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Its GRAND EXTRAORDINARY DRAWINGS take place Semi-Annually, (June and December), and its GRAND SINGLE NUMBER DRAWINGS take place on each of the other ten months in the year, and are all drawn in public at the Academy of Music, New Orleans, La.

"We do hereby certify that we supervise the arrangements for all the Monthly and Semi-Annual Drawings of The Louisiana State Lottery Company, and in person manage and control the Drawings themselves, and that the same are conducted with honesty, fairness, and in good faith toward all parties, and we authorize the company to use this certificate, with facsimiles of our signatures attached, in its advertisements."

G. T. Beauregard
J. A. Early
Commissioners.

We the undersigned Banks and Bankers will pay all Prizes drawn in The Louisiana State Lotteries which may be presented at our counters.

R. M. WALMSLEY, Pres. Louisiana National Bank.
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MAMMOTH DRAWING

at the Academy of Music, New Orleans, Tuesday, December 18, 1888.

Capital Prize, $600,000.

100,000 Tickets at $10; Halves $20; Quarters $10; Eighths $5; Twentieths $2; Fortieths $1

LIST OF PRIZES

1 PRIZE OF	$600,000 is	$600,000
1 PRIZE OF	200,000 is	200,000
1 PRIZE OF	100,000 is	100,000
1 PRIZE OF	50,000 is	50,000
2 PRIZES OF	25,000 are	50,000
5 PRIZES OF	10,000 are	50,000
12 PRIZES OF	5,000 are	60,000
25 PRIZES OF	2,000 are	50,000
100 PRIZES OF	800 are	80,000
200 PRIZES OF	400 are	80,000
500 PRIZES OF	200 are	100,000
APPROXIMATION PRIZES.		
100 Prizes of $1,000 are		$100,000
100 Prizes of 800 are		80,000
100 Prizes of 400 are		40,000
THREE NUMBER TERMINALS.		
99 Prizes of $800 are		$79,200
99 Prizes of 400 are		39,600
TWO NUMBER TERMINALS.		
900 Prizes of $100 are		$180,000
900 Prizes of 200 are		180,000
3,146 Prizes amounting to		$2,118,800

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REMEMBER That the presence of Generals Beauregard and Early, who are in charge of the drawings, is a guarantee of absolute fairness and integrity, that the chances are all equal, and that no one can possibly divine what number will draw a Prize.

REMEMBER also, That the payment of Prizes is GUARANTEED BY FOUR NATIONAL BANKS of New Orleans, and The Tickets are Signed by the President of an Institution whose chartered rights are recognized in the highest Courts; therefore, beware of any imitations or anonymous schemes.

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MY STOCK OF FALL AND WINTER GOODS will be found complete and Prices Low.

Overocats, Ulsters, Reefers,
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See them, they are selling fast
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Solicitor of Bank of Montreal,
CHATHAM N B

Miramichi Advance,

CHATHAM, N. B. - DECEMBER 13, 1888.

"This is the (Dam) that Jack Built."

Mr. Edward Jack may understand the art of being a well-published man, but there are few who write so much "bosh" as he and, yet, continue to find the newspapers open to them. In his latest effusion, which appeared in the *Sun*, he kindly takes our lumber interests in hand and tells the benighted lumbermen of the Miramichi how they may avoid doing business at any of the existing mills. All that is required is to dam the Southwest at Boiestown, thus creating a water power. Having created the water-power the next move would be to erect mills to be run by it, and in these mills, all the lumber from the region above them would be sawn and thence transported by the N. & W. and N. B. Railways to Carleton, St. John, to be thence shipped.

It falls to the lot of few men to so thoroughly demolish the manufacturing and shipping interests of a place, and when Mr. Jack's brilliant idea has been carried out and our now busy mills, booms and wharves have gone to decay, and shall form only the mold of mother earth, when the stolid Micmac again roams in his silent grandeur amid the solitudes of Chatham, Newcastle, Nelson, Douglastown and Black Brook, exulting over the legend that they were once centres of pale-face industry and commerce, may we not imagine childish voices aloug the line St. Johnward to have for their Nursery rhymes something like

This is the dam that Jack built
This is the mill that all others did kill
For it's run by the dam that Jack built, etc.

