THE HERALD.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 1883.

The Island and the General Government.

Now that the demands of British Columbia have been complied with in a modified form, and that the extreme western province is satisfied for the present, seems to be the proper time for Prince Edward Island to step to the front and seek for adjustment of its claims. Canada is composed of Provinces of a more or less heterogeneous nature, whose interests occasionally clash, as well they may, seeing that thousands of miles of territory stretch between two of them at least; and that while the Atlantic Ocean washes the shores of one, the mighty Pacific surges unceasingly against the other. It would be impossible to govern such a vast country in a narrow spirit; and fortunate it is that now, and, in all probability, for many years to come, the great Conservative party—the party of broad views and wise statesmanship—holds, and shall hold, the reins of power, so that the Confederation, brought about by so much sacrifice and generous compromise, may be cemented beyond chance of mishap. Confederation was a triumph of Conservative statesmanship; the so-called Reform party could never have accomplished it, or having accomplished it, could never have consolidated the Provinces and formed out of them that Dominion of which we are all so proud, which, as a whole, possesses such unlimited resources, and before which stretches such a range of majestic possibilities. The Grits are splendid in opposition; it seems to be their place naturally, for they are chronic grumblers. They cannot see beyond Ontario. Ontario is their country. Let Confederation slide, but let Ontario remain isolated if it be not permitted to govern. As a matter of course, when a hitch or a delay occurs, they point exultingly to Conservative *laches* and delays as breaches of promise, and tell of the unutterable things they would do if in power. When they were in power, however, they did little, for their view was obstructed by the Ontario boundary line. But acts are better and stronger than words, and the kindly spirit manifested by Government leaders towards Prince Edward Island and other outlying Provinces during the present session of Parliament, speaks volumes for their sagacity, not to mention their willingness to carry out their contract. It is true that the claim of the Island to winter communication is beyond question, and that this claim has lately been pressed with singular ability by the recent delegation, assisted by the members of the Senate and the Commons from Prince Edward Island; but it is also true that the Government met them half way in the true liberal spirit, and that their readiness to grant a special committee and to aid it with all their power, augurs well for the belief that the recommendations and suggestions of that committee will be promptly and cheerfully carried out. Governments cannot achieve impossibilities; but as winter communication, though perhaps difficult, does not belong to them, there is little doubt but that the day is not far distant when there shall be no more isolation of Prince Edward Island in mid-winter. It is not only in this important matter that the General Government have shewn a disposition to carry out its engagement with Prince Edward Island loyally and cheerfully. They accepted every motion offered, and granted all the committees asked for, like men whose views embrace the wide Dominion, and are anxious to distribute justice all over it. We are far from saying that on this account the Island should be enthusiastic. After all, we get nothing but justice. What we do think is that we would not obtain it in the same measure from a Grit administration, if at all. Their sense of right and wrong would be stilled by the clamor of Ontario, and Prince Edward Island would, under their rule, have to suffer for entering Confederation. The present Government, then, stands loyally by its contract, and that being so, is entitled to the sympathy and solid support of every man on this Island of Prince Edward, who has its interest at heart. Would it not be a blind sort of policy, not to speak of ingratitude, which, through local or other causes, would send to Ottawa an enemy of that administration which, irrespective of sectionalism, party, or degree of longitude, is prepared to treat all the Provinces alike, and consider all Canadians as having the same rights as the people of Ontario?

The New Brunswick Government.

