Huron Signal.

WEEKLY EDITION.

W. T. COX, Editor and Proprietor.] The Greatest Possible Good to the Greatest Possible Number.

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Huron Signal.

GODERICH, C. W., MARCH 18, 1864

MR. BROWN'S REPRESENTATION MOTION.

On Monday last Mr. Brown, according notice previously given, moved as follows:

Resolved, That on the 2nd day of February, 1859, the Hon. G. E. Cartier, the Hon. A. T. Galt, and the Hon. John Rose, then members of the Executive Council of this Province, while in London, and acting on behalf of the Government, of which they were members, did address a dispatch to the Colonial Minister, in which they declared that, "Very grave difficulties now present themselves in conducting the Government of Canada in such a manner as to show due regard to the wishes of its numerous population;" that "differences exist to an extent which prevents any perfect and complete assimilation of the view of the two sections;" that "the progress of population has been more rapid in the Western section, and claims are now made on behalf of its inhabitants for giving them representation in the Legislature in proportion to their numbers;" that "the result is shewn, by an agitation fraught with great danger to the peaceful and harmonious working of our constitutional system, and consequently detrimental to the progress of the Province;" and that "the necessity of providing a remedy for a state of things that is yearly becoming worse, and of allaying feelings that are daily becoming aggravated by the contention of political parties, has impressed the advisers of Her Majesty's representative in Canada with the importance of seeking for such a mode of dealing with these difficulties as may forever remove them;" that a Select Committee of nineteen members be appointed to enquire and report on the important subjects embraced in the said despatch, and the best means of remedying the evils therein set forth; the Committee to consist of Messrs. Cameron, Cartier, Cauchon, Chapais, Dickson, A. A. Dorion, Dunkin, Foley, Galt, Holton, Joly, McDougall, McGee, McKellar, Scoble, Street, Turcotte, and the mover.

Whether or not Messrs. Cartier, Galt and Rose were sincerely desirous of finding some adequate remedy for the evils entailed upon the country in consequence of the "differences which prevent any perfect assimilation of the views of the two sections," it is undeni bly the case that those differences were never greater than at the present moment, and never, consequently, was the necessity for an effectual remedy more urgent. The simple fact of the matter is that we need a vast change in our Parliamentary Representation, and one of two courses only remains to be taken. We must convince the Lower Canadians, if such a thing is within the bounds of possibility, that what we ask is *simple justice*, neither more nor less, and if calm reasoning will not do, endeavor to carry the day by the votes of our Representatives which, of course, is next to impossible; or we must bow before an inferior race—one which despises us, and which will, if unresisted hold us in bondage for years to come. Now, it does seem to us that as this Representation question stands, and considering the fact that it is almost impossible for any Ministry taking it a platform of their policy to carry the plan proposed by Mr. Brown is the most feasible that could be adopted. It makes no violent appeal to the prejudices and passions of either section, and, it provides for a calm, serious, statesmanlike consideration of a most important subject. If we could get to understand each other—if the dangerous and mischievous *dividing line* could be removed in reality—as it is in name—if, by any means, our legislators could exercise more genuine *patriotism* more love for what is *right and just* than greed for place, a new era would dawn upon us. Is it absolutely impossible that there can ever be a true Canadian Nationality, in which people of every country and creed shall unite their energies to build up the fabric of permanent Empire? If not, every means calculated to repair the breaches at present existing between the discordant elements should be eagerly seized upon. It may be urged that Mr. Brown and others, in thus persistently dragging forward the Representation question, are but stirring up strife uselessly, and that while the public mind is at rest with regard to the matter it should be kept in abeyance.—Why, we would ask, defer the evil day—why not come to an understanding at once? There was a period when the American Legislature might possibly have settled nice sectional questions; but the propitious time was allowed to pass in the tumult of political squabbling, and at last the sternest of all arbitrements had to be invoked, to deluge a continent with blood, and to turn the sword of brother against brother in awful strife. These sectional differences are dangerous to the peace as they are inimical to the prosperity of any country in which they exist, and no amount of labor or trouble would be too dear a price to pay for their immediate removal.

We are exceedingly sorry to observe the spirit in which the debate was taken up by French members They displayed an amount of dogged bitterness calculated to enforce their declaration that Lower Canada would *never, never, never* consent to a change in the Representation of the country. Mr. Perrault, for instance, said that "there was now an enthusiasm in the "country for drilling, but if Representation by Population were forced on the "people of Lower Canada, those fine "battalions, of which we were justly "proud, *might find work within our own* "*limits, and be employed, not against a* "*foreign foe, but against a foe from* "*within!!*" Or, in other words, that sooner than give the 90,000 people of Huron and Bruce two additional members without a corresponding increase of Representatives in Lower Canada, they would *go to war!* That is the stone wall against which such debates usually run. The Lower Canadians know very well that an appeal to arms would be an ugly business *to them*, but they, by using such language, think to frighten the advocates of Upper Canadian Rights, under the impression that rather than create trouble, we we will submit to any amount of injustice. The whole case is indeed surrounded with difficulties, and *may*, for aught we can tell, be fraught with danger. How much greater than ever, then, is the necessity for some adjustment that will satisfy both sections. A Committee of the ablest members in the House, if once organized and at work with a hearty desire to secure the good of the United Provinces *should* be able to settle upon something feasible. But, of conciliation is met with sneers—if Lower Canadian members unite in refusing the Committee asked for by Mr. Brown, then we may depend upon it that harmonious, cordial, useful legislation with regard to National consolidation will be out of the question for many years, to come, and as of old, it will be possible for a miserable renegade minority from Upper Canada to subject us systematically to French domination. We cannot do better than conclude in the manly words of Mr. Scoble, after remarking that the motion was made the first order of the day for Wednesday:—

