk four inches in one day, and a force of some hundred and fifty men were engaged during the whole of one Sunday in arresting its downward progress. Then, again, there is the bridge of Thamesville,—that was reported to be in falling state only a short time since; great anxiety resulted at head quarters and orders were issued for trains to go over slowly. The bridge at the Town, a little west of London, excites a shudder in the mind of the traveller, and others we could name are almost as bad." While such rumours are current nothing less than a searching Government enquiry will satisfy the public of the safety of the bridges on the Great Western Railway. The public safety demands that the enquiry should be made with the least possible delay.

PARLIAMENTARY ITEMS.

The new Bill regulating Statute Labor provides:—

I. It shall be lawful for any Municipal Council in Upper Canada, by any By-law passed for that purpose, to fix the rate at which parties may commute their Statute Labour at any sum not exceeding five shillings, for each day's labor, and the sum so fixed shall apply to residents, to all persons subject to Statute Labor, and to non-residents in respect to their property, as provided in the Assessment Act of 1853.

II. Anything in the Assessment or Municipal Acts of Upper Canada contrary to the provisions of this Act shall be and is hereby repealed.

The Decimal Currency Bill provides for the Public Accounts as follows:—

All accounts to be rendered to the Provincial Government, or to any public officer or department in this Province, by any officer or functionary, or by any party receiving aid from the Province, or otherwise accountable to the Government or Legislature thereof, shall be so rendered in dollars and cents; but any such account may have a second column containing sums in pounds, shillings and pence, equivalent to the sums so stated in dollars and cents, if the accountant shall prefer to render his account in that form.

Mr. Cayley's New Bank Bill provides:—

I. From and after the passing of this Act no Joint Bank shall be incorporated under the provisions of the Act passed in the Session held in the thirteenth and fourteenth years of Her Majesty's Reign, nor shall the Inspector General cause any Bank Notes to be struck or authorize any Clerk or Officer to number, register or countersign any Bank-Notes; but to Joint Stock Banks incorporated under the said Acts before the passing of this Act, and to Bank-Notes therefore registered and delivered under them the provisions of the said Act, shall continue to apply.

The Clergy Reserves Bill enacts as follows:—

I. It shall be lawful for the City, Town, Incorporated Village and Township Municipalities in Upper Canada respectively from time to time, to invest the portion of the Upper Canada Municipalities Fund which they have already received or hereafter shall receive, for the purposes of education, at any rate of interest that shall be agreed upon; and all contracts and securities taken by said Municipalities for such investment and for the payment of interest thereon at such rate, shall be legal and binding upon the parties, shall may be enforced in the names of such Municipalities respectively in Courts of Law and Equity in Upper Canada in the manner in which legal contracts may be enforced when made between individuals; And that all loans and investments already made by any such Municipality of money received from the said Fund, and the securities taken therefor, shall be and shall be held to have been from the time when the same were respectively made and taken, valid and binding upon the parties, and may be enforced as hereinbefore mentioned: Provided always that any such investment shall be made by loan to be secured by mortgage in fee upon real estate, or by the deposit of Government or Municipal Debentures, or the purchase of such securities.

II. Any Municipal Debenture given by any Municipality, notwithstanding the issue thereof may not have been preceded by a By-law or other formalities required by law.

Mr Mackenzie has brought in his annual bill to exempt certain goods from seizure and sale under writs of execution. The principal clause is as follows:

III. The following property shall be exempt from levy and sale, under any attachment or Execution, and such articles thereof, as are moveable, shall continue so exempt, while the family of such person or any of them may be removing from one place of residence to another:

1. All spinning wheels, weaving looms, and stoves, put up or kept up for use in any dwelling house, for domestic purposes;

2. The family bible, family portraits, and school books used by or in the family of such person; and books not exceeding in value dollars, which are kept and used as part of the family library, and all necessary wearing apparel;

3. A seat or pew occupied by such person or his family in any house or place of public worship;

4. One cow, two swine, and all necessary provisions and fuel, actually provided for family use, for any period not exceeding 60 days;

5. All necessary beds, bedsteads, and bedding for such person and his family, and necessary cooking utensils;

6. The tools and implements of any mechanic, necessary to the carrying on of his trade, not exceeding dollars in value.

2. In addition to the articles exempted from seizure and sale under attachment or execution as above mentioned, there shall be exempted from such seizure and sale necessary House hold furniture owned by any person being a householder, or having a family for which he provides, to the value of not exceeding dollars:

Provided always, that such exemption from attachment or execution as aforesaid of any furniture, tools or articles enumerated in this Section, shall not extend to any attachment or execution issued in any suit or action for the recovery of the purchase money of the same furniture, tools or articles or for the recovery of any money lent for the express purpose of purchasing any such furniture, tools or articles.

