THE HURON AND OTTAWA TRACT.

No inland country in the world possesses topographical features so favorable to colonization as that surrounding the Great Lake of North America. On the shores of every harbor was formed in the earliest stage of settlement the nucleus of a settlement and developed itself laterally along the east line, but which very slowly worked its way into the interior; and though imigration has added more or less to our population for half a century, scarcely fifteen years have passed since the country thirty miles north of Lake Ontario first bore witness to the efforts of the pioneer settler. When a few years ago, through the instrumentality of flash advertisements and the land jobbing schemes of our American cousins, many Canadians were induced to leave their homesteads for the Western prairies, the fact was lost sight of that millions of acres of virgin soil then lay dormant in Canada. The Government itself for a long time equally blind, has but lately made a faint effort to bring this fact before the country; and while much remains to be done, sufficient has been accomplished by the construction of the colonization roads to show that the policy which aims at the extension of the area of settlement and the consequent increase in our agricultural resources, is better calculated to insure satisfactory results than magnificent railroad schemes or high protective tariffs. No scheme entered upon by the present Ministry has received so unanimous an approval as that of the Hon. Mr. Vankoughnet for opening up the back country by means of roads built at government expense, and the grant of lands to actual settlers along their line. The settlement of the Madawaska Road has progressed so rapidly and favorably that we question whether at any time in the history of Canada as large a clearence was effected in such a short time as that which extends from north of the Bald mountains to the Madawaska river. Similar results have obtained on the Hastings and on the Opeongo Road; and thus already has been formed the nidus of an agricultural centre that ere ten years more will astonish the frontier by a display of its economical importance and political power.

It should have been borne in mind at the beginning of Mr. Vankoughnet's undertaking, that it was of the first importance to place the whole of this country in connection with some one commercial centre, where supplies might be obtained by the settlers; and also that it would be desirable to centralize the colony as much as possible, with a view to render its management cheap and to enable it to live and grow as far as could be within itself. Though the four roads have apparently been laid out to connect with each other, we do no see what was intended to be secured by such connection; and we suspect it did not enter into the mind of the Minister of Crown Lands that so shortly after the inspection of his scheme, its extension over a greater area would be demanded.

Before pointing out the road-path indicated by the topographical relations of this tract to the lake shore, we would premise that it is bounded on the east by the Ottawa river; on the north by the rivers Ottawa and Mattawa, Lake Nipissing and French River; west by the Georgian Bay; and on the south by the Counties of Simcoe, Ontario, Peterborough, Hastings, Addington and Frontenac—an area of 19,000 square miles. Imagine these boundaries to constitute a parallelogram, and Kingston will be situated at the south-east angle, connected with the valley of the Madawaska by the Godfrey and Addington Roads. The Muskoka Road commences at the Narrows on Lake Simcoe, runs north a distance of 30 miles, and diverges at right angles, running to the eastward a distance of 88 miles, untill it reaches the Opeongo Road, where it ends. The Hastings Road runs in a northerly direction parallel to the Addington Road, and is terminated by the Muskoka Road; The Addington Road crosses the Madawaska River, and is terminated by the Opeongo Road about 20 miles to the east of the end of the Muskoka Road. From measurements on the map, we estimate the length of these roads to be:—Muskoka, 118 miles; Hastings, 55 miles; Addington, 62 miles; Opeongo, 95 miles. It was evident that these roads tap but a very small portion of the Huron and Ottawa track, we are enabled to predicate the character of the whole from the part already settled. The track on the south-west side of the Ottawa contains the most valuable of the land forming its basin. The white pine country is covered with noble forests, interspersed with tracks of hardwood land, stretching a hundred miles from north to south, width varying from forty-five to twenty miles. Between the rivers Bonnechere and Madawaska, there are tracts of hardwood land of a rich deep loam, with maple, basswood and elm of an exceedingly tall and heavy growth, and cedar swamps, valuable for the richness of their soil and the excellent fencing timber they afford.

A reference to Bouchett's map of Canada will convey no mean conception of the character of this country. So long ago as 1857 Mr. Hawkins conducted for the government an exploratory survey into the north-western part of the track. It will be seen from the results of his and Sir Wm. Logan's labors, that the Palæozoic formation prevailing on the frontier is replaced on the southern boundary on this track by the Laurentian system, the bold ranges which serve as a barrier from the lake winds; north of Lake Simcoe runs a range parallel to the Georgian Bay, and shelters the country from the chilling influence of the great expanse of Lake Huron. It is similarly sheltered on the north by several ranges stretching parallel to the French and Mattawa rivers. The whole country, thus favorably bounded, is dotted with countless lakes and streams, the falls of many being indicated on the map, showing that it possesses the means of carrying on those domestic manufactures that contribute so largely to the comfort of a remote settlement.

