FRIDAY MORNING, FEB. 21, 1868.

THE WEEKLY BRITISH WHIG.

VOL. XXXVII. KINGSTON, CANADA, THURSDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 27, 1868. NOS. 49 & 9.

Legislature of Ontario.

Tuesday, Feb. 18.

Mr. Lauder presented the report of the special committee appointed to enquire into the cause of the closing of the Toronto Hospital. The report stated that the management of the hospital had been defective, that the Board of Trustees for many years had been incapable of grappling with the difficulties under which they laboured, and that unless the institution were taken possession of and relieved by the government, it would be sold by those who held claims against it. The committee recommended that a more efficient Board of Trustees should be appointed, and that the internal management of the institution should be changed.

The report was referred to the printing committee.

Mr. Sexton introduced a bill to amend the act relative to joint stock companies.

THE SUPPLY.

Mr. Wood then rose for the purpose of moving the House into committee of supply, and in doing so he said it was customary for finance ministers to make a financial statement on such occasions, he would detain the House for a short time. In their exordium on such occasions, when taxes were about to be levied, it was usual for finance ministers to assert that all that their predecessors had done was wrong, and that as they were about to do what was right, a large surplus would be the result if their recommendations were adopted. For his own part he would not pursue such a course, as it was not the intention of the government to impose any taxes, as they were, so far as they were at present able to judge, necessary to meet the current expenses of the country. With these few remarks he would proceed to refer to the estimated revenue, a report of which was in the hands of members. The first item which he would refer to was the one-year's subsidy of $1,196,972.80 received from the Dominion Government—one half of which was payable on the first of January and the other half on the first of July. The next item was the revenue derivable from the Crown Lands, of $745,064, and in making that statement he might as well say that he had been guided by the receipts of last year. Although he had calculated that they receive that large sum from the Crown Lands yet certain special funds, such as the common school and Grammar school funds, and suspense accounts would have to be taken therefrom, leaving a balance of $413,447 as the estimated revenue from the crown lands for the year. The other items in the estimates were education $26,010; Provincial Lunatic Asylum, $4,500; Malden Asylum, $600; Orillia Asylum, $200; Reformatory, Penetanguishene, $800; fines and forfeitures, $2,770; tavern and other licenses, $20,250. He did not expect to derive any revenue from the sale of law stamps, because although the sum of $15,000 had been set down to that item yet it was little more than what would be required to pay the interest on the debt of the Law Society. These items, as shown in the printed report, amounted to $1,853,638.91. In making this estimate of the probable revenue of the country he might be allowed to state that he had given the question the most mature consideration, and he was satisfied that it would be found upon deducting the expenses of the year there would be a surplus at the end of December, of fully half a million of dollars. (Hear, hear.) Indeed he might say further that the statement was the most unfavorable that could be made of the financial condition of the country. In calculating the revenue he had omitted several items of special funds, which, on the settlement of affairs between the provinces of Ontario and Quebec, would become a source of revenue, and he had also omitted to take into account other items which undoubtedly belonged to the Province of Ontario, though they were still in the hands of the Dominion government. He might, for instance, mention the municipalities' fund, and a few others, but even if they were in the possession of the government he would not count upon any revenue from them. There were also special funds belonging to us, from which large sums were derived, though the government had not yet obtained possession of them. Of these the common school fund returned the handsome sum last year of $1,762,037, and had he felt inclined to do so he might have added that large sum to our revenue. Then again the grammar school fund returned last year the sum of $363,063 93 to the credit of the Province, and this sum had not been included in the estimates. The Upper Canada building fund was peculiarly an Upper Canada affair, and certainly belonged to this Province; yet he had decided not to add the receipts therefrom, which amounted last year to $159,033 96, and against which sum there was a debt of only $36,000. Taking these items into consideration, viz: the common school fund, $1,762,067; grammar school, $863,063 93; Upper Canada Building Fund, $1,590,035 96, a total of $3,715,594 89 was obtained. Therefore, deducting from the total amount the sum of $36,000 as the debt against the Upper Canada Building Fund, he had the sum of $3,679,235 belonging to the Province, and which had not been included in the estimates. (Hear.) If that sum were to be capitalized and interest drawn therefrom at the rate of six per cent. they would have a yearly income from this source of $220,754 10. Other sources of revenue not included might be mentioned, amongst which were the special Crown Land funds, which amounted to a very handsome sum. Taking all these items into consideration it would be found that our total revenue would amount to $2,194,141 90. (Hear, hear.) Having gone over the revenue, as briefly as he could have done, considering its importance, he would briefly refer to the expenditure. The ordinary expenses of the government as given in the printed report in the hands of members, amounted to $1,293,837 42, and which was made up as follows:—

Civil Government	$174,683 29
Legislation (two sessions)	91,550 00
Administration of Justice	206,580 26
Public Works	224,972 00
Agriculture	66,450 00
Miscellaneous	12,000 00
Hospitals and Charities	169,488 50
Reformatory, Penetanguishene	23,013 37
Literary and Scientific Institutions	3,600 00
Education	301,500 00
Unprovided expenses	26,000 00
Total	$1,293,837 42