Mr. Jack says that it costs 20 cents per M. to drive logs from Boiestown to the Southwest Boom, which, he seems to think, is at Indiantown. He, next, makes the astounding statement that boomage is 70 cents per M. He puts delivery at Mill at 10cts and sawing by steam at $1.50 per M. In this way he makes up a charge of $2.50 per M. against the steam mills and then proceeds to show that the sawing by water-power can be done at 75 cents per M. and "hauling by rail to St. John, for $1.25, making a difference of 50 cts in favor of his dam scheme. The result does not, however, seem to please him, for he appears to realise that practical lumbermen will ask him what disposition he will make of his refuse, so he deducts at the rate of 25c per M. for value of laths to be cut from slabs, and thus shows that it will cost only $1 75 per M. to cut lumber at the Great Southwest dam and deliver it by rail on the wharf in St. John.

If Mr. Jack will condescend to come down to the practical plane of lumber-manufacturing as an exact science, he will discover that our steam saw mills do something more than make deals and slabs. He may be surprised to learn that the slabs are turned into palings, laths, small box shooks, firewood and pulp wood, so that if there is anything in his "lath" item it tells very strongly in favor of the steam mills. Boomage costs but 55 cents, so Mr. Jack seems to have evolved an extra 15 cents out of his peculiarly stored mind, just to help his great dam proposition along. We will, however, allow him that for survey, which he has omitted. We have modern mills, which seem to have got ahead of Mr. Jack, and their enterprising owners would have to give up business if it cost them more than $1.25 per M. to saw deals, while Mr. Jack ought to know that fifteen cents is a pretty fair price for driving lumber from Boiestown to the S. W. Boom. Mr. Jack had better shut his eyes and collect his thoughts, too, over the matter of getting rid of the refuse his water-mill would have to dispose of, even after he had taken all the laths possible out of his slabs. The steam mill turns a great quantity of this into motive power, right on the spot. Perhaps Mr. Jack thinks, that in the case of the water-mill, he could burn it with equal facility, but he would find it necessary to convey it a long distance for that purpose and, for this, he must add at least ten cents per M. So we place Mr. Jack right by deducting—

Lath item	25c
From sawing by steam,	25c
" Boomage,	15c
	55cts

making 55 cents better showing for the steam mill than he estimated. Then, he must add 10 cents per M. for getting rid of water mill refuse and ten cents more for loading cars, all of which will show his water mill project not a cent ahead of the steam mills, and that without questioning the other absurdities and crudities of his proposition.

It is true that Mr. Jack's theories are quite harmless, for practical people only smile over them, while it doesn't make much difference whether others take them for gospel or not. He is said to have at times, written very sensibly on some subjects, and, if so, he ought to stop writing now for the sake of his reputation. He may be a very good man in the woods, but it is quite evident that he has much to learn about the saw mill. The man who said he wasn't much of a sailor on a ship, but was "a terror on a raft," knew where his "strong hold" was, and while Mr. Jack's writings about places and things so far in the woods that nobody else ever bothered with them, may be read without question, his desire to appear in print carries him too far when he ventures upon subjects which require practical knowledge of details and habits of exactness to ensure their successful handling.

The Alleged Parnell Letters.

UNDOUBTED EVIDENCE THAT THEY ARE FORGERIES.

NEW YORK, Dec. 11.—The *Times* correspondent at London telegraphs as follows:—I learn to day from an authentic source the true story of the letters alleged by the *Times* to have been written by Parnell. It was a man named Houston, secretary of the Irish Loyal and Patriotic Union, who sold them to the *Times* and who has had general charge of getting up evidence in Ireland for the *Times* case. Houston seems to be a gullible sort of a chap, judging by the ease with which Molloy and other pseudo-informers have taken him in. He bought the Parnell letters from Richard Pigott, who forged them. Pigott is a notorious Fenian who once owned a newspaper called the *Irishman*, which became the organ of Fenianism for a short time after James Stephen's paper was seized and suppressed. He sold out the Fenian secrets and when the league was started he was its bitterest enemy. Patrick Egan exposed correspondence of his in December, 1881, which ended his chance of extracting further blackmail from the Irish cause, and incidentally brought out certain facts which throw light on his forgery of Parnell's name in the present instance. I am not at liberty to tell how Pigott's guilt will be proved, but it will be shown beyond the slightest chance of cavil.

Canada Not Wanted.

[From the New York Commercial Advertiser.]

It is absurd in the highest degree to look for the present annexation of Canada by peaceful agreement; but, putting the absurdity of the proposition out of mind for the moment, it is worth while to ask whether we on our part want Canada or ought to consent to her admission to the union even if Canada itself, and Great Britain also, earnestly desired such an arrangement. There are parts of Canada where the people are sufficiently in sympathy with our ideas and sufficiently familiar with the principles upon which our institutions rest to make good American citizens of them. But what should we do with a region like the province of Quebec, for example, where the people are not only not American in ideas and habits of thought, but are not even English or moderns of any race? They are provincial Frenchmen of two centuries ago in their ideas, and as the controlling factor in an American state they would be as difficult to assimilate and as dangeous to our institutions as the population of Cuba would have been if the scheme of the last generation's filibusters for the annexation of the ever faithful isle had been carried into effect.

