The Weekly Mail.

TORONTO, FRIDAY, MAY 17, 1878.

THE ISSUE IN BRIEF.

When a business man, who can't make both ends meet from year to year, keeps on increasing his outlay, he is not far off the assignee's office. Nations hold out longer than individuals, but a common fate is inevitable under like circumstances. In 1876 Canada's income ran behind her expenditure to the amount of $1,900,000. In 1877 there was a deficit of $1,460,000. This year, as Mr. Cartwright proposes to spend $26,200,000 and as his estimate of $23,500,000 of revenue was over $600,000 short in February last, the deficit will probably reach $3,500,000. This total of nearly $7,000,000 of deficits occurs, too, under an increased taxation of three millions of dollars a year. Mr. Cartwright doesn't see his way clear to levying more taxes. He has begun to pay Sinking Fund out of borrowed money. He can see no help ahead, nor discern any prospect of a recovery in the revenue, while he proceeds to add millions to the expenditure. Under these circumstances, it is pertinent to ask ourselves—What are we going to do about it?

Mr. Mackenzie's answer is that we should keep on drifting under his management without any definite object in view, except that of reaching an epoch when this shall be "a cheap country to live in," whatever "cheapness" may mean under such circumstances. Sir John Macdonald says that we should cut down the cost of governing the country—Mr. Mackenzie's expenditure this year will exceed that of the last year of Sir John's rule by nearly $4,000,000, or a dollar a head—and proceed to restore the revenue by restoring prosperity through a well-devised system of Protection to Home Industries. Here is where the two leaders differ. This is the issue.

THE GENERAL ELECTION.

We do not find those who have any authority to speak in the matter talking so confidently now of an early election for the Dominion as they did a few weeks ago. It is quite certain that when Parliament was prorogued on Friday last the Government had not decided to carry out the intention which there was every reason to believe they meant to act upon a short time before. We apprehend the belief was altogether too general that Mr. Mackenzie was led into extravagant hopes of the result of the Dominion elections by the loss of popularity suffered by the late De Boucherville Government in Quebec. Mr. Mackenzie knows better than to gauge his own strength by the weakness of the late Government of the adjoining Province. Dominion politics enter more or less into all the Provincial contests, but they are by no means the most operative causes. The tax bill of the De Boucherville Administration did infinitely more to bring M. Joly close to dividing the Province than any issue of Dominion politics. Mr. Mackenzie is well aware of this, and so are the vast majority of his supporters in Parliament. For this reason we find that the majority of the Grit members of the House of Commons are strongly opposed to an early election. They have so advised the Government, and to their will must give place all considerations of general expediency. There could be no more convenient time for the general election than the month of June. With the farmer it is that comparatively idle season between seed-time and harvest in which he could not only give a day to the casting of his ballot but could find odd hours to attend public meetings without either inconvenience or loss. To all other classes it would be a relief to have the elections over at the earliest possible moment.

But no one will be surprised at the Government's dread to meet the electorate. They may well throw themselves upon time, and trust to its wiping out some of the deep impressions made by their four and a half years of mal-administration. Hang on to office to the utmost the law allows, and they can draw six months' more salary, and continue to control the patronage of the Crown, and give snug berths to their still hungry followers. They prefer the six months of certainty to the inevitable defeat of the Grit Party which lies beyond it. They are conscious of the hopelessness of the appeal which they will have to make, sooner or later, to the people of the Dominion, and they prefer to do it later than sooner.

We say this without considering an element which cannot properly be left out of the count—we refer to the legitimate voice which the Governor-General must have in the question of dissolution. He has the right, now that the Government has had its last session of the Parliamentary term, to consider the question in all its bearings, and, if he reaches any settled opinion, to press it upon his Ministers. He has the right to go further, but we do not urge that view at present. His Excellency is a keen and intelligent observer of events. He has seen the Government majority of 90 dwindle down in four years to 34. He has seen seat after seat snatched from them in every Province of the Dominion. He must be satisfied that it cannot be for the best interests of the country that it should have to pass through the turmoil of an election contest extending all through the long summer months. He must be aware that if the elections are deferred to a late day the present Government will not busy itself in preparing measures for the next session of Parliament, and if they are defeated an inadequate time will be afforded their successors to engage in the same work. It must be remembered, too, that his Excellency's term ends in September or October; and, although we feel confident Lord Dufferin would not obtrude any reasons personal to himself into a matter of public policy, we must all feel that there would be a convenience in having the elections held under a Governor General thoroughly acquainted with our affairs rather than under one who would be wholly new to them. We are therefore disposed to think that his Excellency must see the propriety and advantage to the country generally of having the elections held at a time which would avoid the disturbance of society in all its ramifications for the next six or eight months, besides determining the right of the existing Administration to exercise powers which, there is now good reason to believe, they do not wield by virtue of the popular will. If any of our Grit friends should question the power of the Governor General to interpose in the matter of dissolution, we would say that it does not fairly rest with those who have defended Lieutenant Governor Letellier in his high-handed and unconstitutional course to object to the exercise (should it be called for) of the prerogative of dissolution.