In addition to these items, it was but right to say, there were sundry others not included in the printed estimates. At the same time, however, it should be remembered that in the above estimates were several items which were not of a permanent character, but were occasioned by the singularity of the present position of the province. Taking everything into consideration, as far as he was able to judge under existing circumstances, he believed the annual expenditure would amount to about $1,026,750. The estimated revenue being $2,194,141, this would leave a surplus of $1,167,391, which was a most favorable exhibit, and one which he believed the future would prove to be correct. (Hear, hear.) It was his opinion that this surplus would not have to be touched, as the special funds would be amply sufficient to pay our portion of the Dominion debt. Some of the items contained in statements Nos. 2 and 5, relative to the payments made by the Provincial Treasurer on account of the Province of Ontario during the six months ending 31st December, 1867, and by the Dominion of Canada on account of the Province of Ontario during the same period, might be considered as extraordinary expenses, which would not have to be provided for in subsequent years, and which amounted to nearly $100,000. With regard to the item in statement number five, it was the intention of the government to enter into a very strict account with the Dominion Government. The hon. gentleman then proceeded to remind the House that when the government of which he was a member accepted office everything connected with the department was new—the Province being in a transition state, and they had consequently no precedents, and which state of affairs, in his opinion, tended in a great measure to increase the expenditure. It should be remarked that as the estimates were to a certain extent an experiment, they had in fact been made larger than the amount that he believed would be required to carry on the government. (Hear, hear.) Vouchers would be kept for all sums expended, and they would be open for the inspection of any party that desired to examine them, and any unexpended estimates would lapse at the end of the year into the Consolidated Revenue Fund, and no payments would be made without an order in Council and a warrant to that effect. It would be observed that the first item was for the payment of the salary of a private secretary in the Lieutenant-Governor's office ($800), and if the House chose it could vote the difference between it and the allowance for a similar service at Ottawa. The expenditure of the Executive Council and the Attorney-General's offices had also been regulated with a due regard to economy; and the same remark would apply to the treasurer's office—the appropriation for which placed at $7,218 29. He might here inform the House that the government had determined that the accounts should be kept to the close of the natural year, instead of the end of July as had heretofore been the case.—This he believed would be an improvement over the old system. Equal care had also been observed in making an appropriation for the secretary and registrars office. The item of $111,970 might appear large for the Crown-Lands Department, but he thought it would compare favorably with the same item in the public accounts for the Province of Canada for the year 1866 and 1867. The staff in that department was a large one. The contingencies for all departments were placed at $25,000. In Ottawa, he might remark, the plan of making a separate appropriation for each department was pursued but this government had employed Mr. Hartney (son of Mr. Hartney of Ottawa) a gentleman in every way competent to take charge of the stationery and printing, and he had complete supervision over the department, and in order that haste and extravagance might be prevented no deputy heads of departments would be allowed to incur expenses without the authority of his superior, who would be held responsible for his acts. (Hear.) In the estimates for legislative elections which might occur had been provided for. With regard to the administration of justice it would be seen that an appropriation of $3,000 had been made for the Master in Chancery, but his attention having been called to the item he had looked upon the statute regulating the salary of that officer and had found that his salary had been fixed at $2,000, but subsequently fifteen per cent had been added to that amount, so that he was now entitled to $2,240 per annum. Of course if the House so directed that amount only would be paid him, and the remainder could lapse into the general fund. The judges of the superior and county courts were not paid by the province, but other officers of the court were. The sum of $51,924 had been put down under the head of public works and buildings as the total amount expended in fitting up the parliament buildings. In addition to this sum, however, $15,000 would be required for raising chimneys, joiners' work, shelving, fuel, gas, &c.—The sum of $50,000 was asked for the rebuilding and furnishing of the Government House, which work would be proceeded with during the coming summer, and $75,000 had been set down for completing the additions to the lunatic asylum at Toronto. The sum of $50,000 had been set down for colonization roads, but the government was not yet in a position to say where the improvements would be made, as they would have to be guided in this work by the course of emigration. The sum of $66,450, set down for agriculture were somewhat larger than the sum granted in previous years, but this had been caused by the increased number of new electoral division societies that required grants. The grant of $2,000 which had been previously placed to the credit of the board of arts in Toronto had been done away with, and the money had been applied to the encouragement of Mechanics' Institutes. It was the intention of the Minister of Agriculture to associate with him Professor Buckland, who would go through the country forming classes and and delivering lectures on agricultural subjects. The sum of $4,000 had been put down for printing the Ontario Gazette, tho' it was expected that it would not only pay its own expenses but would be a source of revenue. No changes had been made in the grants previously given to hospitals and charities, and it was his desire to assist these institutions as much as possible; The usual appropriation had been made for common schools. The item of unforseen expenses had been inserted so as to provide for the settlement of accounts between Ontario and Quebec in case the award should be against Ontario. With regard to the maintenance of public asylums, he saw no way of decreasing the expenditure, as they were institutions that could not be done without, and the expenses of maintaining the patients from $140 to $150 each per annum. In conclusion, he had merely to say that the accounts would be kept in such a manner that the vouchers would be at all times open for inspection. He then moved that the House should go into committee of supply.

