

The Suspension Bridge Free.

During the many years that the different Counties of the Province to her north, east and west have been clamoring for appropriations for expensive bridges, Saint John has been as quiet as the most economical legislator could desire, and session after session has grants been made for high roads and by-roads in other parts of the country, while the great mercantile center, wherein the people from all the other counties meet and transact the bulk of their business, has scarcely been able to beg a paltry \$1,000 for the single highway connecting her with King's and the eastern sections of the Province. In consideration therefore, of the modesty which she has exhibited and of the limited support which has been extended to her in this connection, we think that we may, with perfect propriety, on her behalf, ask a trifle for a good object, the nature of which we shall explain.

In the first place, however, we have to state a limited number of propositions, which we desire any opponents to our project, if such there be, to weigh carefully, for through them we arrive at the main corollary upon which we rely. We would begin, by quoting the true maxim of Commerce, that Trade always seeks the shortest channels of communication. As time and money, in busy districts, are really synonyms, we think we may safely state that Trade desires not only the shortest but the cheapest channels of communication; and, to conclude the statement of our premises, we risk the assertion that a means of transit, which exacts they pay in it of even two or three cents, is more expensive to the person or to the owner, the article in transit than that which costs him nothing. Reference to the very diminutive modus may very probably suggest to shrewd guessers the subject of our present remarks; and, as we have to wish to treat the matter vaguely, we would observe that we refer to the Suspension Bridge over the Falls at St. John, and the project which we would again suggest for public consideration is that the Province should buy the bridge and make it free.

A number of reasons may be urged in support of our proposal, but we shall content ourselves with stating only the most prominent. The fact that the City proper is cramped in area and confined to narrow limits on two sides by unbridged water, is of itself a strong argument in favor of free communication with the accessible vicinage. Add to this the additional facts that to the westward of the Suspension Bridge are excellent building sites, and at a short distance in the same district tracts of land well adapted both for dairy farms and market gardens, capable of aiding largely the supply of milk and vegetables for the City; that charming drives, accessible to the slowest of family horses, are contiguous to Carleton proper, and that our citizens are to a great extent deprived of opportunities for erecting houses, obtaining farm and garden products, and visiting the pure country air through the imposition of a toll. We may also argue, that as the Railway Company has a complete and virtually perpetual monopoly of the Ferries, it is most desirable that the Bridge should be free, and thereby give the Straight Shore route the advantage in the competition for traffic, and prevent those inconveniences, defects, and neglects which the Company, confident of its superior position, might otherwise permit.

We have called attention to the large expenditure for bridges in other parts of the Province, and we may also remark that these costly bridges are crossed by travelers without their being subjected to payment of toll; and, if indeed all other reasons failed, we might refer to the terrible amount of profanity which might be met during cold winter, blustering spring or fall, and rainy weather is generated at the Suspension Bridge by travelers compelled to knock up the toll-man and to unbuckle over coats for change. The imposition of small tolls or taxes, which we are perpetually called upon to pay, is of itself disagreeable and has in this and similar instances the effect of making us avoid the disagreeability if possible; and although some things may be both disagreeable and useful, we do not think it either fair or necessary to raise up barriers between the City folks and their Carleton neighbors.

As it is now, the impost at the Ferry and at the Bridge serve just as much to keep the eastern and western sections of the harbor apart as did formerly a dissimilar currency serve to separate Nova Scotia from our own Province.

We premise of course that the Bridge Company would consent to a transfer of its rights, and we trust that it would be willing to do so on reasonable terms; for of course we cannot afford to purchase at any fancy figure, and the Province, at present, is not in a pecuniary position to enable any Corporation to perpetuate a job transaction of the old style. We urge this matter upon the attention of our public men, in confidence that they will at least turn the matter over in their minds; and we would suggest to our fellow-citizens, Messrs. McCord

and Fyfe, and other enterprising but hostile gentlemen; on the Eastern and Western sides, the property of their smoking a peace pipe over this undertaking and uniting all their energies to secure its passage.

Audacity.

The Halifax Citizen, a prominent organ of the Government of Nova Scotia, appears to be greatly alarmed lest the Dominion Parliament should be led to believe that Nova Scotia favors the Treaty of Washington. It demands that the utterances of the Nova Scotia Press shall be accepted as expressing the public opinion of Nova Scotia, and it charges the Dominion Government with a desire to misrepresent them. It says—

It seems to be their intention to initiate the attempt by the imposition of so barefaced and impudent a falsehood, as that our people are ready to accept, of the provisions of the Treaty, and thank the Dominion Government for giving them its sanction.