The formation of a Grand Trunk Road throughout this country, in a line extending from north-west to south-east, would be attended with results the magnitude of which few can have any idea. Feeders from the north-east and south-west could be built as the opening up of the country would demand them. This course is one that has in its favor the prospect, however distant, of the connection of the Georgian Bay with Lake Ontario.—*News*

Great complaints are made on the delay of freight upon the Grand Trunk Railway. we were shown on Saturday a bill of lading for goods shipped for a place near Hamilton, on the 19th of March, the goods not having yet reached their destination. We are told of goods sent from here for Cobourg being sixteen days upon the road. A large proportion of the freight shipped west from Montreal during the past month was dry goods required for the spring trade; the delay deprives the purchaser of his assortment, and probably result in his losing custom, and having to keep them for another year. At the same time trade is driven from this market, and Western buyers are compelled to purchase in localities from which they can obtain goods in a reasonable time. There is no excuse for these delays, there being abundance of empty cars going West every day; and they result from nothing but the carelessness or wilful negligence of the Grand Trunk officials.—*Montreal Commercial Advertiser.*

QUEBEC CORRESPONDENCE.

The political aspect—Cartier's leadership as viewed by his Upper Canada Allies—Who could supersede Cartier?—Will any French leader yield on the Representation Question? Probable number of British Members that could be returned in Lower Canada under all circumstances—Will not Lower Canada have to get guarantees?—Is a Coalition between Cartier and Brown probably?—&c., &c.

Quebec, April 2, 1861.

The perplexed state of political parties continues here. Still, if I correctly represent the state of feeling here, I should say that it is not believed that there will be any immediate reconstruction. The Conservatives from Upper Canada feel themselves compromised by the extreme declarations of Cartier in the debate on the representation question, in which he declared himself bound to stand by the equality of Upper and Lower Canada. It is plain that the Conservatives of Upper Canada cannot go to the polls with Cartier as Premier, after these declarations, without concessions. While these objections are raised against Cartier by his Upper Canada allies, Cartier's followers have equally grave charges to make against Mr. Macdonald and his supporters. They are confessedly in a minority in Upper Canada, and much of the capital against Mr. Cartier's Administration arises from this circumstance A Lower Canadian feeling is, therefore arising against the Upper Canada section of the Government. That this mutual antagonism will result in something is extremely likely; possibly not during the session, however. There is a vacancy in the Queen's Bench that is open to Cartier, if he felt disposed to take it, and no doubt John A. Macdonald could shelve himself if he wished. Will they do so? Who can say? Suppose Cartier felt disposed to yield to the demand of the Upper Canada section of the Government, could he grant Representation by Population? Not pure and simple, without checks and guarantees. The Upper Canada movement to increase the representation is viewed altogether from a religious point here. The priests, who hold the political reins, fear that a raid will be made by Upper Canada on their peculiar institutions should she get more. "Revolutions never go backwards," is their axiom. Introduce the wedge, and we are undone. Here it is believed that no Lower Canada leader dare advocate Representation by Population, unless constitutional guarantees were ensured to Lower Canada. This was what the Brown-Dorion Government proposed, and, doubtless, Mr. Dorion must have satisfied his friends, in Montreal, that the peculiar institutions of Lower Canada would not have been assailed, or he could never have been returned. Who could supersede Cartier, if it were possible to introduce a more moderate French leader to conciliate British feeling in UpperCanada? Sicotte is the only person I have heard named. He has, however, made no recent declaration on the constitutional question. In the session of 1858 he declared the Union to be federative. At present, he has but few followers. That he would take Cartier's place is only a matter of conjecture.

Should no concessions be proposed by Cartier or other French leaders, what will be the result? It is difficult to say. In that event the tendency would be to create a large party in Upper Canada, without regard to antecedents, that would carry Representation by Population. But what support could they get from Lower Canada? I doubt whether more than one-eighth of the representatives from Lower Canada would be returned to support such an alliance. I imagine that this state of things would lead to a deadly contest of races here, and that the British party would, perhaps return one member for Quebec, one for Montreal, and one each from Huntingdon, Missisquoi, Brome, Stanstead, Compton and Sherbrooke—all American counties, bordering on New York, Vermont and Maine. Driven to this extremity, of course Upper Canada would triumph. It would be a contest of years, perhaps. Everything is tending in this direction, however. The British press here and at Montreal are leading the movement for concessions to Upper Canada. Will the French leaders compromise, or will they unite and stand by the Union as it is? This question must shortly be decided. That Mr. Dorion was prepared to make concessions in '58 is evident enough. Will Mr. Cartier allow himself to be superseded by his more progressive opponent? Will he make overtures to Mr. Brown, as the leader of the largest party from UpperCanada? or will he make such concessions to the conservative leaders as will enable them to go unitedly to the polls to reform the constitution and preserve the Union? These are all questions that events can only answer. Several schemes are provided already. These projects embrace a representation of the Universities; an increase of the boroughs to ensure representation of commercial interests; an increase of two members to Montreal, and an addition of several members to the western counties Upper Canada. These are only drops in the bucket, and will not quench the public thirst. However, it is proper that you should know that even something is talked of in the way of concession to public demands. I do not say that that these schemes are talked of at the council board. They are the sentiments of the friends of the Government.

