NEWS ITEMS.

Philadelphia has a population of nearly 900,000.

The salary of the British Minister in Russia is £7,800 a year.

It is said that Garibaldi's daughter-in-law is now acting in the pantomime in the Surrey theatre.

Lord Derby is not likely to come to the workhouse. He owns in Lancashire, 47,269 acres; Cheshire, 9,202 acres; Tipperary, 6,531 acres; Limerick, 740 acres; Flint, 62 acres; total, 63,834 acres, with a rent roll of £170,268.

The English Government hold lottery moneys unclaimed to the extent of a million pounds, owing, probably, to the prize-winners having lost their tickets; or having failed to consult correctly the 82,000 winners numbers.

A call for nearly £12,000 in respect of the costs incurred by the cotton trade riots of last May has been made upon the unions in the Blackburn hundred, and a "riot rate" of 2d in the pound has been levied. It is feared that this will not be the only call.

General Grant was photographed in Paris by the light of a Jablochkoff candle. It is said that this light produces better portraits than sunlight, and as sitting can be given in the evening as well as during the day. It promises to become popular among photographers.

Horniman's great tea warehouse. London, has been destroyed by fire. The building situated in the very heart of the city, and it occupied 18 fire engines and 200 firemen two hours in keeping tho fire under control. While the fire was blazing Mr. Horniman entered the building and took a £2,000 note out of a safe.

Much amusement has been excited by an order received at Portsmouth from the Admirality that two alpaca waterproofs, on most approved principles, are to be supplied to the admiral's yacht Fire Queen for use by Cabinet Ministers when embarking and disembarking on visits to her Majesty at Osborne, but no other person.

The standard for Royal Artillery gunners in the British army has been raised to the height of 5 feet 10 inches, which has had the intended effect of nearly stopping the supply of recruits in that line. The lowest infantry standard is 5 feet 6 inches, which shuts out a great number of applicants of 5 feet 5½ inches or thereabouts the average height of candidates.

At a recent meeting of the City Commissioners of Sewers in London, Dr. Saunders, a Health Officers, satirized the Lord Mayor to some purpose. That functionary, in his wisdom, absolutely refused to condemn some adulterated flour which had been seized by Dr. Saunders, and the latter to prove his case and express his opinion of aldermanic legislation manufactured an ass's head out of plaster of Paris which he found in the floor and exhibited it to the delighted Commissioners. The Lord Mayor is said to have been hurt by this proceeding.

How New York is supplied with vegetables in January is told in the *Times*. Not everything comes from the South. Rhubarb is received from Quebec, where it is raised in dark galleries twenty feet under ground and heated by steam. The stalks are very hard, tender and almost white. Each stalk is wrapped in soft paper and put into bunches of two and a-half pounds each, which sell in New York for $3 per dozen bunches. By the 1st of March rhubarb comes in from Long Island that brings $1.50 per dozen. Much of the Brussels sprouts now in market come from Canada.

Mr. E. J. Lowe, the astronomer, has written a letter to the London *Times* touching the English sparrow, concerning whose utility there is pretty frequent discussion in this country. He says: "Thirty-five years ago, a countryman left here for Australia, taking with him all our popular hardy fruits and vegetables; but the produce was yearly destroyed, until the English sparrow was introduced, after which there was plenty of fruit. Waterton calculated that a single pair of sparrows destroyed as much grubs in one day as would have eaten up half an acre of young corn in a week."

The Mayor of Dublin has mismanaged the Irish testimonial to the Duke of Connaught into a complete failure. The idea was to collect a sufficient sum to purchase for the Duke a residental property in Ireland so as to make an Irishman of him. The Mayor went about it in a way truly Irish; the subscriptions were limited to sums between one pound and one shilling. The Duke is popular in Ireland wherever he is known, but that is not far and wide, so the entire subscription does not reach £4,000, and the residential property has got down to a piece of plate of Irish design and workmanship.

Gen. Moltke estimates that fully 60,000 Russian soldiers perished in the campaign of 1829, and that half of them fell victims to the plague, which found their frames, enervated by privation and hardship, an easy prey, while the absence of sanitary provision gave little chance even to those whose constitutions might have withstood the disease. The epidemic in Athens described by Thucydides is not now believed to have been indentical with plague, the date of whose first appearance is generally referred to the reign of Justinian A. D. 542, in whose time it thrice appeared. Since then its visitations have gradually became less frequent. In Europe only Russia and Turkey have suffered since 1800, and Constantinople has not been thus affected since 1841.

Dr. Emil Querner, of Philadelphia, informs the Boston *Journal of Chemistry* of a new theory about diphtheria. He says: "After a laborious and scrutinizing investigation into the cause of a large number of diphtheria that have come under my care during several years past, I have almost arrived at the conclusion that the primary infection of an individual comes from the fungi which are found as spots of different colours on the exterior of fruits, particularly apples. As far as the power of my microscope has shown, these fungi seem identical with the fungi from a diphtheritic ulcer; and last autumn I traced a number of cases, at one time five together in one family, back to the eating of apples picked from the ground in orchards without previously cleaning the fruit by rubbing or washing."