THE EXPENDITURE.

Mr. Cartwright's Supplementary Estimates, rushed down in the last hour of the session, increase the intended expenditure for the current year to $26,200,000, or $3,700,000 more than the expenditure in the last full year of the Macdonald *regime*. Here are the figures since 1872-3:

1872-3	$22,500,000
1873-4	23,316,000
1874-5	23,713,000
1875-6	24,488,000
1876-7	23,587,000
1877-8	,26203,000

The organs occasionally contend that the Macdonald Government was responsible for the expenditure of 1873-4 in which they ruled four months and Mr. Mackenzie and his colleagues eight. Granting that, then there is a difference between the expenditure of 1873-4 and 1877-8 of nearly $3,000,000 for which the Party of Economy is solely responsible. Mr. Cartwright estimated the revenue for 1877-8 at $23,500,000. On the 1st February last he found that there was a deficit up to that date of $600,000. Supposing that there will be no further deficit—that the Finance Minister will receive $22,900,000 of revenue—then between that sum and the expenditure of $26,200,000 which he contemplates, there will be a difference of no less than $3,300,0000! No country in the world, though it had a Golconda in every acre of its area, could stand long in Lombard street under the shadow of such an enormous difference between its revenue and expenditure.

Mr. Mackenzie and his associates seem to have gone mad. The volume of trade has fallen from $218,000,000 to $168,000,000, a decrease of $50,000,000. In 1876 there was a deficit of $1,900,000; in 1877 one of $1,460,000, while that of the current year threatens to equal the total of the last two. The liabilities of the failures of the past four years reach close on $100,000,000; and there is no marked improvement in the outlook. Surely if ever a Government were urged by circumstances to be economical, it is this; but the worse the times and the lighter the revenue, the more Mr. Cartwright spends and the faster grows our debt.

THE PREMIER AND HIS ENGINEERS.

Mr. Mackenzie has an unmanly practice of sheltering himself behind his engineers. Wherever a blunder has been committed, and money wasted, and public censure is directed to it, he invariably places the blame on some of his officers. Their patience must at times be sorely tried, and it is no doubt a grim satisfaction to them when they can return the compliment and place the Minister in the wrong; this they did in the investigations before committees on Canada Pacific matters.

One of the Premier's standing boasts has been of his economy in the construction of that railway. On the floor of Parliament last year (see *Hansard* page 1,634) he deliberately and solemnly asserted that he was building 228 miles of the Pacific Railway equal, except wooden bridges, to the Intercolonial, and at one half the cost. We quote his own words:

"It is known now that the actual cost of the Intercolonial will be as nearly as may be, embracing all the rolling stock which is essential to its working, $48,000 per mile, or as near as can be double the cost of the 228½ miles which we have under contract. There is this, however, to be said regarding the structures on the Intercolonial, the bridges are somewhat extensive and are of the very best description; with that exception, the road built in the west as part of the Pacific railroad will in every respect be equal.

"Dr. Tupper—I want to know if I am accurate in understanding the hon. gentleman as saying that, with the exception of the bridges on the Intercolonial railway being more expensive and numerous, the general character of the road is about the same, as far as regards the construction of a railway.

"Mr. Mackenzie—The road will be about the same.

"Dr. Tupper—That is, the road-bed will be equally as good as that on the Intercolonial?

"Mr. Mackenzie—Yes."

It seems that no member on the Opposition side had been favoured with a sight of the specifications, and he escaped detection. Emboldened by his success in the Commons he carried the misrepresentation with him through his picnic campaign, parading it on all occasions when the cheers of the faithful were to be drawn out. On page 122 of the report of his speeches there is this paragraph:

"Pacific Railway being Built at Half the Cost of Intercolonial."

"Now, the 228 miles of the Pacific Railway, beginning at Thunder Bay, now under contract, we are building with as good a road bed as the Intercolonial, only our bridges, which are of wood instead of iron.

"We have 228 miles under contract, and forty or fifty miles of that distance is over an extremely difficult country. We have one tunnel *seven or eight hundred yards long* through a very hard rock, and the road costs us, under our wise and economical system of contracts, including an ample allowance for rolling stock, $24,535 per mile, or about one half the cost of the Intercolonial. (Loud cheers)."

No doubt every good Grit who heard this bold statement felt ready to swear on an unlimited number of bibles that the statement was in every respect true, and to bless George Brown for having put over them a Premier who could give as good a road as the Intercolonial at half the cost. But other men who are familiar with the work—who know it in all its details just as well as the Premier does—declare, yea, solemnly swear, it is not true. We have the report of the evidence taken before the Senate Committee on the Fort Frances lock. Marcus Smith, who has been for years on the Canada Pacific, and in the absence of Mr. Fleming was acting chief, was examined under oath 13th March. We make a few extracts from his evidence to place beside the Premier's statement:

"Question.—Is there much timber used in the construction of the railway? Answer.—It is proposed to use a very large quantity of timber in the construction of section 15. * * Long reaches of trestle work will be used, which will considerably reduce the excavations.