Mr. Blake congratulated the treasurer upon the very able statement that he had just made to the House, and trusted that his golden predictions would be fully realized. After referring to some matters in connection with the public debt and the improbility of the revenue accruing from the Crown lands being permanent, he said that while he agreed with the government that the province should have an official Gazette of its own, yet he did not agree with them that it should be a source of revenue. He thought that the charges for advertising should be placed at the lowest possible rate that would pay the expenses of publishing. He also spoke of the importance of giving a handsome sum to a law clerk in order that the best talent might be procured.

Mr. Macdonald felt very much pleased at the compliments paid his Government by the gentlemen from South Bruce, and especially so when such expressions came from gentlemen who were continually watching the actions of the gentlemen on the treasury benches. With regard to the office of the Law Clerk, he said that two gentlemen had been applied to accept the position, but that they had declined. Then it was found necessary to engage the services of Mr. Keele who had come from Ottawa on condition that he should accept such a salary as he (the Premier) believed he was entitled to, and that as the session was likely to last only a couple of months he thought $400 were quite enough and that the gentleman had no reason to complain. The duties of the law clerk would be confined to assisting the government in preparing public bills and in correcting private bills if necessary after they had passed through the hands of the committees. Having referred to the arbitration between the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, he said it was useless to speculate as to the amount of the award. He then touched briefly upon the value of the crown lands and the minerals of the country, and proceeded to explain that the Ontario Gazette would be printed with a due regard to economy, and also for the purpose of making it a small source of revenue, but no unreasonable charges would be made for advertisements that would be inserted in it. He also stated that it would be given to some party who would contract for printing it, and that it would not be connected in any way with a newspaper. He believed that the country would save a good deal by the changes which had been proposed and that at the end of the year the House would have good reason to say that the policy of the government in every respect had been a wise one.

The motion was then carried, the Speaker left the chair, and the House went into committee of the whole.

A few of the items were then adopted.

After recess;

Mr. Richards said that in his department the items put down were very much less than heretofore.

Mr. Blake wanted explanation as to the indemnity for members.

Mr. Macdonald did not hesitate to give them explanations. The sum of $5 a day he thought was quite sufficient to defray their expenses in Toronto. He was against a personal allowance, and the farmers in the country would think $5 a day a reasonable sum as did the government.

Mr. Blake believed the per diem system was right, and he only found fault that instead of putting it in the estimates he did not come down with a law to regulate it.

Mr. Swinarton thought little good had yet been done for the country and four dollars a day would not pay members for lingering as they were. Members got five dollars a-day for doing nothing—that was the legislation that he had experienced.

Mr. Ferguson said that ten cents per mile was the usual amount granted to members to travel on. He objected to the reduction to five cents. He would think it an insult to go across the railway free. He objected to the return being made of what a member's travelling expenses were, and he hoped it would not be carried. The estimates, having the good will of the opposition was one of the best things that ever happened for Canada.

Mr. Lauder believed the explanations of the government were satisfactory. There could be no objection to the charges for mileage.

Mr. Blake called attention to the miserable salary paid the county clerks under the item of administration of justice.

Mr. Macdonald combated the motion. He was certain that many of these gentlemen did not act as they ought to do, and made a great deal of money out of matters which they ought not to deal with.

The salaries of five Recorders of cities ($5,000) was struck out, and the item of $17,126 for miscellaneous justice was granted.

On the item of $224,972 for public works and buildings there was considerable discussion. The Commissioner of Public Works explained how the expense had been incurred, and the Premier also gave explanations.

On the item of $50,000 for colonization roads, Mr. Lauder hoped the Commissioner of Crown Lands would investigate the subject and see if any return is collected for the amount of money laid out. These roads should be short ones, and built in rear of old settlements. Then they would increase and gradually free themselves, while there would be no equivalent otherwise given for this large amount of money the Province had to expend.

Mr. Richards said $60,000 or $70,000 had been already diverted by the Province of Canada for the construction of roads in Canada west. The sum should be assumed by the Dominion government. Great care would be taken to make the roads where there was a chance of settlement, and the money would be expended in opening up such portions of the country.

The item for agriculture, $66,450, was put and carried. The subject of agriculture and the estimates for it was not brought on. The amount asked by government was $66,450, and this included electoral divisions of 86 societies, Fruit Growers' Association and the Agricultural Association.

The item for hospitals and charities was put down at $169,488 50 and was moved by Mr. Lauder. The aid to the Toronto hospital was put down at $6,400, and both Mr. Lauder and the Attorney-General spoke strongly in behalf of the grant. Mr. Cumberland also spoke more favorably regarding the grant, and even Mr. Rykert spoke strongly in favor of the aid being granted.

