THE HERALD

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 1886.

A Word to the Electors of the Second District.

We republish to-day the Table of Comparative Expenditure, shewing the reduction which the present Government have made since their advent to office. Let it be remembered that this is ordinary expenditure only, which can be controlled at pleasure, and that we pay $40,000 a year more for Education than we did seven years ago. Our figures have been procured from the public records of the Province, which is the only reliable source from which to obtain information. They show the policy of the present Government to be one of economy and retrenchment. This is the policy adopted by Mr. Bovyer; therefore it is safe to predict that he will be returned by an overwhelming majority.

Being unable to refute a single argument advanced by the HERALD, the *Patriot* resorts to its old tactics in declaring that there is a public debt, which it has estimated on different occasions, according to the flights of Mr. Laird's imagination. But the *Patriot* has cried "Wolf! Wolf!" so often, when there was no wolf, that its statements are unworthy of serious consideration. The newspaper that opposed the granting of Better Terms, the Repeal of the Assessment and Poll Tax Acts, the Subway agitation, and almost every other movement calculated to benefit this Province, will scarcely be accepted as an authority on our financial position before the Public Accounts are laid before our representatives. The people of Belfast have painful recollections of the way in which the *Patriot* deceived them in the past, and, as every schoolboy must observe, our Grit contemporary shows no signs of amendment. As well expect the leopard to change its spots as look for political honesty in that quarter.

The dishonesty of the indebtedness cry is on a par with the agitation of a certain gentleman to "stop the railway," by which he succeeded in depriving his own constituents of that which he had a right to demand for them. It is also on a par with the *Patriot's* vile attack upon the Stock Farm to injure its reputation in the eyes of the outside world. And that, too, for the mean gratification of injuring a political opponent. This institution has no equal to-day in the Maritime Provinces; therefore, our farmers owe it to themselves to defend their interests when they are attacked to serve party purposes.

The same cowardly spirit is displayed by the *Patriot* with regard to the proposed Subway. It is jealous of those who are capable of accomplishing anything; hence its attempts to question the feasibility of the scheme, and play into the hands of our opponents.

In view of all the circumstances, it is the duty of the Electors of the Second District to support economical Government by recording their votes for Mr. Bovyer, and thus show that they have at heart the welfare of the country.

Comparative Statement of Several Items of Expenditure for the Years 1878 and 1884.

SALARIES	1878	1884	Increase	D'crease
Attorney General	$1600	$1300	.....	$ 300
Auditor and Clerk Executive Council	2400	1200	.....	1200
Superintendent Education	1500	1200	.....	300
Inspectors of Schools	2000	1400	.....	600
Masters College and Normal School	5933	4100	.....	1833
Medical Superintendent Lunatic Asylum	1250	1000	.....	250
Prov. Sec'y, Treasurer and Com. Pub. Lands	3200	1300	.....	1900
Assistant Secretary, Treasurer and Clerk	1400	1000	.....	400
Draughtsmen and Clerks Land Office	4000	3150	.....	850
Commissioner Public Works	1600	1300	.....	300
Secretary Public Works	1200	1000	.....	200
Engineer Public Works	1500	.....	.....	1500
Deputy Prothonotaries	1044	1000	.....	44
Crier Supreme Court	130	100	.....	30
Keeper Charlottetown Courthouse	500	400	.....	100
Keeper Provincial Building	500	400	.....	100
Registry Officials	3621	3941	320	.....
Messenger Executive Council	125	.....	.....	125
	$33,503	$23,791	$320	$10,032
				320
Net decrease in salaries, or 29 per cent.				$9712