BILL TO ADMIT ATTORNEYS TO PRACTICE.

A bill has been introduced into the Upper House by Mr Boulton calculated to do away with much unnecessary legislation. Each Session a large number of applications are made by English and Irish Attorneys or Solicitors for special acts admitting them to practice in Upper Canada. Mr Boulton proposes to allow them to be admitted after examination by the Judges here without service under indentures, on the same footing as clerks after they have served their five years here.

A MAN AND WIFE BURNED.—We learn from the Montreal Gazette that, in the village of Buncombury, near Lachute, on the Ottawa, on the 15th instant, the house of Mr. James Hendrie was burned to the ground, and both Mr. and Mrs. Hendrie perished in the flames. Their daughter saved herself by jumping out of the window of her room, sixteen feet from the ground. The remains of the two bodies, reduced to a cinder, were found near each in the cellar. In their efforts to escape it is supposed they were suffocated. They were both exemplary Christians and Mr. Hendrie held the office of Secretary and Treasurer of the School Commissioners for a number of years, and was highly respected.

☞ NEWSPAPER GRATITUDE.—The Beacon Fire Company, (now the Times and Beacon) is peculiarly a Kingston Company; that is, its Head Canadian Office, and Canadian Board of Directors are located in Kingston. So far it should claim protection by the Kingston Press from the spite, envy and malice of others. The "News" is the paper hitherto almost exclusively patronized by the Beacon Company, from which it has received since its establishment here hundreds of pounds for Job Work alone. How has this newspaper shown its gratitude? Under the shape of a paid advertisement, it has published a letter from Mr. Whyddon, of Montreal, a former Agent of the Beacon Company, a Letter maligning that Company in its most vital parts, and damaging the character of Mr. Crocker, the Manager, as much as a tissue of falsehoods can damage any man's character. If the "News" be brought to its senses by an action of libel, who could blame the Company or Mr. Crocker?

Destroying Newspapers to Copy Advertisements.

This is an abominably bad custom, and should be abolished by the public and the press. Owing to the large number of Canadian newspapers, it is a work of infinite trouble carefully to scan their contents, and many an advertisement escapes the eye of the reader. It was but the other day that a Quebec Advertisement, ordered for the British Whig a month ago, caught the eye; and our contemporaries are not much more quick sighted. Besides, the present practice is very expensive to the advertiser, costing shillings instead of pence. The better way is to cut the advertisement out of the original newspaper, and enclose it in an envelope to the other newspapers, mentioning the number of insertions. This is what the Yankees do.

DROWNED.—Mr. John Coxwell, a farmer residing on Wolfe Island, in returning to his home from this city, on the evening of the 14th instant about nine o'clock, unfortunately drove into a large opening in the ice caused by the breaking in of two sleighs loaded with wood, the same day; there being no marks sufficiently distinct to warn him of the place of danger. The horse he drove was drowned also. The body of Mr. Coxwell was recovered the next day. The accident occurred within a gunshot of his own door. A wife and seven children, the oldest of whom is only fourteen years, survive to mourn his sudden death; and we regret to learn they are left in necessitous circumstances. The neighbors in the kindest manner have subscribed liberally for their relief.

ARRIVAL OF THE "ALPS."

Boston, March 20.

The steam propeller Alps from Liverpool March 4th, arrived here this morning. The news is important.

In the House of Commons, after a prolonged debate, the Ministry were defeated on Tuesday night, 3rd inst., on Mr Cobden's motion disapproving of the bombardment of Canton, having been carried by a majority of 16. The vote stood 263 against 247.

A treaty of peace had been signed at Paris between England and Persia.

The latest report from Canton asserts that the fire kindled by the bombardment had spread to the city, which was one sheet of flame when the overland mail left.

Breadstuffs quiet and lower.
Provisions more active.
Teas considerably advanced.

Sir J. L. Crampton, late Minister to the United States, has been appointed Minister to the King of Hanover.