Mr. Scoble said that, after the language used by Messrs. Galt and Cartier in their celebrated despatch quoted in the motion, they were bound to support that motion, in order that the whole question might be calmly and fairly considered in a committee of the House, with a view to arriving at a conclusion that would be satisfactory to the House and country. He went on to argue that this question of Representation by Population should be disembarrassed from questions of nationality or creed. It was a question of high politics and statesmanship, concerning not only the present but the future. Where ever political injustice existed there was danger. That danger was received and admitted by gentlemen opposite in 1858. It has not passed away in 1864, but he firmly believed that the danger in connection with the non-settlement of this question was greater to-day than it was then. He repeated that this was not a question of nationality. He would not admit there was any other nationality in this Province than a British nationality; but if the question of the origins of our people was raised, it would be found that those of French origin were only about one third of the whole population, and was it to be expected the other two thirds would bow their necks in political servitude? (Hear, hear.) He traced the difficulties in which we were now placed, to the Act of the Union. That Act did great injustice to Lower Canada; but that was no reason why justice should now be refused to Upper Canada. He proceeded to consider the other remedies which were suggested. He pronounced against the Double Majority scheme as unscientific and unconstitutional. He was opposed, also, to Mr. Gait's scheme of Federation of the Provinces. He did not wish to see repeated in British North America an experiment which had been tried and found wanting in the United States."

"200,000 MORE."

Uncle Abe makes another levy upon the life-blood of the American nation, to the extent of 200,000 men. As has been truly observed, the chief magistrate of the Republic disdains any figures less than hundreds of thousands, and were he to call out every male of military age in the country it could hardly surprise us. These raw recruits will be drilled for a few days and then sent to Virginia to meet the veterans of Lee. We can well imagine their fate—that ere spring ripens into summer the plains of the Old Dominion will be whitened with a fresh crop of bleached bones! The following is the order for the new draft:—

"EXECUTIVE MANSION,
"Washington, March 14, 1864.

"In order to supply the force necessary to be drafted for the navy, and to provide an adequate reserve corps for all contingencies, in addition to the 500,000 men called for February 1st, 1864, a call is hereby made and a draft ordered for 200,000 for the military service, army, navy, and marine corps of the United States.—The proportional quota for the different wards, towns, townships, precincts or election districts, or counties, will be made known through the Provost Marshal General's Bureau, and accounts will be taken of the credits and deficiences of former quotas. The 15th day of April, 1864, is designated as the time up to which the numbers required from each ward of a city, town, etc., may be raised by volunteer enlistments, and drafts will be made in each ward of a city, town, etc., which shall not have filled the quota assigned to it within the time designated for the number required to fill said quotas. The draft will be commenced as soon after the 15th as practicable. The government bounties as now paid continue until April 1st, 1864, at which time the additional bounties cease. On and after that date $100 bounty only will be paid as provided by act approved July 22nd, 1861.

(Signed) "ABRAHAM LINCOLN."

MR. DICKSON ON "CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES."

During the debate on Mr. Brown's motion for a Committee to consider the Representation Question, our worthy member delivered himself of the following pithy remarks:—

Mr. Dickson deemed it his duty to say a few words before the vote was taken. It had been said that the Representation by Population question was as dead as "Julius Cæser," but it would be found that the populous counties in Western Canada must sooner or later be heard. He stated that the Counties of Huron and Bruce, which he represented, contained a population of over 80,000, equal to about one fourteenth of the population of all Lower Canada, and it could not be expected that such a state of things would be permitted to continue. A federation of the British North American Provinces had been suggested; but what would hon. members think when they were told that Huron and Bruce were nearly the same size as the Island of Prince Edward, and contained about the same population, and yet Prince Edward Island had an Executive Council, a Governor and a Legislature. He hoped a remedy would be suggested, and he was satisfied that the Committee would do their duty.

EXHIBITION OF SEED GRAIN.