VARIOUS EXPENDITURES	1878	1884	Increase	D'crease
Fees and Disbursements Supreme Court	$ 9342	$ 2900	.....	$ 6442
Printing and Stationery	477	143	.....	334
Magistrates Court	911	213	.....	698
Maintenance Courthouse, Charlottetown	1486	1501	15	.....
Maintenance Gaols	8508	4589	.....	3919
Disbursements County Courts	1744	776	.....	968
Printing and Stationery for County Courts	1269	196	.....	1073
Mileage Members Executive Council	578	310	.....	268
Printing and Stationery for do.	200	37	.....	163
Salaries District Teachers	72,086	94,210	22,124	.....
Printing and Stationery, Education	1455	816	.....	639
Disbursements Education	2391	807	.....	1584
Exhibitions	1650	2839	1189	.....
Printing and Stationery, Lieut. Governor	45	19	.....	26
Maintenance Lunatic Asylum, Poor House and Paupers	15,731	24,889	9158	.....
Expenses Legislature	17,641	12,935	.....	4706
Printing and Stationery, Prov. Secretary	1325	200	.....	1125
Public Postage	506	433	.....	73
Printing and Stationery, Land Office	617	312	.....	305
Disbursements, Land Office	639	494	.....	145
Printing and Stationery, Provincial Auditor	380	194	.....	186
Travelling Expenses Commissioner and Engineer Public Works	573	340	.....	233
Printing and Stationery, Public Works	2225	608	.....	1617
Ferries	8219	11,920	3701	.....
Roads	60,923	23,622	.....	$37,301
Bridges	27,205	30,690	3485	.....
Wharves	17,077	5928	.....	11,149
Rights of Way	3978	1599	.....	2379
Coast and River Service	4035	3613	.....	422
Repairs and Supplies Public Buildings	5453	6777	1324	.....
Supervisors' Pay	4749	3322	.....	1427
Printing and Stationery, Registry Office	260	166	.....	94
Registration of Voters	2308	.....	.....	2308
Printing Laws	1174	137	.....	1037
Telegrams	180	65	.....	115
Stock Farm	1500	303	.....	1197
Miscellaneous Printing	696	110	.....	586
Assessment Act	6212	.....	.....	6212
	$285,748	$238,013	$40,996	$88,731
				40,996
Net decrease,				$47,735
Add decrease in Salaries,				9712
Making a total decrease in ordinary expenditure of				$57,447

Comparative Statement of Amounts Paid for Printing and Stationery for 1878 and 1884.

PRINTING AND STATIONERY	1878	1884	Increase	D'crease
Supreme Court	$ 477	$ 143	.....	$ 334
County Court	1269	196	.....	1073
Executive Council	200	37	.....	163
Education	1455	816	.....	639
Provincial Secretary and Treasurer	1325	200	.....	1125
Land Office	617	312	.....	305
Provincial Auditor	380	194	.....	186
Public Works	2225	608	.....	1647
Registry Office	260	166	.....	94
Laws	1174	137	.....	1037
Miscellaneous	696	110	.....	586
Lieutenant Governor	45	19	.....	26
Assessment	644	.....	.....	644
Registration of Voters	1007	.....	.....	1007
Legislation	1706	1056	.....	650
	$13,480	$3994	.....	$9486

Shewing an annual decrease of $9,486 in the amount now paid for Printing and Stationery as compared with that paid by the Davies-Stewart Government.

Weights and Measures.

The following is the substance of an amendment passed last Session of Parliament to the Weights and Measures Act, and which will be found of interest to many of our readers:—

Two gallons shall be a peck, and eight gallons shall be a bushel.

In contracts for the sale and delivery of any of the undermentioned articles, the bushel shall be determined by weighing, unless a bushel by measure is specially agreed upon—the weight equivalent to a bushel being as follows:

Wheat, sixty pounds.
Indian Corn, fifty-six pounds.
Rye, fifty-six pounds.
Peas, sixty pounds.
Barley, forty-eight pounds.
Oats, thirty-six pounds.
Beans, sixty pounds.
Clover Seed, sixty pounds.
Timothy Seed, forty-five pounds.
Flax Seed, forty pounds.
Buckwheat, fifty-two pounds.
Potatoes, sixty pounds.
Onions, fifty-seven pounds.
Turnips, fifty-five pounds.
Apples, forty-eight pounds.

