

APPALLING GLOOM.

SPRINGHILL COLLIERY HORROR.

HEARTRENDING INCIDENTS AT THE AFFLICTED MINE TOWN—ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY DEATHS.

SPRINGHILL, N.S., Feb. 23.—The gloom that has settled down upon the people of this section of Canada is something appalling. Business is entirely suspended and people have given themselves up to discussing in a half dazed sort of way the stupendous calamity that has befallen them, the full extent of which they do not seem to realize. A thousand or more visitors have come into the town from places adjoining, besides throngs of friends of victims from the mining regions of Pictou county. The scene at the former homes of the victims and the building in which the bodies are placed as they come up from the pit begins to be a scene of horror. The lamentations of widows and orphans are heart-breaking. The streets now reach 120, and when all the bodies are recovered may exceed that.

REQUISITIONS FOR COFFINS. There are some changes in the list of the killed as telegraphed last night. Erasmus Hayman has been found alive, and Clifford Ripley, whose name was not before reported, is dead. The work of rescuing bodies continues. Twelve bodies were recovered to-day, making the total number brought up so far 105. The leaves about fourteen still buried under the debris, and these are not likely to be recovered for several days. The work of surrounding country has been asked for coffins. One carload was received from Amherst and another carload was expected to-night. As soon as bodies are brought up from the pit they are taken to the carpenter shop and prepared for burial.

DEAD BODIES IN OPEN PLACES. It is a strange thing to see dead bodies being driven through the town at all hours of the day in open sleighs. The scene at the temporary morgue last night was sickening. Forty or fifty bodies were lying about the benches and upon the straw. They were those of men and boys of all ages. Some appeared as peaceful as in sleep, others were horribly burned and disfigured, their hands charred and black, the skin hanging in strands from their faces and brows and their hair singed to a crisp. A score of stout-hearted fellows had been at work twenty-four hours attending to the bodies, and preparing them for interment, and as soon as they were ready they were removed home, where they were awaited in speechless silence by heartbroken wives and friends. Some fifteen or sixteen funerals took place to-day. More would have been buried if the ground could have been prepared, but the ground is so hard that great difficulty is experienced in getting graves ready.

THE FIRST FUNERALS. There were touching scenes at the funeral services, especially at the English Church, where ten members of three families were buried. Mr. Wm. Smith buried his two sons and an adopted son, Reid Carter and his sons, aged 11 and 12, were carried out of the house. The eldest was to have been married next week to Phoebe Brown. Every arrangement had been made for the wedding. The girls were heart-broken. A public meeting was held to-night, when the necessary arrangements were made to provide all the graves that will be required for the public funeral, which takes place to-morrow.

INQUEST OPENED. The inquest began to-night before Dr. C. A. Black, the Amherst coroner, and the following jury—Foreman, Mr. William Hall, Mayor of the town, and formerly manager of the mine; Messrs. A. E. Fraser, Richard Bennett, Robert V. Scott, George Watt, Daniel Coghill, R. W. McDonald, Timothy Leadbeater, Daniel Ferguson, Robert Gray and Charles Simpson. The jury met at six o'clock and viewed the body of John Connerton and then went down the pit to view the location of the accident. The work of taking evidence began at nine o'clock. Malcolm Blue, one of the miners, was the first witness. He thought the explosion took place between No. 2 and 4 boras, on No. 7 balance, but did not care to express an opinion as to the cause. The inquest was adjourned at 11 till to-morrow morning.

WORKING AT MIDNIGHT. At midnight, two more bodies were recovered. That of Frank Letcher was taken out by his two brothers, who found him under a heavy fall of stone in his boras. Malcolm Nain was also brought out at the same time. This leaves the following bodies missing—John Hunter, Roger Naylor, John J. Macdonald, Donald McKay, Richard Murphy, John Francis, Neil McLeod, John Nairn, James Nairn, Wm. Hyde, Henry Livingston, Ernest Chandler, Andrew Best and Henry Swift. The exploring party are now looking for them.

THE LITTLE FOUR-YEAR-OLD BROTHER. One of the saddest incidents connected with the calamity occurred this afternoon. The body of a boy named Dupes was brought up from the pit. The parents and a little four-year-old brother were waiting near the pit's mouth. When word was passed that young Dupes's body was coming the little brother pulled himself away from his mother and ran towards the body of his brother. A moment later he fell upon the frozen ground and struck his forehead with such violence that he never moved after he fell. It was a startling fatality and produced a profound impression. The bodies of the brothers were taken away in the arms of the frantic parents. Together they will be buried in one grave to-morrow.

OVERCOME BY THE GAS. Two men named Peter Gallagher and Daniel Lockhart were working together. Gallagher had his arm around Lockhart and was dragging him along, when both got overcome and dropped on their faces and died. One of the victims, named Bambridge, recently sent to England to get his mother out to keep house for him. Tottersoll, the well known cricketeer, who came out from England to coach the Wanderers Club, of Halifax, is among the dead. He sent his wife away a few weeks ago, and was saying good-bye to her by his ring and watch in case he never saw her again.

MARVELLOUS ESCAPES. A man named Chandler and his son were working together with a companion named Nash. All three ran. Nash was so badly burned that he begged to be allowed to remain and die. But the Chandlers dragged him along and saved him. While the senior Chandler was heroically saving a fellow-being another of his sons was killed in another part of the mine. Four men, named Russell, Rutherford, Allan and Reid, who violated the rules of the mine, were sent to the bank head a little while before the explosion and thus saved their lives. Six men working in No. 2 boras didn't go to work that afternoon, owing to the scarcity of timber in their places. Their two comrades, who were below, were killed.

GIRDLING THE GLOBE. POST SAID, Feb. 23.—The steamship "Empress of India" arrived here on Sunday morning. The passengers disembarked for Cairo and the Pyramids, while the steamer is

coaling and going through the canal. The steamer will wait at Suez until the passengers arrive there, then leave for Colombo.

DILLON AND O'BRIEN.

BOTH IN THE PRISON INFIRMARY—PARNELLITES AND MCCARTHYITES. DUBLIN, Feb. 23.—Mr. Dillon and Mr. O'Brien have been steadily failing since their imprisonment began, and both are now in the prison infirmary. Mr. Dillon is much broken in health. Mr. O'Brien is also suffering considerably, but is 11 pounds heavier than when he was last in goal.

WILL OBTAIN A BANNER. A procession of several thousand persons met Mr. Parnell upon his arrival in the town to-day. Mr. Parnell made a speech. This evening he went to Longford. He met with a cordial reception on his way and at the town, where he delivered an address. Mr. Parnell will speak in Lisburn on April 19, the anniversary of the meeting which addressed there in 1879. On this occasion he will unfurl a National League banner.

PARNELL AND HARRINGTON CONDEMNED. The McCarthyites at Londonderry to-day dissolved the Parnell branch of the National League and reconstituted it as a branch of the National Federation. Resolutions were passed condemning the actions of Messrs. Parnell and Harrington.

FRIENDS AND THE ZETLAND-BALFOUR FUND. Archbishop Walsh has written a letter, published in the newspapers in this city, in which he said that six priests responding to an official invitation to assist in the administration of the Zetland-Balfour fund attended a meeting of the Belmullet relief committee at Belmullet, County Mayo, but upon learning that they would not be allowed to have effective control of the distribution they withdrew. The Archbishop says the same action will be taken by other priests in other districts.

IRISH NATIONALISTS AND THE ENGLISH. LONDON, Feb. 23.—At a meeting of the McCarthyites to-day a further protest was issued declaring that they would never accept funds from the English Liberals. Several Parnellites have informed the chairman of the National League in Great Britain that they cannot take part in St. Patrick's day celebrations because of the decision of the executive leaving speakers free to deal with the party disputes.

AN INSANE LAND AGITATOR.

EDMONTON, Feb. 23.—A sensation has been caused in labor circles here by the commitment to an insane asylum of a noted Scotch land agitator named Alexander Robertson. Robertson, who is popularly known under the name of "Dundomachie," committed an apparently unprovoked assault upon Lord Inglis, president of the Court of Sessions. Robertson struck Lord Inglis over the head with a stick on Princess street, inflicting, however, slight injury. The land agitator was promptly arrested, and it was obvious he was of unsound mind. He was sent to an asylum by the magistrate without being taken before the court.

SERVIA'S PRETENDER.

BELGRADE, Feb. 23.—A manifesto has been issued by the party of the pretender, Kara-georgievich, who aspires to the Serbian throne. This manifesto calls upon the people to rise and declare a revolution, to overturn the Obrenovitch dynasty and, incidentally, to place the king, Charles IX., "exhibited a strange, and even inexplicable friendliness towards the Protestants, whom he appeared desirous of supporting."

BRAZILIAN LABOR TROUBLES.

RIO JANEIRO, Feb. 23.—The strikes caused in this city and neighborhood by reason of labor disputes are extending and are paralyzing business. The laborers who have been at work on the Central Railway have now gone out on strike. Traffic has been stopped on the railway and the supplies of beef, which come in from the country, have been cut off owing to the fact that no trains are running. Military forces are under arms and are being employed in keeping order.

LORD RANDOLPH CHURCHILL.

LONDON, Feb. 23.—Lord Randolph Churchill, addressing a meeting of his constituents at South Paddington, stated that the Government should be more sympathetic in its labor policy. He also said that he favored the founding of state boards of arbitration. It is reported Lord Randolph Churchill will soon start on a four or five months' tour of Massachusetts.

PRINCE BISMARCK DECLINES.

BERLIN, Feb. 23.—Prince Bismarck has declined the offer of the town of Harburg to nominate him for the Reichstag. The Prince, in refusing, said he was forced to decline on the ground of personal and domestic circumstances which would prevent a conscientious performance of the duties which would fall to his lot if he accepted.

AN OFFICIAL DECREE SUPPRESSES ALL THE REPUBLICAN CLUBS IN PORTUGAL.

The subscriptions to the new German loan reached forty times the amount of the loan. The Monitor of Rome publishes a long eulogy of Archbishop Ireland, of St. Paul, Minn., whom it considers the dominant archbishop of the United States.

ALIVE! ALIVE!

JOYFUL TIDINGS FROM AN ILL-FATED MINE. HARRISTON, Pa., Feb. 23.—"Alive! Alive!" was the joyous shoutings to-night at 11:30 from the ill-fated Mine No. 1 at Harriston. After being for 15 days entombed in the darkness of the mine five victims of the terrible disaster were found alive. They are John Tomaskusky, Joe Mastusakow, John Bero, Bogow Frikno, and an unknown Hungarian. These, with 13 bodies already found, make 18 men, the exact number given in these despatches the day of the accident. How they survived is a miracle. Nothing like it has been known or heard of in the anthracite coal fields of Pennsylvania. When Superintendent McMarline and Caleb Williams were making a search to-night in a breast of the gangway of the north pitch they were startled by coming across the bodies of the five men lying in various positions all huddled together in their efforts to keep warm.

WEAKENED BUT STILL BREATHING.

A careful examination revealed the fact that, although weakened by the awful torture of hunger and thirst, they were still alive. They were so weak that without exception they could not be moved. John Tomaskusky's excellent strength left him better than the rest and he was able to be moved to the bottom of the slope. Many blankets were secured and the men wrapped in them. Tomaskusky was just strong enough to raise his head and look around. When spoken to he raised his eyes mournfully, a look of despair passed over his face, and he muttered, "John must die." This man will not be brought to the surface for several days. Careful nurses will be given them and every effort put forth to save their lives.

"MUSKOKA FARMER" TO "P. J."

MORE FACTS IN ROMISH CHURCH HISTORY DISCUSSED.

(To the Editor of the Witness.)