I close just as the Speaker is about to take the chair. There are about 80 members in the House.—*News.*

The season of Navigation for 1861 promises to be very remunerative for all discription of the carrying crafts, owing to the vast amount of produce to go forward both from Canada and the Western States, and should prices in England have an upward tendency, freight will continue firm. At present those who made winter contracts for freight have done better than is now offered, chiefly owing to the impression that the first contracts for carrying from Kingston downwards, have exceeded the capacity of the barges, and therefore many prefer waiting before engaging until the second trip of the vessels. But few cargoes are held for American boats. The bulk is destined for the St. Lawrence, and it will test the warehouse-men of Montreal to their utmost extent to provide storage until ships arrive in their harbor. Vessels in port are busy fitting out, but few will load before the 10th, as it is not desirable to ship until near the opening of the canals. The Welland Canal will be open on the 8th the St. Lawrence probably about the 25th, and the Erie a little later from the last report.

Dr. W. Nelson, of Montreal, has left that city to inquire into the truth of charges made against the Warden of the Isle aux Noix Reformatory Prison. The charges made against the Warden are that he persecutes English, Irish and Scotch boys dreadfully, while the French Canadian boys are allowed to do as they please, and are encouraged to act as spies, and to give false evidence against them and the British officers. Cruel and unusual punishments which no legal tribunal has power to inflict, have been eexrcised on the British prisoners at the mandate of the Warden, with a brutality and ferocity worthy of Austria or Naples.

Mr. James Buntin, of Hamilton, died lately in Florida, whither he went last Fall for the benefit of his health. His remains are expected to be brought home for interment in the course of a few days.

KANSAS RELIEF.—the "Kansas Chief," published at White Cloud, Kansas, contains an exposure of the mode in which the Kansas relief fund is administered, and avers that hundreds of dollars are daily being put into the pockets of the operatives. Gen. Pomeroy is an individual pointed out as profiting largely out of the remittances from the east which are intrusted to him. It says that revelations in an indisputable shape will soon be forthcomming which will justify its statements. In addition, we have the private letter of a Canadian gentlemen in Kansas to a friend in this city in which the statements of the news-papers are fully endorsed. He says there are plenty making fortunes out of the relief fund. He does not know of one case of starvation, but he knows of plenty "too lazy to work and, scores are taking relief who are worth thousands of dollars." The telegraph, a few days ago, threw discredit on the alleged necessity of aid for Kansas, and now that the details appear, the pesudo-philanthropic scheme is sure to be exploded.

An old man, named James Malcolm, has for several years past resided in the Township of Ramsay. Malcolm was an old sailor, of what we may term the modern heroic period. He fought with Nelson at the Copenhagen, at the Nile, and at Trafalgar, and he guarded most jealously the medal worn for those glorious combats. He would show it to any one, but no person was allowed to profane it with a touch. On Thursday last, after taking his supper, he retired as usual, but not appearing next morning, his sleeping place was entered and he was found on the floor, dead; his death, it is certain, happened at the very instant he was stepping into his bed. The man was a sailor to the last and his room bore as much resemblance to a ship's cabin as it was possible to give it. Old associations were so powerful that he used a shipswab to cleanse his floor up to the very day of his death.

A melancholy accident occurred on the 26th ult., by which a fine little boy named Thomas Smyth, son of Mr. James Smyth, a highly rerpectable farmer, living in the 4th concession of the Township of Etobicoke, lost his life. It appears that the deceased with several other children were playing on a bridge which crosses the river Mincio; the bridge was in a dilapidated state, and one of the planks slipped off and carried with it two little boys. The deceased though only thirteen years old, jumped into the foaming torrent to rescue the boys who were clinging to the plank, but being unable to swim or to reach the beach he was carried down by the current and sank in the stream. Mr. Fisher coroner, having been sent for, held an inquest on the body when the above facts were elicited. The deceased was a very fine little fellow and beloved by all who knew him.