And again it remarks—

If they do they will find that the dissemination of such statements as we have here referred to, in reference to the state of opinion in this Province on the Treaty question, is doing vast injury to the country and deserving the Dominion Government. Let our rulers know the truth and then let us see whether they will do us any good.

When they do we shall know how to deal with them.

Scientific interests indeed! Is this not the spokesman of the same government that refused to co-operate with the Government and Legislature of New Brunswick in protesting against the Treaty?

Why, it is not the spokesman of the government with ordinary civility? It was publicly announced that representatives of New Brunswick were about to visit the Government of Nova Scotia, the members of the new Cabinet Government having been "skiddled" from Halifax that they might have the wretched excuse of "no quorum" for abandoning the important interests of their constituents which they now so hypocritically pretend they have been serving very zealously. If there were no other charge than this to be preferred against the present Administration in that Province, it alone should render them for ever infamous.

It is to be noted that the leaders of that Government were as anxious to propitiate Sir John A. Macdonald some months ago, when they believed him strong, or they are now to curry favor with the British Government, when they are rising. It is scarcely three months since the question uppermost in the minds of several of those gentlemen was, which of us is to be the first lucky deserter to the Macdonald Government. They are well worth watching, if they are bound to "rat." If only Dr. Tupper would be kind enough to step aside for a time, there would be such a rush of "patriots" towards the vacant seat in the Privy Council as would astonish those unappreciated Nova Scotia editors who are still boundlessly fed on Boncombe.

MATTERS IN GENERAL.

The "Fainting Female" Again.

(From the Philadelphia Star.)

The fainting female is about again. She arrived from the West early last week. With her she brought an interesting girl, only twelve years of age, who she had educated in the art of roguery. Since her advent, the fainting creature has fallen a dozen times in agonizing fits, and has as many times been carried into drug stores, and carefully provided for and brought to the last time she fell was a failure. This occurred in the neighborhood of Third and Brown streets.

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Isabella of the Jockey Club, aggluing her best to make the public forget her forty years. One gentleman was surprised to encounter his wife in domino, and seating her by the shoulder thrust her down stairs. There was but little life after all in the spectacle; some persons, however, seem to have made frantic efforts in the concert to outdo her, and were either expelled or conducted to the back-up. There was but little riot or repartee in circulation, and two "ladies" in white masks created the greatest sensation by never replying to the jests and jeers of which they were the butt. The number of Psyche, Cupid, Ariadne, &c., that begged you would invite them to a supper was never so great. Strauss discoursed most excellent music, and his two new quadrilles were his theme of admiration.

A Wild Man.

One of the "wild men of the woods," of whose extraordinary exploits we have heard so many different versions, was recently killed in Livermore Valley, California, while in the act of leveling a Henry rifle at the head of a ranchman named Muller. The wild man had been in the habit of hanging unprovoked visits to the base of Mount Diablo, as it was supposed, for the purpose of taking the life of Muller, for whom he had conceived a deadly hatred. In a moment of passion he had betrayed his intention to a negro who was in the employ of Muller. The matter was then brought to the notice of the County Sheriff, but he did not look upon the case as one of much importance. However, he succeeded in procuring a pair of handcuffs, which he fastened upon the wrists of the wild man, and he was then brought to the notice of the Sheriff, but he did not look upon the case as one of much importance.

LOCALS.

Institute Lecture To-night.

Rev. William Wilson will lecture this evening on "An Hour with Infidels, Ancient and Modern." Mr. Wilson is a lecturer of ability.

The Y. M. C. A. Building Society.

We insert the following extract from the minutes of the Managing Committee of the Y. M. C. A. Association for the information of subscribers to the Building Fund:—

Resolved, That the first payment of the amounts subscribed to the Building Fund shall be payable in this present month of January, and the following payments in the succeeding January of each year."

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The fourth lecture in the course of Public Temperance Lectures will be delivered in the Temperance Hall, King street, to-morrow (Tuesday) evening by Rev. George M. Armstrong. The lecture is one of rare excellence. Chair taken at 8. An early and secure seat. Collection to defray expenses.

Steamer "Empress."

The snow storm Tuesday delayed the "Empress" from making her regular trip across the Bay. A large number of passengers were obliged to wait until this morning, when the boat left at eight o'clock.

Slighting Parties.

Every night this week Claremont House, Torryburn, will be occupied by pleasure parties, if the present good sleighing continues. Live and well as the sleighing and the amusement seeking public will reciprocate beneficially the coming moonlight nights.

Theatricals in Carleton.