SIR,—With your permission I will now proceed to discuss the remaining portion of "P. J.'s" reply to my letter of December 31 last. The St. Bartholomew Massacre is the first in order. On this the remarks of "P. J." are considerably mixed and largely irrelevant. I am glad, however, that he designates it "An atrocious deed and a disgrace to the world." But the impression left on my mind, after carefully reading his letter is, that, though he condemns it, he wishes to palliate and excuse it. Else why bring forward the assassination of the Duke of Guise, the plots of conspirators against the Royal family, the battles between Catholics and Huguenots, and then refer to the wars between France, Spain and Portugal, to Douglas, Dunbar and Glencairn. All this has nothing to do with the point at issue, and could answer only one purpose, that of diverting the attention of the reader from that atrocious deed, and leading him to conclude that, after all, it was no worse than many others that have been perpetrated in our time by Protestants as well as Catholics. Supposing I were to admit all that he says, and in the sense in which he puts it—which I do not—nothing could be gained for his cause. Two blacks do not make a white. The multiplicity of crimes does not make every act more heinous than another. This method of mixing up things that differ, is an old dodge of Catholic controversialists, which is no credit to them. My question was, "Whether those who planned and perpetrated that atrocious butchery of peaceful and confiding men were bad Catholics, acting contrary to the principles and teaching of their church?" I do not ask whether they were bad men, there can be but one opinion on that; but whether they were bad Catholics? History abundantly proves that a man may be a very demon toward his fellows, as cruel and deceitful as the devil, and yet be a good Catholic. Now what are the facts about this St. Bartholomew butchery.

First, there had been civil war in France at times for several years, on account of the bitter persecutions and cruel treatment of the Protestants. These had defended themselves with varying success. Treaties had been made with them and broken. But the success of the Protestants in 1570 had been such that the Government was again willing to negotiate. A treaty of peace was signed at St. Germain on the 8th of August. "When very favorable terms were granted to the Reformers, and, as a guarantee of their fulfillment, the cities of La Rochelle, Cognac, Montauban and La Charite were placed in the hands of the Huguenots to be garrisoned by their troops during the next two years." Thus the wars were over; peace was made, and the king, Charles IX., "exhibited a strange, and even inexplicable friendliness towards the Protestants, whom he appeared desirous of supporting."

Second, on the 18th of August, 1572, after two years of peace, the marriage of Henry of Navarre with the Princess Marguerite, the king's sister, took place in Paris, and a great many Protestant gentlemen went there to witness the ceremony and join in the festivities. On Sunday morning, August 24, at two o'clock, "the great bell of St. Germain L'Auxerrois rang out. Those who were not in the horrible secret must have wondered at that untimely sound; not so the numerous agents in the tragedy, who were waiting for the signal in many parts of the city. Lights flashed in the windows, and the assassins, each distinguished by a white cross in his hat, sallied forth on his bloody errand. A general massacre then set in, and continued through the whole of the ensuing day, and some following days. The houses inhabited by the Huguenots had been previously marked, and the slaughter, both in private chambers and in the public streets, was terrific. Orders to perpetrate similar butcheries were sent into the provinces. "In some of them the officials were ashamed to publish the murderous commands which had been transmitted to them." Yet, there were bloodthirsty fanatics enough to carry on this slaughter in almost every province for about 30 days. No one knows the exact number of the slain; it estimates vary from 25,000 to 50,000. "P. J." carries its own refutation.

"P. J." asks, "Why should the church be held responsible for the misdeeds of Catholic bad rulers?" I will answer his question as far as it concerns the present case. First, the church, his church, has had, and still has, the impudence to brand every man with the opprobrious name "heretic," who dares to dispute her antichristian doctrines, or deny her monstrous assumptions and absurd claims. Second, This so-called church has been wicked enough to declare that faith need not be kept with those whom she pleases so to brand. Third, This so-called church has declared that the murder of such men is not only no sin, but a virtuous act, and very acceptable to God. Consequently, Catherine de Medici, her son Charles, and all their fanatical and guilty assistants were only carrying out the principles and teachings of the church when they enticed the chiefs of the Huguenots to Paris, and then betrayed and slaughtered them, and sent orders into every province of France to treat their friends and fellow Protestants in the same way. Fourth, The infallible head of this church, Pope Gregory XIII., so thoroughly approved of the whole proceeding that he "caused the guns of St. Angelo to fire a salute when he heard the news of the massacre, sent the French king the golden rose, celebrated the event by a solemn procession to the Church of San Luigi, returned thanks to heaven for the extinction of heresy in France, which he commemorated by a medal, "a fac simile of which I have seen, bearing the legend: "Huguenotum strages." Will "P. J." again tell us "The church had nothing to do with this sad affair." He says, "It is unjust and ungenerous to hold the Catholic Church or our Protestant churches responsible for the misdeeds of their rulers." Very true; but there is nothing unjust or ungenerous in holding any and every church responsible for the principles it inculcates and the practice it endorses, and that is all I do in this case.

On the subject of tradition, "P. J." says: "Your correspondent refers to the canonals and tradition. By tradition he means, baptism and keeps the Sabbath, there is no Scripture for the forms of ceremony." He then refers me to five passages of Scripture, not one of which has any more to do with the Romish doctrine of tradition than with the man in the moon. His whole statement is more amusing than convincing. How does he know that I either marry or am married, that I either baptize or am baptized. By what tradition were Adam and Eve married? Or Abraham and Sarah; or Isaac and Rebecca? And millions more? As for baptism; one would suppose he had never read Matthew 28, 19. "Go ye therefore and disciple all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." If all "P. J.'s" traditions stood on as good authority as that, I should never utter a word against them. But when Moses and David are quoted in support of them, one is inclined to smile and wonder what Moses and David would think if permitted to know the use thus made of their authority. But "the apostles recognized tradition." Yes, and so did Jesus Christ, but only to condemn it, because by it the word of God was set aside and rendered of no effect. "P. J." seems to be led astray by the jingle of a word without considering either the circumstances or the context. Now, I challenge "P. J." to give me a single instance of a tradition that has come down pure and unadulterated from the days of the apostles, and which teaches something not contained or taught in the Scriptures, a belief in which is, nevertheless, necessary to salvation.

A MUSKOKA FARMER. Feb. 9, 1891. P.S.—I give "P. J." full credit for his statement that "Catholics detest atrocities as well as their Protestant neighbors." I believe some of them do, I wish their Church did; it would then renounce that persecuting spirit which has characterized its proceedings for centuries, and repeal those cruel and antichristian enactments which have disgraced its history. But, *semper eadem*, alas, and *non possumus*, and the Syllabus and Council of Pius IX. stand in the way and forbid us to hope for so important and beneficial a change. M. F.

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NOTICES.

PETITION TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL-IN-COUNCIL OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA. PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given by the Corporation of the Parish of St. Raphael de la Riviere, that on the THIRD DAY OF MARCH NEXT, by their undersigned attorney, they will petition the Governor-General-in-Council of the Dominion of Canada, for obtaining the authorization of the construction of an iron free bridge over the River of the parish, between the Village of St. Genevieve and the Parish of St. Raphael de la Riviere, at the junction of wharves, which the Federal Government does not make actually. That, moreover, they have deposited with the Department of the Minister of Public Works at Ottawa, the plan of bridge, with the description of the place where it will be constructed. That they have deposited also a duplicate of said plan and place of said bridge to the Office of Registration of the County of Hochelaga and Jacques Cartier. St. Genevieve, this 23rd January, 1891. J. A. CHAUVERT, Attorney of the Petitioner.

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the Romish doctrine of tradition than with the man in the moon. His whole statement is more amusing than convincing. How does he know that I either marry or am married, that I either baptize or am baptized. By what tradition were Adam and Eve married? Or Abraham and Sarah; or Isaac and Rebecca? And millions more? As for baptism; one would suppose he had never read Matthew 28, 19. "Go ye therefore and disciple all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." If all "P. J.'s" traditions stood on as good authority as that, I should never utter a word against them. But when Moses and David are quoted in support of them, one is inclined to smile and wonder what Moses and David would think if permitted to know the use thus made of their authority. But "the apostles recognized tradition." Yes, and so did Jesus Christ, but only to condemn it, because by it the word of God was set aside and rendered of no effect. "P. J." seems to be led astray by the jingle of a word without considering either the circumstances or the context. Now, I challenge "P. J." to give me a single instance of a tradition that has come down pure and unadulterated from the days of the apostles, and which teaches something not contained or taught in the Scriptures, a belief in which is, nevertheless, necessary to salvation.

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LET US SECURE THESE THINGS. The pleasantest things in the world are pleasant thoughts, and the great art in life is to have as many of them as possible. In order to secure this condition in life, it is necessary that we be healthy mentally and physically, and cast out all selfishness and

ON THE BRINK.

[For this story the author received the First Prize, One Thousand Dollars, offered by the Publishers of the Youth's Companion for the best story of Adventure, competition of 1889.]

"The view in front and below was especially fascinating, while the waters of the small stream poured over the edge, and fell, looking like a mass of falling pearls, down to a shelving rock, until it became only mist and spray long before it reached the base of the precipice.

"I had a curiosity to know the height of this precipice, so, taking a cartridge from my belt and wrapping a piece of white paper about it, I dropped it into the abyss, and noted that it reached the bottom in five seconds. So I computed in my field book that it was about four hundred feet from where I stood to the base of the precipice. Then I sat down, and wearied by my long tramp, stretched myself upon my side, and involuntarily dropped asleep.

"On looking at my watch when I awoke I saw that it was two o'clock, so I reluctantly concluded to leave my cool retreat. I took my gun and walked back toward the point in the cleft where I had entered.

"Imagine my surprise when I found that it was so narrow that I could not pass through it. I looked, rubbed my eyes, and looked again. Yes, there was an opening, but it was not a foot wide. With a quiver of pulse I began to investigate.

"The ice wall was certainly nearer to the brink of the precipice than it had been when I passed through the crevice. A thin line of the alveolar-like dust which accumulates on the rocks of fresh water streams was scraped up from the base of the ice wall, and one of my footprints on this thin, soft substance was partly hidden by the ice.

"The truth was now perfectly plain! Had there ever been another man so inconceivably thoughtless to walk into a trap like that?

"The mass of ice and snow behind me had begun to move downward. Already it had cut off my retreat. I was hemmed in before a slowly moving ice-fall, and should be restlessly crowded down over the brink into the fearful abyss beyond.

"At first I was dazed by this awful discovery. Then I began nervously to look about for some way of escape; but neither the smooth walls at the sides of my prison nor the perpendicular face of that moving ice-cliff offered any footing up which it would be possible for me to climb more than a few feet.

"Trembling in every nerve, and with a sinking heart, I went to the verge of the precipice. A few moments before I had looked with pleasure down into the abyss. How different it appeared now! A single glance made my head swim and my heart chill with horror.

"Time and again I paced up and down my slowly shortening prison, seeking some hither-to overlooked means of escape. I thrust my rifle in between the ice and the side of the channel, madly hoping that it would in some way check the movement of that awful mass, I might as well have tried in the same way to check the waters of the Columbia.

"I struck my hunting knife into the ice to see if I could not cut steps for my hands and feet, and thus draw myself up the face of the ice-wall. At almost the first blow the blade snapped from the handle, which fell into the water and glided over the brink.

"Then I gave up hope.

"Still, with a sort of fascination, I wished I could know how much longer I had to live. I had a small tape line in my pocket. With it I measured the distance from the edge of the precipice to the base of the ice-cliff. It was just sixty-two feet.

"Then I took my watch and observed the mass while it passed over three feet. It seemed to move steadily at the rate of about six inches a minute.

"I did not need to put down the figures in order to know that—even if the movement did not increase with the height—I had a little less than two hours to live; nevertheless, in a dazed way, I put the figures down in my field-book. It must have been purely the force of habit that led me to do so. I even reflected that I should be crowded from my position before the ice reached the brink, and so, as it was just fourteen minutes past two, I concluded that I could not hope to remain on the ledge longer than until ten minutes past four o'clock.

"Strange details, you think, for a man in such peril to busy himself with. But I believe that the horrible fear and suspense must at times have unsettled my mind, which seems to have gone from one extreme to the other, so that my imagination conjured up all kinds of strange and unexpected fancies.

"Sometimes I hoped, sometimes I feared, that the mass would become suddenly loosened, and hurl me at once into the abyss. Sometimes I became frantic at the thought of my horrible position, then I would accept what was to come as inevitable, and settle into the dull acquiescence of despair.

"A great fleecy cloud came floating below me, and for a few minutes hid the yawning chasm. I remember longing to jump down into its feathery folds, and wishing that upon it I might sail away into space forever.

"I thought an hour must have passed, but my watch showed that only fifteen minutes had elapsed since I had completed that last computation. I would not believe it until I looked back and saw by the aid of marks that I had placed in the side of the chasm, that the creeping, horrible mass had advanced seven and one-half feet.