"Q.—How long is the life of the pine and tamarac in trestle work? A.—From ten to twelve years, or longer.

"Q.—Of what material are the culverts on the Canada Pacific Railway? A.—They are made of wood. There are openings in the trestle work wherever a culvert is required so wide that a culvert can afterwards be built of masonry. As for the trestle work, it will never, I think, be renewed after it decays.

"Q.—How long does timber in culverts last? A.—I should say it would last from eight to ten years, probably longer; of course there is one portion of the timber which decays sooner than the other; that is the portion just over the surface of the land; the timber that is subjected to alternate moisture and dryness.

"Q.—How does this road compare with the Intercolonial Railway? A.—It bears no comparison to the Intercolonial Railway. The Intercolonial is one of the best constructed roads on the continent."

We make no comment on the painful difference in the statements of a bold Premier and of an honest, conscientious engineer under oath.

Mr. Smith is not, however, the only engineer who contradicts the Premier. Mr. Mackenzie, in the extract we have given above from his picnic speeches, says: "We have one tunnel seven or eight hundred yards long." Now, Mr. Rowan, who is in charge of the western sections under contract, when giving his evidence before the Public Accounts Committee, was asked about the length of the tunnels, and declared the longest to be only four hundred or four hundred and twenty feet; about one-sixth the length the Premier gives. On the eastern section, near Thunder Bay, the longest is five hundred feet. We read of the "faith that removes mountains," but we have now heard the tongue which can accomplish this end. We have seen the man—the Premier—who, to suit his purpose and draw a cheer from a crowd, stretches out the granite hills to five times their natural length. Marvellous Premier! Wonderful man!

MR. HAY'S ADDRESS.

Mr. Robert Hay has issued his address to the electors of Centre Toronto. It is the straight-forward business declaration of an honest business man. For many long years Mr. Hay belonged to the Reform Party. He believed in their professions. He thought they had sincerely at heart the best interests of the country. He considered they were desirous of practising the economy they so loudly preached. In all these respects he has to acknowledge that he has been deceived and betrayed; and he is now as heartily opposed to his old party as he was at one time heartily favourable to it. He has found new leaders and a new shibboleth. "I have adopted the principles of and "joined hands with the Opposition, "because I am at one with its leaders "on the vital question of a national "policy, and because the experience of "the last five years has convinced me "that under their rule we may expect "far wiser statesmanship and a greater "prosperity than we can hope for from "the men now in power." And then Mr. Hay goes on to give more in detail the reasons for his conversion—not, be it remembered, on the eve of an election, for every successive act of the Reform leaders has, for four years past, been steadily and irresistibly urging him forward to the determined opposition to them which his address sets forth in unmistakeable language. We feel confident such an address will have weight, not in Centre Toronto only, but in every constituency in Ontario at least. Mr. Hay is not one of those men who desire public life for its own sake. He enters it because he believes that under the rule of the present Government the country is suffering untold evils, and that by his voice and presence in Parliament he may proclaim the necessity for a better state of things. We cannot believe that Mr. Hay will be disappointed in the support which he expects to receive in Centre Toronto on the strength of such a declaration of principles.

PROTECTION IN AUSTRALIA.

Mr. W. C. Purnell, a well-known Australian publicist, contributes an article to the April number of the *Fortnightly Review* on politics in Australia, which is well worthy of being read and studied here in Canada. He complains that colonial politics when discussed in Great Britain are invariably treated from a home point of view. "Free Trade "has proved remarkably successful in "promoting the commercial prosperity "of the Mother Country; therefore the "colonists of Victoria ought to "adopt a Free Trade tariff, and "are rank heretics for presuming to think that Protectionist "principles are better suited to the peculiar circumstances of the colony. "The argument indeed is not put in "that bold shape—there is much talk of "immutable principles and the like but "that is the pith of it." The colonists are of course considered quite wrong in England, and we might fancy our author, in the following remarks, was dealing with Canadian Free Traders who are generally echoes, and perhaps interested echoes of English opinion: "The "colonists who understand their own "wants and surroundings are always "wrong; the home mentors who are "usually quite ignorant of them, invariably right." In the Australasian colonies we are told there has been no greater demoralizing influence than Government doing what Mr. Mackenzie has determined to do in regard to the Pacific railway—namely, making inroads on the field of private enterprise. "Political "railways" is a colloquialism with a definite meaning in the Australasian colonies. A late Prime Minister of New Zealand frankly told a constituency represented by a member of the Opposition, that if they wanted roads and bridges made in their district, they must elect a representative who would support the Ministry.

Parties are essential to the proper working of Responsible Government. Parties are the great want of the Australian colonies. "A Ministry holds "office just so long as it can satisfy the "selfish demands of a section of its "supporters, and no longer," and owing to the want of parties with definite principles, the writer complains that the honourable politician is heavily handicapped in the political race.