The journals of the Liberal Party have lately been indulging in ecstacies over the defeat of the Government in New Brunswick, led by Hon. Mr. Hannington. In it they see a sure precursor of the overthrow which certainly awaits the Conservative Government at Ottawa, and, considered in connection with the existence in Nova Scotia of a Liberal Government, and the recent victory (shall we call it such?) in Ontario, they have been taking fresh courage. Last week we gave the names of the gentlemen composing the new Executive in New Brunswick, but an analysis of their political faith furnishes, we think, but little comfort to the Reform Party. Not one of these gentlemen has ever been in a government before—they are consequently, as a body, totally inexperienced. Mr. Blair, the leader, has the reputation of being an able lawyer, though his popularity is open to question; this, however, will be tested at the partial election shortly to take place. Mr. Elder, the Provincial Secretary, is well known throughout the Lower Provinces as the editor and proprietor of the St. John *Telegraph*. We are pleased to hear of his good fortune, for he is popular, and never allows his political opinions to bind him so firmly to any party that he cannot abandon it at the very shortest notice. The Solicitor General, Mr. Ritchie, is generally spoken of as a good lawyer. Mr. Ryan, the Commissioner of Public Works, is a Liberal Conservative, as are also Mr. Mitchell, the Surveyor General, Mr. Gillespie, the President of the Council, and Mr. Turner. The defeat of the late Government was owing entirely to the treachery of some of the representatives who had been returned to support it. In the interests of the Province, just now, a change of rulers was not desirable; but the prospects seem altogether unfavorable to the retention, beyond a few weeks, of the reins of power by the present combination. At the most, all that the Reform Party can claim in New Brunswick is a representation in a Coalition Government; and, after the marked repulse which they have recently received in Ontario, we do not begrudge them the comfort they can derive from this morsel.

Bad Literature.

Among the various sources of evil in the world, there is none more baneful and destructive than immoral literature. As good reading chastens and ennobles the mind, bad reading debases and destroys it. Good, solid reading is as necessary for the vigor of the mind as substantial food is for the support and strength of the body. Bad reading is a subtle poison that vitiates and corrodes the human intellect. As the mixture of poison with your food would immediately derange the whole human system, so will immoral and sensational literature weaken and demoralize the energy and power of the mind. The mind is elevated, enlarged and purified by chaste and moral reading; but it is degraded, and its vital force extinguished, by low and filthy literature. There is nothing that stints it so much in its full development as the drinking in of the impure waters of vulgar reading. Nothing has such a large share in the destruction of many otherwise useful lives, as the yellow-covered trash of American literature.

As this powerful passion for bad reading grows upon our youth almost imperceptibly, it is the more dangerous and ruinous. The very first book for which a young man shows a keen appetite is the novel. The young lady attending the fashionable boarding school becomes passionately fond of the exhilarating romance long before she knows anything about domestic economy. The bloom of youth, and the precious time for more serious and useful study, are spent in perusing the pages of some trashy novel. Even the "Police Records" of New York and London, in which the lowest deeds of villainy are shamelessly recorded, become the companions of many of our young people. The vigor of youth soon fades away by momentary excitement aroused in the mind on the recital of deeds of blood and vulgarity. The foul details of vice, recorded in the police reports of such a city as New York or London, must be sickening and disgusting to all pure ears. We know from the sad history of the past what a terrible power for evil these records of crime must exert on the youthful mind. To the votaries of impure literature life becomes unreal, and they are made the victims of every scribbling charlatan. The consequences will be that they will lead a dreamy, romantic existence, without aim or purpose. The dime novel, the police gazette, the yellow-covered trash in general, have turned out more rascals and sent more to the scaffold than any other agents of destruction. The young hero who starts in life with his mind flushed with the wonderful victories of some unreal, romantic character, is sure to develop into the fearless robber or bold assassin. How many of our youth are formed into worthless desperadoes by the continual reading of heroes created by the fancies of some imaginative novel-writer? How many of our young women, who would be bright angels in the family circle, are lowered and debased by the insinuating poison of the romance? Surely a father who would prevent his daughter from attending immoral plays, ought also to preclude her from reading all impure writers.

We do not mean to say that there are not some useful novels, containing some beautiful morals applicable to real life, and highly valuable for the cultivation of a chaste, ornate diction. The writings of a Dickens, Thackeray, or Charles Lever are calculated to adorn and beautify English style. The mind requires recreation as well as the body, and nothing will refresh it more than a dip into the limpid waters of a pure, high-toned writer like Dickens. But the low, vulgar stuff, known as the common novel, ought to be spat upon by every high-minded scholar. Another style of writing which does infinite harm in the world is that infidel class, despising God and ridiculing religion. Voltaire in France poisoned the minds of thousands of youths with the pernicious errors of infidelity. He has sown a harvest which is being reaped there at present by the swarms of Nihilists, Socialists and Communists which infest that once happy and peaceful land. But to be practical, can we put an end to, or at least lessen, the danger to our young people from their freedom in reading the most debasing trash that can be bought in America? It is the sacred duty of parents and teachers to guard those committed to their care from these foul well-springs of crime—the Dime Novel, the Police Records, and all sensational reading generally.