A large number of the inhabitants of Souris West, Rollo Bay and vicinity have formed an Agricultural Association on a very practical and permanent basis, with the following officers: President, John Leslie; 1st Vice-President, Alex. Bourke; 2nd Vice-President, Capt. C. McInnis; 3rd Vice-President, L. Gallant; Secretary-Treasurer, Donald McLean; Directors, [illegible] The association intends importing a thoroughbred bull, to be placed at the disposal of the members, on such terms as will be found most advantageous to the interests of the Association. The Directors are empowered to purchase a Thoroughbred Ram, and a Boar of the Berkshire breed, for the use of the members, on the same terms as the bull. The Association will also import a Stallion next spring, for the use of its members, and the vicinity, on terms which will be found very advantageous to the breeders of good horses. The Association is in a very flourishing condition, and its prospects are very encouraging. The Directors are all young men, and the Association is composed of the young men of the district, who are determined to keep the district in the front rank in everything that pertains to the improvement of our farms and farm stock.

The Dominion Parliament.

The Parliament of the Dominion was opened last Thursday by His Excellency the Governor-General in presence of a brilliant assemblage, with the following

SPEECH:

Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate:
Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

On meeting you again I have the pleasing duty to perform of congratulating you on the sufficient harvest of last year, and on the prosperous condition and subsantial progress of the country.

Since the suppression of the insurrection in the Northwest Territory, peace and order have been restored, and are now prevailing. After so serious an outbreak, some disquiet and apprehension of the recurrence of these disorders may naturally be expected to linger, and it will be the duty of my Government to make such precautionary arrangements as will assure the present as well as intending settlers of efficient protection against all disturbances.

I heartily congratulate you on the practical completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and on the announcement that it will be open for the daily carriage of passengers and freight from ocean to ocean the month of June next. This great work, so important alike to the Empire and the Dominion, cannot fail to increase the trade between British Columbia and the other Provinces, to ensure the early development and settlement of Manitoba and the Northwest, and greatly to add to the commercial prosperity of the whole country.

Should the negotiations between Her Majesty's Government and that of the United States for the appointment of a joint commission to adjust what is known as the fishery question, and to consider the best means of developing our international commerce, fail to secure any satisfactory results, you will be asked to make provision for the protection of our inshore fisheries by the extension of our present system of marine police.

The measures submitted to you last session for the consolidation of the Statutes, and for the introduction into the Northwest Territory of a more simple and economical system for transfer of land, will be again laid before you for consideration and Legislative action. The Acts of last session will be found to be included in the first of these measures.

You will also be asked to consider the expediency of improving the Judiciary System which obtains in these Territories.

Your attention will be invited to the propriety of amending the law relating to the business of Queen's Printer, and providing for the more satisfactory working of the present system of Governmental and Parliamentary Printing.

A numerical census of the Northwest Territories has been taken, and a measure based thereon for the representation of the people in Parliament, and other measures will be laid before you. Among them will be found Bills providing for a better mode of trial of claims against the Crown; for providing Post Office Savings Banks in British Columbia and the Northwest Territories; for expediting the issue of Patents for Indian lands; for the administration of the rights of the Crown in the foreshores of the Dominion; for the establishment of an experimental Farm, and for the amendment of the Chinese Immigration Act.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

The Accounts for the past year will be laid before you. You will find that the estimate of receipts has been fully realized; but I regret to say that the outbreak in the Northwest has added largely to the expenditure of the country.

The Estimates for the ensuing year will be submitted to you. They have been prepared with due regard to economy and the requirements of the public service.

Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate:
Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

I commend these several subjects and all others which may engage your attention to your best consideration, and I earnestly trust that the result of your deliberations may, under the Divine Blessing, conduce to the advancement and prosperity of Canada.

After the Members of Commons had returned to their Chamber, the following new members were introduced, viz: Hon. Thomas White, Hon S. D. Thompson, Hon. George E. Foster, C. A. Everett, Esq., Dr. Barker and H. Ward. In the Commons, on Friday, Mr. Everett moved the address in reply to the Speech, which was seconded by Mr. Ward. Business would not fairly commence until this week.