The Spring Exhibition in connection with the County Agricultural Society took place in the Town Hall yesterday. The competition in Wheat was pretty keen, the number of samples shown being somewhat greater than that of last year. Excepting a few lots of shrunken and otherwise indifferent grain, the quality was very good indeed. The first prize wheat, especially, was remarkable for plumpness, brilliancy of color, and cleanliness. No person acquainted with the requirements of first-rate grain could object to the decision of the judges, Messrs. Wm. M. Savage, S. Platt and John Mitchell. Several of the other lots were also quite superior in quality. There were only some four or five samples each of other spring grains, but the quality was first rate, especially so of the Oats and Barley. The following were the prizes awarded:

Spring Wheat.—Best, John Cox, 6th con., Goderich; 2nd do, T. Johnston; 3rd do, James Elliott, 3rd con., Goderich.

Oats.—Best, W J Hayden; 2nd, John Salkeld; 3rd, Patrick Carrol.

Peas.—Best, Charles Blake; 2nd, John Salkeld.

Timothy.—Best, Wm. Young; 2nd, Isaac Salkeld, 3rd J. Torrance.

Indian Corn.—Best, J W Elliott; 2nd Robert Gibbons.

Huron Railway.

We noticed a letter in a recent number of the *Leader* signed 'F. Shanly,' relative to the construction of the above line of Railway. This gentleman's explanations were no doubt, rendered rather glowing terms, of a speedy completion of his gigantic designs, and were obviously calculated to take with the credulous and inexperienced portion of the Huron Railway speculators. But this 'wild goose chase' over to England for funds—then a preliminary and long winding survey—and, finally, the shrill whistle of the 'Iron Horse,' over a large expanse of the Huron district will not take now a days. The time has gone by, when such 'moon shine' Railway schemes so ingeniously depicted by the writer, would be readily grasped at; but there has been sufficient experience of this kind already experienced by the people of Canada, for the last ten or twelve years, to warn against a repetition of the same extravagant undertakings. Besides, the programme set forth through the Press, in the above case, is just a second edition of Yankee professional abd of building tram roads. The first approximate estimate of building the Great Western Railway was $4,500 per mile; but before it was completed, the cost nearly doubled that amount and after all, which has not the Company had only a 2d class English tram road. The expenses necessary to keep in working order, such a road as that proposed through Huron, during the twenty years stated, would be, perhaps as much as the original cost, besides the danger attending life and property on such man traps. If the people could secure the opinion of Walter Shanly, Esq., M. P., the eminent engineer—then we would say, that they would be safe in investing their capital accordingly, and they would find that his opinion would corroborate what we have stated.

*** What a commentary upon the vast constituency of Huron and Bruce, is the above luminous article, which we clip from the Ingersoll *Inquirer!* Here is a writer living only a few miles beyond the border of Huron, who is so little up in Canadian Geography as to imagine that to extend a railway from Guelph or Berlin to Southampton it is necessary to pass through the County of Huron. It is not proposed to build a Huron Railway—Huron railway speculators have nothing to do with the scheme, we were until now ignorant that Bruce was included in the "Huron Trace," and finally most of our Huron men think that we have now as many railways as we can get along with. Perhaps our friend is not aware that we have a railway through this county already. We agree with him however in the opinion that Mr. F. Shanly should be watched pretty closely.

The House on Wednesday.

The House yesterday adopted the first report of the Printing Committee, so that tenders for the printing, printing paper, and binding required by the Legislature for five years, from the first day of January next, will doubtless be advertised for at once. An amendment, to renew the present contracts, received a large vote.

The question of the Easter recess was yesterday settled, An overwhelming majority of the House decided to have only an adjournment from the day before Good Friday, to the beginning of the following week. This decision will no doubt have the effect of hastening the close of the session.

Mr. Carling moved for the papers respecting the recent settlement of the Quebec Fire Loan. This motion brought from the Attorney General East an explanation of the mode in which the Government had decided to deal with that loan. He said that an attempt to collect the whole debt and interest, by process of law, would have entailed heavy losses upon the Government, and that it had been decided to offer such terms of settlement as would induce those indebted to make payment. No reduction, however is made to any person except the original borrowers who suffered by the fire. Parties who purchased property encumbered by this claim are still to be liable to the full extent, Original borrowers who pay cash before a certain date, are to be discharged on paying four-fifths of the capital while those who are willing to pay in instalments—the first one to be paid in eighteen months—are also to be arranged with. Under this plan of settlement $82,000 have been paid since the fifteenth of November last. We find that in five years previously only $28 681 38 was collected—an amount which must have been nearly swallowed up by the expenses. Mr. Dorion has, therefore, collected in these months nearly three times as much as was collected in five years before the adoption of his scheme for the adjustment of the loan. Though there was some talk about the necessity of bringing an Act of Parliament to sanction the Ministerial settlement, there does not seem to have been much said against the settlement itself. The Opposition papers have been making a great outcry about the's business, but their leaders in Parliament seem to have taken a different view of the matter.

After the recess there was a brief debate about a Bill to amend the law relating to weights and measures. That Bill and a few others got their second reading and were referred. The House adjourned at a little after nine o'clock.—*Globe.*

LATEST FROM EUROPE.

HALIFAX, March 16.