Editorial Notes.

An Agnostic has been returned to the Ontario Legislature. He represents the thin end of the wedge. The Agnostic is Mr. Roe, member-elect for Lennox.

Spring is breathing over Europe, and still the predicted war has not begun. There is no sign of the great armies moving; everything is profoundly quiet. But there may be a tremendous conflict all the same before the end of April.

The Toronto *Globe* has of late become a better party organ, but a worse newspaper. Under the Browns it was always erratic, but sometimes honest. It had a soul partly its own; but, with Blake and Mowat supervising it, its originality has departed. Its duty now is to depreciate Canada under every aspect, and to show the world it is not a proper country to live in.

There is a good deal of curiosity manifested as to the identity of the mysterious "No. 1," who organized the diabolical Phœnix Park and other murders of last year. Meanwhile, until the curtain that conceals him is torn aside, and he stands revealed in all his moral deformity, each of the Imperial members is so guarded that, in so far as they are concerned, anxious and continued care is taken of "No. 1," and small blame to them for the same.

A free library is not a great blessing when one examines it carefully, and it now looks as if that voted into existence by the citizens of Toronto will not be a blessing at all. Indications of strife are already seen and felt. The secularists and others, who pretend to extreme liberality of opinion, are making great exertions to have the works of Paine, Voltaire, and the French encyclopedists introduced, not forgetting the blasphemous writings of Colonel Ingersoll; and it is feared they will succeed, as the only sincere opponents they have are two delegates from the Catholic School Board appointed on the Library Committee.

Whatever we may think of the Bonapartists in the present crisis in France, it must be confessed by their bitterest enemies that the Orleanist and Bourbon princes generally have conducted themselves like gentlemen. They make a manly protest against an unjust decree; and, like Aristides, go into exile without further complaint. Whether they so intended it or not, their conduct forces admiration from a people who were once so generous, and may yet have a beneficial effect on their cause ond their fortunes. When the San Cullottes of Paris were devouring one another, some of those princes were fighting the Germans at Beamont and Sedan.

The Crofters of the Isle of Skye are obstinate in their generation. Their uprising has been so serious that the Imperial Government thought fit to send the *Jackal* man-o'-war with a commissioner on board to the scene. The commissioner assembled the recalcitrants and lectured them on the errors of their ways. He presented them something resembling an ultimatum, all the points of which were rejected by the islanders except one, which was that the four ring-leaders should be surrendered to the Government and sent to Edinburgh for trial. Even this was only half complied with, as instead of putting them on board the *Jackal*, as required by the commissioner, the Crofters sent them to Edinburgh at their own expense.

Bismarck, and his master the Kaizer, are not yet prepared to comply with the just demands of the Vatican. Fortunately, Herr Windhorst, and his hundred votes in the Reichstag, may teach the Chancellor such a lesson as will open his eyes to the gravity of the situation, if he persists in refusing the Catholics civil and religious liberty. It is only the Catholic Church which can conquer that Socialism which threatens the Imperial throne, and it is extraordinary an intelligent man like Bismarck does not realize it. It is the general opinion that he does, but that his hatred of the Church is almost as fierce as that he bears the Anarchists. The Chancellor cannot live forever, however, and men more amenable to right and justice will succeed him. The Church can afford to wait.