A poorly-clad woman went to the house of Miss Feirbank, at Bowdon, England, representing that she was in an abject state of poverty and destitution, and that her husband was lying dead in the house. Miss Fairbank informed the applicant that she was not in the habit of giving assistance without visiting the houses of those seeking it. The woman asked her to be good enough to do this, and she subsequently did so. She found every appearance of squalor and destitution, and to verify the truth of the womans statement, she went upstairs to see the corpse, which was scarcely covered with rags On going downstairs she gave the woman some money and went away, leaving her umbrella in the house. She shortly afterwards returned for the umbrella, when she was horrified and disgusted to find the "corpse" and his wife dancing about the kitchen, apparently delighted with the success of their unnatural rascality.

The London correspondent of the Leeds *Mercury* learns that the Government have to some extent been influenced in sending Lord Dufferin to St. Petersburg by a determination to assume a somewhat more pacific tone towards the Russian Court. The recall of one Ambassador and the appointment of another always affords room to a Ministry for reconsidering certain points without being actually laid open to the charge of inconsistency. This, it is thought, has been one of the motives of the Government, but there is held to be another. A Plenipotentiory, however discreet and even taciturn he may be, must necessarily in times of great political tension give expression to strong opinions in consonance with the views of his instructions. So long as there is need for a firm, or, it may be, a defiant attitude, the strong words and the strong conduct are in their place; but when the crisis is past, it is best not to maintain a man at a foreign Court who has had to say disagreeable things and often appear in antagonism to the monarch to whom he is accredited. Lord Dufferin will be able to take up his own position untrammelled by past acts or opinions, and will thus have it in his power greatly to strengthen the position of the Government, now that the fever of aggression has so much abated.

Communications.

For the "Agriculturist."

Early Amber Sugar Cane.

SIR,—Through the medium of your esteemed paper I desire to approach the farmers of New Brunswick on the subject of the cultivation of the "Minnesota Early Amber Sugar Cane" in this country.

The fact of it being cultivated in the State of Minnesota quite extensively, and so profitably, that it is becoming one of the important industries of the State, came under my notice quite incidentally last fall by a short paragraph in a Minnesota paper, in which the writer after giving some information with regard to its wonderful saccharine qualities, and some of the profitable results of its cultivation in Minnesota; remarked that where "Flint," or yellow corn would come to maturity, this description of cane could be profitably cultivated. This brought to my mind the many excellent crops of yellow corn I had seen raised in this Province, and taking into consideration the climatic similarity of the two countries, I asked myself the question—Why cannot the farmers of New Brunswick raise their own sugar as well as those of Minnesota? and the answer was, in my own mind, they can if they will. I then resolved to investigate the matter with regard to its cultivation in this Province. Such investigation has fully convinced me that it can be successfully cultivated in New Brunswick. I then laid the matter before a few of my gentlemen friends who readily consented to join me in endeavoring to test it the coming summer, and I feel satisfied I shall be able to show satisfactorily that this cane can be raised in this Province so readily and sugar produced therefrom so cheaply, that farmers can not only produce their own sugar, but that in their hands it can be made an entirely new and important factor in the commerce of this country.

In the advocacy of this new enterprise I do not wish to be considered unmindful of a few important facts in relation to it, and at the same time would desire to bring them before the minds of the farmers.

First, that in all times of business depression when all other industries are languishing and uncertain around us, we can emulate our forefathers when, as a matter of utility they "seized the plough and greatly independent lived."

Secondly, sugar is purely an agricultural product and cannot be otherwise produced.

Thirdly, that the best paper in which to discuss an agricultural subject is an agricultural one, and as I am about to ventilate this subject in the AGRICULTURIST—by your kind permission—I beg to remind those farmers who are not in receipt of a copy of it, to at once subscribe for one, as I intend giving an article in each issue on the method of cultivation and manufacture of sugar from this cane until the whole subject is exhausted, and it will be important to any one desiring to engage in the enterprise, to have the whole series of articles on the subject; and, lastly, that sugar is one of the most important luxuries in our living, and its use is fast increasing in the diet of all civilized countries, and consequently has become a great necessity to a comfortable livelihood, and in these days of "protection," when high tariffs are staring us in the face, I would say to farmers if they wish to protect themselves from paying high duties on their sugars they would join in the cultivation of the Amber Sugar Cane, which I trust they may find a sure protection. Already, Mr. Editor, I have trespassed too far on your space. In your next issue I shall treat of its discovery, method of planting and cultivation, its adaptability to high northern climates, &c., &c. In my investigations I have secured the valuable services of W. W. Heartley, Esq., editor and proprietor of the Brainerd *Tribune*, a paper published in the sugar district of Minnesota. Mr. Heartley is a native of New Brunswick, who early in life was engaged in agricultural pursuits, and now adds his testimony to the many others in the State, to the many advantages to be derived from the cultivation of this cane, and from his intimate knowledge of the climate of the two countries very readily decides that it can be as successfully produced here as there. Through Mr. Heartley's agency I have ordered a quantity of seed for next spring's planting and a sample of the sugar, and shall be prepared to furnish seed to any person wishing to plant, and shall be happy also at any time to answer all questions by letter or otherwise, if in my power, by persons desiring information on the subject. I am happy to notice by the *Daily Telegraph* of to-day that Edward Jack, Esq., whose able pen is ever ready to aid in any useful enterprise, is now looking into this one, and I hope he may continue to do so, as his aid will be important.

