PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

Notes of a Visit to the Little Province in the Sea.

ITS CLIMATE, INDUSTRIES, AND HISTORY.

Lobster Fishing — The Great Mackerel Catches—Physical Features, &c.

From a Correspondent.

UXBRIDGE, Oct. 26.—Perhaps there is no part of Canada of which we in Ontario know so little as of Prince Edward Island. Completely cut off from its sister provinces by the waters of the Gulf St. Lawrence and Northumberland strait, quite out of any of the great lines of travel, and possessing no large manufacturing or industrial centres, it attracts comparatively little of our attention or notice. The amount of information respecting it to be found in books of geography or travel is but scant; few and far between are newspaper references to it; while of the news items which *do* find their way into the columns of our journals, some contain information surprising to the islanders themselves, as, for instance, when they read in a Toronto daily a paragraph to the effect that "the Colorado beetle has done much damage this year in Prince Edward Island." For the edification of your readers I may here note that that destructive insect has not as yet made its appearance there.

THE ISLAND'S HISTORY.

During the season of navigation the Island can be conveniently reached by means of a Q. and G. P. steamer, or by the Intercolonial railway, via Point Du Chene. Perhaps, however, before considering the island in its physical aspect, a rough sketch of its history may not prove uninteresting. It originally bore the name of St. John, and was, together with Cape Breton, surrendered by the French to the British on the fall of Louisburg in 1758, but was not formally ceded until the treaty of Fontainebleau in 1763. Two years later it was surveyed, and divided into sixty-seven districts, consisting of about 20,000 acres each. The number of applicants for land was so large that, to avoid the trouble of considering the relative claims of each, the Government resorted to the expedient of a sort of lottery, by which the whole Island was ballotted away to favourites of the Crown; hence the name "lots," which has ever since been applied to the sixty-seven districts of the Island. In 1770 it was constituted a separate province, (having been previously united to Nova Scotia) and its first legislature met in 1773. During the American war of Independence a singular circumstance happened in connection with the Island. During the absence of Governor Patterson, Attorney-General Calbeck administered the Government. A few American privateers, foiled in their attempt to intercept some English supply ships, attacked Charlottetown, then wholly unprotected, and carried off Calbeck and his Surveyor-General, Mr. Wright, to the headquarters of the American army; when, however, Washington immediately released them. About the year 1800 the name of the province was changed from St. John to Prince Edward Island, after the father of our beloved Queen. The year 1823 was marked by the appearance of the first Island newspaper, the *Prince Edward Register*, and the 21st of November, 1852, witnessed the successful laying of the telegraph cable between Cape Tormentine in New Brunswick and Cape Traverse in Prince Edward Island. There is only one more historical fact to notice, and that a most important one, namely, the incorporation of Prince Edward Island, as one of the provinces which compose the Dominion. This happy event, though some of the Islanders do not regard it as such, took place on July 1st, 1873, on which date the history of the Island as a separate colony of Great Britain ceases. Having thus briefly glanced at the principal historical events in connection with it, I shall now attempt to give some description of the Island as it appeared to the writer in 1880.

ITS PHYSICAL FEATURES.

When approaching it the first peculiarity which attracts notice is the dull redness of the coast, and indeed, as we find on further investigation, this colour characterizes the ground in every part of the Island. Whether rock, sand, or clay is presented to the gaze, it is sure to be red. The Island, which is about 130 miles in length, with an average breadth of 18, is divided into three counties, and into 67 lots, and possesses only three towns of any importance, viz., Charlottetown, Summerside, and Georgetown. These three places, though differing in size, present to the tourist a close resemblance. The buildings (as also in the country districts) are almost all constructed of wood, and perhaps because the supply of this material is now almost exhausted, great economy has evidently been resorted to in their construction, and consequently the majority have a small and shabby appearance, which the general absence of verandahs tends to render the more noticeable. The red sandstone of the Island is also employed for building purposes, but except when found in certain localities, is far too soft to be of much use, while brick is but rarely seen. Charlottetown, being the seat of the Provincial Legislature, possesses the government buildings, which are of stone; but, with the exception of these, there seem to be no edifices worthy of notice. Very few large manufacturing establishments are seen, and altogether a transient visitor might receive the impression that the city resembled a village in Ontario on a large scale. The population is said to be about 12,000.

Summerside, the next place of any importance, is a small town, of recent growth, and has but few objects of interest to the traveller's eye. In both Charlottetown and Summerside one point cannot escape the notice of tourists, viz., the poor accommodation offered by the hotels, as compared with that afforded by houses of public entertainment in towns of similar size in our own province. Perhaps the short duration of the writer's visit to these towns has led him to adhere too much to the principle *ab uno disce omnes*; but in the chief towns of an island which is attracting so many visitors during the summer season as Prince Edward, one would naturally expect to find the places of entertainment rather above than below the average standard. In justice, however, to the hotel-keeping fraternity, it is willingly stated that the hotels at the sea-bathing places are first-class in every possible respect, including rates.