The French Canadian element of Montreal has now, what it never had before at the same time, a Mayor and a majority in the City Council. It is to be hoped that a good use will be made of the power thus obtained. It has been generally understood that a tacit agreement existed between the different nationalities of which the population of Montreal is composed, that, by turns, the Mayor should be a French Catholic, an Irish Catholic, and an English Protestant; it being indispensable, however, that the occupant of the Civic chair, despite his nationality, should possess a knowledge of the popular tongue. This is now the third term for Mayor Beaudry, and while it is a subject for regret that, in a mixed community, the agreement to which we have referred has not been carried out, it must be admitted that French Canadians seldom, if ever, abuse their privileges.

The Grits of Canada display a laudable anxiety regarding the future programme of the Opposition at Ottawa. If Mr. Blake's splendid theories were accepted, all would be plain sailing; but, happily, the practical portion of his followers obliges the leader to drop his hobbies one by one, until there is really nothing left but Opposition pure and simple, not a great misfortune when it is considered that an Opposition is necessary in countries governed by Parliament. Who hears anything now of the Aurora platform, or representation by minorities, or other emanations from the brain of this magnificent Grit? As is evident from the utterances of the *Globe*, which is now in harmony with the party, even free trade is relegated to the misty back ground, to be brought forward once more when a depression in trade shall make a change acceptable to those seeking quack remedies. The Liberals are trying hard to learn common sense; but when they have learned, they shall be no longer Libarals.

City Council Proceedings.

A regular meeting of the City Council was held on Monday evening last. All the Councillors were in attendance.

The minutes of the previous meetings having been read and adopted, Councillor Crabbe asked the Mayor to produce applications, which he understood had been received, for the office of City Clerk. An application from Mr. A. H. Yates was thereupon read. A number of accounts were read and ordered to be paid. An account from the Spring Park School trustees for assessment was laid on the table. An account of H. B. Smith for one month's salary as City Surveyor to 28th February, amounting to $37.50, was read, and elicited considerable discussion as to the Council's liability to pay the same. The Recorder expressed the opinion that the Council was not bound to pay it. Councillor Koughan moved that the bill be paid, to which an amendment was moved by Councillor Horne, that it lie on the table. The amendment was carried.

Councillor Morris moved, seconded by Councillor Murphy, in a highly complimentary speech, a resolution expressive of the Council's high appreciation of the valuable services of Mr. W. B. Morrison, the retiring City Clerk, and acknowledging that to his energy and ability is due the present highly satisfactory condition of the Civic accounts. The resolution also expressed their cordial good wishes for his future welfare, and the assurance that, wherever his home might be made, his integrity, industry and ability will soon be recognized and appreciated.

A resolution was also carried confirming the action of the Council in transferring the City account to the Merchants' Bank of Halifax.

Councillor Koughan desired to know what provision had been made for the repayment of the overdraught at the Union Bank. He considered the action of the Merchants Bank of Halifax a breach of commercial morality, and no banking transaction.

Councillor Morris thought it time enough when they got the money in to see whom they would pay first.

The Committee on Tenders reported those received for Pumps and Wells, and recommended that Michael Egan's tender, being the lowest, be accepted. An amendment was moved that John Murphy's tender be accepted. After a long discussion the amendment was lost, and the report of the Committee adopted.

On the question of the security to be demanded from the City Clerk coming up, Councillor Morris moved that the bond be taken for $2,000, to which Councillor Crabbe moved in amendment that the amount be $5,000. The original motion was finally carried.

A letter from the Charlottetown Board of School Trustees was read, acceding to the request of the Mayor and Finance Committee to transfer their accounts to the Merchants' Bank of Halifax, and also requesting an immediate deposit to the credit of the Board of the sum of $2,500, and a further sum of $1,000 at the end of the present month, and so on, as required, until the sum of $5,100 in all is paid, up to the end of the current school year, 30th June next. The answer of the Mayor to this demand was read, declining to recognize the right, on the part of the Trustees, to fix the time or terms of payment, that the City would endeavor, as in past years, to pay for current expenses, something in advance of the actual collection of the years' taxes; but this amount is wholly at their own option, and further payments will be made according to the Statute, out of the first moneys collected on the year's assessment. This letter was endorsed by the Council.