Yours, &c.,

ALFRED WHITEHEAD.

Fredericton, February 25th, 1879.

The Agriculturist.

FREDERICTON, N. B., MARCH, 1 1879.

Opening of the Local Legislature.

The Province has now entered upon its legislative season, and the prospects of the session that has just commenced are canvassed with interest. A new Governor, who gives his confidence to a government but lately newly organized, meets a new house, several of whose members, (from some of whom great things are expected), are new to legislative duties, and this new House is presided over by a new Speaker. With the exception of Mr. Leighton, of Woodstock, who, however, arrived in the course of the day, all the members were in Fredericton on Thursday morning, and in their place to take the oaths, which were administered by Chief-Justice Allen. Judging by its general composition, the House is a young one: the conservatism of age is not strongly represented in it. As among the members there are several gifted with great fluency of speech, long discussions and keen debates may be expected.

The formal opening took place at 3 p. m. Punctually to the hour, Governor Chandler accompanied by his private Secretary, Joshua Chandler, Esq., drove up to the Legislative buildings, before which was drawn up the guard of honor composed of two companies of the 71st Batt., under Major Staples.

As his honor entered the building, a salute was fired by the Artillery under the command of Major Beckwith. In the Legislative Council Chamber the members were in the chairs, and ranged in seats behind them there was an assemblage of ladies. The Chamber presented quite a fine sight, when the Governor, who was simply dressed in black, entered it, accompanied by a military suite in brilliant uniform, composed of Col. Maunsell, D. A. G., Col. Saunders, Col. Marsh, Col. McShane, Cornet Pennyfather, and other officers of the militia.

The members of the Lower House being summoned to appear in the Chamber, were informed by Hon. Mr. Hamilton, senior member of the Council, that his Honor could not communicate with them until they had appointed a Speaker. Whereupon they descended to their Chamber, and on the motion of Attorney General Fraser, who spoke in complimentary terms of Hon. Benjamin Stevenson's career in the House and in Office, nominated, (seconded by the Provincial Secretary) that gentleman for Speaker. The motion being unanimously carried the Speaker elect was conducted to the Chair by the Attorney General and Provincial Secretary, and he addressed the House shortly, craving its indulgence in the discharge of his duties, and thanking the members for the honor they had conferred upon him. The Members of the House then proceeded to the Legislative Council Chamber, at their head the Speaker—who asked the Governor to confirm the selection just made, and craved all the ancient privileges of the House, and indulgence for any error of his own, which, his Honor through the acting President of the Council was graciously pleased to accord. His Honor then read the following

SPEECH:

Mr President, and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council;

Mr Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

It is with great pleasure I meet you for the first time as Lieutenant Governor of the Province of New Brunswick.

You have already heard with profound sorrow of the great affliction which has befallen Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen in the bereavement which she has sustained in the death of Her Royal Highness the Princes Alice, Grand Duchess of Hesse Darmstadt. How deservedly the Princess had endeared herself to Her Royal Mother, and to the Nation, has become matter of universal comment. In no portion of the Empire will Her Majesty's affliction be more deeply and sincerely deplored than in this Province, and I have no doubt you will readily join in the expressions of respectful sympathy which have reached, or are reaching Her Majesty, from all parts of the British Dominions.

The recent appointment of so distinguished a Nobleman as the Marquis of Lorne as successor to the Earl of Dufferin, whose administration of the Government of Canada was so brilliant and successful, again testifies the deep regard of the Imperial Government for the welfare of this Dominion, and has been hailed with unmingled satisfaction by all classes in every Province of Canada.

The arrival in Canada of Her Royal Highness the Princess Louise, the illustrious Consort of His Excellency the Governor General, has afforded the people of Canada another opportunity, which they have heartily embraced, to manifest in a marked manner their loyal devotion to the Person and Throne of Her Majesty the Queen, and their love for the Members of the Royal Family.

Immediately upon the arrival at Ottawa of His Excellency the Governor General and Her Royal Highness, I transmitted an invitation to His Excellency and Her Royal Highness to visit New Brunswick. His Excellency has been pleased to accept that invitation, and I shall direct public announcement to be made when I am informed by His Excellency of the time appointed for their visit. I have no doubt you will approve of the course I have adopted in this matter.