The Paris journals say:—We learn by the latest news from China, under date of Dec 15, that the Court of Pekin has published a degree prohibiting all subjects of the Celestial Empire, from trading with the English. Disobedience is to be punished with death.

The Paris correspondent of the Morning Post writes on Monday evening:—The basis of a treaty between Persia and England are not signed. Hostilities have been suspended but there is no regular armistice. No representations have been, or will be, made at Teheran by the friendly Powers until the basis of the treaty are signed.

Hong Kong dates by the Oriental Mail are to January 15th. There appear to have been no further operations against Canton. Five hundred men were expected at Singapore.

The details of the massacre of Europeans on board the Mistitie are also communicated in these despatches. On January 12th the whole of the suburbs west of Canton were burnt by British forces. A large fire had also taken place inside the city. The Mandarins have issued decrees in various districts against the English, and have offered large rewards to those who may succeed in assassination.

HONG KONG.—The Chinese have been ordered to quit the service of foreigners and return to their homes, and so powerful is the Mandarin system that disobedience entails much trouble, if not positive destruction of the offender. The consequence is that nearly all the Chinese servants have left or are leaving.

PARIS 3rd.—The treaty with Persia was signed here to-day.

The Spanish Ministry has addressed a note to the representatives of Spain at the European Courts, explaining the quarrel with Mexico. The expedition to Cochin is at Havana with the consent of thirty vessels of war, with a numerous army on board. The Spanish Government deplores the necessity of resorting to such measures, being a measure aimed to Spain by blood, language and religion, and hopes everybody will understand the obligation it is under to avenge the national dignity.

A Hamburg letter of Saturday Feb. 28 says:—Merchants here have received private notes from Hong Kong and Singapore, by the Overland Mail, of a most alarming description. The bombardment and conflagration of Canton had excited the Chinese to a general movement against all Europeans, and the Chinese populace were beginning to show a courage quite unexpected, and from which danger is to be apprehended. The movement was not confined to them alone, but had become visible at Singapore.

The English and German residents of Singapore have been obliged to arm themselves against attacks in the streets from the intoxicated Chinese who were joined by the Malays.

Too thunderbolt for Orsini's stiletto! It has received advice from Hong Kong to 2 o'clock p. m. Jan. 15 by the steamer Malina. The fire produced in the city of Canton by the British bombardment had extended itself to Pekin, and the latter had become one sheet of flame.

A letter from Paris says that the Napoleon cheval affair is not improving, and from what we can learn all the pot-house politicians are in a very bad humor with each other.

The Emperor Napoleon cannot but feel mortified at being duped by the King of Prussia.

Liverpool March 4.

James McHenry & Co's Circular of March 3d says:—At this day's market there was fair attendance, but without any important transactions. Flour has a strong tendency downwards 31s has been accepted for Western, cost, brand, delivered to round lots, and 2s less for Western Canal.—Indian Corn is easier. Wheat, white Canada, 9 a 9s 3d; red western, 8s 3d.—Flour, Western canal, 32s a 33s; ship 31s a 32s. Indian Corn, yellow, 33 6d a 34s; mixed, 33s 3d a 33s 6d; white 35s a 36s.

Provisions.—American advices have given a means to holders of bacon, but buyers are reserved and but little business.

Salmon in the St. Lawrence.

WIGWAM, LAKE ERIE,
9th March, 1857.

Talaiak has read in the "News of the Week" under the above caption, a petition from the inhabitants of Montreal, saying that "in former times, (as says the preamble) the River St. Lawrence abounded in Salmon and Salmon trout in such numbers as to be within reach of most of the inhabitants of said city." (Talaiak wants to know when, and where?—the average length of arms and span of said inhabitants.) The petition objects, "1st From the use of Stake and Barrier Nets, &c., &c., the meshes of which being too small, take indiscriminately both large and small fish." (Presuming that these are Gill Nets, Talaiak would give a bit of wampum to know the exact dimensions of the meshes.) The petition further objects, "2nd And more particularly from the cruel and destructive practice of spearing the fish in their spawning beds, and during the spawning season, whereby millions are annually destroyed." Talaiak wonders when and where "salmon" or "salmon trout" are ever speared, or *when* they would otherwise come "within reach" of the Montreasers. Also, (if the petitioners are not counting their chickens before they are hatched,) how "*millions!!*" are annually destroyed in fisheries—"brought to almost total destruction." It goes further alleges, "3rd By torch-light fishing and the use of the Negog"—(Talaiak owns himself burst up on these technicalities.) The petition goes on to state, "that these cruel practices of fishing at all seasons have caused the almost total destruction of these fisheries." (Talaiak has doubts of the practice, and denies the conclusion.) The petitioners further "conceive,"—"That every facility should be given to enable the fish to ascend the rivers, wherein to deposit their spawn &c." (Talaiak suggests a toast as with a hook at the end) and wind up with charges against "certain lawless men from the United States illegally taking them;" (among other ways) with a "Fork!!!"