Councillor Koughan asked the Mayor why he had taken no notice of the citizens' requisition, asking him to call a public meeting to consider Mr. H. B. Smith's dismissal, to which His Worship replied that he did not feel inclined to call any public meeting for such a frivolous thing.

A letter from Palmer & McLeod was read, asking if it was the intention to pay the Licensing Board for their services for the past year. The Recorder gave as his opinion that the members of the Licensing Board have no claim under the Statute, but are entitled to remuneration for services actually rendered.

After the transaction of some other unimportant business, the Council adjourned until Thursday.

NOTES FROM THE CAPITAL.

(*From Our Own Correspondent.*)

Ottawa, March 7, 1883.

The business of the session has, at length, begun in real earnest, or rather the debating has begun, for in truth the more talk the less work; and while on account of the early adjournments, many people fancied business was neglected, considerable work was actually done in committee, and a good many useful bills received their first and second readings. Nevertheless, it must be admitted the Ontario elections had something to do with a few of the adjournments, and that Commoners and Senators from both sides took an active part in the campaign. Mowat was a trifle too insolent; and, as the result has proved, over-confident, and it was not in human nature to stand his crowing and swaggering. Besides, he sought to intermix affairs provincial and affairs federal in order to decry the N. P. and help his party in the Dominion. Hence the Conservative onslaught on his position, the capture of his outposts, the reduction of his majority, and the digging for him of an early grave. When the majority of a Government is reduced from thirty-three to ten, the wiping of it out altogether is merely a question of short time, as in such case the tendency is to fling buckets of water on a rat unfortunate enough to be half drowned already. In looking over the House, one is surprised to see the number of able men on the Conservative benches with their paucity among the Liberals, and this allowing for the disproportion in numbers and altogether apart from political prejudice. The greatest misfortune that could happen the Hon. Edward Blake would be to compel him to form a cabinet at this juncture. No man knows where he could find the material. This has always been a weakness with the Liberals; but it is eminently so just now. Granted that Mr. Blake himself would make an excellent Minister of Justice, where would the other dozen Ministers come from? Mackenzie, the man of all work in the last Grit ministry, has grown twenty years older since 1878. Age seems to have stricken him with a wand. He is weak and feeble, and there is no work in him. Besides, I firmly believe he would not join a Blake ministry if one were formed to-morrow. He would refuse on the plea of ill health. Human nature is human nature, and Mr. Mackenzie is as fond of revenge as any other politician. He would be nothing less than a clear Grit angel if he forgot Blake's haughty conduct, his contemptuous indifference, his going in and out of the ministry, his sulking in his tent like Achilles, when required to do battle with Sir John or Sir Charles, and his general restiveness under his (Mackenzie's) leadership. In fact, Mackenzie sulks now to his heart's content. Laurier sits between Blake and himself, and when the Opposition chief leans over to whisper a few words in the ear of his *quondam* leader, it is amusing to watch the latter. He never moves, he never reciprocates, he never speaks in return; he hardly nods his head to signify he is paying attention. He does not sulk in his tent, it is true; but he does worse, he shows to a powerful and watchful enemy that the ranks of the Liberals are disorganized—that there is no love lost between their few remaining chiefs. But look at the Conservatives—how united, how cordial, how chatty, and how gallant, if I might say so. The four principal men amongst them are evidently in perfect accord; there is no division there. Sir John, and Sir Charles, and Sir Leonard and Sir Hector agree in all things; but if some catastrophe took them suddenly away from the sphere of their usefulness, there are men behind them bright, brilliant and sagacious enough to take their places. One characteristic common to those four statesmen is their good-natured self-possession. Sir Charles is the very antithesis of Blake. Sir Charles, in his higher flights of oratory, is liable to be honestly aggressive. Blake is always cynical, sarcastic, and occasionally sardonic, qualities which do not tend to make their owner popular. They say Sir John is growing old, and so he is—*certes*, so are we all, but he is not growing weak. He is as cool, witty, and skilful as ever. This was observed—even if in a small way—on Thursday, when Mr. Cameron, of Huron, made his resolution in favor of admitting Mr. Robertson, of King's County, P. E. I., to a seat in the house. "I have no objection to the line of argument the hon. gentleman has pursued," said the veteran statesman, "but I do think he sprung his motion on the House." The House laughed and agreed.

