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MONDAY MORNING, FEB. 27, 1865.

Public Meetings and Amusements To-Day.

The Vote in the Township of Pittsburgh on Mr. Dunkin's Temperance Bill commences at Barriefield this morning.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Quebec, Feb. 23.

The committee moved for by Mr. Morris to enquire into the expenses of the various committees, reported that the expense of the last two sessions did not exceed $1,500, $500 of which was spent in the Essex election case.

Mr. Evanturel presented a report from the Committee on the subject of the Lake St. John Road.

Mr. D. A. Macdonald presented a report from the Committee on Contingencies on the subject of the employees of the House.

Mr. Thompson asked whether it is the intention of the Government to supply the volunteers now in actual service with a fatigue or undress uniform.

Mr. J. A. Macdonald—It is not the intention of the Government.

Mr. Thompson asked whether it is the intention to pay those volunteers favorably reported as efficient by the inspecting officers any prize money.

Mr. J. A. Macdonald—When they win prizes.

Mr. Holton in the absence of Mr. Dorion moved for a statement of the debts, liabilities, and assets to be assigned to Upper and Lower Canada respectively, under the proposed Confederation. It was very important that this information should be in the possession of the House during the discussion now going on. Why did hon. gentlemen opposite withhold information necessary to the discussion of the question of Confederation? He would like to ask the member for South Oxford how he reconciled his course now with that he pursued when on the other side of the House. It was not fair for gentlemen on the Treasury benches to simply say—we will not give the information asked. It was not in accordance with the practice of any government with which he had anything to do to refuse to give any information or explanation to the House. The member for South Oxford was one who most strongly condemned that course when on the other side. Those who had the pleasure of acting with that hon. gentleman would remember how indignantly he condemned that course when practiced at his expense.

Mr. J. S. Macdonald spoke to a similar effect. The Government felt so strong that they could disregard any appeal from the Opposition. When he (Mr. J. S. Macdonald) asked for information yesterday on the school question, he was told that he would receive the information when the Bill was brought before the House.

Mr. Brown said he had said something more. He had said the Government had not considered it.

Mr. J. S. Macdonald said it was evident that the Government were determined to treat the Opposition with contempt. They would find, however, that they would not gain anything by this. He would take every opportunity of demanding such information as was necessary to the consideration of the scheme.

Mr. Brown said that it was very unfortunate that his friends, the members for Chateauguay and Cornwall, whenever they addressed the House on any matter connected with Confederation always put themselves in the position of suffering martyrs, as if the Administration were acting the part of tyrants over them. What justification was there for the indignation of those gentlemen? The Government had not refused them any information which it was in their power to give. In Mr. Galt's speech, now published as a pamphlet, members had all the information on this matter which at this stage it was possible to give. The proposal was that the balance of five millions of our debt, exceeding the sixty-two and a half millions which we took into the Confederation, should be divided on just principals between Upper and Lower Canada. The Government would submit their measure for the purpose in due time, and the House would then have an opportunity of deciding on it.

Mr. Holton—Before the vote is taken?

Mr. Brown said it did not affect Confederation in the slightest degree, and it did not matter whether this was settled before or after the vote on Confederation.

Mr. A. A. Dorion said it was evident that the Government did not intend to give any information to the House which they could possibly withhold. By this motion they wanted to know, for instance, whether Upper Canada would have as one of its liabilities its indebtedness to the Municipal Loan Fund, whether the Seigniorial Tenure Fund would be one of the liabilities of Lower Canada, and what was to become of the indemnity to the Townships, and the indemnity of three millions to Upper Canada as an offset for the Seigniorial indemnity. The new government were afraid to give information about the financial aspect of the scheme and wanted the House to vote for it blindly. He had to complain also that no return had been made to his address for communications received from British Columbia on the subject of the Confederation.

Mr. McDougall said no such communications had been received.

Mr. Galt said Mr. Dorion was unreasonable in his opposition. He had opposed the Confederation scheme even before he knew its particulars—had opposed it all along; and now, forsooth, abused the Government for not giving information which he said was necessary for him to make up his mind. But in this motion he asked for information which did not exist. The member had before him in the Public Accounts full information as to the assets and liabilities of Canada, but the arrangement to be made between Upper and Lower Canada is as to the portion of debt which it did not take into the Confederation, was a matter for the House hereafter to take into consideration. It was no part of the agreement with the Lower Provinces. The motion was in fact to ascertain the details of a measure in which the Government had not seen fit for the public interest to submit. The Government did not mean to give those details until the measure was put before the House, although willing to give every information bearing on the Confederation resolutions which were now under debate.

Mr. A. A. Dorion asked whether the five millions would be divided equally between Upper and Lower Canada, or according to their respective populations.

Mr. Galt said that would be for the House to consider when the Government measure was brought before them.