Notwithstanding the severe depression which so seriously affects the Commercial interests of the Province at the present time, I am happy in believing the general condition of the Province at large is such as to call for expressions of satisfaction. A feeling of security, and of confidence in the Institutions under which we live, generally prevails—the labors of the husbandman have been crowned with an abundant harvest—and we have been permitted to enjoy manifold and great blessings. While, therefore, we venture to entertain a hope that this depression may soon be materially alleviated, we ought not to lose sight of the many other considerations which are calculated to inspire our hearts with thankfulness for the many inestimable benefits which we possess.

Many unavoidable circumstances of an important character operated against the Provincial Exhibition held in the City of Fredericton during the month of October last. When due allowance for these is made, however, it may be fairly affirmed that the Exhibition was satisfactorily successful. A detailed report on this subject will be submitted to you.

During the last year my Government ordered the importation of a number of pure breed Leicester Sheep. They arrived in time for the Exhibition, and were highly commended by the best judges in such matters. A detailed statement upon this subject, also, will be laid before you.

The Seed Wheat imported by the Government during the last Spring was very generally distributed over various sections of the Province, and so far as I can learn the results have fully justified the expenditure in that behalf.

A large amount of intelligent consideration has been recently directed to the subject of the cultivation of Sugar Beet in different parts of the World. With a view to encourage and facilitate the fair trial of so interesting an experiment as the culture of Sugar Beets in this Province, my Government has ordered the importation of a quantity of pure and reliable seed, and due notice will be given upon its arrival. The proposed manner of distribution, together with the probable exaenditure in this direction, will be submitted for your consideration. I sincerely hope the cultivation of Sugar Beet in this Province may prove successful and remunerative.

During the recess Plans for new Legislative Buildings in Fredericton were asked for, and those received will be duly laid before you.

The claims of my Government upon the Government of the Dominion have again received the earnest consideration of my Council, and I trust the pending negotiations will result in the early adjustment of all matters in difference in the premises, and in the adoption of such measures by the Federal Government as shall secure justice to this Province.

Your attention will be directed to the consideration of the propriety of amending the Constitution of the Province, by vesting the powers of Legislation in one Legislative Chamber, subject nevertheless to the rights of the Crown, and under such provisions as may be deemed expedient in the interests of the people.

You will also be asked to consider whether certain alterations may be advantageously made in the Constitution and Procedure of the Supreme Court, by which Justice may be attained more easily and expeditiously than at present, and with less expense to the suitor: and I have no doubt you will carefully weigh any proposed changes which may be submitted to you.

Measures relating to Inspection and Inspectoral Districts under the Common Schools Act, to the Free Grants Act, to Trespasses upon Crown Lands, and to other matters of importance, will be laid before you.

Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,

I have given directions that the Accounts of the Receipts and Expenditures of the past year, and a detailed statement of the Receipts and Payments of the current year up to the opening of the present Session, and the Estimates for the ensuing year, be presented for your consideration.

Mr. President, and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council,

Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,

I now leave you to your deliberations, with implicit confidence in your desire and ability to promote the welfare of the Province, and with the Prayer that your Legislation may be guided by Wisdom from on High to wise and salutary results.

Having again returned to their Chamber and the members being seated, Mr. Blair immediately moved a resolution for the appointment of seven members, as a Committee on Public Accounts. But it was ruled out of order, as the Speaker had not made his report; to the effect that his Honor had made a speech of which, for the sake of greater accuracy, he had procured a copy. At the request of the members, some of whom wished to hear how it sounded below, the Speaker read the speech.

Immediately at the close, Mr. Marshall rose, as, almost at the same instant, did Mr. Blair; the former catching the Speaker's eye, proceeded to move a resolution for the formation of Committee on Public Accounts. Mr. Blair contended that Mr. Marshall had risen before the Speaker had closed reading, and that he (Mr. B.) had the right to make the motion. Mr. Marshall denied having risen out of time and pressed his right. Quite an animated debate followed, at its close the Speaker reviewed the questions on the points of order and courtesy raised, and finally ruled that courtesy demanded that Mr. Blair be allowed to make his motion—whereupon that gentleman made his motion, which was carried. The following members were appointed on the Committee of Public Accounts:—Messrs. Blair, Marshall, Beveridge, Ryan, Willis, Killam, and Hill. Mr. Sayre, who read the address in answer to the speech, moved, seconded by Mr. Woods, that it be made the order of the day, at three o'clock, on Monday.

The Franco-Austrian Treaty.

In the debate on the address, Sir John A. McDonald spoke hopefully, if hypothethically of the inclination of the French Government to admit Canadian ships and many other articles, under the most favored nation clause. If, he said that clause is continued in the commercial treaty between England and France, that would involve our ships being transferred in France on paying a duty of two francs per ton, instead of forty francs; in other words, it will restore the shipbuilding trade to its wonted prosperity in a very great degree." But the French Government are not now inclined to continue the commercial treaty between France and England, or rather, if we understand it, the commercial treaty between France and Austria. The discontinuance of that latter treaty means the exclusion of some English manufactures, among them ships (iron, and wood), from the French markets.