Inhospitable Treatment.

In the *Examiner* of the 1st inst., we read that a young man of this city had been badly frozen on Sunday night; and that the police, having asked permission to convey him to the P. E. I Hospital, received from Dr. Dawson the reply, that the funds were low and such men as he were not wanted there. It appears that this unfortunate man is very much addicted to the vice of drunkenness, and on Saturday last, in company with some companions, indulged too freely. On Saturday evening having parted with his friends, he lost his way, lay down in the snow and fell asleep. On Sunday morning he was discovered buried in the snow, his hands, feet and face badly frozen. Having been removed to a neighboring house, after a short time he awoke, and then it was found that he was in a critical state. The police having arrived on the scene thought the Hospital was the only place, under the circumstances, to which he could be sent. Accordingly, having communicated with the authorities of the P. E. I. Hospital, naturally expecting that no objection would be offered to his admission, they received from Dr. Dawson the above mentioned reply. The police then went to the City Hospital and asked if the poor fellow would be received there. Without hesitation the good Sisters took charge of the sufferer, and made him as comfortable as his precarious condition would permit. Such conduct furnishes us with the means of drawing a comparison between these two Institutions.

In the first place let us see what the word Hospital means. According to our most approved lexicographers it is: "A building in which the sick or infirm are received and treated at their own expense; or more frequently by charity." Now, we are informed, the Prince Edward Island Hospital is general and undenominational and controlled and superintendent appointed by elected managers, only by those who contribute to its support from all parts of the Island. That this Institution must be in a prosperous condition, there can be no doubt, for scarcely a week passes, but we see in the public prints acknowledgments of donations of money, pillow cases, old linen, &c., &c. In proof of this we have only to quote the words of the apologist of that Institution, "*Fiat Justitiæ.*" In the *Patriot* of the 19th December last, the above named writer says that the P. E. I. Hospital is the "largest, newest and best equipped Institution of its kind on the Island." In the same article he says there is only one properly trained nurse in the Institution; from which fact we must naturally conclude that the number of patients at the hospital must have been very small.

On the 13th of January last, pursuant to notice, there assembled in the Methodist brick church, in this city, representatives from different Protestant denominations, to hold a thanksgiving service, for our deliverance from the recent smallpox epidemic. In the notice of this meeting, which appeared in the daily papers, it was announced that a collection would be taken up, for the sufferers from smallpox. The sum of $38.00 was collected and given to the P. E. I. Hospital. What claim it could have on the money, the public were at a loss to conjecture; unless it was the fact that its managers sent poor Corney from that Institution to the Smallpox Hospital, where, after fourteen days, he contracted the disease and died of it.

On Thursday, the 25th ult., a bazaar in favor of the P. E. I. Hospital was held in the Market Hall, the net proceeds of which amounted to upwards of $500. The most natural inference to draw from the foregoing facts would be, that the P. E. I. Hospital is in a prosperous condition, that the drain on its funds must be light, and that as it calls on the public to contribute to its support, its doors would be opened to any one needing its ministrations.

The Charlottetown Hospital is conducted by a body of religious women, bound by vows of poverty. In the scrupulous discharge of their arduous duties they have no hope or expectation of earthly reward. Their Hospital is in receipt of no considerable amounts of money, and is almost always filled with patients, most of whom are unable to pay anything for their treatment. Yet, when a call is made on them, there is no question of funds, or character, of creed, or nationality. It is sufficient that it affords them an opportunity of ministering to the wants of the unfortunate, and of alleviating the sufferings of the afflicted.

Irish Prospects.

