

CANADIAN AFFAIRS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

TORONTO, March 29, 1851.

Toronto Bay is clear of ice for as the gossamer over water—beyond Maidstone's Wharf. The Lake steamer will commence their regular trips in a day or two; as soon as the Kingston Harbor is clear of ice. The Welland Canal is also pretty well cleared out; in two days time—on the 26th—it is to open. The ice in Burlington Bay cannot last more than five or six days; when it moves, the rest that now goes to Wellington Square will go up to Hamilton. So that, in a few days, the bustle and activity of Spring will have fully commenced. The weather today and yesterday has been delightful.

The Dispatch of Earl Grey has given rise to the question—How are the Clergy Reserves to be finally disposed of? Those who have studied the history of the controversy will easily answer that question; that is, if Upper Canada is to be admitted as influence the decision. The voice of the people of the Province is unquestionably in favor of secularization. If the question goes to the people at the next General Election, and if the result is not in favor of secularizing the Reserves, I will admit that I am a poor prophet, and understand not the prevalent feeling in Upper Canada.

That there will be opposition to the secularization of these lands, we have already ascertained; but no opposition can be effectual unless it comes from the predominant party in Lower Canada. They, of course, hold the balance of power in the United Legislature, and have practically in their hands the disposal of all questions that come before them.

Captain Stanhope, son of the Church of England Bishop, has come out with a scheme for dividing the lands amongst eleven denominations, according to numbers, as given in the official census. This is undoubtedly a tempting bait held out to those denominations; but I wish bold to predict the failure of the scheme in Upper Canada. It is precisely such an issue as that presented, in the case of King's College division scheme, at the last election—the star absent of which is a matter of history. It was almost solely upon that question that the elections turned. In Captain Stanhope's scheme, the Roman Catholics are not included. That, however, would not prevent Mr. Laing from adding them, if he received upon a denominational division. It is matter of note, that he declared his conviction, last Session, that the lands could not be alienated from religious purposes. He must have referred to a constitutional necessity. Earl Grey's Dispatch, however, will relieve him from any difficulty of this kind—it lays down the doctrine that the Canadian Legislature ought to be allowed to do what it thinks proper with the lands, regardless of their original destination. I am inclined to think that Lefebvre will take advantage of this to escape from the position in which he has been placed by his declaration last session, as to the indiscriminate exercise of ecclesiastical voting rights in those lands.

The Question Suspension Bridge was opened on Wednesday last, in the presence of a large number of spectators, some of whom had gone from a great distance to witness the event. The Bridge is the largest in the world, being 1000 feet in length, which is 100 feet longer than the great Bridge at Birkenhead, heretofore the longest in existence.

Its cost is about \$200,000. Being the Eastern terminus of the Great Western Railway, it is reasonable to suppose that Queenston will rise into a place of some importance. It has hitherto made but a small progress. Vehicles can, without difficulty, sail up to that point; and a great deal of Western produce will be brought by the Great Western. Queenston will become, to a great extent, the head-quarters of the Ontario navigation. In Dundas and Hamilton it will have a branch.

Proceedings of the Corporation.

WEDNESDAY, March 26.

Present.—His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen MacFarlane, Grenier, Fabre, Benjamin, Lynch; Councillors Atterton, Leeming, Horner, St. John, G. C. Campbell, Dr. J. D. Moore, Montreal, Whitney, Frobisher, and Lamarche.

The minutes having been read, several motions and amendments were moved for the purpose of striking out that part of them, which recorded the vote, and is which Mr. Fabre's name stood before, instead of after, that of Mr. MacFarlane, as it should have done, in the latter government's name, as the member who had been elected by the Council.

Mr. MacFarlane, Leeming, and Benjamin, having expressed their objection to changing the records, which correctly stated what had taken place, these motions were all withdrawn, with the intention on the part of the members of finding a suitable way of doing away with the question of precedence.

EXTINCTION.

From James Carson, employing 250-industry.

To his honor, the late Captain James Post, \$3 for the same purpose; from the inhabitants of St. Ann and St. Joseph Streets, having agreed to give the sum on condition of the Corporation making the walls.

From C. D. Proctor, for \$5 for damages done to the late Captain James Post, \$3 for the same purpose; from a Mr. Jones, Auctioneer, for opening a communication by John Street to St. James Street, from the St. Ann's Market; from Mr. Jones, Auctioneer, praying for protection from unlicensed Auctioneers. The Petitions were all refused. The Mayor presented a damages caused by an accident by Joseph John, one Sergeant, and a twenty-five men.

The several Standing Committees reported their estimates of expences incurred in their several meetings for the ensuing year.

And a Committee of Revision was appointed, consisting of the Chairman of all the Committees, and the Mayor, to estimate these estimates.

The Council then adjourned.—Herald.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE.

1 Toronto, 22nd March, 1851.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL has been pleased to make the following appointments, viz.—

John W. Duncombe, Esquire, to be Collector of His Majesty's Customs, at the Port of Quebec.

Richard Bullock, Esquire, to be Collector in His Majesty's Customs.

Lewis Lewis Morris, Esquire, to be Surveyor in His Majesty's Customs.

Bernard Foley and John Jackson, Esquires, the Reverend Andrew Ferrier, D. D., the Reverend William Bethune, the Reverend John Colquhoun Hill, M. A., the Reverend Adam Thompson, and the Reverend John Gillies, Esq., to be Commissioners for Superintending the Grammatic Schools in the County of Haldimand.

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