A correspondent of the *Iron World* writing from Wolverhampton of the troubles of the Birmingham men touching the Franco-Austrian Treaty, says:—

These are considerable. They came upon the Birmingham men with surprise, and the more they are looked at the heavier they seem. The traders in this country had mostly forgotten that under the favored nation clause "they possessed advantages through the existence of the Commercial Treaty between France and Austria which under the Anglo-French Treaty they did not possess. When, therefore, it was learned that the authorities of France and Austria were unable to see their way to a new treaty at the end 1878, not much heed was taken of the difference. Presently, however, the dread loomed upon my friends. The "denunciation" of the Franco-Austrian treaty meant the exclusion of some English manufacturers from the French markets.

British-made steel wire rope is an illustration in point. The knowledge that steel wire rope would have to be weighed with a duty of £2 per ton more than had had to be paid when the Franco-Austrian Treaty was in existence, alarmed the steel wire rope makers of Birmingham. This was the first intimation Birmingham manufacturers had of the mischief which was coming upon them. The matter was looked into, and other products of Birmingham were shown to be in even a worse case; and the government was communicated with. Meanwhile it turned out that the extra on the product specified would be not £2 simply, but £4 16s., making the present duty upon British steel wire rope in France £12 16s. per ton!

The change will not only be felt in steel goods. Ships imported to France will hence forth pay a duty of about 60 francs per ton, while in the case of all countries which had the benefit of the "most favored nation clause," it has hitherto been only a uniform duty of 2 francs per ton. An illustration of the change is afforded in the fact that an English ship builder who had during the past year agreed to construct a ship and deliver it at Havre, and who presumed that he would have to pay a tax of £40 there, may be compelled to pay more than a thousand pounds.

When the Marquis of Salisbury, as Foreign Secretary, replied to the Birmingham people, he of course expressed his regret that they should be so embrassed by the higher duties which the termination of the treaty between France and Austria entailed; but his lordship saw no hope of redress perhaps beyond some relief in respect of contracts which had been entered into between the Birmingham manufacturers and the consumers and their customers in France during the existence of the Franco-Austrian treaty. Yet as to that small aid the Foreign Secretary could not definitely promise that the French government would accede to his application.

Massacre of Nobles.

Burmah is a country very little known to the people of England, not to say the people of Canada. It lies between China and India. The country along the seacoast forms a dependency of the Indian Empire; the interior is one of the most primitive of Eastern despotism, and is ruled over by a king who rejoices in the name of Mendoonmen. The Burmese of the British Dependency, inhabiting a splendid and luxuriant country, are said to be the happiest people of the world, placid and genial in temper, and fond of fun and merriment, and have been called the "Irishmen of the East," they are, however, said to be given to burst of vindictive temper. In independent Burmah, despotic rule has repressed happiness and prosperity and geniality, and probably developed the worst side of their character. A telegram brings a report of an extraordinary outburst of vindictive temper on the part of their ruler.

Startling intelligence has been received from Mandalay, the capital of Independent Burmah. The King of Burmah, his Majesty Mendoonmen, has for some time cherished a deep hostility against certain of his nobles, especially against Princes Thouz and Mekara. The King himself is an orthodox and devoted Buddhist, and largely under the influence of ecclesiastic advisers. He is of an extremely jealous and secretive disposition, and for some months past appears to have cherished the belief that the Princes in question were plotting against him. Finally summoning his Privy Council, which consists of four persons, known as "Atwenwoons," he laid before them his suspicions and demanded that they and their whole households should be executed. As the will of the monarch in Burmah is supreme, the order was given and the massacre took place. The two Princes and eighty-six of their relations were slain immediately. The details of the massacre are described as horrible in the extreme.

The Boston *Post* is hopeful of the times. It sees the clouds breaking east, west, north and south, and believes that if some unexpected visitation does not come to spoil all "the year on which our fortunes are all launched will be one of restoration and revival, that will break up the gloomy reign of five years of depression, and inaugurate a new era of prosperity, such as our favored country has never enjoyed."

It is to be hoped that there will be a general clearance of the horizon, that the sunshine of prosperity will not burst upon the "favored land" only, but spread resplendent over our young Dominion, and across the ocean to the old beloved home—that in short it will bathe in its beneficent beams the universal world.

A Perfect Cure.

Infallible remedies for malignant diseases are always cropping up. Here is a recipe for the cure of the small-pox, on the efficacy of which a Liverpool medical man stakes his reputation. It is at least simple, and can do no harm, if it does no good. He says:—

One ounce of cream-of-tartar dissolved in a pint of boiling water, to be drank when cold, at short intervals. It can be taken at any time, and is a preventative as well as a curative. It is known to have cured in a hundred thousand cases without a failure. I have myself restored hundred by this means. It never leaves a mark, never causes blindness and always prevents tedious lingering. If the people would only try it, and report all the cures to you, you would require to employ many columns, if you gave them publicity.