What President Cleveland said on the Murchison Letter.

"Near the close of the month of October last occurrences of a deeply regrettable nature were brought to my knowledge which made it my painful but imperative duty to obtain, with as little delay as possible, a new personal channel of diplomatic intercourse in this country with the government of Great Britain. The correspondence in relation to this incident will in due course be laid before you, and will disclose the unpardonable conduct of the official referred to, in his interference, by advice and counsel, with the suffrages of American citizens in the very crisis of the Presidential election, then near at hand, and also in his subsequent public declarations to justify his action, superadding impugnments of the Executive and Senate of the United States in connection with important questions now pending in controversy between the two governments, The offence thus committed was most grave, involving disasterous possibilities to the good relations of the United States and Great Britain; constituting a gross breach of diplomatic privilege, and an invasion of the purely domestic affairs and essential sovereignty of the government to which the envoy was accredited.

"Having first fulfilled the just demands of international comity by affording full opportunity for Her Majesty's government to act in relief of the situation, I considered prolongation of discussion to be unwarranted, and thereupon declined to further recognize the diplomatic character of the person whose continuance in such function would destroy that mutual confidence which is essential to the good understanding of the two governments, and was inconsistent with the welfare and the self-respect of the government of the United States. The usual intercourse of communication has since continued through Her Majesty's Legation in this city."

Colonial Governors.

[St. John "Globe."]

The demand of the colony of Queensland in regard to its Governor having been acceded to, the Colonial authority has advanced itself a step against the Imperial authority. The despatch of the Queensland Government besides objecting to Mr. Blake on the ground of his unfitness to discharge the duties, and declaring that Queensland should have a Governor "of approved ability and discretion," made the strong assertion that "a governor cannot be appointed from an Imperial standpoint alone. The colony pays the salary and expects to be given a governor whom the people approve and who will work heartily and loyally for them." This is in effect a declaration that the colony will not accept a Governor merely because it pleases the Home Government to send some one to whom it is under obligation. What at first excites surprise is that the Home Government withdrew its nominee with so little apparent unwillingness, but it would seem that it did not care to provoke any conflict with the colony. No doubt it did not want to have a repitition of an episode like that of the Lansdowne-O'Brien in Canada. Although O'Brien's work gave no satisfaction to anyone in Canada, yet it pointed out to the Home government where trouble might be created. To have insisted on the enforcement of the Imperial authority, after the opposition of the colonies was stated, would have been to invite the participation of all the colonies in the struggle. The case is an illustration of the fact that England is rapidly surrendering the power she once exercised over the colonies, and that the colonies, when their interests or feelings are concerned, do not hesitate to clutch her in a very unpleasant way. Protection in Canada, against all England's cherished ideas, is quite as much an assertion of determination and wilfullness as this Queensland affair.

Be wise in time. You have too many gray hairs for one so young looking. Use Hall's Hair Renewer, the best preparation out to cure them. Try it.

He Got His Money Promptly.

Mr. Jamie Rhodes, of Eufaula, Ala., held ticket No. 46,755, in October Drawing of the Louisiana State Lottery, for which he paid one dollar. It proved to be a lucky ticket, for it drew the capital prize of $300,000, and entitled Mr. Rhodes to $15,000. If the ticket had been a whole one for which Mr. Rhodes had paid $20, he would have received the whole $300,000. It was promptly cashed at New Orleans, and the money was received in a day or two and it is on deposit to his credit in the John McNab Bank of this city. For thirty years his father, Mr. Chauncey Rhodes, has been cashier of the McNab Bank, in Eufaula,—*Eufaula* [Ala] *Times*. Oct. 26 See advertisment for Drawing on Dec. 18th, when the first Capital prize is $600,000.

A Noble Deed

Flagman Wolver was a hero, and his name should not be forgotten. The world is full of brave deeds—though the disgruntled and cynical deny it—but his was one of the bravest of them all.

The last mail train was passing through Herkimer yesterday, and Flagman Wolver was at his post. In a humdrum sort of way he warned the approaching drivers to "look out for the engine while the bell rings," when, to his horror, he saw a couple of girls walking on the track. There were two things he could do—he could yell, and then let them take their chances, or he could make a break for them and perhaps save them at the risk of his own life.

