

THE CANADIAN GLEANER is printed every Thursday at noon, by Robert Sellars, at his office on Chateaugay street, Huntington, Q. Subscription one dollar per year, strictly in advance. All papers discontinued when the time for which they have been paid expires. No exceptions are made to this rule, so that subscribers who desire to continue receiving the paper, should renew before their time is up; otherwise the paper will be stopped. The date to which every subscription is paid is denoted on the address label. The rates for transient advertisements are 50 cents per inch for the first insertion, and 25 cents per inch for each subsequent insertion. An inch takes in 40 words. Legal and parliamentary notices 7 cents a line for the first and 3 cents for each subsequent insertion. No notice taken of Card of Thanks and other short advertisements unless accompanied by price, which may be remitted in postage stamps. Obituary and similar resolutions, reports of marriages and funerals, and the like, 5 cents a line. No advertisement inserted as reading-matter. Single copies of Gleaner 4 cts. Address letters to THE GLEANER, Huntington, Q.



HUNTINGTON, Q., DEC. 29, 1898

* * * There will be no Gleaner issue next week. It will appear as usual on Thursday, January 12. The Almanac is in the hands of the bookbinder, and will be mailed as soon as received.

Notes on The Year

The remark is commonplace, that those who are contemporaries of events are not able to estimate their true importance. They are apt to exaggerate the bearing they will have on future times, from the same cause that the man who stands at the foot of a hill over-estimates its height. What to him seems a mountain, is, when he looks at it again when he is ten miles away, found to be a very small hill indeed. Thus it comes that we have probably been placing too high an estimate on the importance of the events of the year that is closing, and that those of us who may be living ten, twenty, or fifty years hence will perceive 1898 was not the momentous year we took it to be. While allowance has to be made on this score, it can be safely affirmed there have been happenings during its course which will cause 1898 to be regarded as beginning a new epoch in the world's history. The collapse of Spain and its disappearance from the colonial world is striking and dramatic, yet only second in importance to the new departure made by the United States in creating interests beyond its bounds and departing from its settled policy with regard to a standing army and foreign complications. Spain's downfall concerns a few millions of subjects enthralled by ancient despotism and more hopelessly enthralled by their own ignorance, but the new departure of the republic concerns a population estimated at over 70 millions, with whose aspirations the destiny of the civilized world is bound. That the maxims which have guided affairs at Washington for over a century—self-government, no standing armies, non-interference in foreign affairs, no privileged class—should be abandoned is of weightier concern to mankind than that the flag of Spain should have disappeared from the seas which it, for a long period, claimed as exclusively her own and treated intruders as pirates. The islands the Americans have taken possession of are not to be ruled according to the principles laid down in the declaration of independence, still read at Fourth of July celebrations. The millions of people who inhabit Porto Rico, Cuba, Hawaii, and the Philippines are to be treated as subject races and governed by force; to be compelled to obey by a standing army that is to be 80,000 strong to begin with. Is that compatible with the rights of man as defined by Jefferson and endorsed by successive generations of American citizens? It took a long while to convince the people of the Union that negro slavery and democracy could not exist together, and that difficulty has been so recently settled that it seems the more remarkable they should engage in such a venture as founding a colonial empire on force. That difficulties will arise, that there will be serious chafing before long between the theories of popular rights held by Americans and the means they will have to employ to keep

rebellious Cubans and Filipinos within bounds, is certain. Such collisions will affect more than the rebellious natives; each one will injure the position of the American who has never gone beyond his workshop or his farm. A colonial empire means heavy expenditure, and expenditure means increased taxation. More of the earnings of the laboring classes will be required by the government, and these taxes will be spent abroad. In the minority report by the committee to whom the proposal of increasing the standing army was referred the cost is estimated at 150 millions a year. The money loss is not all. A large standing army means the formation of a select privileged class—an aristocracy of officers and of officials interested in continuing military rule—and of a large class who are mere machines, the enlisted men, who cannot be entrusted with the franchise. To all appearance, misled by military ambition and blinded by greed of gain, the experiment of government by the people is going to receive a check, at least, south of our border, and it may be that it will be left to Canada to demonstrate its possibility. Certainly the misstep made by our neighbor is our opportunity, and with less taxation and freed from the entanglements of foreign dependencies Canada should present a better opening to the emigrant.