Mr. Holton contended that the subject was brought before the House in the Confederation address. In the 58th resolution they were asked to affirm that certain portions of the debt were to be assumed by these Provinces, and before adopting those resolutions the House was entitled to know what portions they were respectfully to assume. They were as much entitled to, intitled to information on this part as on other parts of the so-called treaty. It was not creditable to the Government to adopt the course it was doing. He did not believe the House would be willing to vote blindly on the matter.

Mr. John A. Macdonald thought the motion was made merely for the purpose of raising side issues, and the Government asked the House not on this account to postpone or defeat a measure of which the majority was in favor.

Mr. A. Mackenzie thought these were matters which would be arranged subsequently. If this Government offered injustice to Upper Canada, Upper Canadians would unite and turn them out, and the same with regard to Lower Canada, and another Administration would be put in.

Mr. J. S. Macdonald—Then we will have the same fights which we have had for the last ten years.

Mr. Alex. Mackenzie—Well, it must come to fight after all. If the member for Chateauguay was so sure the measure would not pass, why waste so much strength to it. But he (Mr. Mackenzie) would not be surprised to see him vote for it.

Mr. Perrault said there was not a day passed but information was asked and refused of details of this scheme, which, if known, would cause the people to reject the measure when they saw what was under it. We were denied the details of arrangements between the Provinces, which it was of so much importance to know. We wanted official information to discuss the measure. Many members would not vote for the Intercolonial Railway, unless it passed through a certain route. The President of the Council had said the Government did not care what route the Intercolonial took. So it did not care for the opening up and settlement of the counties of Temiscouata, Rimouski and Gaspe. The Government, as stated in the Globe, was in favor of the shortest route, but which would give least justice to Lower Canada. He was in favor of the Intercolonial, but would oppose it if it was not to take the route which would open and settle that part of the country to which he had allued, and which this railway alone could settle. But the Government was pursuing its true course in hushing up the matter to force it through.

Mr. Jackson did not see how any one could support the motion. He understood the matters to which it referred were to be settled between Upper and Lower Canada hereafter.

Mr. Eric Dorion argued that the House should not be called on to vote for Confederation, unless the debts to be assumed by the various Provinces under the scheme were stated to the House.

The motion was lost on a division. Yeas, 33; nays, 61.

Mr. Street moved for a return of shareholders in chartered banks.—Carried.

Mr. Pouliot moved for the correspondence on the works to be done on the Matapedia and Temiscouta roads.—Carried.

Mr. Pouliot moved for a statement of the names of Custom House officers dismissed since the 2nd June last, in certain districts.—Carried.

Dr. Parker moved for a committee on the condition and prospects of the Grand Trunk Railway Company, &c. He said he was actuated by no feeling of hostility to that company. He admitted the advantages that the road had conferred on the country generally, but said they might have been expected from the large amount of money extended on the road. But its condition was such as showed either that it had not been sustained by the public or that it had been badly managed. It was unable to move the large amount of produce which accumulated at its various stations. He thought it highly desirable that the public should know the exact capacity of the road for moving produce, especially during the season when navigation was closed.—Charges had been made that it favoured through trade at the expense of local, and that much of its embarrassment was owing to its engaging in business not strictly consistent with railroad corporations, such as buying harbours, steamboats, &c.

Mr. Gibbs hoped that the motion would be adopted by the House. It was well known to the business men of the country that at all stations from Cobourg westward to Guelph there were large accumulations of freight which the Company was unable or unwilling to move off. He believed it did not do 20 per cent. of the business of the country, and it was the interest not only of the agricultural and commercial community, but of the Grand Trunk itself, that a full enquiry should be made into its condition, in order to let the people know its exact capacity to meet the requirements of the business of the country. He felt assured that if something were not done there was a large class of business men, engaged, like himself, in milling operations, who would be ruined by the inability of this Company to do the business of the country, and to perform engagements which they relied upon its doing. It was every year doing more harm, because it was driving away shipping, and in a short time he feared there would not be a freight carrying steamer on our lakes and rivers, while the Grand Trunk would be quite unable to do the carrying trade of the country. He trusted the Government would allow the committee to be appointed, which he supported in no spirit of hostility to the Grand Trunk, and then the country would know precisely what might be effected and provided for.

Mr. D. A. Macdonald charged that notwithstanding the large amount of money the Province had invested in the Grand Trunk, it gave all its means to the encouragement of through business, and neglected the local traffic. He thought this really too bad, and hoped something would be done to remedy a state of affairs which was daily growing worse and more injurious to the country.

Mr. Wood could not see the reason for these continual complaints against the Grand Trunk. Did members expect it to control the storms, and do that which it was impossible to do? Why, the complaint the other day was that the Grand Trunk had withdrawn cars from the Buffalo and Lake Huron Road, and now it was charged with not having enough to do the traffic offering. There was really nothing which people thought they might not charge against the Grand Trunk, but they only proved captiousness and prejudices against that company. The same charges with regard to the through traffic might be made against the Great Western, and if it were included in the resolution he would have little objection to it.