He chose the latter. The train came thundering along, and there was no time to lose. He sped like a bullet out of a gun, got one of them out of the way and then the other. It was quick work, but it was done, and nobly done.

When the train had passed, the girls, half frightened to death, looked about for the man who had rescued them. There was no difficulty in finding him. There he lay, a poor, limp, bruised and broken wreck. The engine had struck him, poor fellow, and he was dead. Yes, Flagman Wolver was a hero.—N. Y. *Herald*, 5th,

Expel the Worms by using the safe and reliable anthelmintic Freeman's Worm Powders.

Farm and Household.

THE SILO has not yet become popular with English farmers, but it is advancing slowly, and as much of the costly paraphernalia once thought necessary can be dispensed with it is believed that this method of preserving green crops will be generally adopted as soon as the best form is hit upon.

GUANO.—(H. S.) desires to know which is preferable for pretty well exhausted land, the ordinary artificial fertilizers of commerce or guano. Ans.—According to Mechi, nothing pays so well on exhausted soil as guano, because it acts immediately and produces a larger quantity of straw and food for the future. He applied it mixed with chilled water, at the rate of one ounce to a galloon.

POSTS UPSIDE DOWN.—Experts recommend fence and other posts to be placed in the ground root end upwards, to prolong their durability. The pores of wood are so arranged as to encourage an upward flow of sap or other moisture. If, therefore, the posts be inverted, the upward flow will be retarded, and decay proportionately delayed.

WHITE AND BLACK OATS.—What is the difference—besides color of the skin—between white and black oats? Ans.—White oats usually have a thinner skin, contain more meal, and weigh more per bushel than black. For travelling horses the black, in greater quantity, do just as well. The difference in the weight of meal produced would be in the same proportion as the difference in weight per bushel.

MAKING COFFEE.—(Jennie R.) writes—"Let those of your lady readers who have never tried it, put plenty of fresh ground coffee first in an old hot coffee pot, pour boiling water over it, and either let it boil two minutes or simmer ten minutes on the stove; then strain into a better-looking coffee pot for table use, and add as much hot milk as there is water, and they will pronounce it the most delicious coffee they have ever tasted."

CALF RATION.—(A. B. C.) desires us to advise a good ration for three calves which he is about to winter, and of which he wishes to take very good (though not expensive) care. Ans.—Give them a little grain, and they will eat less coarse and bulky food. Sheaf oats cut up will be found very good, and a little shelled corn may be advantageously added. A handful of linseed meal daily will also promote thrift and prevent constipation. Be particular about comfortable quarters or half the food will give no returns.

TO REMOVE DIRT FROM THE EYE.—Much suffering may often be saved, in case of getting dirt in the eye, by the help of a horse-hair in removing it. Take the hair and double it, leaving a loop. If the speck can be seen, lay the loop over it, close the eye, and the mote will come out as the hair is withdrawn. If the irritating object can not be seen, raise the lid of the eye as high as possible, and place the hoop as far as you can; close the eye, and roll the ball around a few times, draw out the hair, and the substance which caused the pain will be sure to come with it. The method is practiced by axe-makers and other workers in steel.

EVER-HUNGRY HENS.—Hens and chickens are proverbially greedy. Though full as ticks and fat as seals, they are still ever on the outlook for more, and always apparently starving with hunger. This is all habit, an instinctive one it is true, but still only habit, and must not be encouraged or there will be no eggs. If hens are accustomed to be fed at certain hours and by the same person they will be ever ready to meet him (or her) whenever he presents himself in season and out of season. An inexperienced feeder would, in such circumstances conclude their food ration was not sufficient, very likely increase it, and spoil the fowls. Never gorge your hens. If anything, keep them on the hungry side, thus compelling them to do more or less searching for themselves, and you will render them much more productive than if fed to repletion. It is an old rule among the best experienced poultrymen that hens are not necessarily hungry because they follow the feed-box. A very moderate allowance of food, regularly supplied, and comfortable quarters, are the sine qua non of profit.

Fatal Penitentiary Fire.

On Monday night last about eleven o'clock an alarm was raised at the Dominion Maritime Penitentiary, Dorchester, and it was discovered that the wing of the establishment occupied by Deputy Warden Keeffe was on fire. The alarm soon brought the prison fire brigade to the spot. When the flames first burst out the servant girl, Marie Leblanc, sprang from the second story window to the ground, a distance of 25 feet, and was picked up and taken to the Warden's residence, and Dr. Church was summoned. He found her hip broken and arms and face severely cut, but the full extent of her injury was not discovered before the doctor was summoned to a more serious case.

Meantime all efforts were made to put out the fire and it was got under control.