"A breath of wind bore a delicate bit of moss to my feet. Then I remembered that I had seen moss of the same kind many years before at the funeral of one of the playmates of my boyhood. Loving hands had twined a mossy wreath and placed it upon the coffin. Every feature of the fair, peaceful countenance lying upon its snowy pillow came distinctly to my mental vision. Mechanically I began to sketch the dead face on a leaf of my book. But the consciousness of my awful peril did not leave me, and the rough sketch seemed to transform itself into a vivid picture of a mangled body lying among grisly boulders at the foot of a precipice, and buried beneath masses of snow and ice.

"It seems to me that I did not so much shrink from death, or even cling to life; but the thought of the horrible sensation of falling filled me with dread. It seemed as if my sensations would not end with death. I even felt that if I were to send a bullet crashing through my brain I should still feel that horrible sensation of falling; and that if my body were ground to powder I should still be conscious of the crash of that great mass that would fall upon me.

"With these, and many other fantastic and terrifying imaginings my mind was occupied until three o'clock. The mass of ice still moved with almost the precision of a machine, as I sat looking up at the sky, flecked here

and there with gauzy clouds, a dark speck appeared circling above me. Then another came in sight, following the downward flight of the first.

(To be Continued.)

CHILDREN'S CORNER.

LOTTIE'S ROMANCE.

In a far corner of the attic sat Lottie. Around her were her chief treasures—half a dozen of fairy books much the worse for usage some tins and spangled dresses, a game or two and an old stuffed doll, whose head had unfortunately been sewed on hind side before.

This attic was Lottie's retreat on rainy days, and she spent whole hours there blissfully happy with her enchanted ogres and princes. She sat looking brightly out of the window at the farm wagons and people passing in the road below.

Well! who would not have been disappointed? It was her tenth birthday—the first time she could write her age with two figures, and she had no birthday party. She had been promised one long ago. There were to be little frosted cakes with colored candies on top, oranges and tiny three-cornered sandwiches. A hundred times she had told her little friends that they were to be invited, and had secretly shown them her red merino dress trimmed with fancy braid, which she was to wear on her birthday for the first time.

Just three days before, Nancy the cook, had fallen and fractured her thigh, and Mrs. Harding had more than she could attend to, taking care of the invalid and cooking for the family.

"I am very sorry, Lottie," said the poor mother, who knew well the child's disappointment, "but I have not time to get ready for your party now. When Nancy gets well, you shall have a lovely one."

But Lottie refused to be comforted. "It would not be a birthday party coming afterward," she said.

For three days she had whined and pouted and all the morning of that day which was to have been so merry, her small face was wrinkled in frowns.

Here it was after dinner, and Lottie had not seen a single little friend, had not tasted a frosted cake, and had not even glanced at the red merino laid away so carefully in her mother's drawer.

After a time she sighed, turned away from the window and looked for her "Arabian Nights." All at once her eye caught sight of a new book among the pile, and she lifted it curiously. It was larger than the others, with a gorgeous picture on the outside, and on the fly-leaf, in a round boyish hand-writing, with these words:

To LOTTIE HARDING, ON HER TENTH BIRTHDAY, FROM MOSES.

Moses was Lottie's brother, a good-natured, homely fellow, some years older than herself.

When Lottie saw her new gift she forgot her trouble for a time, and turned the pages with interest, wondering which story to begin. It was a picture that finally decided her. It represented a little girl taking leave of her weeping family, while just outside the door stood a magnificent equipage, ready to take her for away. Underneath the picture were the words:

"Good by," said the little foster-child, as she turned to the door, 'you have treated me very kindly, and when I become queen, I shall send for you all to come and live with me.' It was a charming story about a little girl who lived with a humble wood-cutter and his family, always thinking she was his daughter. One day he called her to him and told her that her father was the king, and that when she was twelve years old he would send for her to come to him.

Lottie read it all with interest, and pondered long on the story. How strange it would seem to be a foster child. What now if she were one, and some men in livery would drive through their little village and take her far away to some splendid castle to live! She would wear her red merino, she thought, and all the family would weep when she was leaving. They would be sorry, too no doubt, that she had gone without this birthday party.

In the midst of her meditations Lottie heard her mother calling her from below, and moving listlessly to the stairs, she answered, "What, mamma?"

"Come down dear, and get dressed," said Mrs. Harding. "Your Uncle Sandy has come for you to go home with him, and stay all night with the girls. You can wear your red dress."

(To be Continued.)

WORDS OF EVERLASTING LIFE.

Tuesday, February 24.

He stayeth His rough wind in the day of the east wind.—Isa. xxvii. 8.

When afflictions cloud my sky, When Thy rod of sorrow flows, When Thy tid is lifted high, Let me on thy love repose,— Stay the wind When thy chilling east wind blows.

A LADY CORRESPONDENT of a leading daily paper, evidently in great anxiety, wrote to the editor asking him to advise her how to raise money for a small and struggling church. She admitted that they had tried a great many ways, and had not been at all successful.

"We have had," she said, "calico parties, sugar parties, fish ponds, mock post-offices, and the like and if you can suggest something new you will earn sincere thanks." The editor or by no means a religious man, gave some sound advice. He replied: "We recommend a revival of religion." The advice is hereby commended to all struggling churches, and to those that are not struggling, too. There are many societies worrying along in weakness and inefficiency, resorting to all kinds of cheap devices to keep themselves in existence objects of pity on the part of the world, that would be strengthened, enriched, unified, and become a real power in the community, if they could only be visited by a real revival. Nothing will so effectually untangle knotty complications, another embarrassing dissensions, and make strong the bonds of true brotherly love. Nothing will so thoroughly oil every part of the machinery of church activity and cause it to move forward without friction or hindrance. Take this secular editor's advice. It is sensible. It is every way good.—Riv. Horn.

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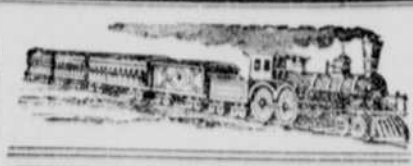
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Weekly Calendar.

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PROGRAMME. Chairman, Rev. Dr. Smith. First Solo, Miss Matthews. Song, 'The Lord is my Strength'...

FRIDAY, FEB. 27th.

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Friday Evening, February 27.

ADMISSION 25 cents

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The Daily Witness.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1891.

IN 1860, when Canada adopted the decimal system, the Tories, the lined predecessors of the restrictionists of our day, denounced the scheme as traitorous, disloyal, and a step towards annexation!

WHO WERE THE TRAITORS that arranged for the unrestricted reciprocity in mail matter with the United States which now obtains. If it is treasonable to trade with the Americans without being fined in a customs house what must it not be to interchange ideas with them. Then to think of the discrimination against the Mother Country that is practiced in this matter. It costs three cents to send a letter to the United States, five cents to send one to Great Britain, and while the American must pay only two cents to contaminate a Canadian with his ideas, an Englishman is charged two pence half penny for the privilege of him ennobling with British notions. The Empire should send his man with the gun around and "shoot all" the traitors of the Cabinet "down in their track" for their "treason"

A MORE FRIGHTFUL CALAMITY than that caused by the explosion of gas in the Spring-hill mine, has perhaps never taken place in Canada, and the warning is so terrible that its like should never take place again. The mine was considered to be perfectly free from gas, and as great precautions were taken to prevent the rise of dust, it was considered so perfectly safe that open lights were used. Of late there were indications of gas in quantities, and the use of open lights was no longer considered safe, but before the change could be made the explosion came, and hundreds of valuable lives have been lost. Now, nothing remains to do but to regret, to sorrow over the dead, assist the widows and orphans, and by a most strict enquiry ascertain the exact causes of the calamity.

SIR CHARLES TUPPER has brought to light an awful mare's nest. In order to prove that Mr. Farrer has written letters to American statesmen at Washington he produces a letter written by him to Mr. Erasmus Wiman, a supposed annexationist Canadian, and to prove that the Liberals are traitors, he publishes this letter, which shows that Mr. Farrer is disgusted with the Canadian Liberals because they will not fall in with his ideas, but are evidently too loyal for Mr. Farrer to represent them as otherwise. But perhaps the most awful revelation is in the second letter which shows that Mr. Hitt, an American, and a United States Congressman, is disloyal to the British connection. A foreign traitor is something new in human depravity. The Dutch have taken Holland!

OWING TO THE SLOTHFULNESS with which candidates reply to the questions of the Alliance, that body has not found itself able to pronounce with regard to very many of the candidates. It is understood that sufficient time will be given, after which the failure to reply will be taken as refusal, and judgment will be arrived at otherwise. In Compton County the course of the Alliance was clear. The candidate there of the Conservative party is Mr. Rufus Pope, who is not a prohibitionist. The Liberal candidate is Mr. Leet, an out-and-out temperance man and prohibitionist. This gentleman was spoken of in some advices from the county as the Alliance candidate. This was not the case, the county alliance having found him too much of a party man to put forward as an independent champion of their cause. As between him and Mr. Pope, however, there is no doubt as to which is the candidate for prohibitionists, and Mr. Leet has received the distinct endorsement of the Provincial Alliance. The only other constituency pronounced upon is Montreal East, where the temperance vote is potent. Here the candidates are Mr. David, Liberal, and Mr. Lapine, Conservative. The former is opposed to prohibition, and the latter has repeated without reserve his former declaration in favor of it. Mr. Lapine is not an abstainer and therefore not an ideal temperance candidate. But as he faithfully kept his former promise to vote for prohibition and now promises to vote against the Government on that issue and on the permit system in the North-West, he is declared to be the preferable candidate, and efforts will be made to repeat the victory of 1887.

THEN AND NOW. Sir John Macdonald's Farrer rocket has gone up spluttering and come down and there is nothing left of it that any one can find out but the usual useless stick. Two things

have been clearly proved. One is that certain politicians in the United States, including, apparently, an erratic person named Erasmus Wiman are favorable to the peaceable annexation of Canada to that country, a fact which, so far as the Americans are concerned, is, on the whole, a sign of good will to Canada. As far as Mr. Wiman is concerned, it implies inconsistency or change of mind, as a few years ago, when challenged on the subject, he wrote to this paper that he was not in favor of annexation. It also shows that a certain Mr. Farrer, who has been many things, if his writings are taken as evidence,—among the rest an ardent and trusted organ-grinder for Sir John Macdonald,—has also been an annexationist. Only this and nothing more. How different from the time when every protectionist in Montreal was an enrolled member of an annexation association for the alleged reason that British free trade had ruined Canada. We are not among those who go about crying traitor. That cry, as has been well said and well proved, is the last resort of scoundrels, but if to be an annexationist is to be a traitor then are all our leading protectionists, who have been for forty years in active life, traitors. Here is a list of a few of them in alphabetical order:—

- J. J. C. ABBOTT, HENRY BULMER, JAMES FERRIER, JR., F. G. JOHNSON, Q.C. (Sir Francis), HENRY LYMAN, EDWARD MURPHY, D. L. McPHERSON (Sir David), FRANCIS McNAMEE, CHAS. D. PROCTOR, WILLIAM RODDEN.

These are a few of the survivors of nine hundred and sixty-seven names, covering a very fair list of the English Protestant residents of Montreal in the year 1849 along with a number of Liberal French and a number of Irish. We might extend the list indefinitely if we were to add those whose names are still familiar, but who have gone to other lands or further. These all thought they were doing a patriotic thing, and we, at all events, are not prepared to denounce them. Many of them have been much honored of their country since. But the charge of annexationism at the present time against those who are seeking the removal of trade barriers is not only too foolish to avail with any but simpletons, but also very unpatriotic and very wicked. A man who would brand one half of his fellow-citizens who love their country at least as well as himself, and in whose veins as true blood flows, is himself a traitor and a defamer of his country who deserves nothing but contempt at the hands of the people. There has been no reform achieved in this or any other country that has not been met with the cry of traitor. Every privileged iniquity trenches itself behind that refuge. Falling with all other weapons it holds the holy flag of patriotism between itself and public vengeance.

UNRESTRICTED RECIPROCIITY AND CANADA'S TRADE.