Mr. M. C. Cameron said it might be suspected that this motion had been introduced in the interest of the Grand Trunk, because if it were shown by Parliament to be in an embarrassed condition it might make a claim for relief upon the House. As he had been elected on the platform of no more grants to the Grand Trunk he could not on this ground give countenance to anything which would support further aid to the road.

Mr. Thomas Ferguson thought the country should have every information on the subject, and would vote for the motion.

Mr. Brown thought there was no doubt the road was not in good order, but there was a great deal of truth in what had fallen from the member for North Ontario. Supposing the House made enquiry into the affairs of the Grand Trunk and found them embarrassed, how was the House to take the Company out of that embarrassment.—It appeared to him to be a very delicate thing to touch upon. The hon. gentleman opposite [Mr. Holton] had endeavored to show that the Grand Trunk had something to do with Confederation. It had not the slightest connection with it.

Mr. Holton said it was amalgamation, not confederation, he had spoken of.

Mr. Brown said he quite agreed with others who had spoken that the road was in a bad condition, and thought the time had come for the Grand Trunk Directors to consider whether the payments on the bonds should not be stopped, and the money applied to the repair of the road. But if the House enquired into its affairs and sent a damaging report to the world, the Company might say Parliament had injured its credit, and make this a ground for a claim for compensation. He thought this would be a very dangerous proceeding for the House to adopt.

Mr. Carter would oppose the resolution unless it was made to include all other railways.

Six o'clock arriving, the debate was adjourned.

After the recess,

Mr. A. Mackenzie resumed the adjourned debate on Confederation. He commenced by adverting to the position he had occupied heretofore in discussing those constitutional questions which had so long separated parties, and involved the two sections of the Province in serious dissensions, in order to meet the charges of inconsistency brought against himself and others because they supported the present Coalition Government, with a view of obtaining a solution of the difficulties in a way not hitherto advocated very extensively, especially in the section of the Province in which he belonged. He had never, since he had had the honor of having a seat in this House, advocated representation by population as the sole measure he would accept as a settlement of the difficulties we had to contend with. He read from the first speech he delivered in the House, to show that he then disavowed taking that position. He denied the correctness of the statement of the member for Hochelaga the other evening, that he (Mr. Mackenzie) and his friends had advocated representation by population merely as a means of remedying the financial injustice of which they complained. True, they had urged very strongly the position in which they were placed in contributing largely to the public revenue, and finding that revenue expended without due consideration being given to that section of the country which contributed most largely towards it. At the same time, they felt they were treated unjustly in four men in Lower Canada being held equal to five in Upper Canada. They felt this more strongly than the mere loss of a certain sum of money. Up to the beginning of 1862, no one could appear before any public meeting in Canada West and declare himself opposed to representation by population.

Mr. J. S. Macdonald—Oh, oh!

Mr. Mackenzie—Well, I will except the member for Cornwall.

Mr. Brown—No, no!