Now, Talaiak has heard his white brothers say the big house, of late is a fool, but never knew that a fool also, was obnoxious to the polite sales for fish, and esteems himself fortunate, as one of a class who always use their fingers.

Talaiak thinks in conclusion, that the devotees of Lower Canadians or lawless men from the United States" have not further prevented "these fish" from ascending Lake Ontario or the streams tributary thereto; and though an old fisherman, Talaiak has never heard of a dozen, (let alone millions) of "these fish" being caught in the St. Lawrence at all. What say the "Natural History Society of Montreal?" or Mr Billings, or Frank Forrester?

Talaiak's opinion is—1st, That salmon did come up the St. Lawrence annually, but on their ascent to the Lake, keep in the middle, where the current is deepest and strongest, out of "reach of the longest sum" and oldest inhabitant of Montreal."

2nd, That Salmon trout never come up; being a fish indigenous to the Upper Lakes. When they go down, they are pumped by in barrels, or at odd fish gets below by chance it is with as much resistance as Mr. McCormir would shoulder his carpet bag for the Seat of Government at Quebec.

3rd. Talaiak thinks the petition a humbug.

Salmon in the St. Lawrence.

The following petition to His Excellency the Governor General, the Legislative Council, and the Legislative Assembly of Canada is now awaiting signatures in the Exchange Montreal:—

The Petition of the Undersigned Inhabitants of Montreal.

HUMBLY SHEWETH:

That whereas in former times the River St. Lawrence and its tributaries abounded in Salmon and Salmon Trout, in such numbers as to be within reach of most of the inhabitants of the said city; and whereas, from the causes hereinafter named, the said fisheries have been brought to almost total destruction, viz:—

1st. From the use of Stake and Barrier Nets, the use of Nets the meshes of which being too small, take indiscriminately both large and small fish.

2nd. And more particularly from the cruel and destructive practice of spearing the fish in their spawning beds, and taking the spawning season, whereby millions are annually destroyed.

3rd. By torch light fishing and the use of the Negog.

4th. From the erection of dams across the Salmon Rivers (without slides or holes) whereby the fish are prevented from ascending the rivers to their spawning beds.

These and the cruel practices of fishing at all seasons, have been the causes which have led to the almost total destruction of the fisheries.

Your petitioners humbly conceive that every facility should be given to enable the fish to ascend the rivers wherein to deposit their spawn and heavy penalties should be enforced against all persons who may be found destroying them during the spawning season.

And whereas, during these last two years, certain lawless men from the United States have been illegally fishing within the waters of the St. Lawrence and capturing the fish while spawning, with net, spear, and fork,

Your petitioners respectfully pray that they are in duty bound to represent these matters to your Excellency and they humbly pray that your Excellency will enact such laws as to your wisdom you may consider necessary for the protection of the said Salmon and Salmon Trout Fisheries.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

THE SEAT OF GOVERNMENT.

The Address to the Queen has passed both Houses, and the choice of location of the Seat of Government has been transferred from the Provincial to the Home Government. No reasonable doubt exists but that the Colonial Secretary will accept the trust reposed in him and decide at once this long agitated Question. So far so good; the local merits of Kingston will now prominently be brought forward, and this city stands a fair chance of being the selected Seat.

But whether Kingston be ultimately successful or not, its inhabitants owe a deep debt of gratitude to their Member, the Hon. John A. Macdonald, for the able, the statesmanlike manner in which he managed the matter. He not only caused the practical rescinding of the vote in favor of Quebec, but he occasioned all future votes of the kind to be null and void. He has fought the preliminary battle in favor of the city, he represents, and nobly has he gained it. All honor therefore be to him. No matter whether Ottawa, Montreal, or even Toronto be the ultimate winner, to Mr Macdonald must be ascribed the merit of placing Kingston in its proper light before the Home Government. He has done his duty, now let the city do her's!