Mr. Lauder said the passing of the item would have the effect of again opening the Institution. It ought to be opened for it was one of the most efficient and charitable of any in the city. The government was right in taking action upon the subject.

The other items were passed, but in that of Education "Salaries and contingencies of the Department $14,700,000," Mr Blake excepted to it.

Mr. Wood stated the government would look into the matter, which he believed was rather in excess of what should be put down.

The item for education of $301,500 00, and to meet unforseen and unprovided expenses $20,000 was objected to by Mr. Blake.

The Premier stated that a thorough examination to all the payments made under the authority of the government must be investigated, and he was sorry to say that they had not yet been able to get at the bottom of the Superintendent of Education's account. It would be looked into, however, and the large amounts now set down to the Superintendent would probably be very much reduced.

The Committee rose, reported progress and asked leave to sit again to-morrow.

At 11:40 the House adjourned.

Another Provencher Poisoning Case.

A MAN SAID TO HAVE BEEN POISONED WITH STRYCHNINE BY HIS WIFE AND HER PARAMOUR.

St. Hyacinthe exchanges contain a report of what appears to be another Provencher poisoning case. Le Courier says:—For the last two days the St. Hyacinthe jail has contained the supposed author of a murder by poison similar in its general details to the Provencher-Boisclair case. Joseph Ruel, the prisoner implicated, is accused of causing the death of Toussaint Boulet, farmer, L'Ange Gardien, by administering poison. It appears that Ruel had illicit relations for more than a year past with Arzelie Messier, Boulet's wife. In November, 1866, Ruel became a widower, and shortly afterwards proceeded to board at Boulet's. Several months ago Boulet became ill, with a slow disease, the character of which has not been defined, but which Ruel, alleging that he had some medical experience, undertook to treat. He purchased the medicines at a doctor's in L'Ange Gardien, and personally administered them to Boulet, who took them without the slightest hesitation. At the same time Ruel was in the habit of purchasing poison from Dr. Guertin, of St. Cesaire, for the purpose as he said of killing foxes. All the witnesses nevertheless agree that the prisoner never trapped foxes, which besides are very scarce in that locality. On the 6th instant Ruel again went to Dr. Guertin, and asked him for a still more powerful poison than he had been in the habit of getting. Dr. Guertin replied that he had none, and gave him an order on Dr. Duvert, Apothecary at St. Hyacinthe, who delivered the strychnine and arsenic mentioned in the order. On Tuesday night Boulet was in pretty good health, and played cards until midnight. Next morning, Wednesday, the 12th inst., at about half-past seven, Ruel, assisted by O. Messier, sister-in-law of the deceased, administered a dose of medicine to Boulet and then left for the woods. In ten minutes or so Boulet vomited, and was then seized with horrible convulsions which lasted until he died, at Several minutes after Boulet's death Ruel came back to the house, and received the announcement with a good deal of sang froid, expressing surprise at its suddenness. He afterwards took the necessary steps to have the deceased interred, and immediately proceeded to Dr. Guertin who was absent at the time, in order to hand him the vials of poison purchased at Dr. Duverts.

Suspicion somehow immediately arose, and Coroner Blanchard proceeded to hold an inquest, the result of which was that Ruel was arrested on Saturday and committed for trial at the Court of Queen's Bench, in May next.

The post mortem was held by Dr. Jacques, of St. Hyacinthe, and Dr. Poulin, of Ste. Marie. The bowels were carefully placed in vases, and sealed up by the Coroner.

Ruel appeared to be agitated during the inquest, but was quite self-possessed in his cell. His intellect is said to be weak. He has enjoyed, generally speaking, a pretty fair character, but his neighbours, nevertheless, are not surprised at the gravity of the accusation now brought against him. He belongs to a respectable family, and it is said that his father, who is still alive, is 100 years old.

Boulet's wife was to have been arrested.

THE PAPAL ZOUAVES.—The Canadian Papal Zouaves are en route for Rome. They will be joined by the Prince Iturbide, the adopted son of Maximilian. The N. Y. Herald compares this to the Crusades, and chaffs Canada a little on its devotion. It says in conclusion:—

"We wish the battalion a safe trip to Rome; but there are many who will agree with us when we say that they might be more usefully employed. If the revenues of Pio Nono are to be exhausted in converting Rome into a huge barrack, his cause is rather a hopeless one, and might as well be abandoned at once."

FROM ENGLAND.

By Late Mails.

A COURT MARTIAL.

Two soldiers of the 2nd Battalion of the 1st Royals were tried by Court Martial at Chatham charged with having used seditious language. The Court found the prisoners guilty, and sentenced one of them, named Daly, to be branded with the letters B. C., to be discharged from Her Majesty's service with ignominy, and to undergo five years' penal servitude; the prisoner Molloy was also sentenced to be dismissed from the army with ignominy, to be branded with the letters B. C., and to be imprisoned and kept at hard labor for two years. After the order of the Court had been read the prisoners had portions of their uniform stripped from them, when they were marched to the barrack gates, the band playing the "Rogue's March," and handed over to an escort for conveyance to prison.