The Royal Mail steamship "Arabia," from Liverpool on March 5th, via Queenstown on the 6th, arrived at this port this evening.

Danish affairs are reported unchanged.

The Archduke Maximilian arrived at Paris on the 5th, and it is reported that he will embark for Mexico on the 25th, all difficulties having been settled.

The ship "Yorktown," bound from London to New York, which put back to port on the 1st inst., with damage, is discharging her cargo for repairs.

LIVERPOOL, March 5.—There is nothing important relative to the Danish war.

A Vienna telegram says the mission of the Prussian Minister, Manteuffel, to Vienna had the desired result, Austria having consented to a continuation of operations in Jutland.

The Federal Diet still daily announces that it has received no invitation to a conference.

St. Petersburg, March 5. The Bank of Russia has reduced its rate of discount to six per cent on short bills.

LONDON, March 5.—A telegram from the Persian Gulf announces the successful laying of 450 miles of new cable to India, and that the paying out of the line towards Europe was about to commence.

There was a report that the Government had resolved to make Falmouth the packet station for all foreign mails, instead of Southampton.

The appeal to the House of Lords in the "Alexandra" case had been entered for hearing, and will, probably therefore, be taken up before the Easter vacation.

The *Daily News* replies to the sneers of the *Times* at General Banks' General Order, regulating negro labor in Louisiana, and applauds the measure as necessary, preparatory to the step from slavery to entire freedom.

The *Times*, in an editorial on the invasion to which America must be subjected, says that the levitation of income are at length on the American mind, and that the Americans can and must make up their minds to bear with equal and equitable taxation.

In the House of Commons, on the 4th, the Attorney-General said that the superintendent of Education for Canada West, in the place of the Chief Superintendent, who is absent on the Cape of Good Hope, agreed to postpone and would be laid before Parliament in a few days.

Mr. Shaw Lefevre called attention to the course pursued by the Confederate agents in England, in fitting out war vessels and enlisting seamen, and moved for the papers on the subject. He denounced the proceedings, regretted that the "Alabama" was not detained, and contended that all such vessels should be prohibited entering British ports.

The Solicitor General explained and defended the course of the Government, and asserted that every effort had been made to honorably carry out the laws and maintain neutrality. He admitted that the vessels might be prohibited entering British ports, and said that the Government was considering the subject of how they could remonstrate with the Confederate Government.

THE DANISH WAR.

No fighting is reported.

The remonstrance of France to Prussia against the advance of the Prussian troops into Jutland, it is said to be far less favourable than England's, but the tone of the document it is considered indicates that Napoleon, fairly means what he says.

Neustadt in Holstein is blockaded.

It is asserted that the Prussians have notified Denmark of an intended early attack on Fredericia.

The Austrian semi-official correspondence of Vienna denies the rumored warlike preparations in Venetia, and most positive yet declare that Austria has not the remotest intention of assuming the offensive. The rumors are, nevertheless, repeated via Queenstown.

LONDON, 6 p. m.—It is reported that the Austrians are marching on Fredericia, in Jutland.

PARIS, March 5.—The 'Patrie' publishes a despatch from Hamburg, announcing that three brigades of Austrian troops received orders from Gen. Wrangel to enter Jutland rapidly, and invest Fredericia.

LIVERPOOL, March 5.—Cotton sales to-day were 1000 bales, the market closing flat at unchanged rates.

Breadstuffs generally quiet and steady.—Flour downward and nominal. Wheat dull and easier.

The Queen's Rumored Abdication.

We have an authority for the rumor which attributes to Her Majesty the intention of abdicate. It is the Paris *Memorial Diplomatique*. That Journal is responsible for the extraordinary statement that at a recent Cabinet Council on the Danish question, the Queen rose from the table declaring that she should come to no decision without consulting with Prince Albert, retired into her closet, and on emerging, announced that the Prince was hostile to any act of war by England.—"This unmistakeable proof of mental aberration," says a New York paper, "is said to have determined Lord Palmerston to urge the abdication of the Queen; and the fact that, instead of joining his mother at Osborne, the Prince of Wales has gone with his Princess to St. Leonards, is interpreted as an intimation that Edward VII. is preparing to mount the throne and inaugurate a new foreign policy in the affairs of Great Britain. It is certain that the present attitude of the English Government cannot be maintained if England is to keep her place as a power of the first rank; and if the abdication of Victoria is a necessary preliminary to vigorous and honorable action on the part of Great Britain, that abdication is likely to be insisted upon with no unnecessary delay." The Queen's loving subjects here as elsewhere will be slow to credit such as this, without better authority than the *Memorial Diplomatique*. It is certain that British diplomacy has been sending the kingdom down. This can hardly be attributed to Her Majesty, but should abdication be regarded as desirable, the Prince of Wales may ascend the throne of his ancestors in a short time.