What a partial measure of reciprocity between Canada and the United States, such as that provided for by the treaty of 1854, actually did, and would probably, if renewed, again do for Canada, we have considered, but what Unrestricted Reciprocity, or full, fair and free trade between the two countries would do for the trade of both can hardly be estimated. Even at the present time, with double tariff walls between the two peoples, the inducements to trade with one another are so strong that international trade rises steadily, if not rapidly, and the businesses of the two countries are so interdependent, that when, for any reason, such as a national holiday, business in the United States is suspended, a holiday aspect is imparted to Canadian trade as well. Who in Montreal has not heard it remarked on American holidays that it was so quiet in this city that it seemed just like Sunday? Now, if, with the barriers against trade between the two countries which at present exist, the international business is so important as is thus indicated, what might not be expected if all barriers were swept away and trade between Canada and the United States became as active as between the States of the Union themselves. We know of only one attempt which has been made to estimate the effect of unrestricted reciprocity between Canada and the United States. That attempt was made by the very foremost economist of America, if it is not of the world, to-day, the Hon. David A. Wells. In an article contributed to the North American Review in 1877, Mr. Wells essays the task. The official statistics of the United States for the year 1876 show that the quantity of freight transported on the railways of the United States for the year amounting to, in round numbers, 200,000,000 of tons. From an investigation of the average values of tonnage moved on the canals and railways, Mr. Wells assumes that each ton of freight so moved is worth, on an average, fifty dollars, which he declares is a "low estimate." Not taking into consideration, therefore, freights moved by boats, ships, animals, waggons, and the like, but only that which through the agency of railways, the value of the commodities so moved aggregates in round numbers, \$10,000,000,000. In 1876 the population of the United States was 44,000,000 and Mr. Wells therefore calculates that every 4,400,000 of the people "exchange annually among themselves through the agency of railways alone, to the value of \$1,000,000,000." Mr. Wells describes the geographical position of Canada towards the United States, which

he points out is not different in any respect from that of one section of the United States to an adjoining section. The line which divides Canada from the United States is, as he declares, an utterly artificial one: "were it not for artificial barriers arbitrarily set up by legislation, men and commodities would pass as freely between the two countries as they now do between the different States of the American Union." The extraordinary and injurious character of the barriers set up between the two countries is made evident by the fact that in 1876 the aggregate value of all the exchanges between the four millions of people in the Dominion of Canada and the forty-four millions of people in the United States for the year 1875, which is the latest year for which Mr. Wells has returns, not by railways only, but by railways, boats, waggons and animals, amounted only to \$86,000,000. Mr. Wells contrasts this meagre trade with the estimated rest before arrived at, that every 4,400,000 people of the United States under conditions of unrestricted reciprocity with one another traded to the extent of \$1,000,000,000 through the agency of railways alone. If Mr. Wells' conclusions are just it must be patent to every thoughtful person that with unrestricted reciprocity between Canada and the United States there would ensue an extraordinary revival of trade between the two countries, with consequent benefits and prosperity to both peoples.

SOMETHING UNUSUAL.

ALD. STEPHENS SUCCEEDS IN PASSING A MOTION IN THE CITY COUNCIL. There was more talk than work at yesterday's Council meeting. As soon as the orders of the day were reached, the leading politicians left, expecting that an adjournment would follow. Ald. Stephens, seeing his opportunity, seized the occasion to carry his motion: "That the orders of the day be called in their numerical order, and that special pressing business be the subject of a special meeting of Council." Ald. J. B. Dufresne, Acting Mayor, presided.

The protest of the Protestant Board of School Commissioners against level crossings was sent to the special committee on that subject.

The Recorder-Jeanotte opinion was read and kept over for Ald. Jeanotte's attendance.

The Finance Committee's report on the Abattoir question did not please Ald. Stephens, who insisted on its being left over. "I want to satisfy myself as to its provisions," he said, "and not get into another snarl with that company." He also promised to show how much money the city had lost over its abattoir transactions.

PERMISSION GRANTED. The Inundation Committee was granted permission to hold conferences with the Harbor Board on the question of improving the harbor.

The City Surveyor was voted \$15,200 to grade part of Pine avenue.

Ald. Malone gave notice of motion for the extension of Ottawa street, to McGill street and for a public park on the block bounded by William, Eleanor, Ottawa and McDord streets.

Ald. Shore renewed his notice for the extension of the Western Park to St. Luke street.

Ald. Stephens complained of getting notices of meetings irregularly. He hoped that the City Clerk, with his usual industry, would have the matter attended to.

COST TOO MUCH FOR HIM. Ald. McBride asked why 25 cents had been paid for widening Logan's Park, when the price arranged was only 15 cents? Also why the widening had cost \$31,000 instead of \$25,000?

Ald. Prefontaine explained that it was due to an extension of the expropriation over other properties beside the Boyer estate.

Ald. McBride said such extension was illegal, but Ald. Prefontaine assured the house it was not.

Ald. Rolland called the attention of the different members of the committee to the fact that last year the annual reports had been unusually late. Would they not hurry them up this year?

The "orders of the day" were now called, and several members left.

Ald. Stephens' by-law "to provide for the paving of private lanes" came first.

Ald. Stephens began by saying that no one at present would object to getting them passed; they would drain themselves provided the pavement sloped towards the centre.

Ald. Martineau—There is no quorum. Adjourn.

The Acting Mayor, when being appealed to, supported Ald. Martineau. It needed twenty-four aldermen to pass a by-law. Only twenty-three were present.

Ald. Stephens contended that the Acting Mayor, being an Alderman, should count in, but this was overruled by the rest, and the by-law was not proceeded with.

AN ORDER CALLING FOR FAIR PLAY. Ald. Stephens then moved the taking up of the 16th order, "to call the orders of the day in their numerical order," etc. He said that some orders remained on the sheet two years. By-laws were left in abeyance, and neither the Recorder, the Chief of Police nor anyone else had a copy of our by-laws codified as they should be. This question concerned every member. It was unfair to see those aldermen who had less "drive" than others getting left continually. If the orders of the day were fixed and unalterable, everyone would get fair play.

Ald. Savignac moved to adjourn over the elections.

Ald. Thompson objected. The Council was not supposed to know anything about elections.

A REPLY.

(To the Editor of the Witness.)

SIR,—In reply to Mr. McLean's letter in your issue of Feb. 21, I will be as brief as may be. As a preliminary remark I wish to say that I am only concerned to discuss this question from the farmers' standpoint. What I said to the Gazette reporter was, in effect, that I doubted if unrestricted reciprocity would benefit the farmer. This may be a "guess" founded on a "fallacy," as you assert. Possibly all opinions on this question partake somewhat of the character of guesses, and there are not wanting many thousands of good Canadians who believe that the arguments with which you support your own views on this question are eminently fallacious. Who am I, then, that I should expect my opinions to be received more implicitly than those of an infallible editor?

But to Mr. McLean's letter. My first offence is that I quoted the price of oats in Chicago and in Montreal last year and desired—says Mr. McLean—those who read my statements to believe that the farmers of the Dominion reaped a big profit on their oats by reason of the tariff excluding American oats. Exactly so; that is precisely what I desired, and I do not feel in the least inclined to apologize for wishing anyone to believe a self evident truth. Mr. McLean is generally astute, but I really can make nothing of his contention in this connection but this—our farmers did not reap a large profit on their oats—because the United States had an unusually large crop and prices were unusually depressed there. Undoubtedly, there was a large crop in the States, and, undoubtedly, prices were unduly depressed there. It is equally certain that but for the tariff our country would have been flooded with these unduly depressed oats—obvious result a loss of 5c to 10c on every bushel our farmers had to sell. It will require more than Mr. McLean's ingenuity to disprove this, great as, you assure us, is his authority on the questions with which he deals. My contention is that the tariff is of immense value to the farmer, because when his crops are poor it gives him the control of the home market, and, consequently, better prices when he most needs them. With good crops there is an outlet for both American and Canadian oats in England and their prices govern ours. Of course, it might happen again, as in 1882, that contemporaneously with a very poor crop in the States we should have a good one. No doubt, free access to their markets in such a case would be of great advantage. But this is a contingency too uncertain and of too infrequent occurrence to warrant the farmer, in my humble judgment, in sacrificing his home market.

You are pleased to say that Mr. McLean looks at this question from all sides. Let us see: Turning to what he points out, that the price of No. 1 hard Duluth in New York is \$1.19, or 11c per bushel more than he can obtain for No. 2 hard Manitoba in bond; of course, he wishes to convey the impression that if there were no duty on wheat entering the United States he could obtain this 11c more for any quantity of No. 2 hard Manitoba there for any quantity of No. 2 hard Manitoba. He is not a little diligent in carefully abstaining from stating this! Mr. McLean knows well that the exceptionally small stocks of hard wheat in New York and Buffalo have forced up the price of that wheat far above its relative value, and 10c to 12c per bushel above its export value. He knows equally well that with free receipts it would decline at once to its export value, which would be exactly on a par, difference in quality considered, with what he is offered for hard Manitoba in bond. It is absurd to suppose that with plenty of Duluth wheat to export American buyers will pay more for Manitoba wheat than its export value, and that export value can be obtained equally well from Canadian shippers, with the additional advantage that they would ship the wheat via the St. Lawrence.

Mr. McLean says, further, that he sold a large quantity of No. 2 hard Manitoba a few weeks since at Port Arthur at 82c per bushel, and that, with free entry, he could have obtained 80c to 90c for the same wheat at Minneapolis or Duluth. Mr. McLean must have sold his wheat too soon, which is not habitual with him, but does he tell the whole tale? Was he not influenced in his sale by the well-known fact that the keeping quality of Manitoba wheat this year is causing great anxiety to holders? I take leave to assume that that fact would be as patent to Minneapolis and Duluth buyers if Manitoba wheat were going there as it is to Mr. McLean, and a knowledge of that fact would affect its value there, as it does here. One of our largest millers assured me recently that he would cheerfully pay 10c per bushel more for Manitoba hard if he could feel reasonably assured that it would keep into next July. Nothing affects the price of wheat more than fear of its keeping quality. Few men know better than Mr. McLean that last winter American farmers living near the border actually brought their wheat into Manitoba, paid the duty and still netted more for it than their own buyers would pay them. None know better than he that steadily for months Manitoba farmers received 10c to 20c per bushel more for their wheat than their brother farmers in Dakota obtained, and it was solely to the duty on wheat they owed this boon. The tariff gave them the control of their own market, and the high prices paid them in consequence largely compensated for the shortness of their crop. With unrestricted reciprocity they would have been badly off as their starving neighbors in Dakota.

Incidentally, I referred to the hog question in my interview with the Gazette reporter. Will you suffer me to add a few words on that subject now. The price of live hogs in Chicago is \$3.25 to \$3.50 per 100 lbs., making them cost, laid down here, without duty, \$3.50 to \$3.75. Judging from the price of dressed hogs, I should say live hogs are worth about \$5.00 per 100 lbs. here. In other words, our farmers are receiving from \$2.50 to \$3.00 per hog more than they would if the trade were free. I have seen it stated that the value of hogs raised in the Dominion last year was \$9,000,000. I cannot verify this statement, but assuming it to be true \$9,000,000 would represent fully 900,000 hogs. Estimating the gain to the farmer at \$2.75 per hog, then the farmers of the Dominion stand to realize \$2,500,000 more on their hog crop this year than they would do were unrestricted reciprocity in force. Considering the hog raising industry is capable of almost unlimited development, surely there is something here which should cause farmers to hesitate before they accept the panacea.

If I know myself I am perfectly sincere in my views on this question. Mistaken I may be, but I firmly believe that taking a series of years our farmers would be better off under

OCEAN PASSENGERS.