To the humiliation of Spain we believe the future historian will trace the beginning of the movement that will end the curse of military rule in Europe. As out of the mutual destruction of the strength of kings and nobles in the wars of the Roses the rights of the English common people had their birth, and as out of the revolt of the Puritans came the American revolution which in turn started that of the first French revolution, it will be seen the destruction of military power in Spain will lead to the uplifting of the masses, and whatever the people of Spain may do will be bettered by those to the north and east of them. The governments of the continent of Europe rest today not on the affections or self-interest of their people but on two millions of bayonets. The youth of Europe are drafted and compelled to give the best years of their manhood to serving in the army, and return to civil life impaired by the debasing influences of barrack routine. The farmer and the mechanic have not only to support themselves but the soldier who struts about in illness and who, in the hands of his masters, is the means of oppressing his fellows. An end to this unjust and ruinous system must come and it may be expected to meet its fate in a general rising of the people such as was seen in 1848, with this difference, that there will be no restoration of the deposed tyrants, who then broke faith with the people and would do so again.

The significance of the events of 1898 we conceive to be bound up in these two issues—the departure of the United States from its traditional policy of non-interference in foreign affairs and the overthrow of militarism in Spain. In themselves these are sufficient to make the passing year memorable.

Notes on the News of the Week

Another speck of trouble between Britain and France has arisen in China. The French desired to extend their bounds, or to use their own phrase, "their sphere of influence," in the neighborhood of the city of Shanghai. The governor of the province refused, whereupon the French minister at Peking made a formal demand for the coveted territory. This demand the English minister opposes, and is backed by the U.S. minister, for it seems Americans have large interests in the territory coveted by France. How the matter will end cannot at present be foreseen. It seems to be understood at Peking that if Britain will guarantee to back China, the French demands will be refused. Coming at a time when the relations of France and Britain are so delicate, this new episode is to be deplored. It is significant, that while relations between the two countries are apparently much more friendly than they were six weeks ago, both continue to increase their armaments and to act

as if war was about to be declared. After years of hesitation and the wasting of reams of paper in sending remonstrances to the Sultan, the killing of a few of her sailors caused Britain to compel the Turks to leave the island of Crete at short notice. It looks as if this experience was going to be repeated in South Africa. For a long while Britain has submitted to the vagaries and insults offered by the Boers of the Transvaal and might have continued to do so for years to come, when the shooting of an Englishman in cold blood by one of President Kruger's officials changes the entire situation. A stern request comes from the English population of the Transvaal for protection by Britain, and as Britain is suzerain of the country the request cannot well be refused. The British forces at the Cape of Good Hope and at Natal are being increased and if Mr Chamberlain really wants to put down Kruger, he has the means and the opportunity.

A steamer arrived from the East in England on Xmas eve with an officer on board suffering from the plague. This is the first case yet known in England. It is ominous that the dread disease lingers in India and is spreading beyond its borders. It has appeared as far north as the Russian frontier and exists on the shores of the Red Sea. The Mohammedans, with their system of pilgrimages, are credited with being the means of carrying to new localities this dread disease. Talking of Mohammedanism, a strange discussion has arisen in Britain over Gen. Kitchener's proposed college at Khartoum. A number subscribed under the belief that it was to be a centre for Christianizing the Derivishes, but Kitchener says no, it will be practically a Mohammedan institution. Even men whose lives reflect little credit on Christianity, shrink from giving their money to teach a false religion. General Kitchener is the soldier in everything and were he sent to conquer China he would seek to propagate its people by erecting Buddhist temples and offering incense to the memory of Confucius. Professing to be a Christian, the General ought to be true to his profession. To tolerate a false religion is one thing; to help to build it up is quite another. Toleration is the due of all, but to class Christianity with the superstitions of the heathen or the Mohammedan is not toleration. If Britain is to found a new empire on the Nile it must be done by showing the natives a better way than that they now follow.