FARMING AND FISHING.

The soil of the Island is light, and by no means naturally rich, but of late years it has been made wonderfully productive by the application of what is termed mussel mud. This substance is the decayed matter which is extracted from dead oyster beds, and is chiefly composed of phosphate of lime. It is dug up during winter through holes cut in the ice, and is left in heaps until spring, when it is lightly distributed over the fields. Its fertilizing properties have become universally recognized throughout the Island, and the transportation of it inland has considerably increased the traffic on the railway. By the discovery of this fertilizer a great stimulus has been given to agriculture, and now, before harvest, the traveller's delighted eye rests on rich fields of grain apparently quite as fine as in the best agricultural sections of western Ontario. The sowing is all done in the spring, owing to the severity of the winter season.

But the agricultural excellence of Prince Edward Island is perhaps surpassed by the importance of its fisheries. Each little port or harbour along the shore furnishes its quota of fishing vessels, and a large portion of the farmers have their own boats and employ their spare time in the mackerel fishery. In addition to this, large fleets of American schooners are constantly engaged in taking and salting the mackerel. The quantity of this fish taken altogether around the Island is simply incalculable; but some idea may be formed of it, when it is stated that four men in a small fishing boat will, in the course of an afternoon, catch ordinarily from 200 to 600, and occasionally up to 2,000 mackerel. Perhaps a brief reference to the manner of taking the mackerel may prove interesting to anglers. A large basket of herring, ground to a fine powder, having been placed on board, the fishermen sail along the shore, though at a considerable distance from it, until birds called "gannets" are noticed on the surface of the water. These birds (a species of seafowl) feed on mackerel, and when even two or three are seen together it is considered as an almost sure indication of the presence of this fish. The boat is then anchored, and a quantity of the ground herring mixed with water is thrown overboard to attract the mackerel. The lines are then let down, the hooks being slightly baited with small slices of mackerel, with the barbs, however, quite uncovered. If a good school is attracted the fish are pulled in with astonishing rapidity, each fisherman using at least two lines, which are fastened to knobs on the side of the boat. The enjoyment of this pastime is much enhanced from the fact that the hooks require baiting only three or four times in the course of an afternoon.

THE LOBSTER.

Another industry which is carried on to an enormous extent in the Island is the lobster fishery. Almost every little village on the coast possesses its lobster factories; in addition to which the occupation is engaged in by many private individuals along the shores. The lobsters when canned are exported to the United States and to the other provinces, and it is expected that the value of this exportation during 1880 will reach the enormous sum of one million dollars. Oysters are also found in considerable quantities here and there along the shore, but are not as yet canned in the Island. Large quantities in the shell are, however, exported to Boston. Indeed, a large proportion of the trade of Prince Edward Island seems to be carried on with the latter city. In return for the large exports which it makes in fish, the Island imports almost every species, perhaps, of manufactured goods. Even lobster-cans and fish barrels, articles for which there is a great and increasing demand, are only in part manufactured on the Island, the remaining portion being obtained chiefly from Nova Scotia. Until lately it would appear that the importations were made almost altogether from Boston, but since the adoption of that great national remedy, a protective tariff, Ontario, among the other provinces, has been contributing her share, and now reaping and mowing machines, horse rakes, and other agricultural implements, are seen everywhere, and we are informed by a prominent Toronto manufacturing firm that they have been lately making large shipments of mill machinery to the Island.

THE CLIMATE.

In consequence of the very meagre supply of wood at present, coal is principally used for fuel, and owing to their proximity to the Nova Scotia mines, the Islanders obtain this article at very cheap rates. But I must not forget to notice a feature of the Island which is especially deserving of mention—its climate. During the summer months the air is far milder and more balmy than we ever experience it in Ontario; fogs are unknown; and the temperature is very moderate and unvarying, while in every part of the Island one cannot but feel the invigorating influence of the fresh sea breezes. During the winter months, however, intense and steady cold prevails, and snow falls frequently to the depth of five feet. Previous to Confederation the only means of transit between the Island and the mainland was by means of small ice-boats, on which the mails were conveyed, but now the Northern Light, a Government steamer specially adapted for the purpose, makes regular trips after the closing of navigation. But our sojourn in the Island was made in summer, when the bright side of the picture alone was presented, and the delightful climate of the province, the gently rolling land with its rich fields of waving grain, the primitive simplicity and straightforwardness of its inhabitants, and many other pleasing characteristics, have left upon us impressions not easily effaced.

J. C. D.

A CHAPTER OF ACCIDENTS.

ST. PAUL, Oct. 22.—A family of emigrants, consisting of a man and two women, were found frozen to death six miles from Springfield, the effect of camping out in the late storm.