What the cause is I know not, but certain it is, intellect is travelling rapidly westward from the Maritime Provinces; so rapidly that it is the subject of remark. There are, for instance, Mr. Lawson and Mr. Gorman, of Prince Edward Island, occupying leading positions on the Toronto *Globe*, both of them representing that paper in the press gallery here; and then there is Mr. Martin J. Griffin, chief editor of the *Mail*, and Mr. Johnson, chief editor of the Toronto *Evening News*, hailing from the Maritime Provinces. The prominent positions taken by these gentlemen in the field of journalism, go to show that there is something in the theory advanced that *fish diet* is productive of brain power. There are many other young journalists from the east besides those mentioned, who are elbowing their way to the front rank, but whose names are as yet comparatively unknown to fame. Some one asked an American statesman where all the newspaper men went, as he saw very few old journalists. "They are either in Congress," was the answer, "or in good government situations." And this is equally true here in Ottawa, where some very nice places indeed are filled by men who *flanoured* as good and competent writers in their time. This is scarcely legitimate "News from the Capital," and is merely stated here as a comfort to reporters and others who imagine they see nothing in front of them but poverty in their old age.

A deputation on rather a novel mission arrived in Ottawa from Montreal on Friday last. It appears Mr. Ryan, Collector of Customs for that port, followed the example of his *confrere* in Toronto, and seized the works of Paine, Voltaire, and other gentry of that description, imported from the United States. The Montreal Free Thought Association, smarting under a sense of so grievous a wrong, and acting under the advice of Mr. Joseph Doutre, Q. C., has sent two of its members to lay the affair before the Dominion Parliament, with a view to obtaining redress. The gentlemen of the deputation may have those brilliant minds, we are taught to believe, always accompany free thought, though it must in justice be said this is not mirrored in their faces, which, singularly enough, are neither sublime nor beautiful, and this without exception. On the contrary, the lovers of Voltairean literature are eccentric-looking enough (to use a mild expression) to excite comment. Only that it is against the ethics of journalism, I might say they were *positively ugly*.

People are asking each other if this is going to be a lively session. But who can tell? The business programme is quiet and simple, but then it is the unexpected that often happens. Sometimes a thunderbolt falls from a clear sky that astonishes everyone, and lets loose the floods of Parliamentary eloquence. Perhaps the Orange Incorporation Bill may create commotion; perhaps the commercial treaty-making power, Blake's latest hobby; but, depend upon it, the session will not be a tame one, for as "Pinafore" philosophically remarks:

"Things are seldom what they seem,
Skim milk masquerades as cream."

Prince Edward Island cannot complain of neglect this session, though for that let thanks be given to the proper quarter, *i. e.*, deputy returning officers and such, as well as a lack of communication in winter. There is, however, no such thing as an unmixed evil, and those little *contretemps* serve to advertise the Island, and set folks to read about it, all of which must result in good. Your members made the most of their opportunity. Mr. Davies, who is exceedingly presumptuous and aggressive, ran Prince Edward Island down as low as he could; he sank it below the water's edge, so to speak. Mr. Davies will know better bye and bye; but meanwhile it is his palpable duty, as a Grit, to run everything down. According to him and his leaders, Canada is a poor place to live in.

The vanity of human wishes was illustrated in the marching out of the sorrowful Mr. Jenkins and the marching in of the exultant Mr. Brecken, in accordance with a Supreme Court decision. Previous to this, Mr. Brecken had to rest content with looking down from the gallery on the usurper, whereas it is now the turn of Mr. Jenkins.

Hon. W. W. Sullivan, and his colleagues of the P. E. Island Government, left Ottawa on Monday (5th) for Montreal, *en route* for home. Their mission to the Dominion capital was satisfactorily carried out.

