

THE CHARLOTTETOWN HERALD.

THE HERALD

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1890.

All matter for publication in the Herald should be in this office by noon on Tuesday. Persons wishing their advertisements changed must advise us Saturday forenoon.

WINTER COMMUNICATION

It is extraordinary—but nevertheless true—that every year, at the close of navigation, we are subjected to the inconvenience and expense of having no communication with the mainland, for several days. It is remarkable to suppose, that if there was a disposition, on the part of those having authority, to do so justice, the expense of a few years could point out to them the necessity of having the winter steamer ready for her work as soon as the summer boats stopped running, however, is not the case.

On account of the stormy weather of last week, we had no mails from the mainland till Wednesday afternoon. During all this time the Steamer was at Pictou; but her captain and crew were not there. It was thought, however, that would be sufficient warning, to them to be ready at shore notice to commence operations.

She arrived here on Sunday and most people expected she would start with the mails on Monday morning. But when Monday came, it was found that, although the steamer of the Nova Scotian company were unable to run, the Steamer was not ready. Monday and yesterday were spent in taking in supplies and repairing men, but before this morning was she ready to commence her winter work. The consequence is that, all this time, we have been deprived of communication with the mainland.

Such conduct, whether is responsible, it is, in the highest degree unfair and unjust, and would not, we feel sure, be tolerated by people of any other place.

PRESIDENT HARRISON'S MESSAGE

On Monday, the 1st inst., President Harrison transmitted his message to the second session of the fifty-first congress. It is not, by any means, a remarkable document. The President goes on to say that the friendly relations between the United States and European and Eastern countries continue undisturbed, and he refers to the Pan-American conference, matching an influential gathering of the Western hemisphere. The Nicaragua canal project is, he says, making satisfactory progress, and he affirms that the beneficial working of the new extradition treaty is already evident. Referring to the Bering sea question, the message says:

"The difference between the two governments, touching the fur seal question, in the Bering sea, is not yet adjusted, as will be seen, it will be decided, that before the opening of another season some arrangement will be made with Russia to the United States, which was not disregarded by any nation for more than eighty years previous to the outbreak of the existing trouble."

This decision does not tend to confirm the opinion recently expressed in official circles that an early settlement of this dispute might be looked for. There is certainly no desire on the part of Canada to deny the United States any rights in Bering sea that Russia may be compelled to convey to the Republic. But Canada has denied and continues to deny that either Russia or the United States could suppose control over that sea beyond the recognized territorial limit, or that Bering sea can be occupied by either of these powers to be a closed sea. Canada has also shown the absurdity of another phase of this question, viz., Mr. Blaine's contention that it is contrary to good morals for Canada to capture seals in the United States to assume, unaided by the nation, the position of an international arbitrator in matters of mortality, are indeed laughable. If the killing of seals were an immoral proceeding, the new industry would afford a welcome addition to the income of the small farmers of the hills.—*Echoes*.

ST. ANDREW'S DAY AT SOURIS.

The Scotchmen of Souris and their friends celebrated the Feast of the Patron Saint of Scotland this year by a dinner at the "Bohemian House." It is quite needless to say the bill of fare presented by the hostess was faultless, and was readily appreciated by the family and pleasing dining-room smile that stole over their countenances as they fled into the banqueting room. After ample justice had been done to the excellent menu the following programme was gone through:—Mr. J. McNease presiding:

1. "The Queen and Royal Family."

2. "The Land of the Heather,"—sung by R. F. McDonald.

3. "Bonnie Charlie," J. J. Hughes.

4. "Our Legislator" (in the grand style of our legislator) M. J. Gould.

5. "Other Nationalities," James McNease.

6. "Hundred Pipers," Dr. McNease.

7. "Our Militia," J. J. Hughes.

8. "Islands Abroad," Dr. McDonald.

9. "Scots," R. F. McDonald.

10. "The Ladies," Donald McNease.

11. "White Bow'd," Frank O'Connell.

After voluntary toasts to the Chairman and Host and Hostess, the night's enjoyment was ended by singing "Auld Lang Syne." The speeches were original, pointed and humorous, and contributed much towards the evening's enjoyment.

It is pleasing to note that while these national songs are celebrated from year to year throughout Canada, they are not known outside to one national, but in every province are largely popular and all nations are well represented. From this we are led to conclude that the day of national as well as religious intolerance will soon be a thing of the past, and while each nation's people still continue to celebrate their national festivals yearly, let them be joined by all other nationalities who are among us, and their social international friendship which is so indispensable for the future prosperity of Canada.—*C. C.*

A formal debate will be necessary to determine the effect of the present legislation on silver values, but it is gratifying to know that the government, headed by the late Sir Alexander Macdonald, has adopted the most liberal policies upon business and agriculture, and the new ships of the navy and the influence of these modern vessels upon the affairs of our country, will open a source of revenue.

After referring to several other matters the President devoted considerable space in the consideration of the tariff. He says the general tariff act has as yet only partially gone into effect, that its success or failure can be as yet only a matter of conjecture. There is neither wisdom nor justice in the suggestion that the subject of tariff revision shall be again re-opened before this law had a full trial.

From this statement it is quite evident that the Republicans have no much notion to devote themselves, during the remainder of this session, to the consideration of the tariff. The only investigation is being made in the last message relating to the development of steamship services to the West Indies. The President has said that the government will make a full investigation, and that the committee on foreign relations will be again convened before this law had a full trial.

The result of the government from all sources for the fiscal year was \$20,000,000, and the expenditure \$20,000,000.

The President thinks that some months further trial will be necessary to determine the effect of the present legislation on silver values, but it is gratifying to know that the government, headed by the late Sir Alexander Macdonald, has adopted the most liberal policies upon business and agriculture, and the new ships of the navy and the influence of these modern vessels upon the affairs of our country, will open a source of revenue.

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