"MONSIEUR" ARRIVED. HALLOWAY, N.S., Feb. 24.—The Royal Mail steamer "Monsieur" arrived at three o'clock this morning with the following cabin passengers on board:—Mr. G. L. Bennett, Mr. L. Dundas, Mr. W. T. Bentley, Mr. W. Wilson, Mr. A. F. Eden, Mrs. Winsor and maid, Mrs. Eden, Mr. F. Despres, Mrs. G. M. Harper, Mr. C. Price Dixon, the Rev. J. G. Jones, Mrs. W. A. Marsden, Mrs. H. Marshall, Mr. J. C. Miller, Mr. H. Munday, Miss G. Patterson, Mr. A. Rogers, Mr. and Mrs. Ronaldson, Miss G. Spurgeon, Capt. Scott, Mr. E. Stewart, Mr. R. G. Sykes, Lieut. G. Underhill, Mr. F. S. Young, Mr. Wiseman, Mr. L. G. Walsh, the Rev. Mr. Outbrett, Sergt. Witham, Mrs. Witham and three children, Mr. A. A. Hackett, Mr. Harris, Miss Harris, Mr. Harris, Mr. J. W. Wall and 57 intermediate and 153 steerage passengers.

our present system than they would be with a free interchange of farm products. The undoubted fact that they are, as a whole, more prosperous than the farmers of the States abundantly sustains my views. Where will you find unoccupied farms in the Dominion—where will you find starving farmers? EDGAR JUDGE.

FARRER AND WIMAN.

OLD CORRESPONDENCE OF COMMERCIAL UNION ADVOCATES.

MR. FARRER THOUGHT IT WOULD DEFER ANNEXATION AND COMPLAINED THAT THE LIBERALS WERE NOT PUSHING IT WITH VIGOR.

WINDSOR, Ont., Feb. 23.—Sir Charles Tupper to-night made sweeping charges of treason against the Liberals, basing them upon this correspondence:—

TORONTO, April 24, 1880. MY DEAR MR. WIMAN.—Our Ottawa man will send a good summary of your speech, so that on our account you need not go to the trouble of preparation. At present the C. U. movement is at a standstill.

First of all, the Jesuit agitation, which is here to stay, has to some extent supplanted it. Secondly, the general belief is that the Republicans would not listen to any such scheme. Thirdly, a very large number of people are inclined to think that we had better make for annexation at once, instead of wasting two bites on the cherry.

Lastly, the old parties here are rapidly breaking up, and when Sir John goes we shall be adrift without a port in sight on the wave of annexation.

Moreover, although the Liberals have taken up C. U., they are not pushing it with any vigor for this reason. The Mail has, in the slang of the day, given the subject a rest. There is really no use talking it up to people whose politics are in a state of flux and whose future is wrapped in doubt.

I saw Mr. Hoar while at Washington and told him just what he says I did, namely, that the small forces favor annexation and will favor it all the more if C. U. be withheld.

It seems to me, and I have talked the thing over lately with Maritime members as well as with Manitobans, that C. U. would only delay the coming of the event those people most desire, hence in the provinces referred to C. U. does not take hold, whereas annexation will always demand a hearing.

In Ontario the Jesuit campaign has brought that aspect of things home to thousands who would not look at commercial union. The littleness and half-heartedness of the Liberals is also very disheartening.

Then, again, the trait is that every man who preached commercial union would prefer annexation, so that the party is virtually wearing a mask. Can't you come round this way and have a talk?

Yours very truly, E. FARRER. [Signed,] HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, Washington, April 25, 1880.

Erasmus Wiman, Esq., 31 Broadway, New York.

DEAR SIR,—I am greatly obliged to you for sending me the proof slips of the North American article and have been much interested also in Mr. Farrer's letter, which surprised me somewhat, as I did not think, from his conversation, which gave me a very favorable impression, that he would be so easily discouraged. The reasons he gives existed before the commercial union movement began with greater force than to-day. The Republicans as protectionists, it was apprehended, would be against it. They are not. Their representatives voted for it, their newspapers have received it kindly and often with warm approval. The Jesuit agitation, which has taken the place of commercial union in his mind, is largely sentimental and will probably not last long. The C. U. is a business question that concerns each citizen and in a way which he does not understand at first, but sees more and more clearly the more he talks intelligently. There is some logic in what F. says of not making two bites of a cherry but going for annexation at once, but I think he is misled on that point in a way that often occurs. Where a man is thinking much on a point and discussing it he is liable to narrow his horizon to those within his reach, and his own mind, and perhaps those he meets, having passed on by discussion to distant results, he takes it for granted that the wide world, which is so wonderfully slow, has kept up with him and has the same result in sight. We must be very patient with the slow moving popular mind. If the Canadian public of farmers, artisans, lumbermen, miners, and fishers can be in three years argued up to the point of voting commercial union and giving sanction to the movement in Parliament it will be great progress. Slow as such movements are the comforting thing is that they never go backward. To you personally it ought to be in your moments of reflection a consolation that long heretofore, when this ball you set rolling has gone on and on and finished its work, everyone may then look back and see and appreciate the service done to mankind by the hand that set it in motion.

I shall look with interest for what you say in Ottawa. The North-American Review article will have a powerful tendency to keep our public men from scattering away on annexation next winter, and I hope can get the offer of commercial union formulated into law. I return the proof slips of the article and the letter of Mr. Farrer.

Very truly yours, R. R. HITT. P.S.—Just received yours of yesterday; with Golovin Smith's. It reads admirably.

CHATHAM, ARGENTEUIL CO.

(Correspondence of the Witness.)

On Tuesday evening, 17th, a very enjoyable tea meeting was held at Cushing by the ladies of St. Mungo's Church. After the tea and eatables had been disposed of by the nearly three hundred present, the meeting was called to order by the chairman, the pastor of the church, under Miss Bradford, organist. On the following evening the young people had their entertainment. The building was again crowded, the children, accompanied by their parents, turning out in large numbers. The singing of hymns and the recitation of well chosen pieces of poetry, all by the children, finishing up with the distribution of sweetmeats and oranges, formed a programme that was evidently enjoyed by all.

NOTES AND NOTICES.

EVERY BOTTLE of Dr. Harvey's Southern Red Pine for coughs and colds is warranted. BERCHAM'S PILLS cure bilious and nervous ills.

LANGVIN AND CHAPLEAU.

HIDDEN WAR BETWEEN CABINET MINISTERS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

DISFRANCHISED VOTERS IN CHICOUTIMI—BIBERY IN RIMOUSKI—GOVERNMENT PROMISES IN QUEBEC CENTRE—NOTES AND INCIDENTS OF THE ELECTORAL CONTEST.

QUEBEC, Feb. 23.—Sheriff Boase, of Chicoutimi, who refused to act as returning officer for Chicoutimi and Saguenay, on the ground that there was not time to hold a legal election in those vast united counties if polling was fixed as in all the others, for March 5, which has been done in Sir Adolphe Caron's interest, has promptly nailed the lie circulated by the Government organs as to there being no voting divisions below Bersimis on the north shore. He has sent to the Quebec press an official list, showing that east of Bersimis there are nine electoral lists and polling divisions, with a total of 67 regularly qualified electors, all of whom will be deprived of their right of suffrage at the coming election because they cannot be reached or polls opened in time for March 5. All this has been done to give the Militia Minister a chance of again finding a seat in Parliament, for if the election were to be held in Chicoutimi on March 5, nothing, it is believed, in the world could save Sir Adolphe Caron from ignominious defeat. But, even as it is, he and his friends are having a hard time of it in the Lake St. John district. For instance, the greatest indignation is reported to be prevailing at Chicoutimi against two professors of the night schools there, who, to draw up an attendance at a meeting in favor of Sir Adolphe, used their influence over their pupils to persuade them to be present and led them in a body to the gathering, which, nevertheless, proved a complete fiasco.

THE RIMOUSKI CONTEST.

One of the most remarkable features of the contest—between Sir Adolphe Caron and Dr. Fiset—is the apparent perfection of the Opposition organization, coupled with the alacrity with which prominent electors of the County at once denounce the attempts of Sir Adolphe's friends to approach them in a corrupt way. No sooner is an attempt of this kind made than it is at once telegraphed to Quebec and published with all the names in the Quebec papers. The latest denunciation of the kind is this morning by Mr. Irene Caron, a St. Simon storekeeper, charging Sir Adolphe's agent, Mr. Adhemar Martin, of Rimouski, with attempting to bribe him, and warning the electors against the approach of that individual. Meanwhile, the Rimouski Liberals persist in claiming that Dr. Fiset will be elected by 500 to 600 majority.

QUEBEC CENTRE.

The selection of Mr. Victor Chateauvert, vice-president of the Board of Trade, as the candidate for this division, is undoubtedly the most respectable and serious nomination the Conservatives have made in this district; but it is also beyond question that it is hopeless from the start. In the first place, it has been more than half-killed in advance by the admission of Sir Hector's organ, *Le Courrier du Canada*, and the *Chronicle*, that it was made to keep the Hon. F. Langelier busy at home and from doing harm to Sir Hector and Sir Adolphe elsewhere, and, secondly, the fact that it is accompanied by bribes in the shape of promises in *articulo mortis* to assist the bridge and to cancel the North Shore Railway bonds, will lead hundreds, to whom it might, under any circumstances, be acceptable, to look upon it with the utmost suspicion. It is a case with the Quebecers of "Times Dances et danses feraites." They do not question Mr. Chateauvert's perfect good faith and single-mindedness. Even the Liberal organ, *L'Electeur*, admits his thorough honesty and respectability. He is undoubtedly anxious to secure the seat of Quebec, and it was only his firm belief that the promises made him by Sir Hector will be faithfully carried out, which induced him, after a fortnight's persecution, to accept the candidature. But, as he frankly acknowledges himself, he is no politician, and it is therefore, perhaps, not surprising that he was induced to place confidence in promises made with all the appearance of good faith, but which his fellow-citizens fear are only made for the occasion. A equally honest and upright Conservative and with equally little taste for politics, the present Mr. Justice Boase, of the Queen's Bench, was the drape, with the electors of Quebec Centre in 1882, of similarly deceitful promises. He had his pockets full of the promises of Sir John, Sir Hector and Sir Adolphe, that the Government would build the Quebec bridge, that Quebec would be the terminus of the G. P. R., that the Short Line would pass this way. And what was the result? Mr. Boase was elected, only to retire in disgust at the Government's bad faith, and took the first opportunity to get out of the dirty trade of party politics altogether by ascending to the Bench. From that time the promises of the Government's promises given to Quebec through Mr. Boase in 1882 have been realized. On the contrary, it would seem as if the Government—from a Quebecer's point of view, at all events—had entered into a regular conspiracy not only to neglect the interests of the Ancient Capital, but to do it all the injury and put all the affronts possible upon its population. Its labor works were given over to the pillage of the Langevin-McGreedy gang; the Marine Hospital was closed; Quebec was isolated by running the Short Line through American territory; the bridge delegations to Ottawa were laughed at or repulsed; Mr. Thomas McGreevy, one of the city members, even refused to be present at a meeting of the Board of Trade, in which the other workingmen's unions and the Knights of Labor they command a big vote in the division, which will be all cast against him.

NOTES OF THE CONTEST.

L'Electeur offers to wager \$100 that the Hon. E. T. Paquet will not get sufficient votes in Levis to save his deposit. The statement that Dr. Vallancourt is the Liberal candidate for Dorchester is untrue. Dr. Vallancourt is a National Conservative and comes forward with the Hon. L. P. Pelletier's support as well as the Hon. Mr. Laurier's. It is rumored that Mr. Filteau will be the Conservative candidate for Lobiouerie against Dr. Rinfret. *L'Electeur* publishes a despatch from Mr. Yeo, of Prince Edward Island, characterizing as an infamous lie the statements of the Ministerial press that he has abandoned the Liberal party on the reciprocity or any other question. It also denies that there has been any reaction in New Brunswick or that there is anything surprising in Dr. Pugsley taking the field for the Conservatives, as, though a member of the Provincial Coalition Government, he is an old Tory and his attitude is purely personal. Mr. LeBlanc, another member of the New Brunswick Government, has resigned and taken the field for the Liberals. Mr. Achille Carriv, M.P.P. has gone to Stanstead, and Mr. Rodolphe Lemieux, has arrived from Montreal. The ship laborers here have a score to settle with Mr. Chateauvert, the Conservative candidate for Quebec Centre, for the active part he took as vice-president of the Board of Trade, in trying to get their charter abolished. Together with the other workingmen's unions and the Knights of Labor they command a big vote in the division, which will be all cast against him. Dr. Latourriere has definitely accepted the Conservative candidature for Bonaventure. Sir Hector's organ, *Le Courrier du Canada*, says *L'Electeur* calculates on a majority of 21 for Mr. Laurier as the result of the general election. Mr. Langelier, that figure is said by three and you will have the Conservative majority.