Full returns of the vote in Beauharnois last week show that 236 electors less went to the poll than in the Bisson-Beaubien contest in 1897. Looking closely into the polls where the decrease was, it is seen the falling off was on the Liberal side. For instance, in 1897 St Louis gave a Liberal majority of 135, last week it gave only 85. The change is more marked in St Stanislas. Mr Bergeron is taking to himself the credit of electing Mr Plante, and the Conservatives of Montreal have been giving him ovations on that score. The fact is, Mr Plante would never have been elected but for the dissatisfaction among the Rouges and the old-time English speaking Liberals who resented the manner in which Mr Mercier was forced upon them as their candidate. Enough Liberal votes were unpolled in Valleyfield itself to have defeated Mr Plante. The following table gives the vote by municipalities:

Municipality	1897	1898
Beauharnois	131	135
St Clement	136	178
St Etienne	61	92
St Louis de Gonzague	214	129
St Stanislas	125	78
St Charles	146	160
Valleyfield	439	481
St Timothy	155	172

Majority for Plante, 46. Mr Plante only polled 16 more votes than did the Hon Mr Beaubien in 1897, and who was beaten by 272 of a majority.

The adjournment of the international commission over the holidays has given the premier and his colleagues opportunity to hold a few cabinet meetings and to make some preparation for the coming session, which it is not expected will open until the first week in March. The commission, which resumes its sittings on Wednesday, will certainly close its labors in the course of a fortnight, as duties in Paris require that Lord Herschell, the Imperial representative, leave by the

27th January.

The new governor-general has been making himself agreeable during a visit to Montreal, taking in several public functions. The Jenkins of the Montreal press tells us the Countess condescended to visit a skating rink and executed some "fancy skating." Lord Minto, wherever he goes, is bored by addresses from every sort of society and corporation. Surely an end might be made to the senseless custom of presenting addresses, which so strikingly marks the provincial tone of Canada. During his visit to McGill college the governor knighted W. C. McDonald, whose donations to the institution at different times sum up to the neighborhood of two millions.

The two-cent rate of postage between Canada and Great Britain came into force on Saturday night. Nearly every British dependency has come into the arrangement, the only prominent exception being Australia, which refused because of the inconsistency of charging less on letters sent abroad than on those carried within its own bounds. This inconsistency will ultimately force Canada to adopt a uniform two-cent rate. The injustice of charging 3 cents to carry a letter between Atholstan and Huntington, and at the same time only asking two cents to send one to India or Hong Kong is too palpable to stand long. Whatever deficiency it may cause, the people will not rest satisfied until there is a uniform letter rate. With the new year the postage on newspapers begins. The rate for the next six months is exceedingly small, and there are exemptions which cause some jealousy. The Gleaner, as has been stated before, would have preferred a permanent rate of a cent a pound and no exemptions. Every pound of mail matter carried free or at an insufficient rate, causes somebody else to pay more than they ought.

A persistent effort is being made at Chicago to boom wheat, and so far with some success, the price having been forced up from 65 to 68c on Tuesday. This has had the effect of stiffening the quotations for flour in Montreal. As usual during the holidays the produce market is quiet. Cheese continues firm, despite a reduction in England. Butter is a shade better. Being a holiday, there was no live stock market on Monday. It was not needed, anyway, for butchers are heavily stocked with Xmas beef. The daily despatches report the re-appearance of the grip. It has never left altogether, the difference being that it is said its visit this year is in an epidemic form similar to its first coming in 1888. Doctors say it is in a mild form and leaves none of the after effects which made it in the past so formidable.

ORMSTOWN
Business was suspended Christmas day, but it was rather dull, for sleighing was bad.

Grip is prevalent; in not a few cases, whole families are helpless. Mr John Stewart had a leg broken. He was on a tobsteigh and stepping off his leg caught in the sleigh. Mr Peter Reid, River Outarde, was delivering milk at the butter factory on Friday when the wind blew some of it on the horse, which jumped, and Mr Reid fell out, hurting his head and shoulder. He was unconscious for a short time.

St James church S. S. had their Xmas festival in temperance hall on Friday. The Rev Mr Strong and Mrs Strong were ill with the grip, so the Rev D. W. and Mrs Morison took charge of the entertainment. The program went off very well. Addresses were given by the Rev Messrs Morison and McConnell, Dr McLaren, and others. The teachers and scholars did their parts well. Supper was served during the evening. The hall was well filled and the receipts amounted to \$20.