The New York World of Wednesday publish s the following despatch from Washington on the subject:

"It is rumored in diplomatic circles today that Queen Victoria is about to abdicate the throne of England. The advices by the City of New York confirm the reports which have hitherto been current, that the Queen is mentally incapacited from any longer holding the position of sovereign. She has not been able to sit at council without betraying her mental infirmity; and the recent action of members of the cabinet, particularly that of Lord Palmerston, has given the English public an intimation that a change in the monarchy may speedily be anticipated. The course of the Prince of Wales lately is indicated a preparation to assume the reins of power. It is undoubtedly the fact that, should she do so, an entirely new foreign policy would be inaugurated upon the Danish question immediately, and afterwards upon American affairs, to our advantage. He will reign under the title of King Edward the Seventh.

SELF-IMMOLATION OF THE GERMAN NATIONS.

(*From the London Daily News*)

So far, a though these Governments have failed to establish any hold upon the popular mind of Germany, their past history effectually cutting them off from public sympathy, their policy in the Danish question has coincided with popular wishes. But the time of trial is coming, and every bold word they speak on the side of Germany against the two Powers who have usurped its authority, hastens its inevitable approach. It will arrive when it is demonstrated in the sight of Germany that the Governments which recognize the right of the nation to be consulted on its own affairs are unable to make that right respected. The Würzburg Governments, by exciting expectations they cannot fulfill, are laboriously cultivating discontent, and educating the whole German people for revolution.—Nothing is so probable as that the excitement in Germany which has caused this attack on Denmark, will have its climax and recoil in a popular revolutionary explosion. The people of Germany possess little as any people in Europe to tempt princes, who, with insignificant exceptions, have done little but abandon, defraud, and betray them. It is impossible to foresee the effect which a schism in Germany may have upon Prussia and Austria. The Prussian people have taken quietly, and from fear, Manteuffel to Bismarck, a much which would have stung a people of ordinary spirit to resistance, and make it seek for a remedy in its own courage, that it would be unsafe to prescribe limits to their endurance, or to declare to what base uses their army and treasury may not be turned.

Fifteen years ago, the regiments which are now massing Danish children orphans, were shot down German patriots in the streets of Dresden and the fields of Baden. No Government ever thus employs the forces of a state but with the consent of a degenerate people. The position of Austria at this conjuncture makes her an object of mingled pity and amazement. The Austrian Government has allowed it to be worse against Denmark; and, if it be by what it can do, it is a mere army, soldiers, the control of its military, and the respect of friends. The statesmen of Austria can have no sympathy with the case which they obey; they have to do it apparently warmed by the fear of losing that influence in Germany to which they have so often been ready to sacrifice the interests of the people, and which, flying from them in the moment of danger, it is sought, would, if the nation were in a generous condition of the empire. If the Revolutionists were a real representation of the different races of Austria—if, like Saxe Dot, it included the deputies of form populations of various language, religion and blood, united by common patriotism—not an Austrian soldier would have crossed the Eider. The Hungarians, the Sclavs, and the Italians would have effectually restrained the Imperial Government of Germany. As it is, the sympathies of the Austrian empire are not in the army, and the absurd spectacle is witnessed of Poles, Magyars, and Croats, sent out by Austria to uphold the rights of German nationality in Schleswig. Its world seen as if every Government in Germany at this moment was bent on the ruin of which bode most directly to its own destruction.

A POINT OF SOME IMPORTANCE.—Mr. F Wainwright, a respectable and respicable gentleman, a member of the Maryland Legislature, has communicated to a committee of Congress the fact that soon after the battle of Antietam, Gen McClellan had an interview of some three hours with Gen Lee, the commander of the rebel forces. In a card published over his own signature, Mr. Waldron states that Gen Lee came within our lines on this occasion, he having received from Gen McClellan a pledge of personal safety for him—and that the interview was held at the suggestion of a mutual friend, and took place two or three days after the battle. This must be well authenticated before it can be made the subject of official investigation. Such personal interviews between the leaders of opposing armies, though possibly not without precedent, are by no means common, and are always open to suspicion. Whatever intercourse is necessary between hostile forces is usually conducted by responsible subordinates, in the presence of witnesses, and under flags of truce. Anything a secret under such circumstances is in the highest degree reprehensible. It is so much more for the interest of Gen McClellan that an unlikely rebel, that all the details of this interview, if any such meeting took place should be made public as speedily as possible.—*New York Times.*

Fires in Hamilton and London.

GREAT DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY.

HAMILTON, March 16.—About two o'clock this morning a fire broke out in C. H. Van Norman & Co's jewellery store, James street, near King street, which was speedily got under, but again broke out about 3 o'clock, and extended to the adjoining stores of J. Hutchison, tailor, and Hamilton, Muir & Co., druggists, corner of James and King streets. The wood work of Van Norman's and Hutchison's stores were badly damaged. Hamilton, Muir & Co's stock was damaged by water only; the roof of their building building only was destroyed by fire. Van Norman is insured for $10,000, which will about cover his loss. Mr. Hutchison lost nearly everything, and was partially insured. Hamilton, Muir, & Co.'s loss is about $2,000; fully insured.