Mr. Mackenzie—At all events, no one spoke more strongly than that gentlemen of the injustice perpetrated on Upper Canada. The member for Hochelaga seemed to think that because the people of Canada West had conducted their agitation with a good deal of system and decorum, there was nothing very alarming or dangerous about it. But it was a characteristic of the British people that on all occasions they conducted a political agitation with due decorum and due respect to the laws, but it was not the less serious on that account. When they had a deep seated feeling that injustice was being perpetrated on them they could not sit still under it. He confessed that when he first came into the House he labored under some misapprehension as to the position which Lower Canadians occupied towards us. There was a popular opinion that Lower Canadians were only afraid of representation by population, because they dreaded that the people of Canada West would use the power thereby obtained for the injury if not the destruction of their religious institutions. That was a mistake. He believed that jealousy lest their nationality should be interfered with had been the sole difficulty. For his own part he did not believe it would not be desirable or possible to extinguish that nationality. The feeling of nationality obtained so strongly in all countries that where attempts had been made, as in Austria, to break it down, they had signally failed, even where those attempts had been made by a despotic government with a strong army at its command. In Austria there was eighteen nationalities, and to every one of them the Austrian government had been compelled to accord national Parliaments or Assemblies. The Attorney General East in his speech a few evenings ago, advetted to the position taken by the French Canadians at the time of the American Revolution. He believed they took the course they then did not because 20 years of existence as a British colony had been sufficient to make them as strongly attached to Great Britain as they were at this moment, but because it was clear to them that if they entered the American Union they would be absorbed and lost as the French colony of Louisiana had since been. He and others had been charged with deserting their party because they had ceased to act with the public men in Lower Canada with whom they formerly acted. He denied that this charge was just. What was party but merely an association of individuals holding opinions in common on certain public measures or certain grounds of public policy. The portion of their party politics on which he and his friends had most strongly insisted, was that which concerned the representation of the people in Parliament, and as soon as they found their political friends in Lower Canada ceased to take advanced ground in that matter, and that the other party had become willing to do so, it became clearly their duty to unite with that party. Had the Liberal party of the West declined to support a Government which was really giving them all they demanded they would have been guilty of taking the most suicidal course which it was possible for a people to take. This was, in fact, the very scheme of the Toronto Convention, although extended further than the Convention though advisable or possible at the time. It had been stated by the members for Hochelaga and Chateauguay that the scheme of the Toronto Convention took no hold on the public mind. He asserted, on the contrary without fear of contradiction by any Western man, that no measure ever took stronger or more complete hold of the public mind in Western Canada than that of the Toronto Convention. Personally, he had always been in favor of a Legislative Union if it could be adapted to our circumstances.—He did not think, however, it was suited to our circumstances, and he considered we had no other alternative than to adopt the federal principle. He then adverted to the question of the constitution of the Upper House, and gave comprehensive views of the different modes of constituting the Upper House which prevailed in the various countries throughout the world enjoying representative institutions. From the facts he stated he drew the conclusion that it was not a retrograde step to pass from an elective to a nominative principle. For his own part he had never been in favor of having two elective houses. He should prefer under our circumstances that we should have no Upper House at all, and he hoped that at least there would be none in the local legislatures, as a great deal of unnecessary expense and complication would thereby be saved. He commented on the manner in which the scheme of the Quebec Conference had been opposed. He had hoped it would not have been found necessary to organize a regular opposition to the measure, and that gentleman like the members for Chateauguay and Hochelaga who had always recognized the difficulties of our present system, would have endeavored to give effect to the measure as the only remedial one within our reach. Adverting to the question of the defences, he said we were quite able, man for man, to maintain the force necessary for our protection, as the people of Great Britain; and whatever measure for that purpose the Confederate Government might propose, if of a reasonable and moderate nature, he thought it would receive the support of a majority of the people of this country. He expressed the hope that, by carrying out the Confederation scheme the opening up of the North-west for settlement would be largely promoted. As regarded the Intercolonial Railroad, it was clear without that road there could be no union of the Provinces.—A large portion of the country along Major Robinson's route was fit for settlement, but he candidly confessed that the road could not possibly pay as a commercial enterprise. As a military work, however, he looked upon it as important, and also as a means of uniting the Provinces. It was necessary to Confederation, and Confederation was necessary to relieve the country from its present difficulties. The one seemed to be dependant on the other, and as we could not have Confederation without the Intercolonial Railroad, he believed the people of Canada were willing to accept it. He alluded to the debt of the country, and the arguments used by the member for Hochelaga in reference to it. Undoubtedly it was large but he did not believe Confederation would either increase or decrease it, unless works not now contemplated were undertaken, and this was a matter for the consideration of the Government which would succeed the formation of the union.—He did not believe the measure had been hurried along too fast. The question had been discussed in this country for years, and now when the opportunity for the solution of it offered, people were anxious that it should be embraced at once. He did not believe there was any very strong desire to have the matter submitted to the people, for they had made up their minds that it was time some scheme should be adopted restoring quiet in our political affairs, and harmony in the councils of the country. He then adverted to the protection afforded in the resolutions for the English minority in the Lower Canada Legislature, and the French minority in the general Legislatures. The vote would be given to the general Government over acts of the local Legislatures. It was a wise provision, that would avert the danger that had arisen to the constitution of the United States. He then referred to the accession of the North-west territory, and said Confederation would develpe the immense treasures of what region, by opening up routes for its settlement, thus adding largely to the population of the country. He believed Confederation was in the first place desirable, in the second place attainable, and in the third, that it was the only thing we could get—which was perhaps the strongest reason for it. [Hear, hear.] It was quite clear we must have a settlement of our difficulties in some way, and he thought the scheme proposed was a very favourable one—more so, perhaps than some of them expected when the present Government was formed. He thought it would be the greatest madness than any Western man could perpetrate to vote against it. [Hear, hear.] Upper Canada had obtained by it Representation by Population, its due share in the control of the financial policy, and besides had obtained a measure which would tend to build up a great British Union on this continent. He would give his support to the scheme, believing it would be acceptable to the people whom he represented, as well as to those surrounding him in Upper Canada. (Cheers.)