The news from Ireland is becoming more cheering every day. Home Rule is now looked upon as inevitable. No matter how the Orange faction may squirm and threaten, it is getting to be a settled fact that legislative independence will be granted to Ireland. The assurance has been sent abroad that Mr. Gladstone intends to bring in a bill at an early date for the settlement of the Irish Question. Mr. Parnell and his lieutenants seem to have faith in Gladstone. They believe that he among living Englishmen is best able to move his countrymen to do justice to Ireland. We hope that the Irish party are not deceived. They have fought a good fight and deserve the gratitude of Irishmen for the many reforms that they have won. In 1879 they found the Irish peasants serfs, and they have made them men. No more crouching beneath the landlord's glance, but erect as men they demand the right to rule themselves. If Gladstone deceives Ireland, the Nationalists will hurl him from power even as they cast forth Salisbury and Churchill a few weeks ago. This shows the strength of a united people's will. Heretofore, Ireland spoke and worked in sections; but to-day, leaving aside the Orange faction, she speaks and works as one man through the lips of Charles Stewart Parnell and the Irish Parliamentary Party. She speaks, too, in no uncertain tones. She lays her grievances before the statesmen of England and demands their removal. If her lost Parliament be restored, she is willing to forget the bloody past and to become England's warmest friend.

These, we believe, are the sentiments of Irishmen throughout the world to-day. If, however, the present agitation does not succeed we shudder at the prospect. But no; we believe that Englishmen will now cast aside their prejudice and support Mr. Gladstone in his effort to grant Home Rule to Ireland.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Will the *Examiner* kindly refer us to the page of the Public Accounts which shows where Canada now pays interest at 5 per cent. on nearly a million dollars worth of Island bonds?

The trade policy of Great Britain is fast ruining her industries, if we are to judge from the manner in which manufacturers are closing up their establishments. Every week we read of large concerns removing to other countries, throwing large numbers of operatives out of employ. Marshall, the great steel manufacturer of Sheffield, is about to remove his entire works to America. He employs 3,000 men, and scores of the most skilled will be brought to this side.

Enquiry into the History of Prince Edward Island Prior to British Dominion.

To the Editor of the Herald.

Dear Sir,—In accordance with your request I throw together some rough memoranda from my notebook on the History of this Island prior to British occupation, in the hope of provoking correction of what may be incorrect, and of eliciting further information on a topic that cannot but be interesting to us who have entered in and taken possession of the land.

Among popularly received notions is that, this our Island, was seen for the first time by Europeans one St. John's Day, and was afterwards colonized by French Acadians. To inquire how far this opinion is correct is the motive of this paper.

Statements laid before the calm eye of enquiry should be clear-cut as a mathematical demonstration. Yet as ages advance the distorting mist that envelopes and renders hazy the edges of facts becomes more dense and fantastic. By mere lapse of time the Continent of America, said to have been reached by the Carthaginian quinquæremes, fades into the Island of Atlantis; Heroes loom into demigods and people the Walhala. Figments of the imagination crystallize into probabilities and we call them history. Like some newly discovered work of one of the old masters, the canvas of old, until cleaned and restored, presents but a cloudy brown—here a dawn of color and there the suspicion of a limb. It is the mission of enquiry to clean and restore from the encrustation of myth and make the personages of the past stand forth in the portraiture and in the action in which they lived. The resources of reference within the reach of an ordinary resident of P. E. Island are so limited that a larger latitude of "guess" is permissible in attempting to penetrate the shadow. Further and clearer research will confirm or reject the conclusions thus arrived at. The facts adduced in the present enquiry have been collected from many sources. The inferences are my own.