The principal article in the creed of the Victoria Liberal party is the same as the principal article in the creed of the Liberal-Conservative party of Canada—namely, the development of local manufactures by means of a protective tariff. "The argument which hits the popular "taste is that while Free Trade doctrines may suit the circumstances "of an old country like Great "Britain, they are totally inapplicable "to a young one where manufactures "require fostering during the early "stages of their existence." We are assured by the writer that the experience of Victoria is altogether against Free Trade. The Free Trade league, started a year or two ago, frankly threw up the sponge at the last elections. The Protectionists are triumphant, and rival in their zeal the enthusiastic activity of the Free Trade leaders thirty years ago in England.

In New Zealand a like spirit prevails. The great importers, as with ourselves, are Free Traders. But "Protection, I "repeat," says Mr. Purnell, "however unpleasant it may sound in the "ears of political economists in England, is waxing, and Free Trade waning, in strength in Australia and New "Zealand." There are other points of great importance raised in the able essay before us; one, the weakness of the democratic power, the other the federation of the empire, in which last the writer does not believe, regarding as he does the present colonial relation as one which cannot be improved either for England or the colonies.

HONOUR TO THE CHIEFS.

The splendid torchlight procession which, on Saturday night, welcomed Sir John Macdonald and Dr. Tupper back to Toronto after the exacting labours of a long Parliamentary session, was a fitting proof of the warm place which the great leader of the Conservative Party and his able first lieutenant hold in the hearts of the people of Toronto, and a fitting tribute to their earnest services in the cause of the State. We have arrived at a crisis in our affairs. We find in power a Government which is running behind at the rate of two millions a year, and yet goes on spending with a lavish hand—and yet holds on to a fiscal policy which even the old nations of Europe who have tried it are abandoning—and yet declares it to be the highest virtue to fold their arms and wait until the cloud breaks and the sun pours a ray of light through the gloom. Sir John Macdonald and Dr. Tupper lead a Party which looks upon these things as alarming and tending to ultimate ruin. They are the unyielding advocates of a National Policy of Protection. As such, Toronto does them honour; and we are sure that the hearty, buoyant spirit which animates the citizens of the Capital of the West beats responsive in the hearts of the majority of the people of the Dominion.

MODERN BURGLARS.

A recent trial at the Middlesex (Eng.) Sessions, in a somewhat singular case of house robbery, throws a good deal of light on the *modus operandi* of modern professional burglars. It seems to be very simple. In the morning a visit is paid to the suburbs, sometimes on foot, sometimes in a cab. During this reconnaissance houses which seem insufficiently guarded are marked down for future operations. The necessary information having been gained, all which is needed is the requisite audacity to act upon it. A small semi-detached villa is seldom too carefully watched. The master of the house is away at his business, and his wife is shopping or visiting. The one servant who discharges all the household duties is on leave for a half-holiday. The premises, in short, are left absolutely unprotected. The practised burglar, seizing the happy opportunity, soon quietly opens a door or window and rifles the premises from top to bottom. In Toronto, where houses are continually left with "nobody at "home," do we not know all about it? In the hall are the overcoats and umbrellas. In the parlours a good clock and some articles of *vertu*. In the dining-room another clock, and somewhere else perhaps a certain amount of plate, not of great value, but still worth enough to repay the conveyancer. Upstairs the burglar, if not interrupted, will find a silk dress or two, a sealskin jacket and various small articles of jewellery. Altogether, the loot will range from $50 to $300. There are few professional men who can hope upon an average to make $150 in the course of the day's work, and the burglar, so long as he escapes detection, makes a good income, with little trouble, and, on the whole, with not even much risk of being "bagged." On the premises of one of the worthies tried at the Middlesex Sessions were found the proceeds of no less than twenty-six suburban robberies—the blame of which, by-the-bye is often thrown on the police by the careless householders who lose their goods.

The chief interest of the trial before Sergeant Edlin was, however, in revealing the type of life and antecedents of the modern professional burglar. The old-fashioned operator, with felt soles, crape mask, loaded pistol and dark lantern is as exploded as Grit purity. The modern practitioner is a more business-like and less romantic being. He has, as a rule, at one time or another, worked at some mechanical trade—has been a painter, or a glazier, house-decorator, or plumber. He understands locks, bolts and bars nearly as well as a "pairty" letter-stealer understands eaves-dropping and filching. He knows how to take out a pane of glass, and how a door can be easily opened without creaking on its hinges. He has in his mind a tolerably accurate idea of the average suburban house—where the clock will be, where the plate, if any, will be stowed, and where the hats, coats and umbrellas will be hanging up. He usually also has a female accomplice though probably not engaged in the active part of the business. It is seldom we find a Mr. William Sikes without a Miss Nancy. The female accomplice makes acquaintance with servant girls, presents them with tickets for shows and places of amusement, and otherwise entangles them. The unlucky victim rarely suspects her new friend has ulterior objects. In the most confiding manner she tells her all the secrets of the household. On "Thursdays" the master is always at his club, or card party, till one a.m.; on "Saturdays" the house is often empty from noon till night; and on "Sundays," too, the premises are frequently in no one's charge. These and other little secrets, of course, soon find their way to Mr. Sikes. In fact burglary is still, as it has ever been, a regular trade, and everything is done on business principles. The premises intended for plunder are mapped out. Time, opportunity and circumstances are aptly chosen. And the booty once secured the "receiver" is not wanting. Mr. Sikes knows well enough where to find that indispensable personage.

