

CHIGNECTO POST AND BORDERER.

SACKVILLE, N. B., FEB. 26, 1885.

—The Local Legislature opens to-day.

—The Imperial Parliament opened last Thursday.

—The Washington Monument was dedicated last Saturday.

—Turkey has decided to double the number of troops at Tripoli and Tunis.

—The Canadian voyageurs sailed from Queenstown for Halifax last Friday.

—The German Reichstag has adopted a provisional protective tariff.

—The man who prophesied an open winter is not to be found at present.

—Numbers of Spanish officers are seeking service with the British in the Sudan.

—The inauguration of Grover Cleveland as President takes place next Wednesday.

—The Maritime Province Grangers propose to organize a mutual fire insurance company.

—Scott Act organizations are at work in every constituency in Ontario except five.

—Latest advice state that Sir Leonard Tilley will make his Budget speech next Tuesday.

—The report of the annexation of the Samoan group of Islands by Germany is confirmed.

—It is said that the Imperial Government intends to reduce the number of Irish judges.

—The murder of Peter Kelley, a farmer of Westmeath, Ireland, is the latest addition to the list of agrarian crimes.

—The fear of dynamite has led to unusual precautions being taken with visitors to the Citadel at Quebec.

—Advices from the west coast of Africa state that Germany has annexed a strip of land along the coast to the westward of Bonin.

—Mr. Gladstone stated in the Commons on Tuesday night that the Government was taking steps to secure the entire Afghan frontier, including Herat.

—Nine new post offices were opened in the Province of New Brunswick on the first of January and two of the old offices were closed.

—The British Navy estimates for 1886 are £12,396,500. This sum is intended to meet ordinary expenses and provide for the building of thirteen vessels, eleven of which are to be ironclads.

—A protest, with 13,000 signatures, against permitting Masonic societies to participate in the dedication of the Washington monument was received by the monument committee to-day for action.

—It is proposed to amend the law in relation to goods canned in the Dominion, so that the weight, date of packing and name of the packer shall appear on all cans and packages of hermetically sealed goods.

—The English government has conceded to Newfoundland the privilege of negotiating with the United States for a renewal of the fishery clauses of the treaty of Washington independent of any action by the government of Canada.

—A picture offered for sale in the London book-stalls last week represented Mr. Gladstone as a "Sandwich Man," having on his boards the inscription: "Massacres executed without responsibility." The sale of the picture was suppressed by the police.

—In 1874 the total imports of British Columbia amounted to \$2,085,560, of which \$66,104, or about three per cent., was imported from the rest of Canada. In 1883 the imports had increased to \$3,927,536, and \$624,207 of this amount, or nearly sixteen per cent., was from the eastern part of the Dominion.

—The London *Whitaker's Review* states that Lord Dufferin has demanded that 20,000 British soldiers shall be sent to India as reinforcements. He makes the demand on ground that the British garrisons and field troops are absurdly weak in view of the prospect of a Russian advance upon India by way of Afghanistan.

—Suskin telegrams say that the arrival of British troops has alarmed Osman Digna, who is trying to gather a large force at Tami. Osman recently killed a messenger from Daka bearing news that the Emir of Dongola assisted by the Shukri tribe engaged in battle the Hadendawa who had attacked friendly tribes that were supplying the English with grain, and that two thousand of the Hadendawa were reported killed by the Emir and his allies.

—The *Monetary Times* thinks the St. John Board of Trade sees at last that it would be wasting its breath to ask for a treaty of reciprocity with the United States, at a time when one branch of Congress refuses even to countenance the bill to give effect to the treaty with Mexico which has already been ratified by the Senate. "Canada," says the *Times*, "by misplaced importance, at the present time, would merely count a rebuff while displaying an apparent anxiety of the subject which it would be idle and unwise to indulge. Nothing can be gained by talking about reciprocity when Congress has set its face against all reciprocity treaties."

SUDAN.