The Picton *Times* says the Indian, Seth Smart, who was arrested last fall for the murder of Mr. and Mrs. Peterson, is beginning to show signs of declining health; his appetite is gone, and his strong muscular appearance is fast disappearing. "The cause is undoubtedly the unwholesome condition of the underground cells of our country prison; and it is very likely that the Provincial Prison Inspectors have laid the matter before the Government. We understand they have communicated with the County Council on the matter. The place is positively unfit for anything having life. About a month or two ago, a maniac was brought there, declared to be dangerous—his name was Charley Williams. He was crammed into a cold cell, and the next morning he was found with his seat upon the cold floor—his finger nails nearly torn off, scratching the stone wall—and his lower limbs paralyzed. the unfortunate man was taken out and died in a few days. But our Quarter Sessions closed, and this case of barbarism was not taken notice of, either by the Court or Grand Jury."

DEATH IN AN OIL WELL.—We regret to learn that a melancholy and fatal accident occured on Tuesday, at the oil springs at Enniskillen, It appears that a gentleman named Cook, belonging to Erie, Pennsylvania, had purchased a claim on lot 17, concession 2, Enniskillen. He had already dug 50 feet down, and had erected a platform on which to stand while drilling through the rock. About 4 o'clock on the morning of Tuesday, while he and a laborer were drilling, a noise was heard in the well. Cook incautiously lowered a lantern, to see if it was water or oil that was causing the noise. No sooner had the lantern descended, than it encountered a stream of gas which was rushing up through the hole that had been drilled, and a loud explosion took place. Poor Cook and his companion were blown into the air, together with the platform, and on descending, Cook fell down the well, a depth of 50 feet, and dislocated his neck. When taken out he was quite dead, and also much burned. It is believed that had he not been killed by the fall, he would be suffocated by the gas. His companion, whose name we did not learn, was very seriously injured, and was taken to a place of shelter in a state of insensibility. The event caused a great excitement in the oil regions, where it is said he was much respected. The accident took place in Sanbourne's well, Black Creek. The remains of the unhappy man have been temporarily buried, awaiting the arrival of his friends.

The St. Catharines *Constitutional* relates that one Edward McCaul died on Thursday last from excessive intemperance, want of proper food, and exposure to the cold. The spectacle presented at Faraga's house where the man died, was most horrible. McCaul was lying beside the empty stove quite dead; close by sat his wife and child, crying with hunger and cold; in a bed in a corner of the room lay Farga's wife raving with *delirium tremens;* while Farga himself was stupified with liquor. The room was disgustingly filthy, and almost unfit for the occupation of human beings.

The Chatham Argus says: "We learn that an Oil Spring has been found on Lot No. 17, first concession of Howard, and another on Lot No. 2, in the fifteenth concession of Oxford. That in Howard being on Mr. G. Secord's farm; the other in Oxford, on Mr. D. McPherson's property. Our informant says both prospects are good, and are already considered valuable. We have heard of several other locations in different parts of this country—and we ware shown, the other day, some exhumed fossils from an oil bed somewhere in the township of Harwick. We understand that a company has been formed in the town of Chatham, to bore for oil in the vicinity of Dawn Mills."

The Great Western Railway Company has a large quantity of produce in store in Hamilton, awaiting the opening of navigation. In round numbers it is something like the following:—55,000 barrels of flour; 130,000 bushels of grain; 150,000 cubic feet of square timber; 250,000 staves; and a small lot of lumber, not more than 15,000 feet, most of which was left over from last year.

An Ottawa paper says that arrangements are in progress to provide accommodation for a company of the Canadian Rifles, who will be stationed there early in spring. The large building on Sparks street, in rear of the Bank agencies, in Sparks Buildings, will, it is supposed, be leased for barracks.

The Charleston correspondent of the New York *Tribune*, writes;—"There has recently been a stampede of about 100 slaves from the interior of South Carolina, about which but little is said, and of which, I dare say, you will see nothing in the local papers.—The demoralization consequent on the political disorders of the day has extended to the slave population. There is a manifest uneasiness in this respect. The free blacks continue to leave in large numbers, and cases of great hardship continue to occur.—Persons of handsome property have been ruined, and thrust out into the world in no condition to encounter the reverses under which they have been thrown."

COLD SPRINGS, N. Y., March 20.—Burglars are again in our village, and another safe has been blown open. The store of O. M. Baxter, lumber merchant of this village, was broken open last night, and his iron safe [one of Herring's best] was blown open by means of powder, and about $70 taken.—The burglars drilled four holes of about an eighth of an inch in diameter, near the lock, in which they must have inserted the powder. The inner portion of the door and lock were blown some distance from the safe, showing a powerful charge. The money drawer was found this morning in the river near that point. The books and checks were left undisturbed. It was supposed that the front door was opened by false keys.