Mr. and Mrs. Keeffe were thought to be at Memramcook, but it was determined to find out positively, and a party forced their way to their room and were horrified to find them unconscious at the door. They were immediately carried out and Doctor Church called from attending the girl and everything possible was done, but Mr. Keeffe only lived about half an hour. Mrs. Keeffe was not so much affected, but at last reports she was somewhat worse, being delirious.

The fire was got completely under control about 12 o'clock. The only theory as to its origin is that of lamp explosion. The fire caught in the sitting-room in which there had been no fire. The smoke was so dense it was impossible at first to get to the upper flat, especially as the stairs were a mass of flames.

The convicts were kept in their cells all the time and strict guard maintained.

The stone crosswalls of the building were of great assistance in preventing the fire from spreading more than it did. The fire was confined entirely to the Deputy Warden's apartments.

The Smelt Fisheries.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF FISHERIES CONFERS WITH THE SMELT FISHERMEN AT CHATHAM.

Lt.-Col. Tilton, Deputy Minister of Fisheries, who was unavoidably detained in St. John after the time set for his visit to the Miramichi, reached Newcastle by train on Monday night of last week, and visited Chatham on Tuesday afternoon, accompanied by Messrs. M. Adams, Donald Morrison, Overseer Hogan and Mr. C. J. Thomson, stenographic reporter.

That evening, at 7 o'clock, Col. Tilton met the committee representing the Fishermen's Association in the Masonic Hall (upper room.) The chair was taken by Mr. Geo. Watt, President of the Association, who stated that the fishermen wanted the smelt net tax reduced, to be allowed to fish as soon as ice formed in the river, and to have the payment of one license fee only required for a net wherever it might be fished in the Miramichi.

Overseer Wyse here said one fee only was required now.

Mr. Watt contradicted this and there seemed to be a difference of opinion about it amongst several fishermen and others—showing that, on this point, uniformity of practice should be secured by regulation.

Col. Tilton said that, as a New Brunswicker, he was glad to meet those representing an important interest of the province. He would be glad to hear all they had to say so that, if it were possible an arrangement might be reached that would end, for all time, the disputes and misunderstandings that had existed in connection with the Miramichi fisheries. He would like to have those present state, in turn, in what respects they desired changes in the regulations, together with any relative facts bearing on the subject. It was due to the meeting, he said, that he should explain why he had not come to Miramichi last week, as arranged. He had intended to do so, but circumstances, to which it was painful for him to refer, had urgently demanded his presence in St. John, to which place it might be even necessary for him to return. He had come at the earliest possible time. He had left Ottawa not only in his own behalf, but also by direction of the Minister who, himself, could not, at this time, visit the Province. It had been the intention of the immediate predecessor of the present Minister to visit the Miramichi, but duties in connection with the Washington Treaty, prevented him from doing so, and as ministerial changes which had followed involved his transfer to another department he, of course, did not come afterwards. The present Minister not being able to come, he, Col. Tilton, would carefully listen to all the fishermen had to say and bear their requests to him, accompanied by such recommendations as he would feel justified in making.

Mr. Donald Morrison said the fishermen claimed three things. The first was that the bag-net license fee was too high. The second was that the license, when secured, covered only one locality. It had been said that one license served for the districts of Overseers Hogan and Wyse, but if that were so, new fees were demanded and new licenses required in the districts of other overseers. He had, last season, communicated with Inspector Venning on the subject and that officer had written him saying that fishing in different districts under the same license was against the law. It had been declared by former ministers that the license system was resorted to for the purpose of registration and not for revenue purposes and as the license had been raised from nothing to one dollar and then to three dollars, it might next be raised to ten dollars, the result being that the poorer fishermen would be squeezed out of the business as licensees altogether. The third grievance of the fishermen was that 1st December was fixed as the date at which smelt-fishing was to begin. If the river was frozen over before that date the smelts all passed down and out in three days. There was often colder weather and better ice in November than in December, and if the fishermen were prevented from going on the first ice and making the good catches to be then had, they were forced to lose their best chances of the season. It was stated reports were made to the Department that smelts were often caught on the Miramichi and afterwards had to be thrown into manure heaps on account of spoiling. He would challenge the officers who made such reports to produce any evidence to support them. Now was the time and this the place to show if such was the fact. The statement was known by all present to be untrue and no evidence could be found to sustain it. He might say further, in reference to the roving license that a net could not be confined to any one district, as the fish had to be followed as they moved to different parts of the river with the making of ice, tides, etc. Respecting the statement that small bass were taken in the smelt fishery, he thought that it was much exaggerated and misrepresented. He hoped, when Col. Tilton had learned all the facts a better understanding would be established between the fishermen and Department, for if the regulations were unjust they led to illegal fishing.