Mr. Morris said this was no new question, but had been formally submitted to the House by the Government no less than three times. The first occasion was in 1858, when the Governor General closed the session with a speech, which action would be taken. Then a despatch was written which had been frequently alluded to, and which had been made the basis of motion by the member for Oxford. That had brought forth these great results. Then again, it was brought before the country last year when the present Government was formed. He contended that the people had not been taken by surprise, but understood the question thoroughly. He believed the plan of Confederation proposed was one which would meet the exigencies of our local position, while at the same time securing to the General Government that control which was essential to the due development of the country. He alluded to the action of the committee of the Privy Council respecting the Confederation of the Australian Colonies and New Zealand, to show that the principle was not new to the British Constitution. It was no new principle in England, and we could understand therefore why the scheme had met with such favour from the statesmen of England. It was said that the expectation that this would keep us away from the States, and not lead us towards a union which was destined to confer on us and and future generations of British freemen in these colonies the greatest benefits, was false. If it proved a delusion, it would be our own fault. What had we to envy in the United States; burthened by a crushing debt arising out of war? What object had we to change our political allegiance? None. The federal principle was objected to. Why the present connection with the Imperial Government since we have had Responsible Government, has been federal. Franklin proposed such a plan before the revolution for the union of the 13 colonies, and said, at a later period, that he believed if it had been adopted separation from the mother country would have been prevented. And their was reason to believe that this would strengthen our connection with the mother country. It was so regarded in Britain. If the people of the country though otherwise, a ministry would dare propose it would be hurled from power. He quoted Earl Grey and Stuart Mill to show that such a form of Colonial Government was approved by the highest minds in England. He showed how a precedent was afforded in the actual constitution of New Zealand, and that now proposed for Australia. The people of the United States had been asked to cultivate closier relations with us, as a means of drawing us towards them. This was too late now. We had become curious about our fate, and were now laying the foundations of our future political fabric. We gained, then, in this union, a fair start on a separate existence. Again, respecting our commercial relations with our neighbours, there was no doubt the control of all the varied resources of these colonies by one power would enable us to treat with them at a greater advantage. The Committee of Commerce of Congress had stated in respect to the Reciprocity Treaty, that none of the benefits derived by the United States from the fisheries ceded by the Maritime Provinces could be set off against those granted to Canada, seeing they were separate and independent communities. Let us be united and no such argument can be used again. With more complete commercial relations the Provnces might re-open a trade with the West Indies, which was so large twenty-five years ago. Again, as a matter of defence, though no military man, he could not but believe that we should have a large strength in the name of Union. For himself, he had this Union at heart. He had looked forward to it as the destiny of these Provinces since first he considered public affairs. He drew the attention of the House to it the first time he had had the honour of addressing it. He concluded by quoting a vision of this future, which he had portrayed in a lecture some years ago. It was a scheme which the people of the country asked for.

the House adjourned at eleven o'clock.

Feb. 24.

The following bills passed through committee:—

To amend the act to incorporate La Societie de L'Union St. Pierre de Montreal and amendments—M. Cartier.

To amend the act to incorporate La Societie de L'Union St. Jacques de Montreal and amendments—M. Cartier.

To incorporate L'Union St. Roche de Montreal and amendments—M. Cartier.

To amend the act to incorporate La Societe de L'Union St. Joseph de Montreal and amendments—M. Cartier.

The following bills were read a second time:—

Bill respecting Police Magistrates—Mr. J. A Macdonald.

Bill for quieting titles to real estate in Upper Canada—Mr. J. A. Macdonald.

M. Cartier's bill respecting the appointment of magistrates in remote parts of the provinces passed through committee.

On Mr. Carling's bill to naturalize Lewis White Ashley and others.

Mr. J. A. Macdonald said he hoped the bill would not be pressed until the committee to whom the subject of naturalization was referred had reported. Three years, the period appointed by law, was short enough to entitle a person to naturalization. If they went on naturalizing indiscriminately they could not hope for the Imperial sanction.

Mr. Sandfield Macdonald took the same view of the matter. This might be a very worthy individual, but he thought last session they had naturalized one who was well known in Montreal, and who had lately had the raiders' money in his hands. They might be naturalizing another Potterfield.

In the course of some conversational discussion which followed, it was suggested that some alteration should be made in the law so that the property of aliens might descend to children, and not be forfeited to the Crown if they died before the period for their naturalization expired.

The bill was referred to the committee on the subject of naturalization.

Mr. Wood's railway bill was read a second time on a division, and referred to the Railway Committee, it being understood no one committed himself to the principle.

Mr. Cameron moved the second reading of the bill to legalize the agreement between the Grand Trunk, Great Western and Northern Railways for the location of their tracks upon the Esplanade in Toronto.

Mr. Smith (Toronto) would not oppose the second reading of the bill on its going to committee. There was a petition from the City Council asking that action on the bill should be stopped, till they had had time to consider it. That delay of course would be granted by the committee.

The bill was then read and referred.

Several other private bills were read a second time and referred to committees.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Feb. 24.

Sir E. P. Tache moved the extension of the period for receiving petitions for private bills to the 11th of March next—Carried.

Mr. Campbell introduced a bill to legalize certain by-laws of the United Counties of Frontenac, Lennox and Addington.

A number of private bills came in from the Assembly and were read a first time.