Soudan is the name of a vast continental belt stretching east and west nearly across Africa. We present to our readers this week a map of the seat of war there, embracing only an area of some twelve hundred square miles of Soudan, but showing the position of the British army, the places where the recent battles were fought and the present positions of the different bodies of troops. Khartoum, of which we gave a description in our last issue, is situated at the confluence of the White Nile with the Blue Nile, and some seventeen hundred miles from the Mediterranean into which the Nile empties. The distance to the mouth of the Nile is nearly one thousand miles. In the valley of the Nile up to Khartoum there are only about ten thousand square miles of arable or agricultural lands, and there are eight hundred thousand square miles—bordering on it east and west—of deserts absolutely unfit for cultivation. These deserts are waterless lands, without rivers, creeks, rivulets or springs. Once away from the Nile the supply of water is from deep wells, low, sandy and far apart, and the Nile itself has no tributary or affluent for fifteen hundred miles above Cairo, which is 100 miles from the Mediterranean. The distance of six hundred miles where there is never rain. Further south there is a rainy season, from May or June till August, which, in place where a clay substratum prevents the water from sinking too deep, like magic covers the parched and naked earth with luxuriant vegetation, affording abundant pasture for a portion of the year. But all through the Soudan there is a scarcity of water, except from the Nile. Even at El Obed, a city about 400 miles west of Khartoum, and the present headquarters and centre of the power of the Mahdi, with the main body of the British troops, there is a scarcity of water, and has been sold for half a dollar a gallon by the owner of the wells not dried up. There is a freshet or rising of the waters of the Nile every year, commencing late in June in Egypt, reaching its greatest height in September, and subsiding in November. At Cairo, when there is no freshet the Nile is navigable for vessels of about thirty tons, and the rise of the water is sometimes thirty feet. When there is an insufficient overflow harvests fail and there is a famine, and even in the Soudan a greater part of the flocks and herds perish. The caravans of the trade cross the narrowest parts of the deserts and it is only the camels which render the passage possible at all. They live upon almost nothing, their broad soft feet enable them to travel on the sand and they exist for five days without water during the fiercest heat of summer and much longer at other seasons. The wells in the deserts are rarely more than five days travel apart. Thus, from Khartoum, where General Wolseley and fifty miles—there are three places where water may be obtained in limited quantities, namely, Hambock, Gakka, and Kien. It was on this track that General Stewart advanced and at Abu Kien he was attacked by and defeated the Arabs, and received his death wound. He then marched to the Nile, near Metemneh, where the troops were entrenched. General Earle, then in command, assaulted Metemneh, which was fortified, and was killed while advancing at the head of his troops. General Buller, who then took command, on hearing of the fall of Metemneh, retreated to Abu Kien, where he was attacked. He there entrenched himself, sending urgent despatches to General Wolseley for assistance, to prevent his being overwhelmed by the masses which the Mahdi was bringing against him. The scarcity of water here is so great that a party of cavalry was compelled to charge the Arab forces surrounding them to get to the Nile for water, which they brought back to the troops exhausted and sinking with thirst. The almost insuperable difficulty with which the British have to contend is the scarcity of water, without which neither they nor their horses could subsist. In this is marked contrast presented between the English and Arabs. The latter from being accustomed to the scarcity of water rarely use more than a pint a day, while the English require a much greater quantity. The only ways of reaching the Soudan are the Nile Route, from Suakin on the Red Sea, or through Abyssinia—all these are difficult routes, but reaching the Soudan, the excessive heat there and the diseases accompanying it fatal to Europeans, are the worst enemies the English have to encounter, although the Mahdi soldiers have proved themselves brave and fearless men.

—Mr. P. S. Poirier has been appointed Senator in place of the late Senator Muirhead, of Northumberland. Mr. Poirier is a native of Shediac, was educated at St. Joseph's College, Memramcook; was appointed Post-master of the Commons, Ottawa, about thirteen years ago, which position he has held up to the present time; studied law in Montreal and was admitted to the bar about four years ago. He wrote and published a book entitled "L'histoire de l'Acadie," a few years ago, for which he deserves much credit, and as a writer and public speaker he has but few superiors in the Dominion. We congratulate Mr. Poirier upon his appointment to the senatorship, and upon the high reputation which he has acquired while yet so young.

THE JUDGESHIP.

Mr. Landry's claim for the vacant Judgeship was a national, rather than a personal one—based on the fact that the Acadian people, forming a large portion of the population, have not yet possessed a representative in the tribunal of the country—and as such the Post heartily supported his claim. As, however, there is no probability at present of the Dominion Government taking a new departure in the way of bestowing a judicial appointment on the claims of race, Mr. Landry has, we learn from Ottawa, waived his personal claims for the position in favor of Mr. Hanington. Mr. Landry, it seems, was not anxious for the position, anyway. He is yet a young man, with a safe constituency, the leader of the Acadian people, and may therefore confidently look forward to political advancement in the future. He was anxious to put on record the claims of the Acadian people. He is, we consider, wise in reconsidering his determination of abandoning politics.

Mr. Hanington's claim to the vacant place is now unquestionably superior to that of any other candidate. His legal abilities are of a high order; for years he has been a leading figure at the Bar of the Province. He is above any other candidate. The Government, of which he was a member was formed on Dominion issues, when it could be well strengthened itself by the aid of the late lamented Dr. Elder and perhaps have survived. It has been contended it was sacrificed for Dominion purposes; whether or not, Mr. Hanington has been a zealous and active member of the Conservative party. The time has now come when Westmorland and the adjacent counties can dispute with St. John the self-aggrandizement of the latter. The population, industrial development, and growing wealth and importance of the eastern part of New Brunswick, out-rivaling St. John, are such as to destroy the assumption that all the legal talent of the Province is concentrated at that city, and yet with the exception of two appointments made by the late Governor, the Province has half a century, St. John has monopolized all vacant places on the Bench. The late Judge William Botsford was the only appointment made in these counties. We admit that legal merit is the first test; after that point is secured, the claim of locality ought not to be ignored. The public interests are better subserved by a resident judge in localities where trade and business are large and consequently the legal business is more important than elsewhere. It is in the interest of the Province that the litigation arises. For these reasons, we trust the Government will not pass over the claims of a Westmorland lawyer to-wit: Mr. Hanington.