It is as good as a play to hear Sir Charles Tupper answering Mr. Blake's objections in the House. He does it so easily and so gracefully, and withal so briefly, that Sir John smiles and rubs his hands softly, while the Opposition leader himself frowns as much like Jupiter as is consistent with his dignity. It is plain that Sir Charles has found out the correct measure of Mr. Blake at last.

The Grit phalanx here tries very hard to get into ecstacies over the embroglio in New Brunswick, but for some reason or other the ecstacies will not come, and the situation affords them but cold comfort, knowing as they do that the present government cannot stand. It would be amusing if the Messrs. Mowat and Blair marched forth at the same time. But talk about Governments, and talk about Oppositions! Look at Quebec. The Grits of that Province number thirteen all told—exactly a baker's dozen—and, would you believe it, the thirteen are divided into three distinct factions. At a meeting of their principal club on Saturday night (3rd inst.), Mr. Trenholme cooly informed the listening Rouges that their leader (Hon. Mr. Mercier) was a blackmailer, and another speaker asserted the same leader was a fraud. We shall have to wait for that Liberal reaction.

The committee appointed so promptly to report on the best plan for keeping open winter communication between P. E. Island and the Mainland sit every day, and work with zest and intelligence. It is not anticipated their report will be ready before the end of the month. Dr. Jenkins, of P. E. Island, was examined before this committee on the 5th inst., and gave full and exhaustive information on the question of winter and summer communication. Mr. Coombs is looking for a subsidy from the Government for a steamship line from the Island to Cuba. The P. E. Island Senators take great interest in the committee proceedings. The Hon. Mr. Howlan and Mr. Coombs were examined to-day. Before the committee sends in its report, a thorough investigation into the important question will have taken place.

Mr. A. C. Macdonald, during the last Parliament, created such a favorable impression upon both sides, and made such a zealous representative, that it is the general wish that fortune may decide in his favor. The worst that can happen is probably a fresh election, which will place him beyond all peradventure.

Two Government measures, likely to bring on discussion, are the franchise and license questions. The Grits pretend to take the franchise under their special protection. They bedevilled it pretty considerably in Ontario, where they gave a vote to the farmer's son and refused it to the merchant's son. No one grumbles at the enterprising young agriculturist being admitted within the pale of the franchise, but why exclude young traders? The answer is simple: in Ontario farmers are Grits, merchants Conservatives. A Conservative Government deals more justly with such questions. Again, the Grits pose as ardent haters of ardent liquors, but nevertheless a good Grit politician is seldom without his corkscrew. As a matter of course, the holding of the licensing power carries political influence with it, and hence Mr. Mowat's wresting of it from the municipalities, and his desperate attempts to retain it. It is probable the Dominion Government will vest the powers in a commission, and make the licenses as uniform as possible throughout Canada.

On Monday Mr. Blake moved for all correspondence relative to the Canadian Pacific Railway, which ensures a long debate. Indeed this vast subject will be discussed every session until it be built, and long after.

On Monday also the Government acceded to Mr. Paint's motion for a committee to enquire into interprovincial trade relations, a subject of interest to P. E. Island.

The winter now drawing to a close, let us hope, has been one of the severest and most continuous in the memory of man. There has been never a break in it; it has been sharp and decisive, but not short. It is during such a winter as this that the poor suffer most, as clothes and fuel rise in price. And yet we hear of no destitution in the country, no bread riots in the large cities, no labor demonstrations, no red flags or sanguinary menaces, such as were heard and seen in Montreal during the Mackenzie *regime*, not even a soup kitchen. Why is it so difficult to obtain servant girls in Montreal and Toronto, unless it be that the factories have absorbed the class from which they are drawn? Why is it we see so many demands for labor in newspaper advertisements? The question carries its own answer.

Parliamentary Proceedings.

Ottawa, March 5.

In the Commons, a statement was presented of the claims under which the fishing bounty is being paid.

In reply to a question, the Postmaster General said it was not the intention of the Government, during the present session, to introduce a measure reducing the postage on letters to two cents, in view of the adoption of a like measure in the United States.