The moral is that those who live in suburban residences cannot be too careful in guarding their premises. The poisoning, or sudden disappearance of the house-dog, ought always to cause a little extra vigilance. A dog is an exhibit of animated nature to which Mr. Sikes has a rooted objection—that is, on other people's premises—otherwise he is rather partial to that quadruped, and usually has one of his own. It appears that the majority of suburban burglaries are effected in the afternoon, as this is the time houses are often left entirely unprotected. A well dressed man walks up to the door, and gives a loud double-knock. If at the end of ten minutes—the knock having been repeated—no answer is made, he quietly inserts a jemmy between the latch and the door post, breaks the door open, walks in, help himself to what takes his fancy, and then walks off. No one sees him, or, if noticed at all, he is taken for an ordinary visitor. This seems to be the new form which burglary has taken. The trade is ignoble, but it pays. At least that is what the police say, and they ought to know. The suburban villa occupant, therefore, if he will leave his house totally unprotected, should not expect on his return to find the umbrellas in the stand—the hats and overcoats in the hall, the clock on the mantelpiece, and the plate in the cellaret.

THE FENIAN SCARE.

The Militia authorities at Ottawa appear to have thought it necessary to take precautions against a sudden incursion across the border. There is no reason to believe that any immediate attempt of the kind is intended, but doubtless there are some Fenians on the other side of the line who would be mad enough, if England were engaged in war, to pay a hostile visit to Canada. Should they come with evil intent they will be "welcomed with bloody hands to "hospitable graves."

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The Newmarket *Era* says, "wires were pulled to prevent the nomination of Mr. Irving, of Hamilton," in North York! From King street east, no doubt.

The Moncton *Times* says Sir Albert Smith will be defeated in Westmoreland beyond the shadow of a doubt, and advises him to retire to a snug lieutenant-governorship and $10,000 a year.

Mr. John Walker has announced himself as an "Independent Reform" candidate in London—whatever that may mean. He does not say a single word in his address about Chief Justice Hagarty's judgment.

The report of the scene in the House on Friday afternoon, in which Mr. Donald A. Smith was the principal actor and the sole offender, will be read by every elector in the country with pain and amazement.

The *Gazette de Joliette* says M. Magnan, the newly elected member for Montcalm, is an out-and-out opponent of the Joly Administration, and comments on the audacity of the Rouge journals in claiming him and Messrs. Bertrand, Tarcotte and Caron as Rouges.

Montreal *Gazette*:—"The overwhelming majority in Montreal is against Mr. Mackenzie and his Government. As we have said, there is not a merchant, unless the two or three who happen to be interested personally in the defence of Mr. Mackenzie's Government, who does not feel that some change is necessary."

The Brockville *Recorder* is not as enthusiastic as some of its Ministerial brethren over the prospect of defeating Sir John Macdonald in Kingston:—"Kingston Liberals are sanguine in the belief that they will defeat Sir John at the coming election. The Knight is a tough customer in a campaign, and if die he must, will die hard."

The St. John, N.B., *Freeman*, Mr. Anglin's paper, in an article on the "Land of the Pharoahs," says:—"In fact, the Khedive has been exhibiting a policy twin in its resemblance and evil results to that of Mr. Cartwright. The issue in each case will probably be equally disastrous unless a change is speedily initiated." Pretty strong for Mr. Speaker.

The Chicago *Journal of Commerce* in calculating the chance of England going to war, says, in that case, the United States would be sure to get hold of a substantial portion of British commerce. Thus it indulges its fancy:—"We would get about all the trade of Canada and Mexico, with the lion's share of South America's. We would enter upon new commercial conquests in China, in India, in Japan, in Australia, and even in Europe itself."

Coaticook *Observer*:—"The election of Mr. Price in Saguenay the other day makes the new House consist of 34 Conservatives and 31 Liberals. We understand that the programme settled upon is to vote want of confidence in the Joly Ministry on a motion to be proposed by Mr. Chapleau, re-affirming the vote of condemnation passed by the late Legislature upon the conduct of the Lieutenant-Governor. This will be fair play to the Joly Ministry, inasmuch as it will be carrying out the decision of the country at the polls."