Should any fire unfortunately occur, it is satisfactory to know that the Steam Fire Engines are in good working order. The account for work and material for repairs on the "Silsby" amounts to about $600. There have been some extraordinary expenditures in the Fire Department for the last year or so, but the City Fathers, if they wish to make the department thoroughly efficient should seriously consider the advisability of devising ways and means for procuring an additional quantity of new hose.

The City Council meets on Tuesday evening next.

Adulteration of Food.

The report of Mr. A. Brunel, Commissioner of Inland Revenue, respecting the analysis of food, shows that out of 813 samples, of 24 different articles, including condiments, spices, tea, coffee, chocolate, cream, sugar, milk, butter, potted meats, malt liquor—271 were returned by the analysts, of Toronto, Montreal, Quebec and Halifax, as being adulterated, and 19 of doubtful purity. Milk of which 176 samples were examined, showed large adulteration—70 of the samples were reported upon as adulterated with more or less per centage of water, from 15 to 30, and as being deficient in cream or skimmed. 12 out of 80 samples of butter were adulterated, with meat fats, curds, water and salt, while the unadulturated ranged from "genuine," of "good or fair quality" to "genuine of poor quality." Only 12 out of 48 samples of coffee were pure, some were greatly adulterated with peas as well as chickory, with roasted pea meal and wheat, ground bread, &c. 53 samples of tea were examined, only 9 of which were adulterated, but among these there were some bad cases—one was returned as a mixture of leaves and stalks of various unknown shrubs, and contained no genuine tea—one as damaged with salt water and re-dried—another adulterated with foreign leaves and stalks, and highly faced with gypsum and Prussian blue, &c.

Some interest is attached to the analyists' reports on sugar, from the noise that the gross adulterations practiced by New York refiners raised last year. 50 samples were examined, of which 8 were more or less adulterated. But in all the samples—four excepted—glucose or grape sugar, which is very inferior in sweetening power to cane sugars, which grocery sugars vended for domestic use are understood to be—was found "from a trace up to 14 per cent.

The addition of glucose to sugars imported from countries where a drawback is paid by the Government in exportation, has to the exporter the important effect of enabling him to obtain an undue amount of drawback from his Government. Glucose is made from a variety of starches and can be cheaply produced. The Commissioner says—"If there is any doubt as to whether the addition of glucose is an adulteration within the strict meaning of the law, it may be necessary to consider the expediency of asking Parliament to amend the Act."

The analysis of condiments, allspice, cassia, pepper, mustard, ginger, &c., shows that articles of that description, are, almost without exception, adulterated, not with things injurious to health, but with things of inferior value, whereby the consumer pays for the ground refuse of grains and seeds, the price of articles which if pure, would be of high value. During the past year there was three prosecutions for offences against the Adulteration of Food Act—two for refusing samples, (payment for samples is always tendered by the officers of the department) and one for selling adulterated milk. The knowledge that dealers have that the genuineness of the articles which they sell will be or may be tested by the Government analysts will tend to check adulteration. Why is St. John, we wonder, not counted in as one of the analyist districts? Are its grocers, &c., so above suspicion of practising adulterating arts that the Government think it needless to appoint an analyist and send round their officer to collect samples?

The *Reporter* feels aggrieved over the County printing. It accuses the gentlemen who had charge of it with unfair play and abuse of patronage. It tries to make out that there was something strange and suspicious in the way its tender for reporting the proceedings of Council was treated, and in the manner the notice for tenders for the printing of the County Bye-Laws was managed. But the matter is capable of very simple explanation—it does not require any extraordinary amount of plausibility or ingenuity to tell a plain story. If the Editor of the *Reporter* will consult the Minutes of the Council he will find out the reason that induced the gentlemen forming the committee on reporting to except the tender of the AGRICULTURIST, which was a mere trifle higher than the *Reporter's*—and that was the 200 papers furnished to the members of the Board. They were also influenced, no doubt, by the advantage of having their proceedings published in a paper which enjoys a very large (and increasing) circulation in the country. The action of the Committee in accepting the AGRICULTURIST's tender was fully endorsed by the Board.

With regard to the other count of the *Reporter's* charge against the members of the Council entrusted with printing matters, the tendering for the printing of the Bye-Laws, we can say that in accordance with a resolution passed at the Board, notice for tenders were put out, and posted about the city. The Editor of the *Reporter*, (who was away in Quebec at the time) did not of course see them, but those who had charge of his office in his absence might have seen them if they had kept their eyes open; and we do know that they were seen by parties who had no interest in the matter. We have no doubt that the representatives of the people whom the *Reporter* charges with abusing their patronage will be able to clear themselves from any such imputation when called upon, and will be able to show that the work done in the AGRICULTURIST Office was both satisfactory and moderate, and that the County got good value for its money.