Mr. Dudley Walls said his idea was that the fishermen ought to be allowed to catch the fish as soon as the ice was strong enough to work on. That was his experience. This year there was a week of splendid weather in November, and it was pretty hard to keep the men off the ice. Now, there was no ice to work on, but a patch here and there along the shores. Some of the fish taken are fine. Splendid fish were taken on this morning's flood tide. They were not so good on the evening's tide. The catch is fair, fully as good as last year, though the fishermen could not get out where the best fish are to be got. In his opinion the fish were improving in size for the last three years.

Col. Tilton: What is your view as to the decline of the bass fishery?

Mr. Walls: I don't know anything about bass. I've seen but two small bass this season. They were taken on the Chatham side, near town. I haven't seen many during the last three years. In my opinion as many small bass are taken below Middle Island as above it.

Mr. J. B. Williston said that the same license was good in any part of the main river, but the main river licenses were no good in Bay du Vin and the tributary rivers. Most of the bass fishing was done with hook and line by Indians. He thought that three quarters of the bass shipped, were taken with hook and line. He had never seen many small bass taken in the smelt nets. He was a shipper and it did not therefore make any difference to him, personally, how high the license fee was, as it came out of the fishermen's pockets.

Mr. D. Crimmin said he fished for smelts in the fall, when there was little else to do. The nets are, in some cases, owned by the fishermen, but, in most cases rented. The fishing was hard work, night and day, and those engaged in it thought it was right enough that they should pay a license fee of $1 per net, for there must be system and order about everything, but when it came to a tax of $3 it was a hardship. It might be that a man would work hard day and night and get little or no fish. He would have his net or the hire of it to pay for, and if the high tax was also exacted it was discouraging. When the river was frozen over the fish immediately left in a body and the fishermen must follow them. As soon as the net was set in another officer's district another fee was demanded which was an additional grievance. Respecting the early-caught fish spoiling there was no truth in the statement. Fish caught in November were saved as easily as those taken later. He had been in Restigouche recently and, early in November, saw tons of smelts brought up from points down the Bay Chaleur by the steamer Admiral and shipped by the Intercolonial in good order. Fishing was allowed there, but even when the ice was good here it was prohibited. And when licenses were issued those who took them out were not afforded the protection they ought to have.

Col. Tilton said he would like particularly to know of what complaint was made in this respect.

Mr. Crimmin, though unwilling to make complaints, explained that after some licensees had been assigned their fishing positions, others were not prevented by the officers from cutting holes and placing their nets so close as to interfere with them, although protection was sought.

In reply to Col. Tilton, Mr. Crimmin said two men could work a bag-net although when a strong tide ran it took three or four.

Col. Tilton: What are you earning at the fishery?

Mr. Crimmin: I was at it a little over three weeks last winter and I caught about $30 worth of fish. The rent of net would be, say $15 for the season and it would cost five dollars to rig it with the necessary poles, lines, etc.

Mr. John Blake was next called on and said he had been talking with many of the fishermen about Black Brook, and in the event of the license tax not being reduced, they would ask that the fishing be extended to 1st March. The same license was good in his time (He had been out of the country for two years) in the districts of Overseers Wyse and Russell. When smelt fishing was allowed in open water small bass were taken at times below Fyrell's Point, which is about a mile below Middle Island. In February small bass were taken to some extent above that. If ice formed before December 1st fishing should be allowed.

Mr. Geo. Groat stated that he had fished in Kent County, N. B., Cumberland Co., N. S. and also in the Miramichi. The regulations that are suitable for one locality are not suited to others, for in this County the ice forms, for instance, much earlier (sometimes 18th Nov.) than in Cumberland, and the fish go out in a day or two thereafter, so that if fishing is not allowed in the Miramichi when the ice first forms the best fishing is lost. All the fish move with the tide, so if small bass are taken with the smelts at one place they will be taken at another, as the whole body of fish move nine or ten miles with each tide. It is, therefore, nonsense to talk of small bass being in one locality only in the main river. He knew nothing of the alleged falling off of the bass fishery of the river, nor had he ever seen any quantity of small bass taken when the smelts were plentiful. He earned $3.50 last season smelt-fishing in Cumberland and Northumberland. $130 of that represented his earnings in Northumberland. The smelts were all out of the Miramichi at the end of the first three weeks of the season, and he knew some fishermen who did not get five dollars' worth of smelts in the season.