A correspondent of the London Free Press states that oil wells which bid fair to become remunerative, have been sunk in the township of Mosa. The oil excitement is already upon them; many are leaving their mechanical, mercantile and agricultural pursuits to seek their fortune in the bowels of the earth.

Mr. Patrick McNamara, hotel keeper at the Outlet, Magog, while firing a pistol last week, had his right eye torn from the socket by the hammer of the weapon.

The Herald

CARLETON PLACE,

Wednesday, April 10th, 1861.

READER, do you like this paper? Do you believe that the *Carleton Place Herald* is worthy to be placed in the hands of intelligent people? If so, will you do a favor to your neighbor as well as to us, by showing them a copy and soliciting their subscription. We endeavor to do our part towards furnishing the public with a good paper at a low price; and we are much obliged to those of our subscribers who endeavor to sustain us not only by their own subscriptions, but by their exertions to induce others to subscribe. We have been much encouraged, of late, by the steady increase in our subscription list, as well as by the many tokens we have received of the approval of our friends. But we think it would not be much trouble for each of our subscribers to induce one or more of his neighbors to take the paper. By this means our subscription list would be at once doubled, and we would be in a position to make further improvements in our publication.

MR HOGAN.

The dark mystery which had so long enshrouded the fate of Mr. J. S. Hogan, has, so far as life is concerned been cleared up, but with regard to the circumstances connected with the manner of his sudden exit from life, we doubt will remain buried in the womb of time. The Doctor's evidence appears to do away with any idea of personal violence, as exhibited on the body, and thus it remains. It certainly appears strange that such a long time should have elapsed since the supposed period of his death, until the discovery of his body in the river Don. Had it been exposed to the influences of the extremes of heat and cold, dry and wet, so common to our climate, the inference is that nothing more than the bare skeleton would have been left of the deceased. Probably time will clear up what is at present hidden from us. The negligence and apathy of the administration in adopting means to discover the missing member of the legislature, until a long period had elapsed, was highly reprehensible. The evidence at the inquest appears in to-day's paper.

THE MURDERERS ARRESTED.

Since the above was written we have received the following particulars of the arrest of some of the guilty parties. In this case as in many others, justice appears to slumber for a while but is at length aroused, verifying the truth of the old proverb, that "murder will out":—

When the body of the late Mr. John Sheridan Hogan, M. P. P., was discovered near the mouth of the Don, presenting indications that he had been murdered, public suspicion was at once directed towards those disreputable and lawless characters who inhabited Brooks' Bush as the perpetrators of the foul deed. But the authorities, as we intimated on Tuesday last, had something more than vague suspicions to work upon; and private inquiries which have been made by the Police Magistrate, the County Crown Attorney and other officials have given them possession of tangible evidence regarding the crime committed and the criminals. Notwithstanding that everything was studiously concealed from the public—in order that the object in view, the sure detection of the guilty parties, might not be frustrated—rumors yesterday became prevalent that the murderers had been apprehended, that one of them had made a full confession, and that the whole mystery was about to be cleared up. In these rumors there was some degree of truth, but how it got publicity is a question which puzzles the authorities. To present the whole matter to our readers in an intelligible light, it is necessary to begin at the beginning. About a month prior to the discovery of the body, then, a letter was received in this city, and addressed to the Postmaster, from the Sheriff of a country in the State of New York, inquiring whether a murder had been committed near the Don river, and intimating that some person then in his custody had made a statement to that effect. He (the Sheriff) had some doubt as to the truth of the story—suspecting the person might have invented it in order to avoid punishment for the offence which had led to his arrest in New York—and accordingly wrote to Toronto to gain further information.—Mr. Leslie, the Postmaster, forwarded the letter to the Police Magistrate, who immediately conferred with the County Crown Attorney upon the subject. As at that time nothing had been heard or suspected of a murder at the Don, an answer was returned to the American official to that purport; but, nevertheless, measures were privately taken to ferret out everything calculated to throw light upon any lawless act that might have been committed at any previous time in that neighborhood. These inquiries, which were made by the police, resulted in little addition to the information already possessed; but upon the recovery of the body, the contents of the letter referred to became of the gravest importance. It was deemed prudent at once to take into custody all the members of the notorious Brooks' Bush gang who could be found in the city. To accomplish this object detectives Arnold and Colgan with a sufficiently strong body of policemen, were detailed on Monday night and proceeded to the bush, in an old house in which eight persons were found and secured. These were John Colgeen, Charles Gereau, Andrew McGuire, Jane Ward, Ellen McGillock, Mary Carey and Mary Ann Pardey. They are all old and will-known *habitues* of the bush, and have frequently been before the Police Magistrate as disorderly characters. They were taken to the police station, and the next morning (Tuesday) Sergeant-major McDowell met another of the gang, John Epperson, on the street and took him also into custody. The nine prisoners were brought up in the Police Court on the ostensible charge of "disorderly conduct," but really on suspicion of being implicated in the murder of Mr. Hogan.