ST. JOHN, N.B., Oct. 22.—A sad drowning accident occurred on the night of Saturday, the 9th inst., the victim of which was Wm. St. Croix, a resident of Droke, a small fishing village near Trepassy. Two men, St. Croix and Mulloy, walked down on the wharf of P. & L. Tesier about 9.30 o'clock on Saturday night. They were unperceived by the watchman, whose attention was first drawn to them by hearing a loud splash in the water. The two men had got overboard. Mulloy succeeded in grappling one of the wharf posts and held it till he was rescued. A man named Chauker jumped into a punt to attempt to save St. Croix, but the latter had disappeared. About three-quarters of an hour subsequently he was jigged off bottom by a lad named Grant. Dr. Harvey had by this time arrived on the scene, but all medical application failed to have any restorative effect and the deceased was conveyed to the morgue. He was a married man about thirty-five years of age, and leaves a wife and children.

HALIFAX, Oct. 22.—On Thursday night last a fearful tragedy took place at Tizzard's Harbour, Newfoundland, resulting in the death of a man named Pierce Cantwell, at the hands of his brother, Nicholas Cantwell. It appears that a fish flake belonging to Cantwell has been for some days past pestered with dogs, who destroyed a quantity of fish. On the evening mentioned Nicholas Cantwell observed what he thought to be a dog prowling over the flake, it being dark and rainy at the time. He immediately got his gun and fired, but, on approaching the spot, he was horrified to discover that he had shot and killed his own brother.

PORT HOPE, Oct. 25.—The wife of the Rev. George Richardson, formerly pastor of the Baptist church of this town, who has recently returned from Texas with his family, was suddenly taken with a fit of apoplexy on Friday last, and remained insensible until she died, about half-past twelve this morning.

COLLINGWOOD, Oct. 25.—Charles Collins, only son of Captain George Collins, lighthouse keeper here, was drowned to-night. Collins and a man named Bohad were on their way from Thornbury trolling this afternoon, when Collins, who was in the stern of the boat, stood up for some purpose and fell backwards into the water. Before the boat could be turned Collins had sunk. He leaves a wife and several small children.

BERLIN, Oct. 25.—Yesterday afternoon, in the stone quarry of N. Uebelhoere, three miles east of here, a derrick used for lifting the stone fell, striking a man named Peter Hill, and injuring him so seriously that he died last night. The deceased was unmarried.

LONDON, Oct. 25.—On Wednesday last, while a young man named Richardson, aged twenty-four, living a few miles distant from Port Elgin, was feeding a threshing-mill, his arm was drawn in and almost torn from his body, causing death within an hour.

The Biddulph Prisoners.

LONDON, Oct. 21.—The petition asking for the release of the Biddulph prisoners on bail is being largely signed. The petition sets forth that one of the number has had a fair and impartial trial, resulting in seven jurors for acquittal, four for conviction, and one undecided; that these men have now been eight months in gaol and their families are suffering in consequence, and their farms going to ruin, and they have never attempted to evade the course of the law, and will be forthcoming whenever called for. They claim that to keep them in gaol until the spring assizes would be a great hardship.

Those requiring a good sewing machine equal in every respect and superior in many to machines manufactured in the United States, are requested to examine the Wanzer. It works so easily that a 5 oz. weight will turn it; possesses all the latest improvements, and is nickel-plated and finished in the latest style. Price within reach of all. Toronto office, 82 King street west.

THE AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION.

Examination of Witnesses Continued.

PROFS. BUCKLAND AND BROWN ON THE STAND.

The Agricultural Commission sat on Tuesday, Mr. Dryden, M.P.P., presiding. The first witness called was

Mr. GEORGE LESLIE, jr., who gave evidence on the subject of

FORESTRY.

On the subject of ornamental trees he said:—For purely ornamental planting I would recommend the English ash, the European weeping birch, the Scotch or native elm. The horse chestnut will not do much north of Toronto on light soil. Our native basswood is a good tree. It is coming into demand among the bee-men. The silver maple is a rapid grower. The Norway maple is a hardy maple, and good grower, with beautiful foliage, and should be known better than it is. The Lombardy poplar is a fast growing tree for shelter purposes. The Northern Railway Company have ordered a thousand Lombardy poplars to plant along their line, and for fencing purposes. In utilizing the trees for fencing purposes they use the barbed wire. The sycamore is a little tender north of here. The crimson bark willow has a very pretty effect. One of the trees that might be planted economically on waste land with a view to covering the ground is the English ash. Ten years of the English ash in any land would produce a tree that could be split in four and used for hoodles. The American elm would be a good tree for that purpose. The European larch would be good for the purpose. It makes the best railway ties, and I am surprised the railway companies do not take it up and plant it along their lines with the view of using them eventually for ties. The Norway maple could be grown for the production of wood for engravers' purposes. Black walnut, a useful tree, would have to be grown along the front of the province. The sweet chestnut does well in a warm, but poor sandy soil. The butternut is a good wood for veneering purposes. For planting on public roads for shade purposes I think the hard maple, the silver-leaved maple, the Norway maple, the native basswood, the American elm, the Scotch elm, and the English ash would do well. I think those trees would cost about twenty-five cents each. There has never been any demand for trees for forestry purposes here. I think that if forestry is to become known by the people it should commence with the school teacher or the parents, and the schools should have connected with them an arboretum, in which specimens of trees would be shown.