The upper concession Xmas gathering was on Tuesday and was successful in every regard, though that section is not free from the grip. The Rev Messrs McConnell and Morison were present. The veteran S. S. teacher, John Donaldson, was too feeble to attend. Wm. Bryson gave a Scotch reading and the children rendered their pieces well. This S. S. though small is vigorous.

A young man, named Forget, was chopping wood when a chip struck his eye. Fears were expressed that he would lose his sight but he now sees a little.

A son of Mr D. Ovans, while cleaning the linder of his mill his brothers were turning it his mitt caught, dragging in his hand, which was badly lacerated. The doctor thinks he will save both hand and fingers.

HOWICK
Christmas and New Year's festivities in and about Howick have been unusually successful and entertaining this winter, there being no less than three Christmas festivals within a week, one at Riverfield on the 22nd Dec., at Howick on the 23rd, and at Georgetown on the 26th. No effort

were spared to make the decorations of the hall and churches artistically attractive, and the various designs certainly indicated a refined taste on the part of those who planned them. At Riverfield, two very tall and graceful trees were connected by a straight motto in large letters, and fairly groaned under the weight of valuable and pretty presents. Festoons, mottoes and clusters of evergreens covered the walls. In the hall, Howick, owing to the low ceiling, little effort was made to set off trees, but the design took the form of a triple arch of interlaced evergreen branches extending across the front of the platform, below which were well proportioned evergreen rings from 12 to 14 inches in diameter, inside of which Chinese lanterns were placed. The walls were also trimmed with evergreens. Georgetown made a special effort to please the eye and certainly succeeded. The trees, though not as tall as at Riverfield, were gorgeously decorated, and as a background to them, on the wall were beautifully lettered mottoes in curved instead of straight lines, symmetrically interspersed with large star and ring-shaped figures in blue, pink and other rich, soft shades of color. Festoons draped the gaily railing and artificial roses dotted the evergreen clusters. The programmes were similar in character and were interesting and well executed. Rev Mr Fleck who was expected at Georgetown was absent on account of illness. Rev G. Whillans presided at Georgetown and Rev J. W. McLeod at Howick and Riverfield. Mrs D. G. MacKeracher, with one or two exceptions, presided at the organ at Georgetown; Mrs Dr Shanks at Howick, and Miss Alice McKell at Riverfield. A pleasing feature at Georgetown was the good will manifested to the pastor, Rev G. Whillans, and Mrs Whillans, in the presentation to him of a purse of \$125, and to Dr Shanks and Mrs Shanks at Howick of an elegant silver tea service and jardiniere, accompanied in each case by a most complimentary address. The recipients accepted their gifts with all due modesty and embarrassment and responded gratefully.

Since the two new residences in Howick belonging to Thomas Gebbie and Charles McClenaghan have been occupied they appear more home-like in addition to being pretty and commodious. The houses are imposing in appearance and fitted out internally with all modern conveniences. T. Gebbie's is painted white with green facings and the other white with gray and cardinal trimmings, and the front piazzas is at the left corner as you approach it and the back at the right, whilst the former has the piazzas at the right, front and back. A neat bay-window projects on one side of each. The rooms are large and numerous with ceiling not too low. Hard and soft water is convenient in the kitchen. The front hall staircase in T. Gebbie's is open and between it is a pantry and dumb waiter with an open cupboard between the pantry and dining-room, whilst C. McClenaghan's front hall staircase is closed in and affords a convenient place for storing away the coal scuttle and other things, whilst the room between the hall and kitchen is used as a breakfast room and the kitchen contains cupboards to replace the pantry. The cellars are cemented and high and there is a roomy attic which is very useful.

GEORGETOWN
An enjoyable Christmas entertainment was given in the Georgetown Presbyterian church Monday evening; the edifice was crowded by an appreciative audience. The program consisted of vocal and instrumental music interspersed with recitations, dialogues, readings, etc., which were well rendered. The most interesting feature of the evening was the presentation to Rev George and Mrs Whillans of a purse, containing the goodly sum of \$125, as a token of the esteem in which they are held by the congregation. Dr Cooper made the presentation and the Rev Mr Whillans made a happy reply, expressing the hope that they had yet many years to serve together in the relationship of pastor and people. Special efforts were put forth by the choir for the occasion and the results were in every way satisfactory from an artistic standpoint. The renderings of anthems and solos gave evidence of much careful preparation, and the large audience did not stint itself in the abundance of its applause. The same may be said to apply to the young people's part of the program. The little folks did remarkably well in their parts. At the conclusion of the programme, which lasted about two hours and a half, there was a distribution of the presents on the two Christmas trees for the children, and the time was an exciting one for the little ones. Santa Claus in his white beard and flowing robes was a pretty sight, and his arrival to the strains of an appropriate musical selection was a source of great delight to young as well as old. All those connected with the affair are to be congratulated on the success which attended their efforts. Rev James Fleck, pastor of Knox Presbyterian church, Montreal, was expected to be present and deliver an address but, at the last moment, he