We have received a letter from the foreman of the Coroner's Jury, who coincides with the position taken by Dr. Dow, in his letter to the *Reporter*, that the cause of death in the case of the late Mrs. Owen McLaughlin, was not alchohol, but as found by the Coroner's Jury. We do not think it advisable to publish his letter. The case is a very sad one. Whatever variance there is between the Coroner's Jury and the medical men who held the post-mortem examination as to the cause of death, neither lay grave imputation on the husband. Last week, we stated that a public investigation would be held, but the Police Magistrate, who, on Saturday forenoon, authorized and requested us to make the announcement, says that subsequently he found, on consultation with the Attorney-General, that after the opinion given by the medical men, there was no ground for such a procedure.

The amount of Duties collected at the Port of Fredericton for the month of February, 1879, shows a large increase over corresponding month last year:—

February, 1879, - - - - -	$9,730 91
" 1878, - - - -	2,211 34
Increase, - -	$7,519 57

The *Army and Navy Gazette* says:—We understand that the proposals of Commander Cheyne for a Polar Expedition, in which balloons should be used as a means for reaching the Pole, are under the consideration of the Executive Committee of the Royal Geographical Society. It is something that the ideas of Commander Cheyne should have met with favour from so experienced an aeronaut as Captain Templar, who not only supports the project, but is ready to accompany the expedition whenever it shall be equipped.

The Bankruptcy Act.

Mr. Colby has introduced a bill into the House of Commons to repeal the Bankruptcy Act. We do not know the provisions but it is said that it proposes to provide for the equitable divisions of assets, for one thing; leaving the debtor in the hand of the creditor, much as before, and to use the machinery of the existing Courts to carry out the new system. There appears to be a strong feeling against the present bankruptcy act. It has not, some think, produced the effect it was expected to produce. It releives the debtor, but at the expense of the creditor and solvent trader. It is not denied that the Act gave relief for some time after it was passed, but the circumstances of the country now demand a repeal, and a period of no insolvent laws; others think that the hostility against the Bankrupt Act rises, in a great part, from the bad times, which have tested too severly the business and commercial morality of the country. With the departure of bad times, would depart a great number of cases of bankruptcy, and with the ceasing of these would cease, in great part, the ill-felling and the agitation against the law, which in calmer times, would be more prudently and dispassionately amended. It is not at all likely that the Government will introduce any measure to repeal the Bankrupt Act, but is very probable that after the discussion on Mr. Colby's bill, the matter will be referred to a Parliamentary Committee, who, after a full review, will report their conclusions to the House. This is the safe way to stave off a proposition which it is inconvenient to put through. Besides, by this time next year, the sky may have cleared, prosperity may have set in, and the present seeming necessity for the repeal of the act may have passed off.

Legislative Council.

Hon. Mr. Seely was unanimously elected President of the Legislative Council in place of the late Hon. John Simcoe Saunders. As might be expected, the paragraph in the Speech regarding the propriety of amending the constitution by vesting the powers of Legislation in one Legislative Chamber, has excited much speculation. It is a dubiously worded paragraph, but, points of course, to a proposition to abolish the Legislative Council, though it has been ironically suggested that the Lower House will be asked to extinguish itself, or merge itself in the Upper. It may be expected that all the fire and argument which such of their Honors, as do not view their position with indifference, have at their command will be used in defence of their time honored body, and of its useful or essential place in the constitution. Three years ago when a *covert* attack was made on the Council, Hon. Mr. Chandler delivered a great Speech in refutation of the arguments of the then would be abolitionists. His great constitutional knowledge will be missed in the debate on the resolution that will be submitted by the Government, but some one will be found able and willing to fill the gap and defend the position.

F. R. C. Concert.

On Monday evening the Reform Club Minstrels gave their concert in the City Hall, which was well filled with an audience who greatly enjoyed the songs, sentimental and humorous, and some of the conundrums and local hits. The opening chorous was spirited. "Finnigan's Wake," and "The Irish Emigrant's Lament," by H. O'Brien, and Geo. Gunter—the end men who made the fun—were capitally given. Equally good, but in quite a different vein were "Kathleen Machree, "Kiss me Mother ere I Die" and "The Pride of Kildare," by J. C. O'Brien, James McAdam, and James Biggs. The clog and jig dancing by Messrs. Armstrong and Hammond, was very clever, and was vehemently applauded. The farce "Hotel de Ireland," (as the programme has it,) a Hibernian version of the celebrated farce, "Box and Cox," was amusing, and well acted by H. O'Brien, J. Poor, and J. McAdam. The concert closed with the screaming farce, "The Sausage Factory," which created much amusement. The minstrels have the talent necessary to furnish a capital entertainment, and we hope to see them improve it.

Grand Concert.

A Grand Concert will be given on Tuesday evening next, in the City Hall. This is the closing entertainment of the W. C. T. U. lecture course. The programme (in another column,) presents great attractions. As will be seen, there is an almost entire change of artistes from those who appeared on the last occasion, which shows that in Fredericton there is a great reserve of amateur talent. We hope the generous public, will, by a full attendance, show that they appreciate the efforts of the ladies of the C. T. U. in inaugurating the lecture course, which has already been deversified by a fine concert.