Mr. Blake moved for copies of the official memorandum of the Canada Pacific Railway, dated December 2, 1882, describing its position and prospects. He attacked the Company, and complained that they were doing too much and going ahead too fast.

Sir Charles Tupper said that he had anticipated the motion, and had already asked for a return of expenditure and progress down to the latest possible date, which would be laid on the table in a few days. Until all the papers were on the table, he declined to be drawn into a discussion, but when he made his annual statement, he would then be prepared to meet all the points raised.

Mr. Paint moved for a committee to consider the best means of increasing trade between the several Provinces of the Dominion. He spoke of the great increase that had taken place in this trade, which last year was in capacity equal to three million barrels bulk, and would make seven freights for the largest steamship of the Allan Line. The great activity infused into the manufactures and commerce of all the Provinces forced us to utilize every channel of conveyance.

The committee was granted.

March 6.

In the Commons several bills were advanced a stage, and motions asking for various correspondence passed.

March 7.

The business to-day was entirely of a routine character.

March 8.

In the Commons, Mr. Yeo asked whether the Government had yet obtained a site for the contemplated Post Office and Custom House Building at Summerside; if so, where situate, from whom purchased, and at what price?

Sir Hector Langevin replied that a lot had been purchased on the corner of Fitzroy and Summer Streets, from Richard Hunt, for $683.

The liquor license question, alluded to in the Governor General's Speech, has been referred to a select committee of seventeen members to report.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Cape Traverse Branch Railway.

THE NORTH WILTSHIRE ROUTE ADVOCATED.

To the Editor of the Herald:

Dear Sir,—The Government have declared their intention of proceeding with the construction of the Cape Traverse Railway early in the spring. This announcement will be received with pleasure by the people of this Island, and will dissipate the doubt which existed in the minds of a great many electors of the province, that the Cape Traverse Railway was a political ruse.

The next important question is where should the Cape Traverse Branch connect with the Prince Edward Island Railway. Various routes have been proposed and each has its advocates, but it is quite evident that the line cannot be built to accommodate every section of the Island. As the road is principally intended for the conveyance of mails and passengers, the shortest route between Cape Traverse and the leading points of the Island should be selected, and the line be so located as to accommodate the public generally and benefit the largest number of electors of the Province. You will ask how this object can be effected. I will answer by the Cape Traverse Branch connecting with the main line at North Wiltshire. Any person who looks at the map of the Island will see that this is the shortest and most direct route between the Capes and Charlottetown and the principal points in Queen's and King's Counties, so that mails and passengers to and from any of these points by way of the Capes would reach their destinations much sooner by this than any other route. It will then be seen that this route would affect a saving of time and money to the people of Queen's and King's Counties and the public generally, and is therefore entitled to their advocacy.

An Elector.

Queen's County, Lot 29, March 12, 1883.

To the Editor of the Herald:

Dear Sir,—I notice in the last Summerside *Journal* an extract from the *Patriot*, by a correspondent from Alberton. At first it appeared beneath my notice, but seeing in it the outpouring of a weak and narrow mind, I thought it a pity to let slip a man so devoid of common sense and decency as the author.

I am well acquainted with the circumstances referred to, and have known Mr. O'Connor to refuse two or three times to become a candidate for the vacant seat; but, after a good deal of persuasion, he consented, on condition that Mr. Gavin should first be solicited, and in the event of his not complying to accept it if chosen.

What he means by "ability, natural or acquired," I am at a loss to know. If it be ability to pen such nonsense as the piece referred to, I consider him right, as Mr. O'Connor is too manly to make a personal attack on anyone.

He also says, "the French electors, as a class, were designedly almost entirely excluded from the convention." In this he also shows himself not over particular about how he handles the truth, as any man turning to the poll books of May election will find they had their full complement according to their votes in the Liberal Conservative cause.

Yours, &c.,

One Who Knows.

Patrick Cunningham, a draughtsman at one time employed on Meacham's Atlas, was recently found dead in his bed, at the Schindette House, Bay City, Michigan. He had been arrested in Ireland on suspicion of being concerned in the Phœnix Park murder, but was subsequently discharged.