FRUIT TREES.

For summer apples I would recommend the growth of Early Harvest, Red Astrachan, and Keswick Codlins. For fall apples I recommend the Duchess of Oldenburg, Colvert, St. Lawrence, Gravenstein, Fall Pippins, Cayuga Red Streak, Alexander, and Fameuse. For winter apples I recommend the Baldwin, the Rhode Island Greening, the Northern Spy, the American Golden Russet, King of Tomkins County, Golden Russet, Roxbury Russet, Bambo, Yellow Bellefleur, Ribston Pippins, the Swaar, and the Swazie Pomme Grise. The hardiest would be the American Golden Russet, the Swazie Pomme Grise, and the Yellow Bellefleur. I would recommend for exportation the Swazie Pomme Grize. A barrel of these apples has brought as much as $25 in Covent Garden market. It is a pretty dessert apple. The Baldwin and Northern Spy would also be good apples. Apples are about $4 a barrel in England this year. Our apples have as good a reputation as apples can have in England. The only trouble is that the Americans get our apples and label them American, while poor American apples they may label Canadian. For years we had no market but the home market, as they are difficult to handle. The only pears we could export would be the Lawrence and the Vicar. The Clinton is a good grape for wine-making; the Delaware is also a good wine-maker, but it requires cultivation. The American varieties, including the Downey, are the best gooseberry. Black currants can be planted at about $108 an acre. The currants bring $4 a bushel, and as 50 bushels can be got from an acre the amount realised per acre would be about $300. A currant bush will bear for ten years, and longer if cultivated. The Lee's black is the best variety, and next to that comes the Black Naples.

BIRDS.

I think the cherry bird is destructive to gardens. So is the robin. I have never seen robins destroy insects; and I think they might be left out of the list of protected birds. The sparrows feed on grain, and pick up generally on the road. They live chiefly on the road. I think we could do without the sparrows. They are lively little fellows, but they drive away many of the most beautiful birds.

AGRICULTURAL ADVANCEMENT.

Prof. BUCKLAND said that if he were to attempt to give a disquisition on each of the subjects placed before him by the secretary, he would keep the Commission sitting for a week. He came to Canada in 1847, by invitation of Hon. Robert Baldwin, to be Professor of Agriculture in King's College. During the first two or three years of his life here he visited all the counties in Upper and Lower Canada. Parts which now teemed with happy homesteads were then impenetrable forests. In the county of Bruce he went through then what was known as the Queen's bush. Ten or twelve years later he passed through the same county, and found it well settled. In the east the progress had not been so rapid; but altogether there had been immense strides among our farmers, evidences of which were to be found in the clearing of lands, the laying out of farms, the fencing, etc. As an illustration of the state of agriculture thirty years ago, he might mention that in one county an evidently intelligent farmer asked him the question "What breed of cattle do you consider will best stand starvation?" The fact was that there were no pure bred cattle in that county in those days, and that the farmers found great difficulty in keeping their cattle through the winter. To-day the pure bred cattle were numerous, and there was no difficulty in keeping cattle during winter.

"Can you give us some of our defects?" asked Mr. Dymond.

"We are behind in the art of cultivating the soil," the professor observed, "while we have progressed in the matter of live stock. In some cases the soil had been reduced by constant use, and it will take a careful manuring to restore to it the power it had some years ago. A practical difficulty occurring to us to-day is to be found in the case of the ordinary thistle. Successful husbandry where the thistle has hold of the land is impossible."

"Have you formed any idea as to the best mode of getting rid of the thistle?"

"There is no royal road, I believe, but I remember the Hon. Adam Ferguson once recommended that it be cut down with a scythe when in flower, and that sulphuric acid be administered to it. (Laughter.) But generally the only way in which they can be properly eradicated is by spudding them. That is the process followed in England."

In reply to Professor Brown, the witness stated that in view of the probable cultivation of the North-West, Ontario would not always be a great grain-exporting province. Attention should therefore be paid to cattle-raising. By so doing less land could be devoted to grain cultivation, and a better and more productive system of cultivation could be followed. He would not recommend farmers to follow any stereotyped system of drainage. Regarding sub-soiling, he would say that it was necessary to know the history of the land before such a process was followed. It would be an unprofitable business to attempt to restore land which was actually exhausted—that was, if it had lost the mineral constituents necessary to the life of plants. If the exhaustion was only three or four inches deep, deeper ploughing, moderate manuring, and care not to overcrop would restore. As to the use of farm-yard manure, fully twenty-five or thirty per cent. of its power was lost by exposure and want of care. He recommended well-to-do farmers to plant shrubberies and trees. This would beautify our landscape, and add to the comfort and warmth of the houses for people and cattle. Regarding agricultural education he was glad to see that there was an institution for the providing of such an education—not merely a theoretical, but a practical education in farming. The germs of agricultural education, he thought, could be implanted in the school, around which shrubberies and gardens could be placed.