Attorney General McDonald's Speech on the Seat of Government Question.

Atty Gen. Macdonald replied at length. He said the Hon. member Mr. (Cameron) had expressed surprise that the Government had not entered into long by explanations in laying the resolutions before the House. They were prevented from doing it because there was a number of the House that the House should resolve itself into committee of the whole yesterday, for the purpose of considering the resolutions. He had acted strictly in accordance with Parliamentary usage when he had moved that the Speaker, in obedience to the order of the House, do leave the chair. In committee of the whole he should have entered into full explanation, and the resolutions could have been fully and freely debated, without the embarrassment of the strict rules of the House. His object had been to prevent unnecessary discussion, which would all be repeated in committee of the whole. It was the crying evil of all legislative bodies on this side of the Atlantic that they discussed every question over and over again at every stage, and discussed it ad nauseam. But the hon member found another cause of surprise in the fact that the government did not assume the responsibility of coming down with a resolution naming some place as the seat of government. The government might have been right or wrong in originally making this an open question, but it did not lie in the mouth of the member to throw that in the face of the government, because he had been a supporter of the government of Sir Allan McNab, who, it was well known made this an open question. Open questions were allowed to all governments of necessitate. He had heard to-night, for the first time, that his friend was a convert to the doctrine of responsible government. The convert was rather late, but "better late than never." But there were men to this country and in England to whom the privileges and liberties of the subject might be as safely entrusted as the member. When the late Sir William Molesworth joined the Aberdeen administration, he did it with the express stipulation that the question of the ballot should be an open question, and session after session he voted for and supported with all the might of his great ability and the power of his intellect the annual motion of Mr. Grote; differing from Lord Aberdeen and Lord John Russel he felt that an open question and the House of Commons did not think that he was thereby deserting the liberties of the subject or sacrificing the privileges of the people. But the junior member for Toronto was not a convert only to the doctrines of responsible government. The number stated, perhaps under certain circumstances, he had always been in favor of the alternate system. Now only last session the member voted for the amendment of Mr. Powell declaring that it was expedient that the seat of government should be permanently placed in Upper Canada. (Hear, hear.) He had been converted, therefore, upon this question also. The member for Toronto and the member for Laprairie seemed to have some difficulty in reconciling to their minds the amendment of the member for Portneuf (Mr. Thibaudeau.) They had not counted the cost of those votes. They thought they had counted heads and could succeed in overthrowing the Ministry, but when they found that instead of the majority of four which they expected, there was a majority of twenty-five against them, and three to one in Upper Canada, they began to think they had been sold without getting the pay.—(Hear, hear.) But the member for Toronto said that he was obliged to vote for Mr. Thibaudeau's amendment because he could not vote to ask Her Majesty to settle this question on the ground that we could not agree amongst ourselves when we did agree amongst ourselves last session. Now, surely the gentleman could not have read the amendment; the amendment said nothing about sending the question home; the amendment said we should not discuss it itself during the present session. (Hear hear from the Opposition.) If the member would not allow the question to be referred to the Queen and would not let it be discussed here, how in the world was it to be settled? (Hear, hear.) The member knew he question could not be settled here, but he wanted to turn out the present government. He warned his friends from Quebec who had been using them members opposite upon this question that they might find their tools would become their masters. The gentleman then went on to say if the House had gone into committee he should have explained the object the government had in introducing these three resolutions—not that they required much explanation because they were so plain that "he who runs may read," but in order that no member may affect to misunderstand them. It is impossible for any Government or Legislature in this country to settle this question. It was true that the removal of the seat of government from Kingston to Montreal was the act of the Government, but that was not analogous to this. That was not a question where the seat of government should be; the members supported Kingston and all the Lower Canada members were for Montreal; but the moment that became a question for the consideration of the Legislatures, the apple of discord was thrown amongst them. When this question was first brought forward, it was introduced by Mr. Sherwood, a member of the opposition, and although there was at that time one of the strongest governments ever known in Canada—the government of Messrs. Baldwin and Lafontaine, two of the strongest statesmen of the country—yet still we found the members of that government voting against each other upon this question. Surely they might trust Mr. Baldwin, the father of responsible government, as safely in reference to this matter as the member for Toronto. The alternate system was carried against the vote of Mr. Lafontaine, Mr. Baldwin, with all the Quebec and most of the Upper Canada members voting for it. That government