The "Fleming Musical Theatre" troupe will play in Carleton to-night, at the City Hall, as the regular lecture to night at the Institute occupies that Institution. If it is any endorsement for the Carletonians, we may say that the troupe has drawn good audiences during their playing on this side.

Rev. Mr. Houston on the Carnival.

Our reporter strolled into the Mechanics' Institute yesterday afternoon, and was surprised to find Calvin Church congregation had swelled up to about 1,000 persons. With the exception of the "wakeup," the Hall was full. The Pastor, Rev. Mr. Houston, delivered a powerful, and, in many respects, a most original lecture on a portion of the life of Jacob. The Rev. gentleman is not favorably inclined towards the Skating Carnival, and there could almost be seen a shade of disappointment on the countenances of some of the congregation, as he denounced the fair in no measured terms. It is very evident that the good Pastor will not present a "character" on the occasion.

Board of Trade.

Among the resolutions passed by the Dominion Board of Trade on Saturday was one recommending the Government to appoint a Resident Commercial Agent at Washington, to assist in the settlement of Commercial disputes. This, we take it, means an official lobbyist. Another resolution passed was, on motion of Mr. Barton, of St. John, recommending the Government to construct a breakwater at Richibucto. This is a proper step; although it seems rather humiliating to be obliged to admit that the representatives of Kent County in Parliament are not sufficiently influential to secure the erection of a small breakwater without the intervention of the Dominion Board of Trade. It is greatly to be regretted that such a course has been rendered necessary in this instance, as the Board, no doubt, will be called on frequently hereafter to use its good offices for similar minor public works. Nothing better, however, can be done in the case of Kent until after the next election. The present M. P., Mr. Renaud, has had his independence sadly smothered, first by accepting a purse from members of the Dominion Government, who sympathized deeply with the interests of the "black-bait" saw mill, and, secondly, through being interested in a contract on the Intercolonial Railway.

We have to thank the St. Croix Courier for a copy of its Calendar for 1872. It is printed in the usual style which characterizes all the work turned out at that establishment.

A new Patented Stove.

The "Intercolonial" is a new Self Feeding Stove for burning Soft Coal and consuming the smoke. Mr. John Warren, of Montreal is the inventor. It has been tested in every way and highly spoken of by Montreal papers. Mr. Warren has one set up at Barnes's Hotel for inspection, and will explain its workings during this week. The stove and the appearance of an ordinary self feeding stove, but differs in the construction of the cylinders from the self feeding stoves used for burning Hard Coal. The stove is fed at the top and the magazines are double, one of which rotates, causing the coal to fall evenly on the fire. The air passage between the magazines is for the double purpose of effecting the combustion of the gases and preventing the cylinders from burning out. It consumes about seventy-five pounds of soft coal or slack in twenty-four hours. The stove is provided with a double draft and ventilator. A Joint Stock Company is being organized in Montreal for its manufacture, and an agency will be opened in St. John. Merchants Exchange.

The following despatches were received at the Exchange to-day:—

Montreal, Jan 21st.—Flour at Liverpool 2s. 3d. Red Wheat 11s. a 11s. 7d. New York flour market dull, in buyers favor. Common to Choice Extra State, \$0.45 a \$7.35.

Port steady—\$14.35 a \$14.37 new; \$13.12, 50 cts.

Grain freights unchanged.

Montreal flour market dull.—Western State and Welland Canal nominal.

New York, Jan. 22nd.—Gold opened at 91.48.

Great Court.

On last Wednesday Firth vs McLeod commenced. On Saturday Captain Firth finished his evidence. This morning Mr. Firth was on the stand. The jury appear to have come to the conclusion that the defendant is never end, and the bench but have assumed a look of satisfied placidity.

Jack McGuire.

An urethra enquired at our sacrotum on Saturday afternoon for Jack McGuire's health. We referred him to our legal-aiding neighbors Messrs. Jack and McGuire.

The County Court.

The County Court opens to-morrow morning at 11 o'clock, in the City Court Room, Judge Watts presiding. The following are the criminal cases to be tried:—

Kane and Damery, the butchers, whose slaughter houses were indicted some time ago; Stackhouse, for cutting lumber off property of Rev. Mr. Banting; Vias and Callahan, for picking pockets at the race last August; and Isaacs, for shooting Whittman.

The Carpenter Estate.

Since the meeting of the Carpenter family in this City, the pay rolls, the sick lists and everything else with a neatness, correctness and care which enable him to retain a hold, which, as long as they allow him to do, the society may rest assured he will keep them about even with the mill owners and storekeepers, if not a little more so. Mr. O'Connell told us that the principal reason the society was failed was only to have an agreement and to work up to it. Previously the men would be engaged at certain wages, and perhaps he not paid for months afterwards; in the meantime wages would fall perhaps one half. Many of the men were old and weak, and the diminished rate. That's all done away with now. Men are paid every Saturday night, and all are better satisfied.