Motion of Censure.

In the Commons on Monday Sir Stafford Northcote, in the presence of a full house, moved that the humble address of which he gave notice on Thursday be presented to the Queen censuring the Government for the course pursued in regard to Egypt and Soudan. The Government has been compelled to change entirely the military position assumed last year, having failed to attain the objects desired. The result was a withdrawal of the troops, and the advisers of the crown conducted matters. Unless a complete and entire change takes place in the spirit of the government it will still be our lot to fight in whatever we may be called upon to do. The voice of uncertainty which proceeded from the councils of her majesty have derived the expedition of half its strength. Success is impossible unless the government distinctly laid down what it is fighting for and declared its determination to obtain that object. The ministers had hitherto implied that the great object was to make the stay of troops in Egypt as short as possible. Nothing was more dangerous to the interests of England than such a declaration. The speaker quoted from Gordon's message on April 16th: "If troops are not sent it will leave upon the government the indelible disgrace of abandoning the enterprise." In this is marked contrast presented between the English and Arabs. The latter from being accustomed to the scarcity of water rarely use more than a pint a day, while the English require a much greater quantity. The only ways of reaching the Soudan are the Nile Route, from Suakin on the Red Sea, or through Abyssinia—all these are difficult routes, but reaching the Soudan, the excessive heat there and the diseases accompanying it fatal to Europeans, are the worst enemies the English have to encounter, although the Mahdi soldiers have proved themselves brave and fearless men.

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SESSIONAL NOTES.

Sir Leonard Tilley hopes to be able to make his financial statement to-morrow.

The intention of the Government in reference to the changes in the duty on imported corn, meal and flour will be made known when the Budget is brought down.

On Thursday a motion for the second reading of the bill to limit the appellate jurisdiction of the Supreme Court of Canada was lost by a vote of 175 to 84. There was a long discussion on the subject and the feeling of the House was strongly in favor of retaining the Supreme Court with all its powers as at present.

Mr. Robertson's bill declaring it was a misdemeanor to leave unguarded holes in the ice on frequent or navigable rivers was discussed in committee and allowed to stand over for further consideration.

Delegates are pouring in from all quarters, and the members of the Government, and especially the Finance Minister, are fairly deluged with them. A deputation from Toronto wants crucible steel placed on the free list, while another, in the interest of the iron and steel industry, is seeking for more protection. Maritime interests are looked after by another deputation, the object sought being a better inspection of fish. Applications were also made for a better provision for the public service to be made as liberal as the finances of the Province will warrant. The reply to the Speech was moved by Mr. T. R. Black, of Amherst, and seconded by Dr. Haley, of Windsor.

Personal and Political.

The Pope is reported to be seriously ill.

—The Prince of Wales intends to visit Ireland shortly.

—The death of Herbert Stewart died on the 16th inst., at Gaskill, from wounds received in his last battle.

—The wife of James Russell Lowell, American Minister to the Court of St. James, died in London last week.

—E. Bigelow, Sons & Co., ship-builders and owners, of Canby, N. S., have assigned. Liabilities \$50,000; nominal assets \$75,000.

—The County Judge of Acadia College, died very suddenly at Montreal last week.

—It is thought that Dr. Walsh, President of Maynooth College, will succeed General MacGibbin. He is a prominent nationalist and a well-known author.

—Dr. McIntyre, M. P., who was reported in a dying condition last week, is recovering. His wife died on the 16th inst.

—Victor Hugo will celebrate his eighty-third birthday to-day, and pretty much all the authors, actors, editors, and journalists of Paris have indicated an intention of taking a hand in.

—County Judge Stewart Campbell died at Guysboro on Friday, aged seventy-two years. He was for many years a member of the Nova Scotia Legislature, and was for a time leader of the anti-Confederate party in that Province.

—Rev. I. E. Bill, D. D., of St. Martins, celebrated the 80th anniversary of his birth last Thursday. He has been fifty-seven years in the ministry and has been pastor of the Baptist Church at St. Martins during the last ten years.

—A number of despatches from Gen. Gordon to the government were published in London on Monday. Writing on Nov. 4th, Gen. Gordon declines to agree with the home authorities that the expedition under Lord Wolseley was for the purpose of rescuing him, but it was, he says, designed to rescue the British flag.

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Nova Scotia Legislature.

The Legislature of Nova Scotia was opened in due form on Thursday by Lieut. Governor Richey.

The speech from the throne is a somewhat lengthy document, and provides ample employment for the session. It refers to the better terms of delegation to Ottawa, and regrets that the decision of the Federal Government is not yet given, but expresses a hope that such decision will be given at an early day. Reference is also made to negotiations for the completion of the railway between Annapolis and Digby, and it is stated that the negotiations are approaching completion, with prospects of a favorable issue.

Members are promised for the extension of the franchise, for the amendment of the education act, for the readjustment of the royalties on copyrights, and the right side, and the provision for the public service to be made as