THE ATTACK ON THE MARTELLO TOWER

The Waterford Standard gives the following account of the attack upon a Martello Tower, a brief notice of which we received by cable:—The small garrison in the martello tower situated to the south east of the village of Duncannon, and about a mile and half from the fort, was attacked at twelve o'clock. The man on guard saw about twenty men emerging from the bushes in front of the tower. The alarm gun was fired, and was immediately responded to by a gun from the battery, and the fellows in ambush fired upon the tower. The insurgents, however, appeared not at all alarmed by the interchange of signal guns between the tower and the fort. The bugle was immediately sounded and 20 men issued forth with fixed bayonets from the fort. On the way between the fort and the tower they came upon a party of men in military array, who remained in their position as if on parade, until the troops came within seventy yards of them. There was then heard on one side of, "Surrender;" and on the other, "Stand firm, my men." The men, however, appeared disinclined to stand the shock of British bayonets, and after discharging a volley, which wounded one soldier, they dispersed amidst the brushwood. After they had fired, however, the troops returned the salute, and two men were seen to fall. They were quickly picked up by their comrades, and borne under cover. The soldiers made a dash in the direction of their foes, but could find no trace of them except some spots of blood. In a short time after the skirmish the police arrived on the spot, and dashed into the thicket. In vain, however, they beat every shrub and examined every clump of underwood for the insurgents, if such they were. The police and the troops remained on the ground all night, and to the present time no further attempt has been made on Duncannon Fort." A despatch to the Irish Times, dated Waterford, Tuesday night, states that it is believed that one of the attacking party was killed.

THE POLYGAMOUS BARONET.

Sir Gideon Culling Eardly, Baronet, will find Clerkenwell Prison a pleasant baronial residence for the next eighteen months. He is in for bigamy. One of this promising baronet's pieces of Cambridge extravagance was to send a photographic artist on a tour round Great Britain to take pictures for Sir Gideon, whose father was consequently sued by the artist for a very large sum, and pleaded the photos were not necessaries. Another Cambridge folly was a heavy bet that he would escort and sit beside, at some concert, a certain young lady, and to win his bet he got introduced to her, proposed immediately, and was at once accepted, won his bet and declared the match off.

AN EVENTFUL VOYAGE.

The large full-rigged ship Admiral Lyons, of Newcastle, arrived in Shields harbor on Saturday morning with a cargo of timber from Quebec, after a passage of 64 days, during which time a succession of furious gales were experienced, and the crew called to pass through great hardships. The Admiral Lyons left Quebec about the latter end of November, bound for the Tyne. Shortly after sailing, a fierce storm broke away from the N.W., and on entering the Gulf of St. Lawrence swelled into a perfect hurricane. As the sea broke over the deck the water was frozen to a depth of nearly six inches. The whole of the ropes were also frozen. All the crew felt victims to the frost, and were disabled with frostbites. Misfortune seldom comes singly. The rudder was next carried away, and the vessel left to the fury of the wind and violence of the sea. For days she lay in the trough of the sea, until the aim less helpless crew managed to knock a new rudder together. The gale continuing to rage as furiously as ever, the new rudder was carried away after being in use a few days. Another helm was constructed, and this was carried away, being in use about three days. A third one was made, and this met a similar fate to the preceding ones. All this time the sea rolled the great mountains ahead, and swept over the decks. To save her the deck cargo was thrown overboard. Some idea may be formed of the extent of the hurricane and the fury of the sea, when it is stated that the crew were upwards of ten days in casting the timber overboard.—During these operations the crew worked nobly and energetically, although exposed to the greatest peril, with the monster seas breaking over them. The provisions next fell short and the crew were put on short rations, and by the time the cargo was thrown overboard the men were completely exhausted. During the time the gale was at its worst one of the men at the wheel was severely injured by being struck by a sea breaking over it. Another man got his leg broke. He was walking along the deck, which was all ice, and he slipped and broke his left leg. The fourth rudder brought the Admiral Lyons safely into port. She now lies off the Limekiln shore, North Shields. Nearly all her sails are gone.

THE "HERCULES."

Great preparations were being made for the launch of the large iron clad "Hercules," which vessel has since been launched, as noticed by telegraph.

The "Hercules" is not the largest ironclad in the world, there being three larger in the Royal Navy, but she is by far the strongest and most heavily armed vessel that has ever floated. Her tonnage is 5,226 her engines of 1,200 horse power (nominal), and the weight of her armour 1,150 tons. She is covered almost entirely with nine inch armour plates, her decks are covered with steel plates, and heavy bulkheads with eight inch armour run across her fore and aft. The carries eight 600 pounder Armstrong's two 900 poundets and four 150 pounders. When complete (which she will be in a few weeks) she will undoubtedly be the most formidable man of war afloat.

BY ATLANTIC CABLE.

Berlin, Feb. 18.