had the strongest following that any government ever had in Canada, and yet they did not venture to come down and fix upon any one place as the seat of government. If any government could have done so that one could, because they were certain of the support of two great sections, but still they could not make it a government question. Every man of candor must admit that the stronger a government was in Canada for general purposes the less was it able to deal with questions of this kind; for the strength of a government consisted of its having supporters from every section of the country. If proof were wanted of the impossibility of settling this question, it would be found in the votes of last session. Hamilton, Toronto, Kingston—every place that was named was voted down except Quebec and that was only carried by a Parliamentary manoeuvre which could not have been repeated. They had been told by the member from Toronto that the Government had been guilty of a breach of the principle of responsible government. According to his (Mr. McD's) understanding of that principle, it was that the advisers of the Crown in this Country must have the confidence of a majority of the House, and that any administration which had not that confidence must give way to others. When the Government came down with these resolutions and laid them on the table, they took the responsibility of recommending to the House the course proposed in those resolutions. If the House thought the Government were wrong in introducing the resolutions and that they had forfeited the confidence of the people of Canada, let them say so and the usual consequences would follow. This was the only way in which the question could be settled. The fault was not with the Government, but with the sectionalism of the Legislature. By pursuing the proposed course the matter would be referred to a disinterested arbiter, one anxious only for the promotion of the interests of every section of the Country. Every locality would have a full opportunity of laying its claims at the foot of the throne. He assured the House that there had not been and would not be the most distant communication with the Home Government upon the question of where the Seat of Government should be, either by the Government as a Government or by any member of it.—He pledged himself that neither he nor either of his colleagues had any communication direct or indirect with the Imperial Government, with the Colonial Office, with Mr. Labouchere or with any other power, potentate or individual, that could possibly sway Her Majesty or the Colonial Office in the division of this question, and that course would be carried out. He stated further that no member of the Government had offered any advice to His Excellency in the matter and their advice had never been sought. It had been stated in the press and intimated in this House that Mr. Draper was acting as the agent of the Government in the matter. No communication had ever been made to Mr. Draper on the subject; the question had never been submitted to his consideration, and for the best of all reasons that the government had taken no action in it until Mr. Draper had left this country. The probability was that Mr. Draper would be back and performing his duties on the bench before the question would be submitted to the Imperial Government. At the commencement of the session, the government called their supporters together and submitted those resolutions to them; they were unanimously approved of by their Upper Canada supporters, and, though not unanimously, by a large portion of those from Lower Canada. Being thus satisfied that a majority of those who recorded them confidence approved of the scheme, the government brought down the resolutions and were prepared to stand by them. The hon. member for Toronto had asked how they knew that the Queen would settle this question. They had the assurance that whenever the Legislature of Canada had asked anything of Her Most Gracious Majesty she had always granted it. (Hear, hear.) But it had been asked how, if they invoked interference in this case, they could refuse the Queen if she came and asked anything. He thought they would wait long before Her Majesty sought to interfere with our local affairs, without our consent. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Wilson had expected that the Attorney General would have replied to the able speech of the hon member for Toronto, like a statesman; but he had done it like a low pettifogging attorney. (Hisses and shouts of "Order.") He repeated the expression. The hon. member then defended Mr. Cameron from the charge of inconsistency, alleging that Mr. C. had only voted in favor of fixing the seat of Government in Upper Canada, after the House had determined that there should be a permanent seat of government. The hon. gentleman went on to say that they had a new exposition of responsible government. They had been told that all governments had open questions. That might be true as to questions of policy, but it could not be so to every substance of the government, that could never be an open question which subverted the very principle on which the government was carried on. Responsible government was conceded to us on the ground that we were capable of self-government, and there could be no question more purely local than this. They were told that no Government should settle this question. He said that there ought to be a government that could do it. We were placing ourselves in a humiliating position, by admitting our inability to settle a matter of this nature. He held that the government was bound to grapple with this question. He hoped there was parliamentary courage to do so when a majority of it was impossible, then it was impossible to carry out responsible government, because an act of this kind would sap the very foundations of the system. The passage of these resolutions would be a blot upon our history as a young and growing country.