The Commission rose for recess.

AFTERNOON SITTING.

The Commission re-assembled for business at half-past two o'clock.

CLIMATIC INFLUENCES.

MOSES OATES, a weather prophet, was in the Meteorological Service stationed at Galt, but his district was principally confined to local districts. In regard to the growth of fruit, rainfall and sunshine, temperature had a greater effect than rainfall. As to grape culture, it was affected by excessive moisture. Other fruits were not so visibly affected by this. The peach and similar fruits grown in the Niagara district were affected by temperature. That district was superior in meteorological aspect to the interior. The extremes of temperature in winter in the Lake Erie district, where the grape is grown abundantly, were equally as severe as in other parts of Canada, but in the summer season there was not so much rain. In his opinion, swampy land made a material difference in the weather, and he cited such places as Dundas and Newmarket, where the temperature was lower than on high, dry lands.

Mr. DYMOND stated that the wind from Lake Ontario was prevented from approaching Newmarket by the high ridge of land to the south, and enquired if the change mentioned would not be brought about through this cause.

Mr. OATES said such an obstruction would make a change, but the temperature was a natural one. He could not satisfactorily point out the fitfulness of summer frost. Large bodies of water tended to exempt the adjacent country from the same frosts as visit the interior district. Where small lakes are shallow, there would be no perceptible difference, exhibited—there being a protection from the evaporation and other causes. A great deal depended on purely local causes, which would be a subject for agriculture. It was a well-known fact that shallow water in swamps gave forth heat, the contrary being shown with deep water.

Mr. OATES then compared the summer temperature of Ontario with many of the European countries. As far as climatic conditions were concerned, he said, there was no reason why Southern Ontario should not rival in grape growing the famed districts of the south of France. We had a longer summer, more sunshine, and greater heat. The country north of the Grand Trunk railway in the Lake Huron district showed a greater snow fall than south of it—in many places five times as much. He thought that the establishment of signal stations, and the keeping of records by intelligen farmers, would be of invaluable assistance in forecasting the weather. Before many years passed, he said, the weather bureaus would be able to forecast for coming seasons the temperature, which would be of benefit to the agriculturist. He had not made observations as to the effect of forests on the rainfall; but from readings on the subject he would incline to the opinion that the faster the forests were cleared, the smaller quantities of rain fell.

AN AGRICULTURAL EXPERT.

Prof. BROWN, of the Ontario Agricultural College, was next called. He gave the name of some half-dozen grades of spring and fall wheats grown in his district. The principal causes of failure of wheat crops were attributable to the Hessian fly, wire worm, joint worm, and the midge. Good farming would not wholly prevent the recurrence of such failures. He could not say whether the use of salt had proved to be an antidote for any of the ills mentioned, but he was instituting enquiries into the subject. The yield of wheat, he thought, was on the increase, owing to the fact of root crops and cattle raising. Forest protection in a great measure added to the yield of the land, and his opinion was that the country was overcleared. He had tried, experimentally, the turning over of clover sod as a seed bed for fall wheat, and it had resulted in a failure. The treatment of land in preparing for spring wheat he considered a subject worthy of great consideration. His mode was to follow the rotation process:—First, break up the soil; second, put in fall or spring wheat, or oats, according to condition; third, roots. The essential upon which hinged all the other crops was a thorough and liberal use of manure. The fertilizer he used was, to the acre, composed as follows:—Fifteen loads farmyard manure, 300 lbs. bone dust, 250 lbs. of salt, 200 lbs. of gypsum, and 300 lbs. of superphosphate. He never used manure in the production of fall wheat. Speaking of the average crops, his observations for the past five years were as follows:—Peas, 30 bush.; spring wheat, 17; fall wheat, 31; oats, 41; barley, 32; turnips, 614; mangold, 725; carrots, 540; potatoes, 163; hay, one ton and four-fifths. In answer to a member, Prof. Brown stated that the averages were arrived at by weight and not by measure. The hay, he further stated, was weighed when brought from the field, and therefore a fraction should be deducted for excessive moisture which would, in time, evaporate. Prof. Brown then gave the average cost of the various crops per acre, and the profit thereon, extending over seven years, as follows:—Wheat, (spring or fall) cost, $20.85, value, $35.10; oats, cost, $16.68, value, $26.35; barley, cost, $14.60, value, $24.30; hay, cost, $8, value, $18; peas, cost, $8.25, value, $25.50; carrots, cost, $27.86, value, $81; potatoes, cost, $29.36, value, $57.75. He was of the opinion that special fertilizers were required only in two cases: first, where the land is about exhausted, and it is desired to get up the vegetation more rapidly than by farm yard manure; secondly, where the land is in good heart, but heavy and lazy, and something is wanted to force or assist germination. There was no question in his mind but that drained land held more moisture than when undrained, but it was more evenly diffused, and therefore admitted a freer access of air to the land. Drainage assisted and hastened the action of manures, and consequently produced earlier harvests, and altogether its use was remunerative. The cost of drainage with four-inch till per rod, four feet deep, and well done, would be 77c.; three inch till, 58c.; six inch till, $1.25. Drainage would pay for itself in four years if followed up with good farming.