In answer to Mr. Moore,

Sir E. P. Tache said it was the intention of the government to bring before the legislature this session the entire scheme of the organization of the Local governments under the proposed federation, but at what period of the session he was now unable to state.

The House adjourned at a quarter to four o'clock.

THE PRINTING OF THE DEBATES.

Committee Room, Quebec, 21st February, 1865.

The Sub-Committee appointed to make arrangements for the printing the Debates on Confederation, beg leave to make the following as their second Report:—

That the third Report of the Joint Committee on Printing having recommended that each Member be furnished with 25 copies in each language of the Debates on Confederation, but several of the Members having experienced difficulty in exchanging their copies for others in the language which they preferred, each Member was waited on with a request that he would state what number of copies in each language he would require, conditionally that the said number should not exceed 50 in all. To meet the views of the Members, it is thus found that there will be required 6,000 copies in the English language and 3,272 copies in the French language.

It is also recommended, for the preservation of these Debates, that they be considered as Sessional Papers, and be bound and distributed as such.

For the above purposes, as well as supplying the Newspapers, Library, Public Departments and Offices, an edition of 7,500 copies in English and 4,000 in French will be required, which numbers are recommended to be printed.

The foregoing Report was concurred in by both Houses.

ITEMS OF NEWS.

TYPHOID FEVER.—Le Courrier of Quebec says that great ravages are being caused in the parishes along the St. Lawrence, below Quebec, by typhoid fever. In L'Islet and Cap St. Ignace the mortality has been fearfully great. In the former parish there are said to have been sixty deaths since the commencement of the present year.

Good authority is given for the statement that the return of a regiment to London may be expected at the opening of navigation, and possibly a battery of artillery.

Two runaway horses, in their mad career, dashed over Blackfriar's bridge, London, on Thursday last. One was killed—the other not much injured.

A servant girl in the employ of Mr. Saml. Spalding, Blanchard, committed suicide on Monday last. Cause as yet unknown.—She left a letter. Her name was Elizabeth Rolison.

ROMANCE OF THE DIVORCE COURT.—The particulars of an extraordinary case in connection with the Divorce Court have reached me, which, although reading like a romance, are nevertheless strictly true. For obvious reasons I shall not mention names. The facts are, however, as follows;—Not long after the late Sir Cresswell Cresswell was installed as Judge Ordinary, an officer of Her Majesty's service, whom I shall describe as Mr. A. presented a petition for a divorce from his wife, on the usual grounds. The faux pas of the lady—an Irishwoman, I should mention—occasioned much pain and surprise to her friends, as her conduct previous to the unfortunate denouement had been unexceptionable as a wife and a mother. The correspondent in the case, also an officer in the army, whom I shall call Mr. B., made the lady all the reparation in his power and married her. She was subsequently received in society in India, where her antecedents were not too critically examined, but in three years afterwards Mr. B. died, and she was left a widow. Having no longer any tie in India she returned to England, whither she had been preceded by Mr. A. and his three little children. Having taken up her residence in a fashionable town in a midland county celebrated for the curative properties of its waters, Mrs. B., soon obtained admission to good society as the widow of a British officer, and a very beautiful and attractive woman to boot. Here, after an interval of nearly two years, she again encountered Mr. A., and the result is, that they have again married. The children of Mr. A. have not recognized their mother, and all they know is that papa "married a widow." Beat this in a novel if you can. The circumstances of this extraordinary case are related with critical accurance, and were I to give you the initials of the parties they could be easily identified.—Belfast News Letter.

RED RIVER.—The Nor' Wester of January 23 states that the wire for the Overland Pacific Telegraph was then in course of transportation to Georgetown and would be brought to Fort Garry on the opening of navigation. With the formal commencement of this great project, says our contemporary, we may hope that a bright day is dawning for Rupert's Land, in the course of which we shall gradually emerge from our nautical and comparatively grub-like existence and occupy a prominent position among the communities of the earth. A meeting of the Council of Assiniboia was held on the 12th January. The first subject considered was the deficiency of seed grain in the settlement owing to the bad harvest of last year. The council, while concurring in all that was said on the subject felt that it would be premature to do more than to point out to the community the danger with which they appeared to be threatened from the apprehended scarcity of seed wheat in the spring and to urge on them the desirableness of every one economising to the utmost their present stock of grain. The other subjects considered were of mere local importance.

THE DISTRESS IN GALWAY.—The distress in Galway has led to movements which threaten public disturbance. A committee has been appointed for the relief of unemployed labourers, numbering about 300, who were set to work on Monday at the opening of streets, preparatory to the making of sewers, at the rate of 1s. a day; but, owing to the small amount of funds in hand, the wages were reduced to 10d. a day. The men on hearing this, abandoned the work, and paraded the town with a black flag, using threats.

ARRIVAL OF THE CHINA.