SHERBROOKE CONTEST.

(Special to the Witness.)

MR. W. B. LIVES AS THE FRIEND OF THE FARMER. SHERBROOKE, Feb. 21.—Mr. W. B. Lives held a meeting at Huntingville on Thursday evening. He was accompanied by Messrs. H. W. Mulvena, J. L. Terrill and H. R. Fraser, advocates, and a number of others from Sherbrooke and Lennoxville. Messrs. J. S. Broderick and G. B. Loomis were present on behalf of the Liberal party. Knowing that he was dealing with an adverse audience, Mr. Lives did not attempt to refuse a hearing to his opponents. The meeting insisted that both sides should have fair play and they had it. Mr. Lives posed as the friend of the farmer, and talked to them of western beef and of the ruinous policy of trying to compete in beef and hogs with the west. Sir John's policy was to tax luxuries and not necessities of life.

meeting at St. Foye. The Beauport meeting was productive of several interesting incidents: one of which at least has cleared up some troublesome doubts in the public mind. The first related to Mr. Fitzpatrick's attitude towards Mr. McGreevy in Quebec West. Mr. Flynn having insinuated that Mr. Fitzpatrick favored Mr. McGreevy's re-election and had refused to work against him in Quebec West, Mr. Fitzpatrick, in reply, said that, in his professional capacity as a lawyer, his services had been retained before the Courts by Mr. McGreevy, but this did not imply that he had placed his political opinions at Mr. McGreevy's disposal also. He added that, as a lawyer, his mouth was involuntarily closed as regards a client's secrets and he would refer rather to lose his position as a politician than to violate the professional confidence reposed in him, but he had no hesitation to declare openly and above board that he was prepared to resign his seat in the Legislature if he did not vote against Mr. McGreevy politically. The other incident related to another statement by Mr. Flynn to the effect that Mayor Fremont, before accepting the Liberal candidature in Quebec County, had sought a Conservative nomination in another constituency. This, Mr. Fremont there and then emphatically denied, denying proof of Mr. Flynn's assertion, which was not forthcoming, whereupon Mr. Fitzpatrick, amid general laughter, remarked that it will become Mr. Flynn to retract his demand and I desire to add that if Sir Adolphe, who has now deserted me, is still a Minister, he owes the fact to me, for McGreevyism was pushing him straight towards the door of the Privy Council; and yet he now brings forward a candidate against me in the person of Mr. Arthur Turcotte. *L'Electeur*, however, takes a somewhat different view of the reasons for Mr. Turcotte's candidature. It says that the *Empire* interview and other incidents show that Sir Hector and McGreevy have the upper hand over Chapleau and Caron, and it adds that to humiliate Sir Adolphe, Sir Hector insisted that the Militia Minister should bring out his own and Mr. Turcotte's personal friend, Mr. Turcotte, against Mr. Turcotte, as a punishment for their joint efforts to force McGreevyism, that there was a hot contest between the two knights on the subject, and that finally Sir Hector triumphed over the Militia Minister by calling in the interference of Sir John, who threatened him with expulsion unless he at once complied with Sir Hector's wishes.

A HAPPY FAMILY.

It is useless for the Federal Ministers from Quebec Province to deny that they are not six and seven together. For the moment they are more or less united by the sense of a common danger; but it is clear as soon as they are even the most superficial observer that they are only restrained by that danger from openly flying at each others' throats through personal jealousies and dissensions. It is Langevin and McGreevy on one side, and Chapleau and Caron on the other, and in every way possible the two factions are all the time closely endeavoring to annoy and checkmate each other. For instance, it was not sufficient for Sir Hector to force Sir Adolphe to publicly repudiate Mr. Tarte by bringing out his personal friend, Turcotte, against the editor of *Le Canadien*, but he has even gone the length of putting himself Mr. Valin in the field to further split the Conservative vote in Montmorency, and to render the defeat of Sir Adolphe's candidate still more ignominious. Further proof of this view was furnished by Mr. Valin himself, at L'Ange Gardien, yesterday, for, while he had not a word to say against Sir Hector or Sir John he laid particular stress on his admission that \$30,000 had been taken from the Quebec harbor works for Sir Adolphe's last election in Quebec County and \$15,000 for his friend Mr. T. Chase Casgrain's election for the local division. Mr. Laurier's sum for the election of another of the Militia Minister's friends, Mr. Desjardins, in Montmorency.

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MEETING AT SPRING ROAD, ASCOT.

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Last Edition BOARD OF TRADE BUILDING. ARCHITECTS AND BUILDERS CRITICISE THE CAPTURE OF CANADIAN PRIZES BY AMERICANS.

The Witness announced on Saturday that Messrs. Shepley, Ruan and Co. of Boston, had been awarded the prize for the design of the new Board of Trade building. Yesterday some enterprising contemporaries denied the story as untrue and wrong. But the information given exclusively by the Witness on Saturday was reaffirmed in our columns yesterday and is reiterated to-day. There is a great stir among our city architects in connection with this matter, and the Board of Trade comes in for a share of adverse criticism. One architect asked the Witness man why the Board of Trade did not decide to exhibit the plans side by side with the American designs, and allow the public or members of the Board of Trade to see them together. "I am willing to show my plan alongside of the best of them," he concluded.

While this gentleman was speaking, a well-known manufacturer came up and joined in the conversation, remarking to the Witness man that the Montreal contractors and builders were now waiting for a similar result to that of the United States. He himself had been awarded a large contract in the United States, but the alien law against him prescribed a fine of \$1,000 and danger of imprisonment. He considered it outrageous that such a law could exist that permitted Americans to come in with designs and take the prize which should be distinctly Canadian.

The Board of Trade has, in all probability, no objection whatever to an exhibition of the plans, but the American architects, who were unsuccessful have very decided objections to their designs being made public and exacted condition preventing their exhibition.

FIRE IN BONSECOURS MARKET. About two o'clock this afternoon an alarm of fire was sent in from Bonsecours and a few minutes later a general alarm was sounded. The fire was in Bonsecours market and had started by the upsetting of a coal oil lamp in the stall of Wm. Rieker, fruit dealer, whose apartment faced the river. On the arrival of the firemen the thick black smoke was issuing from the doors and windows of the lower and second floors of the market.

No flames could be seen, and the firemen had great difficulty in locating the seat of the trouble. It was almost impossible to enter the building at that point on account of the smoke, and the firemen were compelled to fight the flames, or rather smoke, from the outside.

Chief Benoit told a Witness reporter that the fire was lodged in the floors, some twelve inches thick, filled with sawdust. It had run through the centre portion of the building, and the only way of stopping it was to flood the floors with water. To do this the iron gratings above the doors of the stalls were torn away and the hose was shoved in. Partitions were pulled through in some places and the hoses put through. These streams had remained too long in the same places and almost overcame the men.

Soon after arriving, fireman Richard, of No. 6, fell down, overcome with the smoke, but soon revived. Capt. St. Pierre, of No. 8 station, had a hard time of it for a while, owing to the smoke getting in his lungs. At the time of going to the scene, he had not shaved and the small keepers were busy removing their goods.

There were eight streams playing on the fire, and in every case the firemen had to relieve each other every few minutes on account of the smoke. It was quite the common thing to see a tall, young fireman leading on barrels or boxes, coughing and spitting from the effects of the smoke.

The loss from smoke will be very great. There are a large number of small stalls that carry stocks ranging from \$200 to \$500 with but little insurance.

SWENSON'S INTIMATE FRIEND REVEALS THAT SWENSON COULD NOT HAVE COMMITTED SUICIDE—POOR PLAY AGAIN ASSERTED. Mr. P. Francon, of 131 Ottawa street, a close friend of the missing man Swenson, has given the following interesting information about the missing man. "I have been an intimate friend of Swenson's for over fourteen years. I did not know of his disappearance till I saw it in the Witness although I had not seen him for a few days. He was the last man in the world to do himself an injury. As to his reason being affected it is false. He was a very clear-headed man, and he never committed suicide—poor play again asserted."

A STUDENT'S DEATH. Mr. F. S. Bertrand, of Prescott, a fourth year student of Bishop's College, died suddenly in his boarding house yesterday. The coroner's jury rendered a verdict of paralysis of the heart. Mr. Bertrand was very popular among his class mates, and was a promising scholar, having taken various honors. A resolution of condolence was passed by the students of Victoria University, expressing their deep regret and sympathy. The funeral is taking place this afternoon.

CRIMES AND CRIMINALS. ILL-TREATMENT OF HORSES FIRED. The R. P. C. A. hearing of case of cruelty to horses in the case of the late, was continued by Judge Giesse to look after the law. The inspector brought two men, who were fined five dollars each by the Justice of the Peace, Dr. Gypson.

FOUR YEARS FOR THE OUTRAGER. On Monday morning, the man who had plotted to assassinate the late Governor, was sentenced to four years in the penitentiary. Dr. Gypson of Longue Pointe, deposed that he had recognized the prisoner and found that he was sane, but that he would not testify against him. The Hon. Mr. Giesse said that he did not see the doctor's report, but would have also sentenced him to be hanged. He offered at some length to the jury, but no real attacks upon children. He was determined to stop all this class of crime, which was a disgrace to the city. Public opinion was considerably aroused to the matter, and the public voice would be protected.

For sending a horse and pig from Mr. A. Deland of Cote St. Louis, Que. Deland was sentenced to two months imprisonment. Mr. Tabb, who has just been released from goal by the quashing of the charges he was arrested on in Quebec, has been arrested again. He has a serious girl arrested to-day on a charge of pilfering from his home while he was imprisoned.

REDUCTION OF WHARF DUTIES. A DEPUTATION OF THE CORN EXCHANGE MEET THE HARBOR COMMISSIONERS AND DISCUSS THE MATTER.

THE DEBTS LEFT OUT, ALTHOUGH SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE DEPUTATION WERE IN FAVOR OF THE REPORTERS BEING ADMITTED.

At the annual meeting of the Corn Exchange, held last month, Mr. Watt moved and carried a resolution, "That a deputation of the Association be named by the Committee of Management to wait on the Harbor Commissioners with a view to procure a reduction of the wharf duty on grain." The committee named Mr. Edsall, its president, as representing the grain and flour trade; Mr. Watt as the mover of the resolution; Mr. Ayrer for provisions; Mr. Shaughnessy and Mr. Burton for the railways; Mr. Torrance and Mr. McLennan for shipping.

The deputation met the Harbor Commissioners by appointment this afternoon at the regular weekly meeting of the Board, when Mr. Edsall, the President of the Exchange, called upon Mr. Watt, the mover of the resolution, to make an opening statement. Prior to Mr. Watt's remarks there was some discussion as to the admittance of the press, but as the Harbor Commissioners usually prefer to sit in private, the newspaper men had to stay out.

Mr. Watt said that he had not hitherto been a party to urging a lower tariff on the Board. He thought the Board justified in maintaining its rates so long as deficits existed. But these deficits no longer exist, the Dominion Government having recently ceased to exact from the Board any payments in respect of the Lake St. Peter channel. The Board's annual accounts, which formerly showed deficits of \$30,000 or even \$50,000 a year, now show a surplus of \$20,000 for the last year, and \$30,000 for the year before. He claimed that a reduction, the equivalent of this surplus, should at once be made in the wharfage tariff and that this \$20,000 with other surpluses should be placed in reserve for less prosperous years.