The Times and Beacon Insurance Company.

The apathy with which the Kingston Press regards the shameful attacks of Messrs. Whyddon and Moyle upon the actual vitality of the Times and Beacon Insurance Company, would in the minds of many at a distance beget the suspicion that there was something wrong—something Bogus in the matter. And yet how utterly void such a suspicion would be of fact whereon to found it. To say nothing of the London Board, look at the Canada Board of Directors:—

DIRECTORS, &C., IN CANADA,
KINGSTON,
TRUSTEES.
The Hon. John A. Macdonald, Her Majesty's Attorney General.
James Morton, Esq., Kingston.
DIRECTORS.
Chairman—MAXWELL WILLIAM STRANGE, Esq.
Vice-Chairman—THOMAS A. COLBETT, High Sheriff of the United Counties of F. L. and A.
James Morton, Esq. | A. J. Macdonell Esq.
John Mowatt, Esq. | James Hatry, Esq.
AUDITORS.
William Bowen, Esq., Kingston.
James Thomson, Esq., Commercial Bank.
Standing Counsel—A. J. Macdonell, Esq.
Bankers—The Commercial Bank, Kingston.
Medical Officer—G. Sangster, Esq., M.D.
Secretary—John V. Noel, Esq.
TORONTO,
DIRECTORS.
The Honorable John A. Macdonald, Attorney General.
G.W. Allan, Esq. | Thomas Clarkson, Esq.
Local Manager—Angus D. Macdonald, Esq.
MONTREAL
DIRECTORS
William Molson, Esq. | Damase Masson, Esq.
Thomas Evans, Esq.
Standing Counsel—J.J.C. Abbott, Esq.
Local Manager—C.C. Abbott, Esq.
QUEBEC
DIRECTORS
The Hon. J.M. Fraser, Henry Burstall, Esq.
Local Manager—Richard Pentston, Esq.
BELLEVILLE
Local Director—Lewis Wallbridge, Esq.
Agent—Robert Newberry, Esq.

Is there one man here, who is not only a man of wealth, but also of honor? Are these the men to be guilty of countenancing acts of fraud or secretion?

The Montreal Press acts more liberally than that of Kingston. It defends the Company from the attacks of its bare-faced enemies. Read what the Montreal Commercial Advertiser of the 16th instant says:—

We do not think that the late Agent of the Athenæum Insurance Company, and present representative of the Anchor, has gained any laurels in the contest he provoked. In Mr. Crocker's last reply, Mr Whyddon was accused of having when ceasing to be agent for the Beacon, kept back the monies of that Company remaining in his hands, and of having pursued the same course as regards the Athenæum. To these damaging charges, Mr. Whyddon replies in a communication to the Gazette of over a column and a half. The substance of the defence, if defence that can be called which is an admission, lies in a nutshell.

Mr. Whyddon became Agent to the Beacon, on a commission of ten per cent upon premiums received by him. Such amount of premiums up to his resignation of the agency was £1895, and his percentage thereon, £189 10s 0d. He admits that he retains as salary £354 3s 4d; and justifies this by alleging some understanding with the General Agent of the Company here, that his first year's salary was guaranteed £250, for which he shows nothing but extracts from letters, which, when read in connection with the context, will probably bear a very different meaning. The facts we have to deal with are his own admission, that he was engaged at 10 per cent for the first year and 9½ for those following, and he has paid himself without authority double the amount he was entitled to, and even attempted to take more, but was advised from it by his legal counsel.

As regards the Athenæum he acknowledges that he took that agency upon condition of receiving ten per cent on all premiums, and five per cent on stock sold, one fourth of the net profits of the Montreal Agency, and ½ of those of other Agencies in Canada East, to be adjusted every five years. The amount of premiums received was £1683, the percentage on which is £168; but according to his own showing he has kept back £923 upon the plea of compensation. On the 31st of August he debits himself with premiums received £1255 18s 8d, and takes credit for £125 13s 7d as the full amount due to him by the Company at that date. For the following three months upon a receipt of premiums to the amount of £428, he charges the modest sum of about £340, when he was actually entitled to the odd £40 only.

Mr Whyddon appears never to have tasted of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil; he tells this damaging tale of himself with a degree of simplicity which proves that he cannot distinguish wrong from right, showing in fact he is not an accountable being, from lack of moral perception.