Count Von Bismark proposes the establishment at the different ports of Germany of a board of Federal officers, to examine into the condition of vessels bound to America. An effort to prevent the repetition of the ship Liebaltz horror is the immediate cause of this salutary step on the part of the government.

London, Feb. 18.

The bill for the regulation of the press is still under discussion in the French Legislative body. A violent debate sprung up in yesterday's session on the question of the distribution of the government advertising patronage. The opposition claimed that the liberal journals were justly entitled to a share of the advertisements published by the national and municipal authorities. This effort, to have the bill modified by the insertion of a provision to this effect was defeated, but the majority against the proposition was small.

The examination of the prisoners arrested on suspicion of being connected with the Clerkenwell explosion has terminated. All the prisoners have been remanded to confinement except Allan, against whom no evidence has been elicited and he has been discharged.

A bulletin in regard to the condition of Lord Derby report that he is improving.

Berlin, (Feb. 18.)

The Upper House of the Diet has approved of the Convention made with the deposed powers whose territories have been annexed to Prussia. The King engages to suspend all payments of money to the princes and to confiscate their property in case of disloyalty.

Paris, Feb. 18.

The Moniteur du Soir reports that there has been a stop in the advance of the British in Abyssinia and General Napier is calling for reinforcements.

LATEST.

Dublin, Feb. 19.

Mr. Piggott, of the Dublin Irishman, has been convicted of publishing treasonable and seditious libels.

London, Feb. 19.

The Paris Temps to-day says:—Twenty persons were arrested during the performance of Victor Hugo's drama 'Ruy Blas,' at the Odeon.

New York, Feb. 20.

The Herald's Madrid special says: Despatches received from the provinces convey advices that the leaders of the Carlist party have effected a revolution against Queen Isabella in the north, and that their adherents have taken up arms in considerable numbers in Navarre. Skirmishers have taken place tween the civil guard and insurgents in the city of Navarre, the Queen's officers maintaining their allegiance. Some few persons were wounded during the tumult, and the ancient province of Navarre is agitated at many points. It appears as if the movement is the result of a well-planned organization. The officers have already found and carried away 3,000 copies of revolutionary placards addressed to the people of Spain. Each copy is headed with a woodcut, or portrait, as it is termed, of the eldest son of Don Juan, who is entitled and named Charles the XVIII., of Spain. This young gentleman is second cousin to Queen Isabella and grandson of Don Carlos, who made war against her accession to the throne.

SENTENCE OF RIOTERS.—Some months ago an account was given of an outrageous attack made by some Roman Catholics, incited by certain priests, on a Protestant community established at Barletta, a small town in Italy, in which two persons were killed, and several others wounded. A great number of persons were arrested, and the Court of Assizes at Trani has just been engaged in trying 50 of them. Of these 12 were acquitted, 10 sentenced to 18 years' hard labor, 14 to 10 years, 6 to 8, 5 to 7; and 5 others were condemned to imprisonment—1 for 7 years, 2 to 5, a woman to 3, and a man to 1. Amongst those sentenced to 18 years are Father Mario, who by his preaching excited the outrage, and the Canon Ruggiero Portiglione, who organized it.

☞ The agitation in favor of a renewal of the reciprocity treaty appears to have begun to make itself felt in Congress. Mr. Ingersoll, a republican member for Illinois has offered a resolution directing the Secretary of the Treasury to communicate "a statement as to the trade with Canada since the abrogation of the reciprocity treaty, and as to the arrangement for free nagivation of the St. Lawrence, and for the privilege of fishing in the waters adjacent to Canada." The resolution was adopted.

Seventeen hundred valentines passed through the Kingston Post Office during the last week, being eight hundred less than the number during the same period last year.

The Quebec Assembly passed the supplies in full.

The Provincial Grand Orange Lodge met at Brantford on Tuesday. Mr. Coyne, G.M., delivered a stirring political address, and claimed for Orangemen the same right of incorporation as Odd Fellows and other insititutions.

We lately published an account of the Pembroke horror—an insane woman murdering her five children. The last act of the tragedy is the suicide by hanging of the murderess in gaol. She suspended herself to a grate over the cell door, and when discovered was entirely lifeless. A few days since one of her former neighbors, a German, visited her in the gaol, and told her she was going to be hanged; and this, in connection with her other troubles, is supposed to have driven her to self-destruction.

The privilege of sticking bills on the station houses, sheds, &c., along the line of the Grand Trunk Railway has been leased by the Montreal Advertising Company. This Company has an extensive contract with the great Cork Leg manufactory.

It is proposed to admit Colorado as a State in the Union, on the grounds that she has more voters than either Nevada or Nebraska, and nearly as many as Rhode Island; that she contributes more money to the internal revenue than Nebraska; that she pays more postage than either Nebraska, Oregon, Nevada, Arkansas, or Florida; and that she is going to have a great many more inhabitants very soon than she has now.