In reply to questions put by Col. Tilton and others Mr. Groat said he had been six years in the fishery. The smelts were larger now than formerly and the quantity as great as ever. When he first went into the fishery, the dealers used to be particular in having the different sizes sorted out and the greater part of the catches were medium and small sized. Now, there was little sorting, for the fish were generally of good size and sold without sorting. He had never lost a fish by spoiling; never saw any turned into manure. No fish are wasted on the Miramichi. He was, he believed, the most successful of all the Miramichi smelt-fishermen last year. He caught few smelts after the first few nights. The statement that 100 tons of smelts were caught in one or two nights at Middle Island last season was nonsense.

In reply to Mr. M. Adams, Mr. Groat said he did not pay the three dollar license last year and didn't mean to pay it.

Mr. James Bergin said he had done a good deal of smelt-fishing and generally came out in debt. Last season he made $25 or $30, when he got his net bursted. He generally fished the first run of smelts and then waited until the tommy-cods came on in January. He had never caught any bass; had been fishing six years. The $3 license fee was excessive and led to cheating. Mr. Bergin explained by saying that men could sometimes not get enough fish to pay the high fee, and also the rent of their nets. He would rent a net from Mr. Loggie, who thought he would get all his fish, but he would sell his fish to Mr. Watt and Mr. Loggie would be left without the rent of his net, for he did not look as sharply after his nets as Mr. Watt.

Col. Tilton: If this smelt fishery is such a poor business as you represent it to be, will you tell me how it is that so many are anxious to go into it?

Mr. Bergin: It is because they can get nothing else to do here in the winter season.

Col. Tilton: What price do you realise for tom-cods?

Mr Bergin: We get sometimes 50cts, sometimes 60cts and, sometimes, one dollar a bbl. for them.

Mr. Frank Cassidy went at considerable length into the question of the smelt-fishery and claimed to have followed it longer than any man present; a few small bass might be taken in the beginning of the season but very few. The license fee was too high, the fishery attended by great hardship and he never knew anyone engaged in it to make any money. No license fee should be exacted in such a business which was the poorest and least remunerative that a man could engage in.

In reply to questions put to him, Mr. George Groat said he believed more nets were fished last season than ever before. He had taken out no license for a net with which he was fishing on Monday night, last, but had the money in his pocket ready for the Overseer when he came on the ice.

In reply to Mr. Adams Mr. Groat said he did not know it was his duty to take out his license before attempting to fish.

Mr. J. B Williston here argued that the correct principle was to impose a tax on the catch and not on the net, as one net might make a big catch while others might not take a hundred lbs of fish in a season.

Mr. Frank Cassidy again addressed the meeting, saying he was requested by Mr. Ryan, an old fisherman who was present, to say that he had never made anything by smelt fishing.

Mr. D. G. Smith, one of the committee, said that as several officers were present it might be well to have their statements. He asked Mr. Hogan if he had anything to offer, or whether he differed in any particular with the fishermen in the statements they had made.

Mr. Hogan intimated that he had nothing to say.

Major Tilton said that the reports of the officers were in the hands of the Department and they might, therefore, be excused from making any statements here.

Mr. Smith said he had intended to place before the meeting, for the information of the Deputy Minister, evidence from official sources to show that there had been a continuous and persistent effort in a certain official quarter—through misrepresentation of facts and otherwise—to secure prohibitory regulations for this fishery. He did not desire to take up the time of the meeting now, if Col. Tilton would consent to his furnishing the statement in writing, so that it would go as a part of the record of the conference.

Col. Tilton said he would be glad to so receive it.

Mr. Smith said there was one matter, in this connection, which he thought should be explained.—When the cold weather of a fortnight ago came on and the Department at Ottawa was requested by telegraph to allow fishing to begin, he understood that either the Minister or the Deputy Minister stated his reason for refusal to be based upon "official information as to state of weather" etc. He, Mr. Smith begged to assure Col. Tilton that there never was, in the history of the Miramichi smelt-fishery, a time when the weather was better for the taking, storing and shipping of smelts. Every fisherman present knew this to be so, and when they learned that the Department's official information had evidently misrepresented so well-established a fact, what confidence could they be expected to have in its justice in dealing with their interests? It was due to all interested that those who made such misrepresentations should be known and no longer trusted

Col. Tilton said he was not in Ottawa at the time referred to, and was, therefore, unacquainted with the circumstances stated. He would, on his return, look into the matter and endeavor to get the information asked. He thought, however, that the cold weather lasted only a few days, and it might be that it was not safe to ship to New York.

Mr. Morrison said the weather was cold in New York, also.