New York, Feb. 22nd.

The China, from Liverpool 11th and Queenstown 12th, has arrived.

Liverpool, Feb. 11th.

Breadstuffs dull; provisions quiet and steady. Lard quiet but firm. Consols for money 89¼ a 89⅞.

It is rumored that the British Admiralty contemplate a reduction of the Coast Guard Service, owing to the policy of disarming among Continental Governments.

The Globe's Paris correspondent says that no French Minister to Washington will be appointed until the late Mr. Dayton's post is filled by the bearer of satisfactory instructions respecting the threats made against Mexico.

Liverpool Breadstuffs Market, Feb. 11th.—Breadstuffs—Flour dull, but not quotably lower. Wheat flat and lower on week's sales. Indian Corn—Mixed American 27s; Galatz 26s. Pork inactive and quieter. Ashes, small sales; pots 30s 9d a 31s; pearls 31s. Sugar in fair demand.

Montreal, Feb. 23.

Flour is very scarce, there being hardly sufficient to supply bakers.

The Grand Trunk is blamed for not bringing freight into the city. It is said they are endeavoring to cause the forwarders to make agreements to take goods by rail during the season of navigation. The merchants complain that it took from the 5th of January to the 28th to get goods from New York.

It has been thawing for three days. A portion of the streets only are cleared, leaving large holes. There are already three cases of broken legs.

The American Church at the corner of St. James street has been sold for $30,500 to Mr. H. Stephens.

Quebec, Feb. 23.

The Railway Committee to-day considered the Ottawa and Prescott Bill for amalgamation with the Grand Trunk. A vigorous opposition was made on public grounds, and on the ground that the security for the payment of the Municipal Loan Fund liabilities would be lessened. The amalgamation of the Montreal and Champlain Railway with the Grand Trunk was shown to have promised the advantages of cheaper fares and a terminus, which had not been realized. A piece of Grand Trunk deception was exposed to-day in Committee. Mr. Bell, its solicitor, had stated on Tuesday that an injunction to restrain the Grand Trunk from interfering with the stock of the Ottawa Road purchased last fall had been dissolved. Mr. Clarke telegraphed to Toronto and received the following reply yesterday:—

"The injunction is still in force.

"(Signed) Crooks, Kingsmill & Cattanach."

Further, Mr. Clarke received a telegraph that the Court of Chancery had severely censured Mr. Reynolds, the Receiver, for conniving at the sale of the rolling stock, and ordered him to pay the costs. Amalgamation be defeated, therefore, Mr. Reynolds will still, as Receiver, continue to manage the road for all the creditors, paying the Ebbw Vale Company interest first and then Prescott. Prescott is willing to take its chances of getting something under the management of the Receiver, as, with Ottawa as the capital of the country, its position will improve, while amalgamation is simply confiscation. The promoters did not dare to pass the Bill to a division to-day. The Committee meets again to-morrow.

ENOCH ARDEN, BOILED DOWN.

Phillip Ray and Enoch Arden
Both were 'spoons' on Annie Lee;
Phil did not fal-dill her notions,
She preferred to mate with E.

Him she wedded, and she bore him
Pretty little children three;
But becoming short of rhino,
Enoch went to sea.

Leaving Mrs. Arden owner
Of a well stocked village shop,
Selling butter, soap, and treacle,
Beeswax, whipcord, lollipop.

Ten long years she waited for him,
But he neither came nor wrote,
Wherefore, she concluded Enoch
Could no longer be afloat.

So when Phillip came to ask her
If she would be Mrs. Ray,
She, believing she was widow'd,
Could not say her suitor "nay."

And a second time was married,
Gave up selling bread and cheese
And in due time Phillip nursed at
Little Ray upon his knees.

But alas! the long lost Enoch
Turn'd up unexpectedly,
And was vastly disconcerted
By this act of biga-my.

Yet reflecting on the subject,
He determined to atone
For his lengthened absence from her
By just leaving well alone.

Taking to his bed, he dwindled
Down to something like a shade,
Settled with his good landlady,
Next the debt of nature paid.

Then, when both the Rays discovered
How poor Enoch's life had ended,
They came out in handsome style, and
Gave his corpse a fun'ral splendid.

This is all I know about it;
If it's not sufficient, write
By next mail to Alfred Tenny-
Son, P. L., the Isle of Wight.

—[Melbourne Punch.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

DUNKIN'S BILL CARRIED IN THE TOWNSHIP OF KINGSTON.

On Friday the Voting on Mr. Dunkin's Bill took place at Waterloo, and resulted in a triumph for the Teetotallers; for out of a constituency of 950 voters, 170 Teetotallers carried the day, only a very few voting against the Act.

