

The Weekly Monitor.

BRIDGETOWN, DECEMBER 13, 1876.

OUR RAILWAYS.

In all successful undertakings of magnitude importance there must be a beginning, progress and consummation. It generally happens that some man of large mind, endowed with a far-reaching spirit, an indomitable will, an energetic spirit, and an unconquerable determination propounds the idea of some great work or improvement, designed to be a general benefit to large communities—it may be to whole countries—or perhaps, to the entire world. The submission of such an idea to the public is sure to encounter hostility. It is assailed as a dangerous innovation—a fool-hardy scheme which, if under taken, would prove a ruinous failure. The historical records of by-gone attempts, undertaken to inaugurate some great enterprise, that would widen the circle of civilization, and promote the interests of every body, afford ample proofs that opposition to novel efforts in the direction of imparting a fresh and powerful impetus to human progress, may always be expected. Ignorance and prejudice are always in stern, blind antagonism to all attempts, which may be made for any public improvement on a large and comprehensive scale.

Many of the senior members of our provincial community distinctly remember what a strong tide of opposition set in when the opening of the railroad from Halifax to Windsor was proposed. Ridicule, caustic vituperation, and the imputation of selfish motives on the part of the man with whom the proposition originated was arrayed against it. In short, a tempest of acrimony in the Press and in the Legislature was aroused. While these conflicting elements were raging, the work was undertaken—it progressed in spite of opposition—and today our railway lines, east and west, are thoroughfares with which our future prosperity is undeniably identified.

In no part of the Province was our railway system met with more determined antagonism than in Yarmouth. We need not remind our readers of the change which since has come over the spirit of the people in that thriving County. Marvellous efforts have they put forth—and large pecuniary contributions have they made, to connect themselves by railway with other parts of the Province; and in a few months their earnest expectations in this respect will be triumphantly realized.

It is only about a quarter of a century since the first railway was turned in Nova Scotia; and now hundreds of miles of railway ramify the Province. This is progress. But the Intercolonial line, perhaps, had to face a more powerful and unyielding hostility than had any of the others in which Nova Scotia is directly interested. It was a bone of contention between party politicians, both in the maritime and Upper Provinces. In the course of its construction there was a continuous wrangling not only with regard to the route selected for its location, but also respecting the alleged pecuniary recklessness and extravagance of the commissioners in the cost of the laying of the first sleeper till the work was completed. It is admitted by competent judges to be the best line of railway of equal extent on this continent. Its bridges and culverts are not inferior to any, as regards permanence and adaptability, to those of any other railway in Her Majesty's Colonial Dominions in either hemisphere.

It is now finished, and is not only used for mail conveyance between Halifax and the western Provinces; but it is also made available as a channel of trade between the sea-side Provinces and the far-off interior of British America, thus forming a stronger link of Union between them than is the imperial North American Act which legislatively conferred them. The nucleus of an active trade, using the railway as a means of conveyance, has already been formed, and its increase prospectively betokens a prosperous future to all parts of the Confederacy. The Provinces need intercourse between them, and a ready exchange of commodities. The Intercolonial, therefore, we regard as the most important railway in the Dominion.

Hallow's' evening was celebrated with unusual ceremony at Balmoral Castle, in presence of the Queen and Princess Beatrice. About 150 men with lighted torches marched to the front of the Castle, where, round a huge bonfire, dancing was engaged in, and the health of the Queen drunk with Highland honors. Effigies of witches and warlocks were tossed into the fire amid the cheers of spectators and the noise of bagpipes. The scene was very picturesque. Notwithstanding the coldness of the weather the Queen and Princess Beatrice remained outside till a late hour witnessing the sports.

The cost of railway construction has been so remarkably reduced within the past three years, that roads now building will be able to do business at a great advantage over older roads. Not only are narrow gauge roads being built at the rate of \$6,000 to \$9,000 per mile, but the new standard gauge lines are costing, in many places, scarcely half they would have cost ten years ago.

COUNTY COURTS.

The first session of the County Court for this County was commenced at the Court House in this town yesterday.

When the Court opened an address was presented to Judge Savary, congratulating him upon his elevation to the responsible position which he now holds. Below we give the address and reply. Next week we will endeavour to give a synopsis of the causes tried.

ADDRESS.
To the Honorable A. W. Savary, Judge of County Court.

Sir,—Deeply impressed with the fact that the peace and well being of communities greatly depend upon the efficient administration of Law, we looked forward with both interest and anxiety to the time when the Act for the establishment of County Courts in this Province came into operation, because we knew that inconsistency or lack of moral purity in those who would be appointed to preside over them would be a matter that could not be too deeply deplored. When therefore we learn that you had been chosen to occupy your present place on the Bench we were highly gratified. Your scholarly attainments, your admitted knowledge of Law, your diligent readiness of address, as well as the high standing you had attained as a Barrister afford ample assurance that you will fulfil the duties of Judge with becoming dignity, and to the satisfaction of the people in the Western Counties. Moreover, your elevation to the Bench assures us that the Government in the selection of Judges recognizes merit as the legitimate criterion of preferment. We congratulate you therefore on your appointment to the judicial position which you now occupy, and we hope you will long live to administer Law in this (or it may be in some higher) Court. In conclusion, we beg to assure you that your elevation to the position which you now occupy, and your present position, as Judge of the County Court, is an appointment which in our opinion is well calculated to preserve, and sustain the dignity of the position, and give general satisfaction to all interested in the administration of public justice. We have the honor to be, Sir,

P. Bouquet, T. C. Shrove, Brsr.
High Shr. W. H. Ray, M. P.,
G. R. Gessie, Custos.
Clerk of Courts. J. F. Bath, J. P.
W. Y. Foster, W. Carleton, J. P.
Dep. Clerk. M. Tupper, J. P.
E. C. Cowling, Brsr. E. Eaton, J. P.
S. H. Gray, J. P.
E. Best, J. P.
A. Morse, " S. E. Bent, J. P.
J. M. Owen, " A. M. Gidney,
J. S. Morse, " Serjt. at Arms.
J. B. Mills, " Geo. Murdoch, J. P.
J. G. H. Parker, " R. F. Randolph,
and upwards of three hundred others.