Mr. Edsall, who presided, said that from the justice of this claim, it was his policy to reduce duties on traffic that was keenly competed for. Previous reductions in the tariff had not resulted in reduced revenue but in increased business and, in the long run, in increased revenue, and even should a similar result not follow now the Board has a sufficient surplus in hand to guard against even this remote contingency. In maintaining the reduction he claimed that it should apply to commodities the conveyance of which was most keenly competed for by other routes. Also that it should apply in lightening the charges on those Canadian exports which receive no benefit from the National Policy. Notwithstanding the reduction of duty on shipping, the Montreal wharfage charges are greatly in excess of those exacted in New York. The Allan S.S. "Grecian" made a voyage to Montreal in last October and then a voyage to New York in December. In Montreal the wharfage on their outward cargo, \$450,000, was \$740.25 on the outward cargo, \$450,000, and adding \$300 as a low proportionate cost for sheds, tarpaulins and gas, \$1,401.25 as the expense for a single voyage. The vessel having been six days in port in New York the amount for all these services was \$630, the vessel having been nine days in port. The pilotage in New York was \$177.31. In Montreal it was 90 percent dearer being \$200.95. In Montreal \$34.50 was exacted for Customs officers' fees. In New York there was no charge. The Government charges on shipping in Montreal are thus shown to be 50 percent higher than similar charges in New York, and unless Montreal is put on as good, or even on a better footing than New York, she cannot hold her own in the race. With wharf expenses footing up \$200 to \$250 per day against \$20 to \$40, which is the per diem charge in New York for the same, or indeed, a better service, Montreal is at a disadvantage sufficient to turn trade away from her.

The chairman of the Board had intimated his opinion that the present high tariff should be maintained and the surpluses used to pay interest on the contemplated harbor improvements, but he (Mr. Watt) deprecated any such course, maintaining that the improvements must be made by the owners of the wharves. Increased business and that the interest accruing during construction should, as is usual in such cases, form part of the cost of construction, and not be taken out of revenue and made a burden on the trade presently existing.

After a few more remarks the deputation withdrew and the Commissioners are discussing the matter as we go to press.

POLITICAL NEWS. MR. EDWARDS DENOUNCES ALEXANDER THOMAS. Mr. Ernest Desrosiers writes to La Presse to state that he has given up the Liberal party and says, among other things—"I know for a fact that the intimate policy of Messrs. Mercier and Laurier is assassination, but the moment is badly chosen to announce it. Those gentlemen wish to sell the country, but they will get no profit. As for me, who am a perfect stranger to any kind of party solidarity and to any share in the profits, I declare myself opposed to such a treason. My opinions authorize me in this instance to follow the banner of our bishops and I give up the old Liberal banner once more launched on the waters of anarchy and in the tempest of a policy of treason. Like Sir John A. Macdonald, I was born a British subject, and I will die a British subject."

MR. VAN HORNE'S LETTER. A C. P. R. official said to-day that Mr. Van Horne's letter would undoubtedly be of great benefit to Sir John Macdonald. It appealed to selfishness, and selfishness reached farther down than either politics or patriotism. "This may be considered an offset to the supposed disposition of the Grand Trunk to help Mr. Laurier. Depend upon it that letter, considering the vast interests which the C. P. R. control, will influence a very large number of votes. The moment was opportune, and the effect will be telling."

THE PEOPLE'S JIMMY BROUGHT INTO THE ARCHA. Referring to a despatch sent from Montreal to L. Edsall, and stating that a crowd of workmen had gathered in front of the City Hall crying for work and for bread, La Presse says—"It is possible that Jimmy McShane sounded the keynote of misery in Montreal for a political object, and in the hope of getting the city to make charity on his behalf. But the city of Montreal is not the Mercier Government, and our distinguished Mayor must have perceived it. After playing for some time the part of a generous man, and giving an appetite to a certain number of needy people who could get work if they wished, he had had work last summer but did not take advantage of it. To say a little, Mr. McShane has slipped away from the solicitations of his city and has gone to New York."

THE CANADIAN PACIFIC. "SAYS THE PRINCE TO THE DUKE, DON'T CUT YOUR DAM"—A RAILWAY POLITICIAN—MR. VAN HORNE CANNOT KEEP OUT OF THE STRUGGLE.

(From the Gazette.) The statement having been publicly made at a meeting in the County of Dundas that Mr. Van Horne was in favor of unrestricted reciprocity, he has addressed the following letter explaining his position to the Hon. Geo. A. Drummond.

MONTREAL, Feb. 21, 1891. MY DEAR MR. DRUMMOND.—You are quite right in assuming that the statement in the letter enclosed in your note of to-day is untrue. I am not in favor of unrestricted reciprocity of any kind. I am well enough acquainted with the trade and industries of Canada to know that unrestricted reciprocity would be a prostration of ruin. I realize that for saying so I may be accused of meddling in politics, but with me this is a business question and not a political one, and it so vitally affects the interests that have been entrusted to me that I feel justified in expressing my opinion plainly. Indeed, since specific views have been attributed to me, I feel bound to express my own.

No one can follow the proceedings in Congress at Washington and the utterances of the leading newspapers of the United States without being struck with the extraordinary jealousy that prevails there concerning Canada—jealousy growing out of the wonderful development of her trade and manufactures within the past few years. It was this jealousy that prompted the anti-Canadian features of the McKinley Bill. It was represented and largely depended upon the duties levied on many of their chief products and that their loyalty could be touched through their pockets and that it was not necessary to resort to any other means of political upheaval in Canada and such a result to the trade policy of the country as would inevitably lead to annihilation.

We are not in a position to keep well informed as to the drift of matters at Washington, because the interests of the Canadian Pacific Railway have been threatened by all sorts of restrictive measures, and from my knowledge of the feeling there I do not hesitate to say that if the result of the pending elections in Canada is what the authors of the McKinley Bill expected it would be another turn of the screw will follow. No comfort is to be found in the fact that the Republican party in the United States. It was not the anti-Canadian features of the McKinley Bill that caused this, but the increased duties on many articles, the manufacture of which at home was intended to be forced. This increase of duty came at a time of general depression among the farmers and stock raisers, and was a source of great trouble. Trade relations with Canada had nothing to do with it; they were not thinking of us.

Putting aside all party considerations and looking at the matter from a strictly business point of view, what is the name of common sense, has Canada to gain by this time? The duties levied on the goods of the United States are so high that the farmers of the United States are suffering to such extent that organized relief is necessary. It is not necessary that small relief should be a subsidy to keep the goods of the United States to their future and most of them are reducing their output, working on short time, and seeking orders of outside cost so that they may keep their best workmen together.

We are infinitely better off in Canada. We have no landed farms and no distress anywhere, and there is work for everybody who is willing to work. Our own products are in great demand now, but our smaller size is at least full enough to keep us going comfortably. His policy requires twice time as much as ours to do. It is not necessary that small relief should be a subsidy to keep the goods of the United States to their future and most of them are reducing their output, working on short time, and seeking orders of outside cost so that they may keep their best workmen together.

The Canadian Pacific Railway is far away the largest buyer of manufactured articles in Canada; it buys dry goods, groceries as well as stationery and cereals; it buys pianos, furniture and military goods as well as rails and spikes and spools; it buys drugs and medicines and clothing as well as bolts and wheels and all the things that are necessary to the business of the country. It is in the line of business that it is necessarily in close touch with the markets at home and abroad. It has built up or been instrumental in building up hundreds of new industries in the country, and it is the only one that would be destroyed by the tariff. It is in the line of business that it is necessarily in close touch with the markets at home and abroad. It has built up or been instrumental in building up hundreds of new industries in the country, and it is the only one that would be destroyed by the tariff.

FOR THE WIDOWS AND ORPHANS. STEPS TAKEN TO ALLEVIATE THE SUFFERERS BY THE SPRINGHILL COAL MINE DISASTER—THE CITY COUNCIL WILL BE ASKED TO READ THE DESCRIPTIONS. Mr. R. Archer, president of the Board of Trade, occupied the chair at a meeting of citizens held in the Board of Trade rooms this forenoon for the purpose of extending relief to the sufferers from the Springhill disaster. The following gentlemen were present: The Rev. Edgar Hill, Hon. Geo. Drummond, Messrs. H. Montague Allan, Richard White, J. Cradock Simpson, H. A. Budden, A. T. Taylor, Jos. C. Baker, George Bishop, A. D. Fraser, D. Morris, Owen McGarvey, Edgar Judge, John Kerry, W. M. Leveson, Wm. Corrie, Fred. Allen, W. McLean, Wm. Lyman, J. P. Scott, H. W. Raphael and J. H. Ross.

The Chairman and the Hon. Mr. Drummond and the Rev. Edgar Hill referred in feeling terms to the calamity and to the urgent need for aid. A letter was read from Mr. Curran sympathizing with the movement, and subscribing \$20 to the fund. The following resolution was unanimously carried: "That in the view of affording the citizens of Montreal the opportunity of giving practical expression of their sympathy for the unfortunate sufferers of the recent appalling disaster at the Springhill coal mine, a committee be formed to prepare and circulate descriptions of the City Council, to whom has been referred the letter of the Mayor of Springhill, soliciting help in the emergency, to urge upon the Corporation the importance of appropriate relief, and to urge the citizens generally to cooperate in responding liberally to this most eloquent and worthy appeal."

The Committee appointed is as follows:—Messrs. R. W. White, Chairman; J. Kerry, Treasurer; Fred. Allen, Secretary; Mayor McMillan, Sir Donald Smith, Hon. Senator Murphy, Rev. J. Edgar Hill, Robert Archer, A. F. Gault, H. Montague Allan, J. R. Dougall, Hon. Geo. Drummond, H. A. Budden, A. Kingman, A. D. Fraser, H. Morris, Edgar Judge, J. P. Scott, Owen McGarvey, J. J. Curran, Hugh Graham, W. W. Ogilvie, Sir Joseph Jackson, Henry Lyman, J. Corbett, Chas. Chapput, Jas. Stewart, C. P. Hebert, Robert Mackay and Robert Cowan.

A grand concert was given last Thursday evening under the auspices of the East Loth, L. O. G. T., No. 31, in the Forester's Hall. The Rev. T. Bennett presided. A long programme was given in excellent manner, the following taking part:—Miss Robinson and Misses; Misses Bain, Hanks, Luzzo, Wocley and Robinson; Messrs. Anderson, Ellis, Tuzza, Woodie, and Robinson; Robert McDonald, George Freeman, Mabb, Wooty, Street, McGuire and Hays.

WORK AND WORKERS. (To the Editor of the Witness.)

Sir,—Our City Surveyor must be a hard-hearted wretch to dare to talk to the electors in the way he did yesterday. He offered them work at which they could earn from \$1 to \$1.25 per day, but they would have to provide hammers, and would you believe it, he was cruel enough to ask them to walk to their work. How differently men are built. Had it been our worthy Mayor instead of the practical St. George, who wants a dollar's worth of work for a dollar paid out, he (our Mayor) would have said, "Yes, my darlings, come along, I will provide you with nickel plated hammers, and will give you every man, a hair stuffed cushion to sit on while working on the stone pile, a cloak for every one to put around your shoulders to protect you from the wind, and, by the way, I will see my friend Lusher, who, I think, will provide a train of sleeping and reclining cars, with a diner attached. Every man will be called for at nine o'clock, taken to his work and taken home at five o'clock every day, as the free and independent electors ought to be." Mr. Editor, yesterday's interview shows there is not half the want in the city that has been talked about for the last couple of months. Most of the talk has been election clap-trap, to gain popularity at little expense. The real and deserving poor do not come to the front the same as the loafers and bummers who are continually crowding into cities in the winter season. That there are cases needing help no one can deny, but when found out by our city missionaries and church workers they are always ready and assisted. Men who are willing to work can always find something to do. It was told of a man who refused steady work last summer at 30 cents an hour and yet a charitable society had to supply him with fuel a few days ago to keep his little children from freezing. I could give you dozens of such cases.

MONTREAL, Feb. 20, 1891. COMMERCIAL NOTES. John DeLisle, merchant, 609 St. Catherine street, has assigned to the care of J. P. P. Martin, with liabilities of about \$5,000.

WITNESS OFFICE, Tuesday, Feb. 24, 1891. WHOLESALE PRICES. The British breadstuffs markets continue firm, and fairly active. Berneese's cable advice are:—Cargoes of coast, wheat, oil; corn, firm. Cargoes on passage and for shipment, wheat and corn, fairly good. California wheat, off coast, 29s 3d to 30s 6d, promptly to be shipped, 29s 3d; do, nearly due, 29s 3d. French country markets, turgid. On passage to the Continent—wheat, 26s 000 qrs.; last week, 27s 000 qrs.; do, 28 000 qrs.; last week, 28 000 qrs. On passage to United Kingdom, wheat and flour, 24s 000 qrs.; last week, 24 000 qrs.; do, 24 000 qrs.; last week, 24 000 qrs. Liverpool, wheat, spot, moderate demand; corn, quiet but firm. Weather in England, cold. Number of mares covered, 27, 31; present and following month, 37, 93. Chilian wheat, off coast, 27s 9d; present and following month, 27s 9d; following month, 27s 9d.