Buried Alive.

ST. JOHN, N. B., Oct. 21.—A dreadful story comes from Grand Lake. An old gentleman died there lately, and the usual funeral service was held over his remains. During the early part of the service, it is said, a groan was heard, but no attention was paid to the occurrence. A few minutes later two or three groans were heard, and some of the listeners were frightened. It did not suggest itself to anybody that the coffin should be opened. The service was finished and the body interred. The question now is, was the man buried alive? Some persons desirous of accounting for the groans have suggested "ghosts," but that theory can hardly be satisfactory.

A Monster of the Deep.

HALIFAX, N.S., Oct. 20.—As Capt. Duncan Adams was fishing off New London, P.E.I., his attention was suddenly attracted to some great sea monster alongside his boat. Losing no time he got under way and sailed a mile or two, but found the monster going as fast as his boat. He had only two boys with him. When the boat luffed the monster dashed for the captain, missed, and was caught by the gunwale of the boat, and fell back into the sea, making no further attempt, as the captain lost no time in putting his boat towards land. He says the monster was not less than twenty feet long, with black stripes and large black spots on those parts of it that he saw.

THE PRESBYTERIAN COUNCIL.

Toronto Delegates Relating Its Proceedings.

The Rev. Mr. Macdonnell on Orthodoxy.

A largely attended meeting was held on Friday evening in Knox church for the purpose of receiving from the delegates who attended the Pan-Presbyterian Council at Philadelphia an account of the proceedings of that body.

Rev. D. J. MACDONNELL said the fact was that trying to tell what was done at such a gathering as the Council was like endeavouring to describe a sunset, or—if one had been up early enough to see it—a sunrise. His brother—or he might say father—delegates had given a very correct impression of the tone of the discussions which took place on the points, which had been referred to, and he quite agreed with the previous speakers that there was no manner of doubt about the thorough

ORTHODOXY OF THE COUNCIL.

The Council proved its orthodoxy in the first place by singing nothing but psalms, and tolerating no instrument of any kind. The psalms were badly sung, but then the Council was orthodox in that, he was sorry to say. He honestly believed, however, that had some of the delegates there who were accustomed to sing such hymns as "Rock of Ages" and "All Hail the Power of Jesu's Name" been allowed to sing those hymns, the spiritual power which would have resulted would have been marvellous. But they did not sing these hymns, and that showed the great tolerance of the Council. The Council only once sang the doxology, "Praise God from Whom all Blessings flow." The doxology, it would be noticed, was not a literal translation of the psalms of David, so it would not go down. It was sung on one occasion, he believed, and he also believed its having been sung occasioned a slight protest—though not a public one—from some of the brethren whose consciences were troubled thereby. But the singing of psalms was not the only proof of the orthodoxy of the Council. Some of the members proved their orthodoxy by attacking Dr. Cairns, and intimating that he was a heretic because he put in a caveat as to the way in which the doctrine of inspiration should be presented in apologetic argument, holding, like a sensible man, that it was not necessary to assume the high doctrine of verbal inspiration when arguing with a man who did not believe in the Bible at all. The other remark he made was that the doctrine of the canon of scripture was a distinct thing from the doctrine of inspiration. On these two points a brother of the American Church fell foul of Dr. Cairns, and surprised him, no doubt, by ranking him with people of heterodox views. Those who knew Dr. Cairns knew perfectly well that he could not be so ranked. He merely mentioned this to show the

CONSERVATISM IN DOCTRINE

of the American Church. He accounted for this conservatism on the part of the American brethren in two ways. In the first place, their delegates were the older men of the Church, who, it stood to reason, would be more conservative than the younger men. In the next place, there was such a medley of issues in the United States that in the recoil from this medley people entrenched themselves firmly in the old lines, and felt there could be no safety in budging one inch from the ground on which their fathers stood. He thought there was some truth in the statement that on this side of the water people to some extent borrowed their opinions from the Old Land; and in view of that, some ventured to think that on some points fifteen or twenty years hence, the American Presbyterians would be nearer their friends from the churches in Scotland than at present. At all events there was no doubt of this, that there was shown on the part of the American representatives a degree of conservatism which was not shown in the papers and addresses of the men representing the churches of Scotland. In the discussion of Dr. Hitchcock's paper on the desirableness of using a partial liturgy, the Council seemed inclined—if, he could use the term—to be very liberal. He did not like to use this offensive word liberal, but he used it just to indicate the diversities of opinion existing on certain subjects. As to diversities of opinion, so long as they did not prevent men from holding fast the essential truths upon which the Church of Christ rested—these were good and not evil. That was his opinion—and he intended to hold it until he changed it. (Laughter.) A subordinate point which arose out of a paper on agnosticism and church discipline by the Rev. Dr. Flint, of Edinburgh, created much discussion. Dr. Flint declared that the church discipline applied to a man who went outside the lines of the Confession of Faith was not a sufficient means of dealing with the erring brother. This gave rise to a discussion of the shortening or lengthening of creeds. Excellent papers were also read by Rev. Prof. Gregg, Rev. Principal Grant and Principal McVicar also read papers of much interest. Dr. Grant's paper was a discussion of the bearing of religion upon common life. It dealt with practical points, and of course not in a way to meet the views of everybody, because such a question could not be dealt with so as to meet everyone's views. Three or four of