They were thus charged in order that their confederates, whoever they might be, should not become alarmed and effect their escape; and when the report of their arrest appeared in the newspapers on Wednesday morning, no notice was taken of it in connection with the murder of Mr. Hogan. One of the girls, Ellen McGillock, intimated to the police that she had some statement to make and she was accordingly discharged for custody and the others remained till Thursday. McGillock was then secretly examined by the Police Magistrate and others in the office of the Chief of Police, and they became acquainted with facts of the utmost importance, which for sixteen months had been kept as silent as the grave. The whole particulars of the murder are said to have been revealed; how Mr. Hogan, while on his way to Mr. Beachell's, was decoyed from the main road by a female; how he was then attacked by a murderous crew with the view of robbing him of his money, how his death resulted, and how his body was disposed of. This in substance was the statement made by McGillock, who although a "woman of the town" for several years, has always singular to state maintained the highest character for truth. Indeed, on one or two former occasions she gave information to the police which was afterwards found to be strictly correct; and so highly thought of in this respect is she, that in a disputed point the Police Magistrate would believe her simple declaration in preference to the oath of many parties who figure as witnesses in his Court. On Thursday the prisoners were again brought up and formally remanded till Monday. A second examination of McGillock followed, when some additional facts were elicited which involved the necessity of making further arrests. Accordingly on Thursday night detective Colgan apprehended four others, namely, William Reid, James Brown, John Hudie and Mary Crooks. They were yesterday also brought before the Magistrate on a charge of "disorderly conduct," and their examination postponed till the same day as the others, Monday next. Thus twelve parties altogether are in custody as having some sort of connection with the murder. It is not probable that all of them are implicated in the crime, but the extent of their guilt can only be judged when the public examination takes place. The particulars of McGillock's confession or statement are held secret by the authorities, but sufficient leaked out yesterday to create considerable excitement in the city. The reason given for withholding the informatin is that one or two other parties are at large whom it would be desirable to obtain, and it is feared they might take flight if their complicity became known. This was, no doubt good cause for concealment so long as the movements of the police were unsuspected; but we imagine, now that the main facts have become public that nothing will be gained by concealing the details. It has given much gratification to our citizens that the authorities have obtained a clue to the prepetrators of the murder, and it is the universal wish that the guilty may be brought to a speedy punishment. If the right parties have been secured—and there is much reason to believe they have—it speaks well of our police, who in this matter have displayed much vigilence and shrewdness. It is not always that the detection of murderers follows so speedily the discovery of the murder itself.

The increase of crime in our chief cities of the Province has been for some time past attracting attention, and lately has been forcibly alluded to by Judge Mondelet of Montreal, who drew the notice of the public to the noon-day licentiousness of street idlers, and the want of protection afforded to females in the streets from the obscene insults and actions of dissolute and lawless scoundrels, from whose sensual attacks even infantile innocence is not a protection. This important subject is also brought before public attention by the Jury of the Recorders Court, Toronto, in their presentment. They present "that females and others are often insulted and terrified by assemblages of young and idle lads at street corners, obstructing the thoroughfares, and by their obscene and scurrillous remarks, scandalizing the feelings of the passengers." This loaferism is an evil which has attained in our young country an enormous growth among our juvenile population of late years, and denotes an unhealthy tone in our domestic system, occurring as it does too, in a country, where there are so many avenues for obtaining a respectable livelihood, and advancement in life.—The spirit of non-productive speculation, in plain terms, gambling, Californian golden visions, and the craving for morbid excitement have, in a manner, unhinged the steady habits of our young population—precocity in speculation is the order of the times, and when that turns out a blank, loaferism takes its place. Many a youth fritters away the spring of life in fruitless attempts to glitter awhile in the appearance of suddenly acquired wealth—speculate in any thing, rather than work, from town lots and cheap patents down to the peddling and raffling of bogus jewelry—anything other than learn a respectable trade—a glitter for a time, an unhealthy excitement, a physical and mental strain, a moral depravity, and then a rapid sinking either into crime, or a useless existence. The loose habits and principles of the rising generation of the Province, call loudly for the restraining power of all governing bodies throughout the Province.