Ritualistic Skirmishes.

Skirmishing has been resumed at St. James Church, Hatchman. A fortnight ago the new vicar and the churchwardens met in the church about half an hour before the morning service. On seeing a gilt cross and two candlesticks with candles on the communion table, Mr. Saunders, the parishioners churchwarden, removed them and placed them in the vestry. He said he did this because the ornaments were illegal, and he was anxious that there should not be any cause for the continuance of disturbance amongst the congregation. Upon this the vicar declared that there would not be any service, and all left the church. A crowd had collected at the west door, and on coming out of the church, the vicar informed Mr. Saunders that he would not attend in the afternoon, but if the articles were not restored there would again be no service. A lady in the crowd cried out, "better have no service if there cannot be one without candlesticks." The clergyman with his bag then walked away. In about half an hour the following notice was posted on the west door: "There will be no service this morning in consequence of the interference of Churchwarden Saunders. Evening service at 3 p. m., if it can be held without molestation." By this time the crowd had considerably increased. The notice had been scarcely up a minute or two when it was torn down. Mr. Saunders addressing the people, informed them of what he had done, and of the determination to hold no service. The crowd expressed approval of the action of the churchwarden by loud cheers, and then dispersed. There was still a larger number of persons present at 3 o'clock. But Mr. Saunders informed them that the cross and candlestick had not been replaced, and that the vicar had declined to hold a service.

THE SITUATION IN SOUTH AFRICA.—The latest news from Cape Town does not at all diminish the anxiety with which those in high military circles regard the situation. The persistent and bold attacks of the Zulus, although repulsed, are believed to have again seriously weakened the British forces, and there is an alarming rumour to the effect that the supply of ammunition is running low. The Zulu King is understood to have sent commands throughout the whole of his dominion summoning his entire arm-bearing people for a combined attack upon the British, and that he has been strengthened also by the arrival of allies from distant tribes. The English profess confidence in their ability to repulse this attack, but great anxiety is felt here as to the result. Much time must yet elapse before the reinforcements can reach Cape Colony.

Electing a Bishop.

It is no easy matter to elect a Bishop of Toronto, and the bishopric of that diocese can be no pleasant position to fill. In anticipation of the meeting of Synod, the bitterest feeling have been aroused. From the matter and tone of the letters, of clerical and lay writers, the diocese must be in, what, one of them calls "a deplorable condition." A call has been made on all moderate minded members of the church to unite and elect 'a clergyman of a resolute temper, too much of a gentleman and christian to act unfairly, with too much common sense to be a fanatic, and too manly to be a tool," such a one in short, as is imperiously needed for the crisis, and to avert such a scandal as would be presented by a meeting of synod rendered futile by the rancorous spirit evinced by the two parties into which the church is divided. Four candidates have spoken of the High Church party, it is said will put forward Archdeacon Whittaker, and if his election is hopeless, will transfer their votes to Rev. Mr. Pearson of Holy Trinity. The church Association which, we suppose, represents the Low or Broad church party, will run the Rev. Maurice Baldwin of Montreal, keeping in reserve their real nominee, Rev. Dr. Sullivan of Chicago.

Last Saturday the Toronto *Mail* thus discribed how some of the churchmen of the diocese have been acting to compass their ends in the choice of a Bishop:—

Party caucuses are organized and actively at work; appeals are sent through the post, shaves are flying thick through the air; arrangements are being made to secure the attendance of delegates; the indifferent are being flattered by social invitations; the indigent are told that their expenses will be paid doubtful men are being got at; and accusations are being circulated against candidates and supporters of the wrong colour. Every device known to parliamentary and municipal electioneering is being put in practice, and it would seem that Christianity and fairness and confidence between man and man are by common consent left in abeyance until after the election. Each party, when appealed to meet the other in preliminary conference, replies: "Our opponents will meet us and pretend to consult, but will keep up their party organizations, and having fooled us to the top of our bent, will beat us at the polls." Is lying then the prevailing vice of the Anglican church? If so, shame to both parties who have so corrupted the conscience of their adherents. Moderate men are reminded of the proverb: "Between two "stools you fall to the ground;" and trembling before the frowns of the party leaders, though they boast that they form a majority of the Synod, they are afraid to come forward and champion the cause of open and united action.

The Diocesan Synod met of Thursday the 27th. A telegraphic despatch from Toronto reports that after the verification of delegates, Dean Grasett delivered an address to the Synod, in which he referred in feeling terms to the late Bishop Bethune, paying a high tribute to the memory of the diseased official. He trusted that in the election of the Bishop, the meeting would proceed in a Christian spirit with malice to none but love to all. A short adjournment then took place and on reassembling the first ballot was taken, resulting in Archdeacon Whittaker getting 80 clerical votes and 39 lay, and Rev. Dr. Sullivan, of Chicago, 24 clerical votes and 54 lay, Archdeacon Sweetman, of Huron, and Rev. Mr. Pearson, of Holy Trinity, got one vote