REPLY.

If it was gratifying to me to be selected by the judgment of His Excellency's Advisers as one qualified to fill the important judicial position which I now hold, that gratification could not but be intensely augmented by this very numerous and influentially signed address, and the highly complimentary expressions of approval and satisfaction which it abounds. I thank you heartily for your congratulations, and for the opinion you have so graciously expressed, that in my appointment merit has been recognized as the legitimate criterion of preferment. It would, however, be presumptuous in me not to attribute your very flattering estimate of my fitness for the office, in some degree, to the unconscious operation in the minds of many of you of a personal partiality, growing out of our past friendly relations; and from my legal brethren who have done me the honor of signing the address, and whose sentiments, so handsomely expressed, are, in a measure, prompted rather by their recognition of the, doubtless often imperfect, but sincere efforts on my part to fully reciprocate the courtesy which they have so graciously extended towards me in our professional intercourse. This mutual courtesy both in and out of Court I hope will ever characterize the Annapolis Bar; for without it the dignity of the Court, and the credit of our noble profession in the eyes of the public, must alike suffer. Respect and deference from the Bench to the Bar I deem as essential as the respect and submission due from the Bar to the Bench. In this particular, as in all others, I shall ever aim to preserve the dignity, and promote the usefulness of this Court, conscientiously relying on the support, and co-operation of the Bar and the Public. You rightly appreciate the grave importance of the efficient administration of the Law, and the necessity of a high character for integrity, as well as competency in those who preside in our Courts. Nova Scotia, from its earliest history, has been blessed with a succession of Judges who have dignified the ermine. This County has contributed several to the brilliant array; than one of whom not long departed, a nobler model of the judicial character could not be set up for imitation. And this year's obituary of eminent men reminds us that a member of our Provincial Bar has lately transferred the honors of a name illustrious in the roll of our Judiciary to the highest tribunals of the Empire. I trust that ever keeping in view, though unattainably distant, these grand examples, and cherishing a grateful recollection of the favor with which my appointment has been welcomed by the great majority of the Bar, and of the people, of these Western Counties, I shall vigorously strive to exhibit in the discharge of my duties those high qualities which you so generously attribute to me.

In conclusion, I thank you for your kind wishes respecting my future career, and reciprocate towards your fine County all your friendship and goodwill to me. "Agriculture," says a philosophical historian, "is the foundation of Commerce, for the productions of 'Nature are the materials of Art.' This pursuit—the prevailing one in this County—is not only the oldest, but the most useful, and therefore the most honorable, that can engage the labor and intellect of man, for by it is the foundation and support of civilized society. The Almighty of His great goodness has cast your lot in a most favored portion of our fair Province, where the fruits of the earth are brought forth, and the trees of the field yield their choicest products in rich abundance; and the results upon these advantages of the industry and enterprise of an intelligent and religious population are manifold on every hand. May the Divine Blessing descend upon the soil, and your industry, and may every social and domestic virtue that can ennoble and exalt a people, distinguish you and your posterity forever.

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FROM THE NEW YORK HERALD.

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—President Grant in his last—emphatically his last—message to Congress, recommends the compulsory support of free schools. He also suggests the restriction of the elective franchise to those only who can read and write. In both these respects he is not far wrong. An ignorant and a man of intelligence, side by side, at a polling booth, present a spectacle that evokes respect for the propriety of a man, who cannot read the Bible, or understand the multiplication table, depositing his ballot in the choice of a legislator.

—The leading majority of newspapers in the Upper Provinces express approval of the making of Halifax the Dominion Winter Port, for both trade and mail purposes.

THE BROOKLYN HORROR.

THRILLING SCENES AND INCIDENTS OF THE TERRIBLE TRAGEDY IN THE BURNING THEATRE.

FROM THE NEW YORK HERALD.

CHECKED FOR A MOMENT.

Joining hands, Miss Claxon, Mrs. Farren, Mr. Murdoch and Mr. Stedley came down to the front to reassure the audience. There was no prochein in this action, but if it had been rehearsed for weeks in advance it could not have been more effective in holding a terror-stricken audience in check. For a moment the people especially those in the front part of the house sank back into their seats. "We are between you and death," they were saying to themselves, "an entreaty was listened to much less obeyed, but momentarily there was a complete silence all over the house. The flames were rapidly ascending and the scene of the rear of the stage was all on fire. Still there was no rush, but while one gentleman was calmly advising the audience to remain quietly in their places until their time came to pass out, another cried, "It is time to be out of this," and then the stampede began. The people in the gallery began to rush down the stairs, and a scene of horror was enacted which baffles the power of pen to picture.