THE MOST LIVELY DISCUSSIONS

were regarding the admission of the Cumberland Presbyterians. It was in accordance with a spirit of strict orthodoxy that the Council even declined to receive the delegates from this body—because the orthodoxy of the body was suspected by some, and entirely denied by others. The Cumberland Presbyterians declared that they were not Arminians. They were, however, under suspicion, and though Welsh Methodists were admitted because they were Calvinists these Presbyterians were not. The Council by a great majority decided that, as regarded any church represented there,

NO CREED NEEDED MODIFICATION.

That seemed to be the general drift of the Council. Of course the Council could not deal with any particular creed, so the discussion was confined to general principles. Three Canadians and a man from the new Hebrides—who had lived among cannibals and could not be expected to know better—spoke in favour of the shortening of their respective creeds and of eliminating what was non-essential. These three Canadians were rebuked by one of the delegates from Canada for not reflecting the opinions of the Church in Canada, and the Council was told that of the fifteen delegates there was not one who would endorse the opinions of the unlucky three. Frankly, the speaker could not know what the fifteen thought, and therefore had no right to say what he did. And beyond that there were more than the three who held the opinion which they had expressed; and those to whom he referred represented many ministers and laymen of the Presbyterian Church of Canada. He believed that the men, let them be called Radicals or Liberals, who would like to see a revision and a shortening of the confession, and who would like to see the Church lop off what was simply a human opinion of Divine truth, and to retain what was Divine truth, were the real Conservatives. The Church would find by-and-bye that after all these men were by no mens the enemies of the Church of God or of the Presbyterian Church. He had now a personal matter to refer to. It was regarding what he had said on the question of

TEMPERANCE.

He made a few remarks, which were called forth by the speech of Hon. W. E. Dodge. He believed that speech was an extreme one. He thought it a monstrous thing for a man to speak in the same breath and in the same sentence of the drinking of lager beer and the frequenting of houses of ill-fame as though both stood on the same moral level. It was the placing of these two on the same footing that induced him to speak on the subject of temperance, and to say what he believed to be true regarding it. He was not pleased to be supposed to be on a different platform from his brethren and from a large number of earnest Christian men on the subject of temperance. He had more concern to be at one with them on such a practical question than upon some matters of theory. He noticed that an anonymous writer, signing himself "Christian Worker," had represented him as drawing a distinction between drunkenness produced by fermented liquors and drunkenness produced by lager beer. "Christian Worker" must have been mistaken in what he had attributed to him, or he would not be a Christian worker. What he (Mr. Macdonnell) did say was that he thought it wise to distinguish between the effects of the use of fermented liquors, such as good wine, and the use of spirituous liquors, such as whiskey and brandy. The effects of the use of wine in grape-growing and wine-producing countries were sufficient to prove that there was a distinction. But perhaps he might go farther, and say that temperance was not, in his opinion, identical with total abstinence. Temperance was the normal condition of man. Total abstinence was an abnormal condition. Total abstinence was, however, quite justifiable, and he agreed that those who wished to practise it should do so. At the same time, to speak of a man who was temperate, but not a total abstainer, as an enemy of the Church, an enemy of Christ, and as one who departed from the teachings of the Scripture, was to do a thing in which he (Mr. Macdonnell) dare not join. For his part he did not see why temperance men and total abstainers could not work together on a common platform for the common purpose of saving men who were being destroyed by intemperance. The rev. gentleman concluded by apologizing for having made this allusion, and stated that he was invited to do so.

Rev. Dr. REID followed with an interesting statement regarding the Council. He classed himself as an old man, and therefore too conservative to accept all of Mr. Macdonnell's views.

The meeting was closed with the doxology.

THE WRECK OF THE ALPENA.

Alleged Messages from the Lost Vessel.

Lines Pencilled on Pieces of Shingles—A Message Said to be in the Captain's Handwriting.

ST. JOSEPH, Mich., Oct. 25.—The bottom of a grape box, six inches in length, was picked up in the surf one mile south of here yesterday evening by Mr. Hart. On one side was written:—

"Whoever picks this up remember the writer is only an orphan. I am happy, and willing to die, for I have no one to care for me. At this time we all know our doom. She is going to pieces. We know we can never reach land, or ever see it again. The boat is going to pieces.

(Signed) "D. CADDIE."

On the other side is written in a different handwriting:—

"A few minutes and then we shall all be in a watery grave.

(Signed)

"ADDIE KELSTON (or KEISTON)."