was compelled to give up the trip on account of a sudden attack of illness.

CHATEAUGUAY
A Christmas tree was held on Tuesday evening, the 20th inst., at the residence of Miss Macfarlane. A very appropriate programme was gone through by the children. Santa Claus had a present for each one of the young ones and everything passed off nicely. Messrs R. Craik, W. Goodfellow, J. Duncan, jr., and A. Lockhart called on each family of the congregation for a Christmas present for the Rev J. D. Anderson, when 17 bags of oats and something over \$6 in money was freely contributed. Mr Anderson was quite taken by surprise and thanked the people for their kind thoughtfulness. The people are firm believers in the 11th chap. of Proverbs and 24th verse.

The past few mild days caused the river to break up, and the ice is jammed in several places between here and Lang's bay. The ice is quite thick and has not moved at the Basin. I should think it is between 12 and 14 inches in thickness. The roads are bad, not enough snow for the sleigh, and too many drifts for wagons. Wishing your readers the compliments of the season.

BEAUBARNOIS
A by-law was carried unanimously on Monday by the town of Beauharnois, granting J. W. Kilgour & Bro. exemption of municipal taxes for 20 years, conditionally on their employing not less than one hundred hands.

VALLEYFIELD
The closing exercises following the examinations of the schools was held Friday evening in the Gault institute; principal Messenger presiding. The hall was comfortably filled with the pupils and their parents, who showed their appreciation of the program and the progress made by the scholars. Dr Sutherland and Mr Louis Simpson voiced the thanks of the audience to the teachers and all who had assisted. Mr Messenger made a happy reply, after which the singing of God Save the Queen brought a happy gathering to a close, and gave the signal for two weeks' fun and frolic to the pupils.

The Methodist school held their annual Christmas gathering on Thursday evening, while that of St Mark's Sunday school was held Christmas eve. The program of each with the hearty approval of the audience, and both teachers and scholars were delighted with the good things distributed from the trees. Both gatherings were largely attended.

Sleighing is gone, and Christmas day found wheels in general use for those who had heavy teaming. Our merchants have had a fair holiday trade, and are correspondingly happy. Friday evening the store of Mr John Crichton was broken into and also that of Mr Bloom. From Mr Crichton's store money and goods were taken, and from Mr Bloom's some boots and shoes. No clue to the thieves has been found.

A lively game of hockey marked the opening of the season here, Christmas evening, when the Queen and Valleyfield teams struggled for victory. The match was, to say the least, a little rough, and was won by the Queens of Montreal; score 4 to 1. Mr Allan McDonald acted as referee.

On Monday business in Valleyfield proceeded as usual; it is, however, generally understood, that Monday and Tuesday after new year will be given up to visiting and pleasure.

A team of spirited horses, owned at the Bishop's palace, caused a lively racket for a while Saturday morning. They became unmanageable near the church, and started to run, striking the corner of a brick lined house they knocked the corner out and left the driver insensible on the road. They next ran into a hydrant with such force as to break it. Happily they were stopped in their mad race before doing more serious damage. The driver is convalescent.

ST STANISLAS
The snow in coming so early was rather a blessing in disguise, as nearly everyone was complaining of the scarcity of fuel, but the average inhabitant was not slow in taking advantage of the sleighing, for at almost every door yard piles of dry pine roots, reaching skyward, are to be seen, and as a natural consequence, "le bonne femme" is all smiles.

We did not have the usual Christmas tree here, but if anybody imagines they had more fun at Christmas than we they must have celebrated it for all it was worth.

Santa Claus paid us a flying visit, but, unfortunately, while crossing the track at Blanchette's his sleigh was struck by a passing engine, and was found wrong side up in John McCracken's field at New Erin. Merry Christmas to each and every subscriber of the Gleaner, as well as borrower.