In reply to an attack by the Galt *Reformer*, Mr. Merner, the National Policy candidate in South Waterloo, says: "I am not ashamed to come out boldly and say that I am a Protectionist, and claim that it is the only thing that will save our country from sinking deeper and deeper into the mire which it is now passing through, and it behoves every well-wisher of our country to be up and doing everything that lays in his power to elect a man to represent them that will give their country equal rights and fair play."

Guelph *Herald*:—"Nothing more clearly shows the hollowness of the professions of purity made by the supporters of the Mackenzie and Mowat administrations, than their selection as candidates at the coming election of men who took the lead in the gigantic scheme of corruption practiced in 1874. Mr. Cook, who swore that he spent $28,000 in North Simcoe, has been renominated in that constituency. Mr. McGregor has again been selected in Essex, and the notorious Major Walker, now disqualified from exercising the ordinary rights of citizenship, on account of his corrupt practices, is spoken of as the most probable Government nominee in London."

Le Canadien explains how it came that M. Fortin, the Conservative candidate, retired from Gaspe and allowed Professor Flynn to go in by acclamation. When M. Joly took office the Registrarship of Gaspé was vacant, the old Government intending to confer it on the son of the previous incumbent. Mr. Flynn, however, appointed M. Dumais, a Megantic lawyer, and the writ was addressed to him. The Magdalen Islands, containing a solid body of 400 Conservative votes, are in the constituency, and the law allows twenty-four days' delay in holding the elections there. But M. Dumais coolly declared that twenty-four days was not enough, and determined to hold the elections without bothering himself about the Islands or his patron with the 400 anti-Flynn votes there. M. Fortin then retired under protest.

"National Policy" meetings have been held lately in three Ontario constituencies—South Wellington, South Waterloo and North Waterloo, and have been addressed by Mr. W. H. Fraser, Mr. A. W. Wright, and others. To these meetings men of both parties are invited, and only one question is discussed—that of a trade policy suitable for all Canada—in other words, National Policy. We observe that two meetings of this character are called for the present week, one at Paris, for Thursday; and one at Brantford, for Friday. The Grit organs, knowing that their leaders have put the party on the wrong side of this question, are intensely mortified to find any such discussion going on at all, and would, no doubt, like to see it summarily put a stop to, did the law permit such a mode of dealing with the "disturbing speeches" now being made by not a few good Reformers, of life-long record on that side of politics. These meetings are bringing out very clearly the enormous blunder made by Mr. Mackenzie and his colleagues in setting at defiance the prevailing sentiment of the country, with regard to the most needful and the most practical of all "Reforms" for which a demand is made.

The New York *Herald* publishes a list of one hundred and seventy-one American steamers "all available for transformation into armed cruisers." We doubt whether this claim could be made good for the half of them, but if only a fourth part of the number were found fit to carry guns and take to the sea as Russian cruisers they might "prey upon British commerce" to an extent not pleasant to contemplate. It is affirmed that English as well as Russian buyers are in the market, eager to secure the best American vessels regardless of expense, the motive with the English being, not so much to secure the vessels for themselves, as to prevent the Russians from getting them. As might have been expected, American owners see visions of enormous prices, and are asking figures so high that possibly both competitors may be driven away in disgust. Such is one of the latest *Herald* stories, which after all agrees in the main with what has been given out by Russian officers now in America as their mission is to buy American steamers which are to be made Russian cruisers. Meantime the neutrality laws are being closely studied by all the authorities interested.

CANADIAN.

Mr. Price's majority in Chicoutimi was 241.

On Manitoulin Island potatoes are in good supply at from 25 to 30 cents per bushel.

Dr. Devlin, formerly of Hamilton, is practising his profession on the village of Arthur.

Mr. George Wheeler, reeve of Uxbridge, cut on the 30th of April clover measuring eighteen inches high.

The present population of the County of Middlesex, exclusive of the city and incorporated towns and villages, is returned at 56,479.

Framfari, the Icelandic paper published at Gimli, Keewatin, has already a circulation of 600, although it has had an existence of eight months only.

Lachine *Watchman*:—"What Canada wants is a protective tariff, and a National Policy, and such cannot be secured except by a Conservative Government."

Mr. Anthony Dixon, Collector of Customs at Belleville, has died very suddenly from heart disease at the age of fifty-eight. He had been in the public service for thirty-four years.

A small immigration from Iceland into Manitoba is anticipated during the summer. The immigrants will only be those of independent means, who will not require any assistance from the Government for passage.

Charlottetown, P.E.I., *Examiner*:—"If the cause of Liberal-Conservatism has, throughout the Dominion, everywhere gained as much as in Charlottetown within the last few years, Sir John may reckon on a grand triumph."

A few days ago, a gentleman in a prominent position in town, gave a cheque on a bank to a farmer, and upon its presentation, the encouraging reply was given—"no funds." The farmer came out, and meeting a friend, in the most anxious tone enquired, "Is the bank bust?" It was not, but when the circumstance became known round town, the gentleman who gave the cheque very soon was.—*Goderich Star*.