LONDON, March 16.—Another fire took place this morning about two o'clock. The large brick building at the west end of Dundas street, occupied by D. Farrar & Co., grocers, was discovered to be on fire. The fire companies were soon on the spot, but could do nothing further than confine the flames to Farrar's premises. The building and stock were fully insured. The adjoining buildings were slightly damaged.

Spettigue, one of the sufferers by yesterday's fire, lost about $1,000 by removing his stock, which he placed in the store adjoining Farrar's, and as he had no insurance, he will lose it all.

The loss will be about $25,000, insured principally in the London and Liverpool and Phœnix.

Farrar's safe, one of Sterne and Marvin's was taken out after the fire, with the contents uninjured.

The numerous submarine telegraph cables now at work in Europe are in the aggregate upwards of 5,600 miles long. These cables range from four miles to 1 500 miles each in length, and they are sunk in water varying from 90 to 9,400 feet in depth.

Large Fire in Brantford.

We learn from the Hamilton *News* of yesterday evening, that on Saturday night last, about 11 o'clock, a fire broke out in a row of frame buildings at the corner of Market and Dalhousie streets in Brantford, adjacent to the Market Square, which destroyed James's Saloon, corner of Market and Dalhousie streets, two or three small shops on Market street, and the Auction Rooms of Messrs. R. B. & T. Webster, and a shop on Dalhousie street.—No apprehensions of any further extension of the conflagration seemed to be entertained by any one; but about 6 o'clock on Sunday morning the bell rang out the alarm of fire, and the large barn belonging to the Commercial Hotel was discovered to be wrapt in flames. It was quickly reduced to ashes, and the fire extending to the frame buildings adjoining the Bank of Montreal, on Market st eet, and which were saved the evening previous, they, too, were soon reduced to ashes. On the east, the fire from the barn reached a small frame shed attached to the west end of the Commercial Hotel, and used as a storeroom by H. Racey & Co., Commission Merchants and Auctioneers, and that, also, was nearly destroyed. The flames were arrested by a brick wall at the west end of the Commercial Hotel, on the one street, and by another wall surrounding the Bank of Montreal on the other. Thus, all the block of buildings from the corner of Market and Dalhousie streets to the Commercial Hotel, and all those from the same corner extending northward on Market street to the Bank of Montreal were consumed. The contents of all, however, except the hay and straw in the barn and smokehouse, were removed in safety. The Bank and the Commercial Hotel were in considerable danger, but were saved by the intervening brick walls. At one time, Brockington's hotel, west of Market street, and on the south side of Dalhousie, caught fire from the falling sparks, but the flames were almost immediately extinguished. The block of frame buildings belonging to the Bank of Montreal, and were insured in the Royal for £100, a sum sufficient to cover the whole loss. The stables belonging to John Turner, proprietor of the Commercial Hotel, and was also insured. The value of the buildings destroyed, they being all frame, and with the exception of the barn, only one story high, did not exceed $1,500. The fire originated about the chimney between James's saloon and Gibsons' shoemaker shop, but it is suspected by many that the burning of the barn was the work of an incendiary. The firemen worked well.

THE SEXES IN CANADA.—In Upper Canada we find 55,059 more males than females.—There is not one of the counties in which the males do not predominate, and in the little Niagara district there are only 227 females to 1,957 males. The females predominate in all the western cities, with the exception of Hamilton, which has a surplus of 348 males. Toronto has 1467 more females than males; Kingston, 437; Ottawa, 153; and London only 79. There are in Lower Canada 24,165 fewer females that there are males. Out of the sixty counties there are only six where females are in the majority, namely, the counties of Montmagny, Napierville, Nicolet Richelieu, Verchères, and Yamaska. In the county of Pontiac, with a population of 14,125, there are 2,311 more males than females; while Saguenay, with a population of 6,101, can boast of only 1,819 females, all told. All the Lower Canada cities have a surplus of females. Montreal has 2,717, Quebec 761, Three Rivers 194; while the town of Sorelbourke has one solitary male as a surplus.

A SPANISH TRAGEDY.—Advices from Madrid state that the unusually quiet town of Bonnard, near Burgos (Castile), was thrown into consternation last week by a fearful crime committed on the person of Don Pedro Maliano, one of the wealthiest inhabitants of the place. Donna Matilda, the wife of Don Pedro, was reading one evening in her room, with no other attendant than her page, a lad 12 years of age, her husband having gone out. Hearing a strange noise on the stairs, the lady ran to ascertain the cause, and was surprised in presence of a man holding a long bloody knife in his hand. The ruffian commanded her to be silent on pain of death, adding that he had two companions below ready to assist him if she resisted. After he had bound and gagged the boy he threatened to kill Donna Matilda on the spot if she did not give him a thousand pesetas. She replied that she had not so much, but would spare her life. Not being satisfied with this, he attempted to stab her, but she eluded herself by her hands and arms were dreadfully cut. Meanwhile her cries had been heard by the neighbors, who forced an entrance, and found her lying insensible from loss of blood. She died of her wounds two days afterwards. A servant girl was found lying in the stable with her throat cut, and quite dead. The assassin, who was arrested, proved to be the son of a respectable shoemaker in the town. It appears that he had long meditated the robberies and to effect his purpose had made offers of marriage to the servant, who impudently admitted him into her house during her master's absence, and thus gave him an opportunity of carrying out his design.—[Indianola Messenger.