ROCKBURN
At the closing of school No. 5, for the Christmas holidays, Lizzie Gowan and Mamie Jamieson, in behalf of the school, presented the teacher, Miss Ella Fraser, with a China berry set and a crystal flower basket.

HEMMINGFORD
At the regular meeting of Hemmingford lodge, No 72, F. & A. M., on Tuesday, Dec. 27th, the following officers were duly installed for the ensuing year:
G. S. McCrea, W. M.
W. A. Dunlop, S. W.
H. J. Ferguson, M. D., J. W.
Rev J. Lockey, Chaplain
Thomas Flegg, Treasurer
W. deMouillip, M. D., Secretary
James McCane, S. D.
W. F. Orr, J. D.
C. McGinnis, D. of C.
A. J. Orr, Steward
A. A. Allen, " "
C. Cameron, I. G.
W. F. McNaughton, Tyler.
Christmas service at the Presbyterian church was a "Children's service." These services have been comparatively unknown here in the past, but will be more practised in the future, as the congregation highly appreciate the change.

The Episcopal congregations, or rather S.S. of Hemmingford, Hallerton, and Roxham, held a very pleasing entertainment on Dec. 22nd. Despite the unfavorable state of the weather and roads the town hall was literally packed, and a very pleasing programme was rendered by the scholars and others. The financial results were highly satisfactory, netting about \$55.

The Rainforth family gave an entertainment in the town hall on Tuesday, which was fairly well attended. The entertainment was free from any coarseness or vulgarity, so common with travelling troupes. The singing and acting of Mrs and Miss Rainforth were very commendable, and the sleight-of-hand performances of Mr Rainforth were remarkably clever.

The Royal Templars of Temperance of Hemmingford have ceased to exist as an organization. The furniture, etc., of the society have been sold and the proceeds divided between the Presbyterian and Methodist churches.

FRANKLIN CENTRE
A student occupied the pulpit of the Congregational church on Sunday, both morning and evening, and will do so again next Sunday. In district No 2 Miss Annie S. Rowe had a Xmas tree Friday afternoon. Scholars and parents had a very enjoyable time, and the children were more than pleased.

HINCHINBROOK
A very enjoyable afternoon was spent in Vance school, No 9, when a public examination and Xmas entertainment was held. The children went through their lessons and exercises with great credit to themselves and teacher, and much satisfaction to the parents. A lengthy program of recitations, dialogues, and songs by the children was presented. The teacher treated all the children present to a well-filled bag of candy. Miss Johnston, who is teaching her 4th year in this school, was the recipient of a handsome manicure set, paper knife, pin-tray, and pocket book, presented by Maggie Feeny and Bertie Kelly in the name of the scholars, as a mark of their appreciation of her long and faithful services. Miss Johnston thanked them in an appropriate manner.

PORT LEWIS
Mr and Mrs John Holmes entertained, at their home on the 24th inst., the neighboring school children to a Xmas tree. Songs and recitations by the children, under the direction of Miss Jennie Holmes, was more than a success. After the exercises the Xmas tree was brought in, and old Santa gave all a present. Refreshments were served and dancing was indulged in by the older ones. The party broke up at a late hour.

KELSO
The school commissioners visited and examined the schools of Elgin last week and, on the whole, were well pleased with the progress made during the past year. On Friday evening the pupils, under the direction of their teacher, Miss M. Sutherland, gave a very interesting entertainment in their school, No 4. The singing and speaking was rendered in a manner that reflected great credit on both teacher and scholars. Miss Aggie B. Paul, assisted by presiding at the organ. W. C. Gillies, Secy. B.S.C. occupied the chair. At the close of the programme J. B. Cooper, in the name of the pupils, presented Miss Sutherland with an elegant jewel case. Although taken by surprise, the recipient made a suitable reply. On unloading the tree, which proved of great interest to the children, it was found the scholars had also been remembered by their teacher in a substantial manner.

The meeting, held under the auspices of the members of the Trout River debating club, was very well attended. The program consisted of addresses by the Rev A. Rowat, James Paton of Montreal, formerly of Trout River, W. F. Stephen, and J. B. Cooper, and singing by Misses Rowat and Crawford, and a reading by Robert Elder. The members speak of investing the proceeds in a library.