Says the Napanee *Beaver*:—"One would hardly think that the human skin could hold as much meanness as shown by the wretch who, while Mr. Joseph Young, of South Fredericksburgh, and family, were absent at church one Sunday, recently, came on to his farm in female attire, and sowed a large quantity of tares, charlock (wild mustard), wild peas, and seeds of other noxious weeds. Mr. Young offers a reward of $100 for the detection of the miscreant.

A St. Paul paper says that the Chicago and North-Western and West Wisconsin roads are under contract to carry two thousand immigrants during the months of April and May, and have filled one-half their contract. The other thousand will pass over the road next month. Many of these people, our contemporary says, will locate on lands in the western and northern portions of Minnesota, but the larger portion are destined for Manitoba.

The Kingston *Daily News* of a recent date says that diphtheria is, or then was, prevalent to an alarming extent on Wolfe Island. One week lately, there were no less than seven deaths caused by it, and the victims were all young people. In the family of Mr. David Macalister, Reid's Bay, three children died within a few days. The two eldest were twin sons, aged fourteen, and they died, as they were born, within half an hour after each other. A married son of Mr. Macalister's and his wife were lying sick of the same disease, but hopes were entertained of their recovery.

The absconding bank manager, of Tiffin, Ohio, who has been living in retirement in the neighbouring villages of Dorchester and Belmont for some weeks past, was overhauled this week, at the latter place by an American detective named Norris. He was not arrested, as the charge against him is only one of embezzlement, which is not extraditable. The two men greeted each other pleasantly, Zeller not being at all disconcerted. It is stated his defalcation amounts to over $50,000. The detective has returned home to see if he cannot fish up some extraditable crime against Zeller.

A clerk in the employ of the railway company at Seaforth lately absconded, leaving a large number of sorrowing creditors, as well as a wife and nine children, behind him. It is thought that he has taken quite a pile of cash with him, as he was never known to pay for anything, except, perhaps, his respects—and he wouldn't have even paid that if it had cost him money. The *Expositor* says he went by way of London, and hopes the London people will treat him well and often, as nothing else will fail to please him. His absconding so shortly after the robbery is thought by many to be rather a strange coincidence, which may require investigation by a detective.

We find the following in a Western exchange:—"The *Farmers' Advocate* suggests the imposition of a tax on entire horses, in order to prevent inferior animals being put on the road. The amount suggested is $50 per head. The collecting of the tax and the expenditure of it might be placed in the hands of Agricultural Societies in each locality, and, in fact, the right to impose the tax might be left with them. The law might fix a maximum and minimum rate, as some wealthy localities might wish to have it raised to $100, while other poorer sections might consider $25 sufficient. It would create greater interest in the Agricultural Societies, which would also be beneficial."

So far only two shop licences for the sale of liquor have been granted in the county of Ontario, one in Oshawa, and one in Whitby. The *Vindicator* says:—"It appears that the Commissioners had no power to refuse such licences. Further, that there is some doubt if licences are necessary, and we believe two grocers have sold without a licence, in Bowmanville, and it is possible that the case will be early tested. * * * Petitions are being circulated for a repeal of the by-law, and it is anticipated they will come before the County Council at the June session. On the other hand, the Dunkin people are discussing the advisability of submitting the bill now before the Dominion Parliament."

Grand Division Sons of Temperance of Ontario.—The semi-annual session of this Grand Division will be held in the Town Hall, Port Perry, commencing on Tuesday, the 28th inst., at two o'clock p.m. Arrangements have been made by which board will be provided at private houses at one dollar per day. Representatives are requested to send their names to Brother John Nott, Port Perry, Secretary of Committee of Arrangements, and report themselves at the hall immediately on their arrival, when they will be directed to homes by the Committee. The usual arrangements have been made with the Grand Trunk, Great Western, Midland, St. Lawrence and Ottawa, and Whitby and Port Perry railways to convey members for one fare and one-third for the double journey. Certificates for reduced fares should be applied for to the Grand Scribe immediately. Public meetings are expected to be held on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. A large attendance of representatives is earnestly requested.

The Montreal *Herald* has the following warning for possessors of superfluous jewellery:—"For several days past articles of jewellery, such as rings, studs, gold pencils, &c., have mysteriously disappeared from the residence of Mr. Davis, 1,355 St. Catherine street. Detectives Arcand and Biche were entrusted with the case, and at last suspected one of the painters employed in renovating the house, whom they arrested. His boarding house was searched, and the missing articles found in a small valise belonging to him. Prisoner confessed his guilt, adding that there were so many of these valuables lying about all over the house that he thought there was no harm in taking a few. 'Why'? he asked, 'do they not take care of their goods'! The detectives replied that the abundance of the wealthy should be no incentive to steal on the part of those less fortunate. Prisoner will appear before the Police Magistrate to-day. It would be well for householders to take the initiative and place temptation out of the way."