Another piece was found about five miles north of here by a boy. It was cut from a shingle, was boat shaped, eleven inches long and four inches wide, and was evidently made in a great hurry. On it was written the following:—

"The Alpena is going to pieces. We will all be lost. (Signed), CAPT. NAPIER."

There was a word after the last which could not be deciphered, but looked like "gold." The writing is said to be Captain Napier's by A. G. Kidd, Customs collector at Benton Harbour, and by others who are familiar with his handwriting.

THE RECENT HURRICANE.

Serious Loss to Shipping on the Atlantic Coast—An Ocean Steamer's Hard Experience.

HALIFAX, N.S., Oct. 25.—There was a tremendous hurricane in this part of the country on Saturday, and the damage to shipping is serious. The steamer Titania, of Liverpool, G. B., Capt. Williams, from Dundee bound to New York, arrived here this evening in company of the steamer Belair, the former was in a badly disabled condition with a heavy list to starboard. She left port on October 11th, and on the 23rd encountered a heavy gale, which increased to a frightful hurricane. She had only a part cargo of Dundee goods. This got adrift in the hold and settled in a mass on the starboard side. Her spare propeller, which was fastened to the deck on the between-decks, broke adrift, bouncing from side to side, made several holes on the starboard side of the ship as large as a man's body, and a few smaller ones on the port side. The water flowed in freely through the former, and it was feared the vessel would sink. The pumps worked hard and a large part of the cargo was jettisoned. In doing this two of the crew were seriously hurt. On Sunday the wind moderated, and falling in with the Belair, which was on the voyage from New York for London, she was accompanied by her to this port. The Titania is a new iron steamer of 1,272 tons register. Her boats were stove in and her upper works badly smashed. The Belair reports that while on the way in, about sixty miles out, she spoke the steamer Potomac, from Norfolk, Va., for Liverpool, with one of her engines disabled, coming to Halifax for repairs.

The schooner J. J. Bill, of Lockeport, N.S., is a total loss on the North Side, Prince Edward Island. The schooner Una, from the Magdalen Islands for Halifax, is a total loss at White Haven, N.S. Both crews were saved.

MANITOBA NOTES.

WINNIPEG, Oct. 23.—The weather has been very wet and disagreeable for the past few weeks, and frequent storms have completely demoralized the telegraph lines.

The water in Lake Winnipeg is unusually high this fall, and has already caused considerable damage to property along its shores. Nearly all the hay which was cut and stacked in the meadows near the lake has been swamped in the water and been destroyed. Whenever there is a north wind the water backs up and overflows the banks of the Red river to within eight miles of Selkirk.

Major Webb and his party arrived here yesterday from blocking out townships beyond Fort Ellice, in the vicinity of the second principal meridian. The work was a continuation of what was begun the previous year, and consisted of blocking an area of country extending from the third to the fifth correction lines inclusive.

The steamer Wm. Robinson was wrecked on a reef of rocks on the 1st of October in Fort Alexander Bay, within two miles of the mouth of the river Winnipeg, in which place the wreck lay until eight days since, when the strong north-west winds which prevailed carried her from the rocks, and it is supposed she sank near there. Captain Robinson saved the largest part of the machinery of the steamer, but the boiler, which was a good one and was not at all injured, was not recovered from the wreck. The steamer was insured for $6,000 in the Citizens' Insurance Company.

WINNIPEG, Oct. 26.—A soap, candle, and oil works has been established here. It is capable of manufacturing one hundred and fifty boxes of soap per week, also eighteen boxes per week each of star tallow candles. The steam renderer can render 1,400 lbs. of oil in a day.

Ocean Man, the chief of the tribe slaughtered recently by American Indians, has been making a speech to Indian agent McDonald at Fort Ellis, asking protection and food for his band, and stating that he will wait this winter for justice, but not longer.

The Great North-West and Manitoba Telegraph Companies are shortly to be amalgamated, and are going to open an office here about the 18th of November. The erection of a line along the first hundred miles of the Canadian Pacific railway by the former company is being rapidly pushed forward. The people are glad to see Canadian enterprise springing up.

The masonry on the Souris railway and traffic bridge is fast approaching completion, and the iron superstructure is expected to be completed by Christmas.

CATCHING CANADIAN EELS.

The Fisheries of the St. Lawrence River.

A Norman Contrivance for Securing the Slippery but Ingenuous Fish—How Eel Weirs are Made.

RIVIERE-OUELLE, Canada, Oct. 12.—The eel fisheries of the St. Lawrence are probably the most productive in the world, and the quality of its eels is considered to be unsurpassed. This mysterious fish seems to hold its own against the demands of civilization better than most others. For the eel fisheries of this town and some other important places are now as productive as they were when the colonists established them in the seventeenth century. Nevertheless, the eel seems to be disturbed by steamers and factories, for it is no longer found about Quebec, where the Jesuit Father Le Jeune saw the Indians taking such great quantities in the beginning of the seventeenth century. The great arm of the sea, the St. Lawrence, is an inexhaustible breeding and feeding ground