DEATH OF THE DUCHESS OF KENT

One of the great ones of the earth has passed away. Victoria Maria Louisa, Duchess of Kent, and mother of our Sovereign, died in London on the 15th ultimo. She was born in the year 1786, being 75 years of age when summoned away. She was the daughter of the Duke of Saxe Cobourg, and sister of Leopold, King of the Belgians.—She was twice married; first to a Duke of Leinengen, at the age of 16; her husband was old and debauched, and the union was, consequently, an unhappy one. He died fifteen years afterwards, and the Duchess, then in the prime of life, formed an alliance with the Duke of Kent, to whom she bore the present Sovereign of the British Empire. The Duke died eight months afterwards, and the late Duchess, holding in view the high destiny which awaited her infant daughter, devoted her energies to the moral education of Victoria, the result of which has long been the glory of the Empire, and around whose throne a pure morality exists unexampled in the modern history of the world. The Queen was deeply attached to her mother, and the external court trappings of mourning in this instance are true interpreters of internal feelings. Most of the European courts will be thrown into mourning by the event.

The Hon. Mr. Merritt has obtained a select committee of the Legislative Council to investigate the course of trade from the great west to the sea board; and has submitted a scheme, coupling with it a statement of the amount of capital required, by which, if carried out, he hopes to be able to divert, in a great measure, the immense grain carrying trade, which is now passing through the N. Y. state canals, to the waters of the St. Lawrence.

From what has already appeared, his plan is to establish, by means of Provincial aid or guarantees, a daily line of steamships in the open season of navigation between Quebec and Europe—to connect Quebec with the head of navigation, on Lake Ontario by a line of propellers—to make use both of the Welland railway and canal in the transport of freight between lakes Ontario and Erie—and to connect the railway and canal by a line of propellers to Toledo in Ohio. An exchange paper discussing the merits of the question says:—

"The city and port of Toledo are a sort of eastern Chicago, Three separate lines of railway centre at this point, drawing supplies of produce from an immense extent of rich agricultural country, embracing the states of Illinois, Indiana and Ohio. It is accessible to lake craft, and the products of Wisconsin, Illinois and Michigan could be conveyed thither by water. The produce collected at Toledo would be shipped to Port Colborne, where the grain would be transferred by elevators into self-discharging cars on the Welland Railway and conveyed a distance of twenty-five miles, while, as might be convenient, the more unwieldly articles could be forwarded by canal. From Port Dalhousie on Lake Ontario the freight would be conveyed to Quebec by a line of propellers voyaging the length of the lake and descending the river St. Lawrence, whence it would be shipped to Europe. The natural impediments to the descent of the St. Lawrence by large grain carrying vessels, he advocates, should be speedily removed. He urges the immediate deepening of the Beauharmois Canal (already contemplated and reported on by the Board of Works) which would complete and render uniform the St. Lawrence Canal system, and the deepening of the rapids between Prescott and Montreal. He estimates that the Coteau rapids, the Cedars, the Galops, and the rapids at Lachine, could be removed for the sum of £30,000 or £50,000 at most, so that a vessel drawing ten and a half feet could navigate to Quebec without any obstacle whatever."

A bill to amend the law in relation to Dower has passed its second reading in the Legislative Council. The bill makes the same provisions as a similar one which passed through the Upper House last session, but, for some reason or other, was not brought up in the Lower House. The only interference which it proposed with the existing right of dower, was that no widow would, after the passing of this bill, be entitled to share in the value of improvements effected on property after the property had been parted with by the husband, or after the husband's death. This was only a reasonable and just provision. The rest of the clauses related to the manner in which dower was to be assigned, which was the special object of the bill. It was proposed to facilitate the claim for dower, in a manner which showed alike a fair consideration for the widow and the owner of the property.

It is to be regretted that our public officials are fast becoming imitators of their class in the neighbouring Republic; every few months there is a stampede amongst our papers on the delinquency of some hitherto highly moral and respectable public official having left for parts unknown, with a load of public spoil to live on in dignified retirement. This is shockingly immoral, no doubt, but the subordinates are merely imitating their superiors. The last escapade is that of a Mr. Davidson, Postmaster at Berlin, who has disappeared with a large amount of public money from the money order branch. It is asserted that there is a carelessness in the money order department at head quarters.

SUDDEN DEATH.—We regret to hear of the sudden death of Mr. John Baird, of the 11th line of Ramsay, which took place on the morning of Saturday last. Mr. Baird got up in his usual health and went to the sugar bush, to make a fire under the pots. He had gone but a part of the way, however, when the hand of death was laid upon him. His wife, wondering why he was not coming to breakfast sent his little son to see what was keeping him, when the lad found his father lifeless on the snow. He had apparently sat down on a log and fallen backwards. A *post mortem* examination showed that he died of disease of the heart.