Mr. Smith said the thermometer was at zero in Boston, and was down to zero and but little above it here for a week. He would refer Col. Tilton to the Meteorological reports procured by and in the possession of the Government at Ottawa. They furnished reliable "official information."

Mr. Donald Morrison referred to the fact that the Department had been furnished with official information making it appear that quantities of smelts caught in the Miramichi were spoiled by soft weather and otherwise found their way to the manure piles. That matter ought to be settled now and the character of such statements exposed. If there was any truth in them let it be shown.

No one attempted to sustain the statements referred to, which were made by the Inspector, who, however, was in St. John.

Mr. Smith said he wished to direct the attention of the Deputy Minister to the fact that the Inspector—although he had tried to practically secure the prohibition of the bag-net fishing—had, under date of 6th Jan., 1877 said in a letter to the Minister: "The fishery with bag-nets should not commence until the ice has formed,—thus admitting by inference the contention of the fishermen, that when the weather was hard enough to make ice it was hard enough to freeze and thus preserve the fish.

Mr. W. A. Loggie said that the quantity of smelts frequenting the river seemed to be greater the last two years than in previous ones, and they were also of better average size. This statement was confirmed by Mr. Groat and others.

In reply to Col. Tilton Mr. Loggie said the average price of smelts was about three cents a lb. The highest price he ever knew to be paid was 4½ cents a lb.

Several thought the average named was above the mark.

Mr. Smith said the Chairman, being a dealer, would, no doubt, be fully informed on this point.

Mr. Watt said he was careful last season in making tallies of all the fish he had purchased, and in making up the average price he found that he had paid between two and a quarter and two and a half cents a pound for them. The average of extras last year was higher than in any season before and he attributed the increase in quantity and size of smelts to the fishing out of tom-cods, which followed and preyed upon the smelt. The cry about rotten fish grew, no doubt, out of the fact that a few smelts spoiled one year, in transit, but that was the only instance of the kind of which he knew. Now, if the weather was hard enough to make ice sufficiently strong to work upon, it was perfectly safe to catch the fish, for once they were stored under such conditions, it mattered little what kind of weather followed, for they were safe. Last week extra smelts were bringing 20 cents a pound in New York, and had our fishermen been permitted to catch them they would have made some money. The fact that nets now set close together on the little piece of ice off Muirhead's boom were catching tons of smelts, showed that the river was swarming with fish and that the claim of the Department that the smelts were being fished out was not borne out by the facts. The valuation of six cents a pound put on smelts at the Miramichi was fallacious and must have been given to the Department by someone not acquainted with the facts. If it was given by any fishery officer he must have known it was false and given it for a purpose. The average price received by dealers was four and a half cents a pound and they had to pay expenses of storage, sorting, boxing, truckage, freight and commission out of that—where, then, was the valuation of six cents a pound obtained?

Overseer Wyse said that six cents was the Department's valuation, and it was not furnished by the Overseers.

Mr. Watt, continuing, said the number of nets fished last season, no matter what the returns showed, was greater than in any previous season and this year will bring another increase, no matter what the regulations may be, for the people will, in some way, try to catch the fish which providence sends to them. He was sure, however, that it was the desire of the Department not to do what was detrimental to the fisheries interests, and to deal fairly by the fishermen, and that the trouble experienced had grown out of the Department being misled by misrepresentations of facts; and he had every hope that the visit of Col. Tilton would lead to an improvement.

Col. Tilton agreed with the chairman in the belief he had expressed that the Department did not wish to do anything that might be detrimental to the fishermen's interests. It must not be supposed that they were so far inland at Ottawa that they were unacquainted with what was going on down by the sea, for if they saw the many letters received every day by the Department from those representing the different sections—every one of which was carefully read and attended to—they would know that they thought of the fishermen's wants, interests and requirements. He had served in his present capacity under three ministers whose desire it had always been to administer the Department fairly and with justice to all interests, and he would say that none of them were more desirous of doing justice to the Miramichi than his present chief. He would lay before him, on his return to Ottawa, the points that had been presented to night, together with such recommendations as he would feel justified in making. One object of the fixing of the license fee was to limit and lessen the number of nets, if possible, although, in view of the large expenditures of the government on account of the hatchery and protecting the fisheries and the cost of the Fishery cruisers, would it not be fair that these license fees should be treated as a means of reinbursing such outlay to a certain extent? Referring to the "roving license" he said while there seemed to be reason for the demand for it, there were several interests to be considered and, before deciding upon the course to be taken in that matter, it would be necessary to confer with the officers of the district.

He must confess that it seemed strange to him, when