The retiring councillors are Thomas Wood, Henry Seely, and James B. Cooper.

DUNDEE
The constable, Labrake, who shot and killed the Indians who tried to arrest him, has at the instance of the Indians, been taken into custody and conveyed to Moira, to have an examination before a justice of the peace. The case commenced on Saturday and was adjourned until today (28th). There have been so many different stories about the matter it is difficult to know which is right. I was told the seizure was for a chattel mortgage, but it was for a small judgment. On the Canadian side it is not legal to seize property belonging to an Indian on the reserve.

Fort Covington metted them \$120. The chairman and two of the commissioners visited the schools in districts 1 and 2 on the 14th inst. The attendance in these schools is small, averaging not over 7 or 8 daily. The commissioners were satisfied with the methods employed in imparting the necessary knowledge to the pupils. As this is the first visit by the commissioners to the schools for a number of years, they could not say as to progress made. On the 21st the other two schools were visited by all the commissioners. At No 4 the attendance was small, only 10 out of 17 on the roll. The teacher said it was owing to sickness. The scholars acquitted themselves very well in all branches. The very low tone of voice of both teacher and scholars required an acute ear to catch what was said. From a newspaper article I extract the following: "Nasal or throaty delivery of words, bad pronunciation, and generally indistinct enunciation, which may consist in defective articulation, running words together, or mumbling, are all common faults of the schoolroom which we have attempted to eradicate. * * * A strong wholesome voice is one of the signs of health." At district No 6 the attendance was better, being 21 out of 34 on the roll; the average daily attendance is 20. The scholars were put through a number of branches and acquitted themselves in a very satisfactory manner. The tone of voice of both teacher and scholars was all that could be desired. The commissioners will again visit the schools before they close and will be able to ascertain what progress has been made.

THANKSGIVING DAY IN QUEBEC
To the Editor of the Canadian Gleaner
Sir,—I have read in the Witness, Sentinel, and Forest Standard, your editorial on "No Thanksgiving in Quebec." With your remarks thereon I fully agree.

Some years ago, I was in the city of Quebec on Thanksgiving day. I bought a copy of that day's number of Le Canadian. I found an article in it on Thanksgiving Day, by the editor. He spoke very sensibly and professedly as a Roman Catholic. He said that Roman Catholics had as much reason to thank God for His goodness to them during the closing year, as the Protestants had, and, therefore, they should show respect to a day of national thanksgiving. Let the different archbishops appoint a day of thanksgiving, taking, for greater convenience, the one appointed by the Governor-General. Then "the faithful" could keep it, not in compliance with the invitation of the state, but with that of their church. If Roman Catholics have such kindly feelings towards their "separated brethren" (ahem), why do they refuse to unite with them in honoring a day of thanksgiving for blessings received in common? But many Protestants practically treat Thanksgiving day with as much disrespect as do the Roman Catholics. In some places, Toronto for example, they invariably have a sham fight that day. It may well be called a "shame fight." Those who take part in it as soldiers, or as spectators, cannot attend church. Secular Thought, the Toronto infidel paper, is greatly pleased with that arrangement. The idea of a Thanksgiving sham fight! How do these lines sound: "Muskets rattle, cannons boom. Loud thanksgivings to our God?" The Queen's Birthday and Dominion Day are enough for sham fights. In closing, I would say a word on a kindred subject, that of military Sabbath church parades. We cannot with very good reason throw a stone at the French for their military reviews on the Lord's day. The church parades of which I speak, are really military reviews. Going to church is just a thin coat of religious varnish. The music played at them is usually utterly unsuited to the day. In ordinary circumstances, there is not the very slightest need of such parades. Woodbridge, Ont. T. FENWICK.

Seattle, Wash., December 26.—The steamer Farralon has arrived from Alaska with a number of passengers from Dawson direct, who came out over the ice. The trail is good, and a large number of people are on their way out. Among the passengers is Jack Carr, United States mail carrier. He says the population of Dawson City has materially decreased, it now being estimated at 16,000. Cost of living has also decreased, good meals costing but a dollar. There will be no food shortage this winter. There is little hope of the mail service being kept up between Dawson and the outside world this winter.