The Welland Canal will be opened on the 8th of April.

The reports now publishing regarding the management of the Reformatory Prison in Canada East, are astounding as far as relates to the wretched incapacity of the lately appointed Warden, Monsieur Prieur, to conduct the establishment. From the accounts which have reached the public, it appears that the Warden's governing capacity barely reaches the level of a "negro-driver," on a cotton plantation, and his humanity, a plant of galley-slave growth. To fulfil a tithe of his duties, he would require a better knowledge of human nature in its most common attributes. How long is our Province to be pestered with the blundering appointments of the present Cabinet, who so humbly bend to the dictation of the Lower Canada priesthood.

The Hon. Mr. Allen has introduced a bill into the Legislative Council to amend the Common School Act and exempt persons from the payment of rates imposed for the support of common schools "on the ground "of their sending children to or supporting "or subscribing to or towards the support of any separate school."

If this bill should pass in its present shape it would, in many places, prove a great injury, as there would be nothing to prevent any individual, who might be selfish enough to take advantage of the law, from evading the payment of the proper common school tax. It would be an easy matter to evade the law by "subscribing to or towards" any separate school any small amount. There are, undoubtedly some hardships connected with our school system, but it is a difficult matter to legislate upon to the satisfaction of all parties. We scarcely believe, ho wever, that any such bill as Mr. Allen's will ever prove satisfactory to the great body of the people of Upper Canada, whose pride and glory is in the noble fabric of our common school system.

The only question of any importance that has come up in the House of Assembly, since the recess is that of Representation. The question was under discussion when the ministry desired an adjournment, which was moved by one of their supporters, and although all the members of the government voted for it, it was lost by 53 to 49—a result which was heartily greeted by the opposition. We learn from the daily papers that the contest was a fair trial of Ministerial strength and that they were fairly worsted. All efforts to postpone the question being fruitless, Mr. Cartier buckled on the harness and made a five hours speech, defining his policy on the question, but without effect. The *Globe* says:—

Lower Canadian politicians are becoming thoroughly alarmed by the revelations of the Census and the certainty of a speedy change of Ministry. It is freely reported in Quebec that some supporters of Mr. Cartier have intimated to him, that unless he makes alterations in his Cabinet and institutes a policy which will bring the two Provinces into accord, they will not continue to give him their votes.

The "News" publishes an article on the "Kingston Iron and Axle Factory," from which we glean a few figures showing the extent of the operations of A. Chewett & Co., the enterprising proprietors of that establishment. The number of hands employed is 42, whose wages yearly amount to $12,000; 800 tons of scrap are annually manufactured into axles and finished iron. Scrap costs about $20 a ton. Of coal 1200 tons are yearly consumed, at a cost of $6 a ton.—Last year the Company manufactured 200 tons of axles, worth $120 to $150 a ton, and 529 tons of finished iron; the yearly sales amount to about $60,000.

SUICIDE.—We are informed that a man named C. J. Ford, a printer, of Ottawa, committed suicide on Thursday last, the fourth instant, by swallowing a dose of strychnine. He took dinner with a number of others, after which he took the poison, and was immediately taken with spasms from which he died. Before his death a doctor was called in, to whom he confessed that he had killed himself with strychnia. He is said to have been an aged man, but intemperate.

FATAL ACCIDENT.—A shocking accident occurred a few days ago, at Mott's Mills, ten miles from Smiths Falls, by which an individual named Mark Boyd, lost his life.—It appears that the deceased, was passing a circular in motion, when he slipped and came in contact with the revolving saw, when instantaneously he was sawn through the head and into the breast. The unfortunate man leaves a wife and seven children.

We have much pleasure in recommending Dr. A. N. Cole, Surgeon Dentist, to our numerous readers North, as he is now on a professional tour through to the Ottawa.—He intends stopping for a short time, in Almonte, in order to afford the inhabitants of that village and vicinity, his professional services. During his residence in Carleton Place, the Dr. earned golden opinions from all sorts of people. He has numerous patents with him, which will be found of interest to the public in general, all of which are new in that section of country through which he proposes travelling.

IMPROVED PLOW.—We have been shown an improved Plow, manufactured by Frost and Wood, of Smith's Falls, which so far as we can judge, is a little ahead of anything else of the kind we have yet seen. A few of them were shown at the fair, at Carleton Place on Tuesday, and were much admired by our agricultural friends, some of whom have also become purchasers. We have heard some of the best judges in the country speak of these plows. We understand that one of them can be seen at the store of John Sumner, Esq., in this village.

The body of the Duchess of Kent is to be finally deposited in a mausoleum, at her late residence, Frogmore.