An English paper "has reason to believe" that in a few days a conversion to the Roman Catholic Church will be announced "that will cause more talk than even the reception of Dr. Manning, or Dr. Newman, or Mr. Oakely did twenty years ago." Curiosity is naturally aroused respecting this eminent convert.

Two of the Royal Canadian Rifles have deserted from Fort Wellington, Prescott. One of them walked away while on sentry at the gate, carrying his arms along with him. Both deserters were men of indifferent character. It is known that they crossed on the ice to Ogdensburg, where they have since been seen.

Admiral Bell, of the United States Navy, was drowned at the mouth of the Osaken river last month. The mouth of the river had been closed by a sand bar upon which the boat in which the Admiral was, capsized, and all on board were drowned except three sailors. The bodies of the remaining twelve, including the Admiral and his flag lieutenant, were afterwards recovered. The Admiral's flagship was the Hartford.

SATURDAY MORNING, FEB. 21, 1868.

LETTERS AND TELEGRAMS.—R. E., with rem, London; E. G., Kilkve; J. N., Murvale; W. F. C., Ottawa; C. C., Montreal.

Things are progressing pleasantly at Toronto, and Sandfield Macdonald will finish the Session with flying colors. The Session now cannot last longer than another week or so, as no more Government Measures are to be proceeded with until the Fall Session, which it is now determined to hold. The Telegraph pitches, without gloves, into Messrs. H. Smith, Rykert and Blake as the Obstructionists, and yet two are friends, or pretended friends, of the Administration. The following was cut from the Hamilton Times, but what it means we know not:—

"Sir H. Smith was to have moved a vote of want of confidence, but was not in his seat on account of illness. He is not in the House to-day."

The Toronto papers say nothing of this 'want of confidence' motion. Sir Henry could make himself most useful in that House if he chose, for no man knows the wants of the country, together with parliamentary law, better than he does, but evidently Sandfield Macdonald and he don't pull well together. The latter is very distrustful of the former. The Dominion Parliament will re-assemble on the 12th of March, and both the Provincial Parliaments will have finished their business ere that time.

Legislature of Ontario.

Monday, Feb. 19.

Mr. Beatter presented a report from the Special Committee, to whom was referred the bill respecting dentistry, recommending that the bill, as amended, be adopted.

Mr. Lyon introduced a bill respecting the taking of affidavits.

HARBORS AND LANDS.

Mr. Scott (Grey) enquired of ministers whether it is their intention to appropriate any grants of money for the purpose of assisting municipalities towards the improvement of harbors, wharves, or other public works, where said municipalities will pass, or have passed, a by-law for an equivalent. Also, whether it is in their power to relieve the purchasers of Indian lands in the townships of Sarawak, Keppel, Amabel, Albemarle, &c., who are actual settlers, from any arrears of principal and interest, and if so, whether it is there intention to do so.

Mr. Macdonald replied that it would be seen by the estimates that the Government had made no grant for such public works. Besides, the land spoken of was Indian land, and this Government had nothing to do with it.

DOMINION STOCK.

Mr. Blake enquired of ministers whether they had made any proposals to the Government of the Dominion for the purchase of any of the stocks or securities of the Dominion.

Mr. Macdonald said the Government had made no proposals as yet.

INTEREST.

Mr. Blake also enquired from the Ministers whether they had applied to the Government of the Dominion for the payment of interest on undrawn balances in the hands of that Government, if so, and with what result?

Mr. Macdonald said that he had reasons to believe that the Dominion Government would not allow interest on undrawn balances.

TORONTO UNIVERSITY.

Mr. Beatty moved that a select committee be appointed to enquire into the present position and past management of Toronto University and University College; and also those colleges and universities of Ontario which have received grants from the funds of the Province, committee to have power to send for persons, papers and documents, and to report to this House, and that such committee consist of Hon. M. C. Cameron, Messrs. Scott, Lauder, Carnagie, Cumberland, Blake, McKellar and the mover.

Mr. Macdonald asked what was the nature of the information the gentleman wanted to know.

Mr. Beatty said he had not made the motion through any spirit of hostility to the Toronto University. He merely wanted information in order to prepare hon. gentlemen for dealing with the University question, which would come before the House at an early day.

Mr. Macdonald said it seemed to him that the motion looked like a censure on the University. (Hear.) He suggested that it would be better to allow the matter to lie over till next session the latter to enable the members to inform themselves on the subject.

Mr. Scott (Ottawa) believed the mover of the resolution merely desired to get at information with regard to the position of the Cobourg and other colleges, so that it might be seen these colleges were entitled to the surplus funds of the University. He would consent to the withdrawal of the motion, as it was too near the end of the session to get at the necessary facts.

Mr. Rykert said that if the intention was to attack the Toronto University he, for one, would vote against the motion. He had heard no charge made against the management of this University, and indeed he believed that no charges of bad management could be proved against it. He was strongly in favor of having only one University for the province, and that of such a high standard that when a young man passed through it his education would be of such a nature that it could carry him through the world.