Art has within recent years made great strides in Toronto. It ought, in the interest of the country, to be more appreciated amongst us, for we have talent here in the world of art in every walk which would challenge recognition anywhere, and would surely meet with it in London or New York. It is always a matter of regret when artistic talent, owing to want of opportunity for cultivation and of a field of activity, is lost to the country. *En revanche* it is a pleasure to follow and note its success. Miss Fanny Sutherland, formerly of Toronto (she is the sister of Mr. J. W. Sutherland of the Great Western railway) has for some years been a student at Kensington, of whose Art School she is a distinguished graduate. Last year she had two pictures hung in the Royal Academy. This year, notwithstanding more than usual competition, Miss Sutherland, in whom in some sense we may take an interest as a Canadian, has again been successful. Her "Exhibit" is an oil life size portrait of the Hon. Mrs. Stapleton, and which is entered as "Portrait of a Lady."

We are informed that a scheme has been laid before the cashiers of the different banks in this city, for giving them telephonic communication with their branches in Montreal, and that it is their intention to avail themselves of the offer. The proposal is to construct a special wire between the two cities, and switch on branch wires leading to the offices of each of the banks. Any cashier may then converse directly with any other cashier in the other city, an advantage which will be found of very great value when drafts, &c., are presented for payment. The telephone to be used is Dunnet's patent, an improvement on the Bell telephone. Quebec promises to be the first city to thus utilize this modern invention in the banking business, but a special line erected by Mr. Duquet, who has also the present scheme in hand for the banks, has been for some weeks in working order between the North Shore railway station of the Palais and the contractor's office, Dalhousie street. Orders for starting or delaying trains are daily forwarded over this wire from the Lower Town.—*Quebec Chronicle*.

Animosities Between Indians and French-Canadians.

Montreal, May 13.—A serious fire took place at Caughnawaga on Saturday last, whereby a man named Oziar Mekiche came to his death. It seems that about 10 o'clock in the evening he discovered that the barn was on fire, and ran to save his horses and cattle, which were confined there. While doing so, it is supposed that he became suffocated with the smoke and was unable to return, and so was burnt to death. The horses, cattle, and sheep, of which there were a good number, together with the barn and contents, were totally destroyed. No doubt is entertained but this is the work of an incendiary, as this is the fourth attempt to fire the village within a short time. It is believed that these attempts are the outcome of animosities which exists between the Indians and the French-Canadians. The deceased was 48 years of age, and leaves a wife and family.

Death of Mr. George Moffat.

Mr. George Moffat, late M.P. for Restigouche, died at his residence, Dalhousie, N.B., at two p.m. Monday after a short illness. Mr. Moffat was in his sixth-eighth year, having been born in Scotland in 1810. He was a large lumber merchant, and was a man of active business habits and strict integrity. He unsuccessfully contested Restigouche for the Commons in 1868, and was first returned on the death of the sitting member in 1870, being re-elected in 1872, and returned by acclamation in 1874. He was a staunch Conservative. Last fall, it will be remembered, having unknowingly violated the strict provision of the Independence of Parliament Act, he resigned and declined re-election. Highly esteemed by all who knew him, the news of his death will be received with heartfelt regret in many circles.

Fierce Rioting at Blackburn.

London, May 14.—Serious rioting began at Blackburn this evening. Thousands of the lowest class of operatives, including women, paraded the streets, making violent demonstrations. The residence of Col. Jackson, chairman of the Masters' Association, was burned to the ground. The same mob attempted to burn Jackson's mills. The residence of Alderman Hornby was partially wrecked, and the windows of all the mills in town demolished. A strong force of infantry from Preston has arrived, and a troop of cavalry is coming.

The infantry and cavalry at Blackburn cleared the streets, but great destruction was committed before their arrival. Col. Jackson and wife barely escaped in a cab. Alderman Hornby was injured by being struck by stones while remonstrating with the rioters.

Heavy Frosts.

Cincinnati, O., May 14.—Despatches from seventy-five points in Ohio and Indiana indicate that the ice and frost of the past few nights have very materially injured the vegetables, and the early fruit crops are somewhat damaged.

Norwich, Ont., May 14.—The hard frosts of Sunday and Monday nights have done much injury here to the fruit crop, especially to strawberries and grapes. Other fruits are injured, but probably not so severely. James Barker estimates his loss on strawberries alone at $1,500; Elis Mott at $800. The crops on the sand are more injured than those on the clay. Clover and timothy are also much damaged.

Poughkeepsie, N.Y., May 14.—There was a heavy white frost in the Hudson River Valley last night. In some places ice formed an eighth of an inch thick. The grape crop is two-thirds ruined.

Wallack's Orchestra.—The orchestra of Wallack's Theatre, New York, is famous for its extraordinary precision. This is due entirely to Thomas Baker, an Englishman, who has conducted it for years. Mr. Baker used to suffer terribly from rheumatism, but now is as supple and nimble as a schoolboy. He ascribes his freedom, as he ought, to Giles' Liniment Iodide of Ammonia.

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