What does this amount to? The Township loses $500 by this Act, while the number of drinking places will be greatly increased. Instead of having well-regulated Taverns, the Township will be flooded with Shebeen Shops, as in Cities where the number of Licensed Taverns is restricted. Every one who likes will now sell. Drunkenness will be on the daily increase, and generations unborn will live to curse Mr. Dunkin and the hypocritical vagabonds who support him and his measure.

PROMOTION.—The 14th Volunteers will be pleased to hear that one of their old companions, Mr. Edwin Horsey, of Major Kelly's Company, Central Battalion, now on Frontier duty at Niagara, has been promoted to the rank of Sergeant Major of the Regiment.

CITIZENS' FREE SKATING RINK.—The pair of skates won by Mr. John Meagher, for artistic skating at the late tournament on this rink, were presented to him on Saturday on the rink. The skates are considered to be the best of the kind in Canada, and reflect great credit on the maker.

THE RAILWAY ACCIDENT.—Mr. N. C. Gowan, of Toronto, one of those on the train which rolled down the embankment on the Grand Trunk Railroad near Petersburg, was mortally injured.

THE VOLUNTEER UNIFORMS.—Lieut. Col. Shaw has issued an order prohibiting the wearing of the new uniforms at drill or parade, of Nos. 1 and 6 Companies of the 14th Battalion, till the spring, by which time it is to be hoped the Battalion will be better uniformed. The general understanding between officers and men is that they shall not turn out for parade or public duty until they are uniformly uniformed and in a fit state to appear in public. The Garden Island Naval Company has now been organized two years and drilled regularly all that time, but have not had as much as an overcoat given them. The Naval Company can compare favorably with any Company of the kind in Canada, both in point of drill and efficiency. We hope that it may not be long before the wants of the various Companies are supplied.

RUN OVER.—A son of a Royal Canadian Rifleman was knocked down on Saturday morning in Bagot Street by a horse, and dragged for some distance underneath the sleigh. The boy's foot was badly injured by being trampled underneath the horse's feet.

SAD DEATH.—We regretted to hear on Saturday of the death at Montreal of the Hon. George Moffatt, who had attained the age of seventy-five years. The deceased gentleman was father of Col. Moffatt, of the Royal Canadian Rifles, who left Kingston for Montreal immediately on hearing the mournful news. The Hon. George Moffatt represented Montreal in the Legislature while the Seat of Government was located in Kingston, and till lately was a leading merchant of that city.

THE CALEDONIANS.—The Hon. John A. Macdonald was unanimously re-elected Chief of the Caledonians, at their meeting on Friday night. Some other unimportant business was transacted.

☞ The case of the St. Alban's Raiders was not taken up on Friday.

BEALL EXECUTED.—John G. Beall, the Lake Erie Pirate and Philo Parsons' Raider, was executed on Friday on Governor's Island.

LATEST FROM THE SOUTH.

CAPTURE OF WILMINGTON CONFIRMED.

Baltimore, Feb. 24.

A despatch from Fort Monroe dated this morning, just received, says that the U.S. gunboat Cuyler has arrived from Fort Fisher with the news of the evacuation of Wilmington on the night of the 21st. Major Gen. Terry entered and took possession of the city about 9 o'clock a.m. of the 22nd, capturing a large amount of stores.

Washington, Feb. 24.

Official War Department, 12 Midnight—Maj. Gen. Dix—The following report of the capture of Wilmington has been forwarded to this department by Gen. Grant:—

(Signed) E. M. Stanton.

Fort Monroe, Feb. 24.

Gen. Grant, City Point—Our troops entered Wilmington on the morning of the 22nd, after the evacuation of Fort Anderson. General Schofield ordered Cox to follow its garrison towards Wilmington, while Perry followed Hoke on the east side of the river. The latter took up a new line 4 miles from Wilmington, but was so closely pressed by Terry that he could send no troops to the west side. On that side the Confederates made a stand behind Town Creek, but on the 20th Cox crossed his troops below them on a flat boat, attacked them in the rear and routed them, taking two guns and 300 prisoners. On the 21st Cox pushed to the Brunswick river, opposite Wilmington, where the bridges were on fire, and on his arrival the Confederates began burning the cotton and rosin in the city, and left it that night. Our captures, including Fort Anderson, amounted to about 700 prisoners and 30 guns. Citizens state the Confederates burned 1,000 bales of cotton and 15,000 barrels of rosin. The Union feeling showed itself. Terry followed Hoke northward.

(Signed) C. B. COMSTOCK,

Washington, Feb. 25.—The mail steamer to-day brought to Washington about 160 rebel deserters. Desertions still continue in large numbers, but instead of coming into our lines at night, as heretofore, the soldiers make their exit from before Petersburg in broad daylight, bringing their guns with them.

Washington, Feb. 25.

A night or two ago a squad of White's guerillas crossed the Potomac river in the neighborhood of Edward's Ferry and drove in our pickets. They shot three men of the 1st Delaware cavalry who were on duty there, and carried off a number of horses. A part of the