Mr. Blake urged the honorable member to withdraw the motion, because he believed that it was too late to obtain a full and fair report of the matters that would necessarily come under the notice of the committee.

Mr. Wood said that if there was any question as to the management of the institution it could be discussed when the supplementary estimates were presented.

Mr. Beatty finally consented to withdraw the motion, which was allowed.

LAND IMPROVEMENT FUND.

Mr. Blake moved an address for a return, showing the amount which have been received by the Crown in each year since the abolition of the land improvement fund, for land sold during the existence of that fund, and also the amounts which are still received by the crown, in respect of such sales.—Carried.

MURRAY CANAL.

Mr. Eyre moved for a return showing the number of acres of land set apart in the township of Murray, in the county of Northumberland, for the purpose of building the Murray Canal.—Carried.

OVERHOLDING TENANTS.

Mr. Wood moved the House into committee of the whole on the bill respecting overholding tenants.

The bill passed through committee with amendments.

COMMON LAW PROCEDURE.

Mr. Macdonald moved the House into committee of the whole on his bill for the amendment of the common law procedure act in so far as it related to sheriffs' poundage.

After a lengthy debate, in which nearly all the legal gentlemen in the House took part, the bill was adopted with various amendments.

The committee rose and reported the bill as amended.

TRACTION ENGINES.

Mr. Cumberland moved the House into committee of the whole on the bill to authorize the use of traction engines on public highways.

The bill was amended and adopted, Mr. Cumberland having explained the nature of the bill clause by clause.

After recess.

ROYAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

The House went into Committee on Mr. Lyon's Bill No. 49. The Royal Canadian Insurance Company.

Mr. Blake objected to one clause of the bill—that which gave the Directors power to be elected from year to year. New blood ought to be insured into the management, and this was struck out by the clause with which he found fault.

Mr. Lyon combatted this argument though at the same time he did not desire that the Directors should be immediately re-elected.

Mr. Macdonald also objected to the 8th clause of the bill. He said the Insurance Company ought not to deal in mortgages if they were allowed to do so it would be like speculating in land.

Mr. Blake said every other Insurance Company had the same powers.

Mr. Macdonald replied by saying they would invest in Dominion Stock.

A Member said it was reported there was none in the market. What was to be done then?

Mr. Lauder was against allowing the Company power to grant money on mortgages.

Mr. Lyon asked where the Company was to invest? Could it not hold property, and could not its surplus funds be invested?

Mr. Blake persisted that there was no harm in giving the Company power to make the best investment possible.

Mr. Macdonald held the Insurance Companies to be on the same class as banks, and he did not think they ought to be allowed to invest in real estate. He was not against the bill; but it was the first of the kind that had been brought before the House, and ought to be carefully watched. He wanted prompt payments to be made to parties who insured and might suffer loss, and that the policy-holder should not suffer. If they had to rely upon mortgages and suits in court, they would have great cause to complain, and this House ought not to be parties to the deception.

Mr. Scott (Ottawa) could not understand why this Canadian association should be bound down by more stringent rules than those applied to foreign ones.

Mr. Cameron was in favor of the surplus funds of this company being invested in Dominion securities. In reference to another clause he doubted if infringements of the act could be declared a misdemeanor and so passed upon by this government. He thought the Dominion government would have to deal with this.

The committee rose and reported progress.

The bill was ordered to be read a third time to-morrow.

THE BAYHAM DEBENTURES.

The House went into committee on this bill. It is related to a by-law passed by the Council for £4,000 to a plank road for the township. For this amount debentures were issued, which it was now sought to legalize.

Mr. Hays strongly objected to this on the grounds that several members of the municipal government had taken stock largely in speculation, which was carried out against the wishes of the people.

Mr. Luton said certain members of the Bayham council formed themselves into a road company, and then issued township debentures in favour of the company. A measure similar to this had been submitted to the Canadian Parliament and had been thrown out.

Mr. Cumberland was against the legalizing of the debentures.

Several members took part in the discussion. A paper was put in by a widow who had disposed of her bond for $2,000, at $30.

Motion for the Committee to rise and report progress, was put and lost.

The Committee reported the Bill, and it was ordered to be read a third time.

SECOND READINGS.

The following Bills were read a second time, and referred to the Committee of the Whole to-morrow:—

Extension of Cobourg, Peterboro and Marmora Railway.

Ottawa City Passenger Railway.

L'Hotel Dieu, Kingston.—Hon. Sir. H. Smith.

Bishop Strachan School.—Mr. Cumberland.

Oxford Fire Insurance Company.

London Collegiate Institute.

Clifton Bridge Company.—Mr. Beatty.

St. Andrew's Church, Ottawa.

The House adjourned at 11:50 p. m.

BY ATLANTIC CABLE.

London, Feb 19.

Allen, the Fenian prisoner who was discharged from custody yesterday, after being examined on the charge of causing the Clerkenwell explosion was soon after re-arrested and imprisoned on a' charge of murder.

Berlin, Feb. 19.

In the Prussian house of Deputies yesterday, the