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PERSONAL.

John Walter Campbell, brother of the Marquis of Lorne, is visiting Montreal, and is expected to spend some time in Ottawa.

Periodicals worth Reading.

The "Young Ladies' Journal" has been published in England and elsewhere it is known, through the elaborate fashion plates and numerous patterns and devices which it supplies, and which ladies, of every age, so highly prize. The January number contains the opening chapters of two new Novels, "Duke Gwynne's Daughters," and "My Lady," both intensely interesting; and continuations of several others, not less brilliant and exciting.

TEMPERANCE.

It is enforced to great extent as the officers can do so. There are a few of the members who drink but their number is small. All the officers are temperate men. Mr. O'Connell said with ardent pride. He remarked:—"Over two dozen members have received from \$100 to \$500 so far for SICK ALLOWANCES.

From June 1st, 1866, to 14th August, 1871, we paid for sick, disabled, and burials, \$10,000. During that time all other expenses, including salary of Secretary and rent of hall, amounted to \$4,500. Our rules and regulations are copied from our other Society. All denominations are members; persons of any religion may join us; but we are no branch of Communists or Internationalists, though we don't dislike them. The clergy have never helped us or interfered with us. We have our rights; less time, and no mistake, though we don't abuse them.

THE STEVEDORES.

tried to break us up once, but it didn't amount to much. There was a row last year. A few young fellows got it up. Liquor was the cause of that row. That was the only one, and its consequences. We hold monthly meetings in Paddock's building. All are supposed to attend those meetings. Every measure has to be voted on, and the officers rarely seek to initiate a measure. We are perfectly sure the Society has helped the morals of the place and the men. Every week visitations of the sick are made, reported on, and allowances made."

A LONDON LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

WOUND UP.—Cable advice have just been received that the London Life Assurance Society will be wound up. The New York Life Insurance Company having after a careful investigation, declined to assume any of its risks, except those who could pass a satisfactory medical examination.

The Laborers' Benevolent Society.

Any one who has witnessed, during the last four years, the long processions of respectably dressed men who, at times, turn out to attend funerals, may have an interest in the workings of a Society who labor in the cause of benevolence, and a desire to know something of the organization. The Laborer's Benevolent Society was organized in June, 1865. The executive members are a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and a Committee of Management of twelve members. There are no salaries offered; the Secretary, who receives an allowance for his work, which is the keeping in order the discordant element of from 600 to a 1,000 men. The officers are:—

James Buckley, President. Florence O'Keefe, Sr. Vice President. John Collins, Jr. Vice President. John Collins, Treasurer. John O'Connell, Secretary.

The Committee of Management are:—John Money, Thomas McGuigan, John Collins, Jr., Edward Callahan, William Thomson, George Carlin, Jr., John Cunningham, Martin Harding.

The duties of the Committee are general, embracing the settlement of quarrels between the men and their employers, visiting the sick and all other questions concerning the society. Two members of the committee each take a month visiting the sick; one of the others, either President, Vice or Secretary, takes six weeks of terms and visits the sick weekly. These must be qualified members and on the list as paying their dues, which are twenty five cents a month. There are now about 600 men on the list.

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reading room, the physical wants of the body having as yet precedence. But the Society is constantly improving, as the Secretary forcibly said; the young men are getting more ambitious every day; and what they do with an aim and purpose.

We have endeavored to give an idea of the workings of this Society whose aims and objects every ship that comes into our harbor feels, and the influence it exercises on the greatest of all our interests in this port, that of the lumber and shipping.

Too Good to Last.

Numerous admirers of Isaac Walton, albeit Isaac probably never fished through a hole in a foot square, on a moonlight night, in the dead of winter,—have been indulging their propensity for Bass at Red Bank on the Miramichi River. A "North West" correspondent of the Union Advertiser, sensational paper, holding forth at Newcastle,—remarks calmly:—

"They have now been at work five or six nights, with increasing success, only work being done on some nights, and raining from five to fifty dollars per man. Many small boys make from five to twenty dollars a week or a month. The Bass weigh from two to twenty pounds, and realized each on the spot. One man went home this morning with about fifty dollars for his night's work. Now, young men, talk of your cutting pine logs in the Valley of Allagans or running on operation drives on the Susquehanna, but beat this if you can."

If this would only last "all the year round," every day would probably be Friday in the fishy North—or, rather, North West.

Spicy but Incredible.