FINANCIAL. There is no change in the rates of money, call loans on good stock collateral are made at 4, 5, 6 percent, and good commercial paper is discounted at 6 to 7 percent as to name and date. Sterling exchange is 119.10. Round amounts of 60 day bills are quoted at 119.10 between banks and 119.10 to 119.30 over the counter. Rates for demand bills are 119.10 to 119.15 between banks and 119.10 to 119.15 over the counter. Currency drafts on New York are made at 119.10 to 119.15 discount.

STOCK MARKET. The stock market for better makes to-day and was inactive. Bills for Bank of Montreal were reduced to 93 percent in 100, and for people 1 percent to 93; Ontario was unchanged, 150 was bid for Nelson; Toronto was unchanged, as was also Commerce; 113 was bid for Quebec; Montreal Telegraph was 1 lower at 103; purchasers of Richelieu bid 1 higher, Montreal Street Railway and Gas were unchanged; Canadian Pacific Railway was steady, North-West Land unchanged; cotton stocks inactive.

Morning sales.—Montreal Telegraph at 103; 5 Gal. 112; 15 Canadian Pacific Railway at 74; 175 at 75; 4 Hochelaga Bank at 104. Afternoon sales.—Bank of Montreal at 103; 25 Ontario at 114; 25 New Montreal Street Railway at 109; 25 Richelieu at 55; 15 Montreal Street Railway at 109; 25 Canadian Pacific Railway, 74; 10 at 75; 25 at 75; 10 at 74.

The prices at the close of the Board reported to-day, by Messrs. Nichols & Maier, Stock Brokers, corner St. Francis Xavier and Notre Dame streets, were as follows:—

Table with columns: STOCK, Bid, Ask, Bid, Ask. Includes Montreal, Ontario, City Bank, etc.

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POLITICAL INDICATIONS. WHAT THE OTTAWA LIBERALS THINK OF THE OUTLOOK. (From Our Own Correspondent.)

OTTAWA, Feb. 24.—At a meeting of the Trades and Labor Council held here last night, Mr. J. W. Patterson was nominated as the Labor candidate in the coming contest. Among the more recent converts to the cause of the Liberal party is Mr. Wm. Allen, a wealthy farmer and stock raiser, of Aylmer road, Ottawa County. Mr. Allen has always been a staunch Conservative until now, but he sees the fallacy of those engaged in agricultural pursuits supporting a Government whose policy, if continued, means destruction to the farming industry.

ADVICE FROM OTTAWA COUNTY. The return of Mr. Devlin, the Liberal candidate, beyond conjecture. Many of the Conservatives who supported the late member, Mr. Alonso Wright, argue that the fact of Mr. Wright not only declining to again become a Conservative, but declining to re-enter the county and going to British Columbia at this important juncture, shows that he had but little faith in the administration or desire to assist them to return to power. They contend that there must be something radically wrong when such a good Tory as Mr. Wright takes so little interest in the return of his old leader, Sir John, and they are not therefore going to support the party Mr. Wright has deserted.

POPULATION STATISTICS. The Tory press is endeavoring to show, by way of a comparative statement, the large increase in the population of several Canadian cities in 1890 as compared with 1878. In the case of Ottawa, as in many of the other cities noted, where the city limits have been extended by taking in the suburbs, it will be found that within the past three years the population of the capital has been increased nearly 10,000, while the return of the population of the County of Carleton will show a proportionate decrease. If the population of the cities has increased it is at the expense of the rural districts. It may further be stated that the hundreds of young men whom the Government have put into the civil service has materially added to the population of the capital.

A "GAZETTE" EVIDENCE. The Montreal Gazette on Friday published a telegram to the effect that Mr. James Yeo, late M. P. of Prince County, Prince Edward Island, has withdrawn his allegiance to the Grit party, whom he denounced as traitors and schismers, and would run as an independent supporter of Sir John Macdonald. The cannot served its purpose for a few days in the effort of the Government organ to show secession from the Liberal ranks. To show the despicable means to which the Tories are prepared to go to make it appear that there is dissension in the Liberal party, it is but necessary to read what the Halifax Herald has to say in its Charlotte Harbor correspondence of the 20th inst. in regard to Mr. Yeo's candidature. The Herald's correspondent says: "Mr. James Yeo, the late Grit representative, does not like the way in which he was dropped by the convention and is out as an independent candidate. He says he is bound to run and will support Sir John Macdonald on the tunnel question." There is now a candidate running in Prince Edward Island who will not support the tunnel question, and, as there are some differences of details of plans of construction as proposed by Mr. Laurier and by Sir John Macdonald, it would appear that Mr. Yeo is favorable to the plan suggested by the latter. It is alleged that he is opposing the trade policy of the Liberal party, Mr. Yeo has, on every occasion, been one of the most ardent advocates of unrestricted reciprocity in and out of Parliament.

SPECIAL NOTICE. N. E. HAMILTON & Co. will exhibit the largest and best assortment of Spring Mantles ever shown in Canada, on Monday, March 2.

MARRIED. DEWAR-HARVISON.—At Grenville, Que., on the 12th inst., at the residence of the bride's father, by the Rev. Mr. Harris, Mr. Adam Dewar, to Miss Jennie Harvison, both of Grenville.

ADVERTISEMENTS. SECOND GRAND FANCY DRESS CARNIVAL. FRIDAY EVENING, 27th Feb., at 8 o'clock. The Band of the Victoria Rifles will be present. Subscribers will be admitted upon presenting their season tickets or half price at the door. The complimentary cards of invitation to strangers will be suspended. Tickets of admission to non-subscribers at 50 cts. each, 25 cts. for children under 10 years of age, and 10 cts. for infants under 5 years of age. Rates for the Half-Season tickets now being issued are as follows: GENTLEMEN—\$2.50 BOYS—\$1.50 LADIES—\$2.00 GIRLS—\$1.50 W. ALEX. CALDWELL, Sec.-Treasurer. 20 St. James street, Montreal, 18th February, 1891.

\$3,500 NO. 96 CADIEUX street. For sale or to let, good Brick House with Extension, Brick Road 15 x 20, all stable with water supply, and 2nd floor for rent. Lot runs 142 feet to St. Hippolyte street, fronting two frontages. This property is just what will suit a contractor or home owner. Terms, \$1,500 cash balance can remain for 5 years at 6 percent interest. F. McMANN, 178 St. James street.

\$2,500 (each) A bargain. For sale or to let, two solid brick three story houses, containing 7 rooms each, in good repair. Situated on St. Dominique street, just above Prince Arthur street. F. McMANN, 178 St. James street.

\$7,000.—For Sale or to Let, a well built stone house on Palace street, facing Beaver Hall Hill, 21 x 40, all 123 feet deep to brick wall and back yard. This property is just what will suit a business man. Call for permit to view. F. McMANN, 178 St. James street.

DORCHESTER STREET, WEST. For Sale or to let, well built Double Cottage, with extension, heated throughout by hot water, and 25 x 125 to lot in rear. Further particulars and permit to view at top office. F. McMANN, 178 St. James street.

GRAVES BY THE SCORE. TERRIBLE SCENES AT SPRINGHILL—OPENING OF THE INQUEST.

SPRINGHILL MINES, N.S., Feb. 21.—A reporter has just visited the cemetery. He found about 150 men working hard digging graves. Several are made large enough for two or three persons, where they are relatives or belong to the same family. The large grave, sixteen feet square, has been dug for the Langrains. At one time yesterday thirteen bodies were taken down to the cemetery.

THE LARGE CEMETERY is covered in every direction with men. In the Roman Catholic cemetery fifteen new graves have been dug. The weather is bitterly cold and blustery. The men are almost benumbed with cold. A large fire has been kindled, over which hot coffee is being made to refresh and warm the men. A committee is in charge at the cemetery, providing with the lists of the dead numbered, and as soon as the graves are ready word is sent to the other committee, with headquarters at the Methodist Church, and the body is at once sent down to the ministers at the church, where a short service is held, and then one minister accompanies the body to the cemetery. The bodies are being taken down on sleds whenever the graves are prepared. The Mayor has received the following telegram from

THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL. OTTAWA, Feb. 21.—To Mayor Hall, deeply grieved to learn how serious accident at Springhill has proved. Pray express, if possible, my sincere sympathy with relatives of those lost. Shall be glad to hear how injured are progressing. (Signed) STANLEY PRESTON.

OTHER telegrams have been received pleading support for the needy. THE CORONER began taking evidence last night at ten o'clock. The first witness examined was Malcolm Blue. He related his thrilling experience in searching for the dead, and how several of the wounded and of the dead men were lying between Nos. 4 and 6 balances. The atmosphere was so impure that he called back those who were with him. He had been up No. 7 balance and found that some of the working places had caved in. He would not care to express an opinion as to the cause of the explosion. He didn't think there was sufficient powder in the mine to cause it, and there was not enough allowed in it to do so. He was satisfied that the explosion had taken place in No. 7 balance, perhaps in No. 3 bond. He accounted for the heavy fall in No. 7 to the timber being knocked out, allowing the soap stone roof to fall in. He was working about three-quarters of a mile from the cause of the explosion. At one time he was concluded the evidence last night, and an adjournment was made till

THIS MORNING at nine o'clock, when the enquiry was resumed, Richard McGowan, shot-fire, No. 1 slope, testified as to the method of examining working places before shots were fired. He gave an outline of his duties, which were similar to those of other shot-fires employed in other parts of the pit. He was subjected to a strict examination. Before being placed in the position of shot-fire he had worked in the pits for 28 years. At one time he was employed as fireman in the Victoria colliery in Cape Breton. He gave no evidence bearing directly on the cause of the disaster, though closely questioned.

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READABLE PARAGRAPHS



A CAUSE, UNJUST SUSPICION.

The Darker—"Stole that pullet? No, sah! Dat ain't never been in de lib'ral coop, sah; dat's a bird wot I raised myself. De lib'ral breed ob pullet ain't got dar wings clipped laik dis here!"—Grip.

THE DECLINING WINTER.

Now the days are oscillating. Twist a freeze-up and a thaw, Gentle forms of aerating. Vie with billiards and snuff. Shows the earth with downy quilting. Intervene the torments of snuff; One day on the duckworks slipping, 2 other while deep in slush. Thus, in grooves of doubt we hover, But this ceratide ensues, We diurnally discover Chams in our overshoes. February, crisp and airy, Fills the periodic sky, And the hen is chafed Dennis 'Cause the eggs she yielded none. And the prophet murmurs of it, In the old, familiar way, That the winter does begin to Weaken in its vertebrae.

—Boston Courier.

Board and Rooms Wanted.

Wanted, near Montreal, in a private family; suitable for a lady and gentleman with two children; two furnished rooms, with use of kitchen, from May 1; convenient to railway station. Address with particulars, MODERATE 20, "Witness" Office.

Employment Wanted.

A RESPECTABLE young man desires a situation as Coachman. Has had experience and thoroughly understands the care of horses. Can furnish good references. Address F. C., "Witness" Office.

SITUATIONS VACANT.

GENERAL SERVANT Wanted; washing or ironing. Apply at 51 St. Catherine street. FRENCH TEACHER wanted by a schoolmaster in business. Ladies of Gentleman. Partisan preferred. Single particulars, to FRENCH TEACHER, "Witness" Office.

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To Let.

GOOD STAND FOR MONEY TO LET, a fine shop, with counter and back stairs, suitable for dry goods and boot and shoe store. There is a display of the kind; one minute from suburban train and two minutes from the city. Population about 10,000; no butcher or grocer need apply. Address No. 415 Ontario street, city.

To Let.

TO LET, a large, beautiful finished house, No. 2175 and 2185 St. Catherine, corner of Mountain street, with double doors, large plate glass windows on both streets, thoroughly heated by hot water furnace free of charge to occupant. Large concrete basement. Capital stand for a large dry goods, fancy goods, hardware or drug store. The surroundings are thickly settled with the best class of people. Rent reasonable to a desirable tenant. Apply to O. W. STANTON, 216 St. James street.

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Property.

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