GEN. MEADE ILL.—The Washington *Republican* of March 12th, regrets to learn that Major General Meade has not sufficiently recovered from his late attack of pneumonia to warrant his ordering upon another campaign with army of the Potomac. His physicians advise him not to attempt such a thing, and there is little doubt he will yield to medical advice, and retire for a little time from active service.

A gentleman belonging to Kinross, at present in the Holy Land, has been commissioned by the British Consul at Jerusalem to convey a box containing water from the river Jordan to be used in the baptism of the royal infant.

NAVIGATION OPENED.—The steamer Comet, Capt. Morgan, of the Goderich Line, left Chicago March 1st, at 5 p. m., made her trip to Two Rivers and returned to Milwaukee, making all her landings in the usual time. She found no ice to impede navigation. Snow was two feet deep in some places north of here.—[Mil. Wisconsin.

OUT OF WINTER QUARTERS AND LOADING.—The brig City of Milwaukee has been taken from her winter quarters in the bayou to the Toledo, W. Railway Elevators, and is receiving a cargo of 20,000 bus wheat. The freight to Buffalo, 4½c, a low figure, and is regarded by some as an indication that rates will rule lower than usual on the opening of navigation.—[Toledo Blade, 8th.

NEW STEAMBOAT LINE.—We learn that a new steamboat line between this city and Saginaw has been organized for the season of 1864. The line will consist of the steamers Forest Queen, Capt Kenyon, and Susan Ward, Capt Strach.—[Toledo Blade.

☞ The Hamilton *Times* of Tuesday says: We understand that a respectable young man, of good connections and standing in society, belonging to somewhere in Huron or Bruce, was arrested yesterday in this city by a constable from the locality above mentioned on a charge of being concerned in the exhuming of the body of a lady who died lately. Another individual was before that arrested, and in Goderich gaol on the same charge.

Fire in London, C. W.

LONDON, March 15.—A fire broke out above three o'clock this morning, in Talbot's shoe store, east of Strong's hotel, north side of Dundas street. Talbot's store, Spettigue's general store, Saunder's drug store, Fysh's confectionery, and Brown's shoe store, were totally destroyed, besides several stocks of goods damaged by removal, and by fire and water. Loss estimated from $20 000 to $25,000, nearly all insured. The Liverpool and London, Royal and Western insurance companies of Toronto are the principal losers.

The Balance Sheet.

Admitting the statement of the administration press, that slavery is abolished, to be true in its widest sense, somebody makes up the national balance sheet thus:

EMANCIPATION.	Dr.
"To 500,000 white American citizens killed.	
"100,000 maimed, wounded and disabled.	
"A devasted country, filled with orphans and widows.	
"Loss of national prestige,	
"$4,000,000,000 of national debt.	
"A divided Country. (Dr. side of the balance account.)	
CREDIT.	
By 4,000,000 free negroes.	

The four millions by which we stand credited we wot to us immensely less than nothing. In fact, if the government had given four thousand million dollars and five hundred thousand lives to force the states where the negroes are to keep and provide for them, as contemplated by the Constitution, it would have made a comparatively excellent bargain.—[Buffalo Courier.

Retrospective and Prospective.

[From the Oil Springs Chronicle.]

There seems to be an impression prevailing abroad that Oil Springs is retrograding; that the prospects for the future prosperity of the town are dull; in short, to use a very expressive term that it is "played out." To the inhabitants of the town, to those whose opinions are based on a proper knowledge of our real circumstances, it would be superfluous to offer arguments to refute that impression,—But to those whose knowledge of our circumstances is necessarily limited, and whose opinions are founded upon one or two prominent facts, it may not be out of place to offer a few suggestions in refutation of that impression.

It is true that the yield of oil is much less than formerly; it is true that prices range low; and it is true that our financial condition for the last three months has been none of the most flattering or satisfactory; but that those facts necessarily indicate a permanent failure of the business of the town, we most emphatically deny. None but the most superficial observer could see, in the above facts, anything to justify the impression that has gone abroad. But the evils in this town, as well as in every other, a certain class of individuals known as "croakers," who can see, in everything with which they come in contact, the seeds of dissolution. To them not an east wind blows but it is freighted with disease and death; and not a cloud arises in the Western horizon but it is surcharged with irresistable storm and ruin.—They can see in everything the elements of destruction, and not an ominous sound do they hear, but it portends to them the speedy wreck of matter, and the crush of worlds. If an oil well is struck they expect a fall in the market and ruin of the trade; and if there is not one obtained every five minutes then they are absolutely certain that the trade is already ruined, and predict a financial crisis second to none in the annals of history. With this class we have no sympathy, and these remarks are not intended for their consumption.