In prehistoric enquiry the geologist and the historian must go hand in hand, and for both there is some temptation to call in imagination to assist their reasoning. Was there ever a time, for instance, in eras or æons, more or less remote, when this Island of Prince Edward did not exist? That is a question for physical science. Has the Gulf of St. Lawrence subsided leaving a subaqueous bank dry, as the old sea margins on the Laurentidal hills would indicate? Or is it a bank upheaved by some titantic convulsion of the volcanic Laurentian region, such a one as rent the channel of the Saguenay and split Trinity mountain from crest to base? Did the island gradually rise to the surface by the mere wash of the waves—a sandbank from accidental obstruction to the current, and to be gradually washed away by the current? Or did it form a peninsula of the mainland and the ground subside into the Straits of Northumberland? or was the connecting neck eaten away by the erosion of the tides that, sweeping around the bend of Escuminac, make their way through the Gut of Canso? All these queries offer temptation to conjecture but the last appears the most probable, namely, that the Island once formed a portion of the mainland, and was gradually washed by the sea. The geological formation of the corresponding shores, as well as the identity of the fauna and flora of the Island and the main, assist the supposition, for we cannot imagine either a special creation for so small a speck of land or an immigration of forest animals across the ice at Cape Traverse. In whatever manner it was formed it must once have been considerably larger than it is now. If a calculation made by the late Mr. Anderson, Surveyor, Bedeque, be correct that the salt water gains on the whole line of our coast, and estuaries an average of one foot per annum, the island must now be thirty square miles less than when seen by its discoverers. The rate of diminution is worthy of being verified by the Land Office. To-day fishing boats spread their nets over what was but recently the highway behind Kildare Church. But that this was an island and not a peninsula in times the remotest to which the memory of man runs, is proved by its appellation in the language of the savages, which changes slowly or not at all. The name was "Epagogoit," which being interpreted means "that floats on the water," a description that all who have seen our home from the sea will appreciate. When first beheld by human eye this was an island that

"Lay floating like a jewel on the deep,
Or green wave all asleep."

Tradition has ever pointed to land having been very early known beyond the Atlantic Ocean. I need not occupy space by referring to the fancied voyage of Ulysses in the *Odyssey*, or to its amplification in the 26th canto of Dante's Inferno (of date about 1300)—quoting Carey's translation:

"Forth I sailed
Into the deep illimitable main,
With but one bark, and the small faithful band
That yet cleaved to me.
To the unpeopled world following the track
Of Phœbus.
Night now beheld each star of the other pole
And ours so low that from the ocean floor
It rose not. Five times re-illumed, as oft
Vanished the light from underneath the moon,
Since the deep way we entered, when from far
Appeared a mountain dim."

Luigi Pulci, in the *Morgante Maggiore*, (date 1488) likewise alludes to such a legend being then current.

Let us cease the attempt to re-habilitate the Atlantis of Plato and the demain of pseudo-geology, and dip into the region of mediæval romance. It is a moot question whether the cars of the long galleys of the Icelanders flashed along our shores. Here let me suggest to some student of future Island poetic materials for an epic locating the [illegible] of the 10th century Icelandic [illegible] east or west of the not on either the [illegible] Gulf of Greenland, (and for [illegible] there definite proof), but on the coast of Labrador, then we have within navigable distance Helluland, the land of rocks, Markland the forest land, and let "the pleasant land of Vinland lying opposite to the north and abounding with berries" (not vines), be no other than our own Prince Edward Island. Having thus defined the locality which, after all, is not much at variance with tradition, the poet could have no difficulty in graphically portraying how along the shore, off Souris or elsewhere, glided the ships of Iceland in honoring our land with a visit from Lief the son of Red Eric, attendants on Gufrid the Goldenhaired. (Such an epic might rank in Island literature at least, with the adventures of Rinaldo in the gardens of Armida of Ruggiero, in the Island of Alcina:

Non vide ne piu bel ne piu giocondo
Di tutte l'orti ove le piante stesse;
Ne, se tutto cercato avesse il mondo,
Vedria di questo il piu neutri paese.
Orlando, VI.xx

This brings us to the 10th century. Four centuries more fit by—eventlessly—bringing us to the end of the 14th:

Among the aboriginal tribes of the Mainland the Souriquois, or Micmacs, occupied the district of country from Canso to Gaspe. At no time were they a numerous clan. Their French allies in latter days estimated their numbers at 4000 souls and (although giving them the name of "Mis Mac," a French word signifying tricky, or underhand,) described them as bold and gentle, characteristics which I am pleased to find traceable, although ever so faintly, in their descendants. A detachment appears to have resided on this Island, but as it is not customary in military communities to weaken the fighting force of the centre, the Island residents bore no large proportion to the main body. I am inclined to think that Mimingash was the headquarters of the Island section. These Micmacs, being sedentary Indians, would there find an abundance of sustenance, and the locality was within easy distance of the camps of the mainland in case of sudden alarm. At Mimingash are yet to be found vestiges of a considerable Indian encampment, or of a great Indian battle, or both. In clearing farms a few years since a considerable number of flint arrowheads, and not a few stone axes were ploughed up, and are now in my possession. This Indian battle that may be assumed to have taken place is not mentioned in any memoir that I have seen, consequently it is impossible to assign a date either before or after European discovery. We may consider then that, from times unknown, fewer or more of the Souriquois lived on this Island and never saw the face of a white man, certainly not up to the year 1474, and probably not up to 1497.