If such conduct as Mr Whyddon admits he has been guilty of were allowed, any agent or clerk might, upon giving up his situation or being discharged, appropriate the whole funds of his employer entrusted to his care on this novel plea of compensation. It is quite clear that he had no right to return any larger per centage for the last three months of his engagement, that he was entitled to for those preceding them. If he had any claims for damages upon losing the agency that was a question for the courts, no man has a right to give a verdict in his own favor, and assess the amount of it, without the intervention of Judge and Jury.

We say then that whatever may be the precise amount due by Mr Whyddon to the Beacon and Athenæum Companies, there is no doubt upon his own showing that he is largely indebted to them for money unlawfully retained by him.

With regard to the losses due by those Companies we believe that they intend to act honorably, and that every dollar will be paid as soon as the Court declares to whom the money to Mr. Wryddon's hands belongs.

SEAT OF GOVERNMENT.

Toronto, March 2.

First in order came that of Mr. Lorangeer, which, in amendment to Mr. Dorion's, affirmed the expediency of selecting Montreal as the permanent Seat of Government. This was negatived by the following majority:—Yeas, 38; Nays, 75.

Following this was Mr. Dorion's motion, which, affirming as it did, the power and capacity of the Provincial Legislature to deal with all motions of purely local concern, was, as we predicted, well sustained. But still, so strongly runs the feeling of Parliament in favor of a final disposition of the question at issue, that even so popular a motion as this was voted down by the following decided majority:—Yeas, 43; Nays, 62.

Thus, then, upon the main question, whether it is expedient to refer the matter of selecting a permanent capital to England, the voice of Parliament has directly with the Ministry, that there is no longer room to doubt the wisdom of their policy, nor to cavil at the alleged infringement of the conceded right of local self-government.

Succeeding the motion of Mr. Dorion was a foolish and ill timed amendment by Mr. Patrick, asserting the claims of the young City of Ottawa. This unfortunate motion was discountenanced—as Mr. Powell and other Ottawa members predicted it would be, by the following disheartening majority:—Yeas, 10; Nays, 101.

So much for Ottawa, which so far as its geographical position is concerned, we are free to admit has claims inferior to few places in the Province—and which but for Mr Patrick's ill-advised motion might have been represented at the foot of the Throne at least as well as any other city, yet naturally enough connected with the seat of Government.

Succeeding Mr. Patrick's motion was one by Mr Masson, in favor of Quebec, to which an amendment was moved by Mr. Alleyn, and lost on the following division:—Yeas, 14; Nays, 79.

Following this was Mr Cameron's motion, affirming the expediency of continuing the perambulating system, which was negatived as follows:—Yeas, 33; Nays, 80.

Then followed by Mr. Felton, declaring in favor of Kingston, which gave for that city the subjoined vote:—Yeas, 27; Nays, 84.

The chances of Toronto were measured by a motion of Dr. Clarkes, which fell through by a vote as follows:—Yeas 30; Nays, 81.

Mr. Macdonald's motion, in favor of Quebec, was then put with the following result:—Yeas, 14; Nays, 100.

This concluded the long list of amendments of the Attorney General's resolutions to go into Committee. The Opposition having expended their fire gave in, shortly before 8 o'clock this morning.

The Report of the Committee will be brought up again for discussion on Tuesday night, when amendments in various shapes will doubtless be proposed. But as the government had already carried their main proposition for a reference of the question to England by a majority of 10, there is little room to entertain a doubt of their complete triumph in the House of Assembly—so that the expected ministerial crisis may be said to be past.

Parliamentary Items.

Mr. Cameron's Adultery and Seduction Bill enacts as follows:—

I. From and after the passing of this Act, no action at law shall be presented or brought, nor shall any damages be recoverable for any criminal intercourse or connection with, or an seduction of, any married or unmarried female.

II. Criminal intercourse or connection with any married woman with her consent shall be and is hereby declared to be a misdemeanor, and the persons having such criminal intercourse or connection together shall, on conviction before any Court of Oyer and Terminer and General Gaol Delivery, which shall alone have jurisdiction over such offence, be liable to imprisonment in any common gaol or prison in the County or Union of Counties where such offence was committed or is tried, with or without hard labor, for any period not less than one year, nor more than three years, and to fine in the disc