The fact is, there never has been a time since the first oil well was struck in Enniskillen when there were greater elements of prosperity here than at present. The stoppage of the flowing wells was the best thing that ever occurred to this town. Whilst they were in operation the price of oil was so low that even those who owned flowing wells were scarcely able to live by the product of their wells; and those who had made pumping well obliged to resort to other means to obtain a livelihood. The moment they ceased to flow prices rose, and every one who had a barrel of oil to sell could get a remunerative price for it. But, as is often the case, during the excitement consequent upon high prices, oil rose to a figure above what refiners could afford to pay, and the very natural consequences was that a reaction took place, and oil fell again to a figure below its intrinsic value, and so low that many do not find it remunerative to work their wells. This is the state of affairs which is in existence at this time, and one great cause of the present depression in the oil market. So long as oil is down we cannot expect the trade to flourish. It is be very great, for men will not purchase them without a prospect of remuneration; but let oil come up to its true value and the trade will at once be increased ten fold.

One great cause of the idea that the business of the town is retrograding is, that an impression has gone abroad that our oil lands are exhausted. There never was a greater mistake than this. The fact is, not one tenth of that which is positively known to be oil territory has yet been worked to any extent. Operations have hitherto been confined to certain sections of land, which have been tested sufficiently to know that they are productive, have been suffered to lie comparatively unworked, simply because they lie a little farther from the centre of the town.—From lot 16 to 20, inclusive, in the first Concession, there is at least one thousand acres of oil land which has been worked but very little. From lot 16 to 20, in the 2nd Concession, there is another thousand acres, not over one half of which has yet been thoroughly worked. In the third Concession, from lot 17 westward to 15 oil in large quantities is known to exist. How much farther the oil extends in either direction of course remains to be tested; but that is all confined to the localities mentioned is not at all probable.—One thing is certain, and that is, there is enough of good oil territory known to exist in this locality to put the question beyond a doubt as to there being an ample supply for the next ten or fifteen years. The oil is here and all that is required is patience and perseverance to place every branch of business in the place on a sure footing, and render permanently remunerative both the production and manufacture of this great staple article of our commerce.

THE MILLION AND A HALF CASE.—The Court of Appeal did not assemble yesterday, as was expected, to decide the point reserved in their judgement of Thursday; but their decision was announced through the Clerk of the Court. Their Lordships have decided that the appellants, the Great Western Railway, may have a new trial, if they desire it, upon payment of costs; and if the Bank wishes a new trial, they may take it without costs. In case both parties elect not to take a new trial before the first of April, then the sums in dispute will be decided by the award of the arbitrator; but if both parties fail to make an election before that date, a new trial must be had at the next Kingston Assizes.—*Globe.*

Beer Drinking in Germany.

In common with the rest of Germany Austria has its beer vats; and all over Germany beer drinking is one of the institutions of the country. Whoever passes through any of these cities without looking in upon the beer shops will have failed to see a very important place of "life as it is" in Europe. In company with several other Americans I have just taken a walk for the purpose of inspecting these establishments. You enter only to find the first room full of tables, each with its three or four drinkers about it, and these with mugs, holding from two to four pints of beer before them. The mug being emptied more is supplied, until the parties are satisfied and give place to others. You pass to another room, and another, and another, only to find the same busy scene.—You look around from room to room, as though you were searching for some missing friend, until your are satisfied, and pass out. If you wish to see another company, of one or two hundred engaged in the same way you can do so within ten rods in any direction. In this way thousands of the people pass their evenings. The beer is not very expensive costing about three cents a glass—and it is not so strong but that those who are accustomed to it can drink several quarts in the evening without becoming disabled. But a large proportion of the coachmen, "commissionaires," and hangers on in general whom you meet in the streets are constantly soaked in this beer, and as to perfect sobriety they don't know what it means. The mass of the people are constantly steeped in beer and tobacco smoke.—*Letter in the Morning Star.*

The Siege of Charleston.

We extract the following from a private letter from South Carolina, dated December 14:—"After 150 days' siege Charleston is much more secure than when the first gun opened. Shelling is as impotent at four miles distance as it is malicious. Two women only have been killed, and no houses burnt. Mine was struck, but the damage not worth mentioning. All the inhabitants have moved to the upper wards out of reach of the missells. The spirit of our people is stronger than ever, with an unanimous determination never to be reunited to the Federal Union under any circumstances. President Davis's message is as truthful a picture as ever was drawn of the state of the Confederacy, and ought to convince every unprejuced mind that we are able and determined to work out our own independence. All we ask of the nations of Europe is perfect neutrality, not the one sided character described in the Message."—*Galignani's Messenger.*

Effect of Emigration

Mr. Bright believes, with ourselves, that the great pressure on the landlords will come from emigration. With the American Government offering 160 acres gratis to every adult person who applies for it, and to minors if they have served