The close of the 15th century was well styled the Renaissance, not only because literature and art but progress was born again. The spirit of the time was no longer torpid. The energy that in the study had been wasted in dialectics, and in action in topographical wars, panted to expend itself in other adventures. England, after the strife of the Roses and the loss of her French possessions, ended by much strengthening the kingly power. So in France, her wars over for a time, the Sovereigns turned themselves to a consolidation of the state. The Germanic empire braced itself by commercial associations. Cæsar Borgia, on Machiavellian principles, was attempting the unification of Italy. Granada and Castile in powerful hands had become Spain. Holland took its rise. Everywhere with the consolidation of the kingly power increased the power of the People as against the nobles. And whenever the *bourgeoisie* came into the descendant their master idea is Commerce.

Every observer of history must have been struck by the fact that the generation of an age paves the way for the inception in some one man's mind of that one grand idea that is ever afterwards considered as the distinguishing characteristic of that age, so that in reality the age is not born of the idea, but the idea of the age. The characteristic idea of the close of the 15th century was maritime trade. The taking of Constantinople and the occupation of the Levant by the Turks left the gate scarcely ajar to the golden east, and (the world being known to be a globe) the question almost necessarily forced itself: "Might not a roundabout way to the Orient be found by following the setting sun?" This floating idea took objective form in the mind of Columbus. Commercial taste was for long trading voyages, and more marine information was generally diffused than the superficial reader of the 19th century supposes. Italy was the headquarters of astronomical and geographical science, whence it spread to the outer seaboard. Paul Toscanelli, a Florentine astronomer, had a pretty definite idea of what the coming discoveries would be, and wrote to Columbus, enclosing a chart for his guidance. Nothing wonderful, then, had some mariner prior to Christopher Colon and less fitted for the task, sailed westward with the same prevalent idea and no record now remains of his voyage. Even were we to set aside as "not proven" the claim that Biscayans knew and had long fished off Newfoundland there is nothing remotely wonderful that some adventurous sailor sent after Don Henry the Navigator, in 1449, took possession of the half-way house of the Azores—such as some earlier Costa, of the Portuguese family that afterwards called itself Cortereale—should turn his prow west from Labrador and find an unknown land obstructing the course to Cathay. Such is a statement made, but the details are dreamy, amounting to no more than that about the year 1477, the year in which Columbus visited Iceland, and obtained information about the Icelandic Greenland settlements, a Costa found an unsettled land other than the fishing coast, but in about the same latitude, and coasted along its shores and bays. He may have penetrated the gateway of the Gulf and have seen our Island. Let us give him the benefit of the supposition.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court met in Georgetown last week, Judge Hensley presiding. The following gentlemen composed the Grand Jury:—

Michael Hession, Georgetown, foreman; Peter J. D. Edmonds, Somerville; William Thompson, Sturgeon; James McBride, Souris East; William Prowse, South River; James Morgan, Cardigan Bridge; Samuel Macdonald, Dundas; Richard W. Sprague, Montague Bridge; William Poole, Montague; James D. Dewar, Brudenell; John McLean, Head of Montague Mills; Alexander Smith, New Perth; Donald Stewart, Cardigan; Richard Burdett, Dundas; Hugh L. Macdonald, Cardigan Bridge; John Collins, Sturgeon; Ronald McAulay, Norris Pond; Daniel G. Cameron, Charles Macdonald, Little Pond; John McQueen, Victoria Cross; Daniel Morrisey, St. Peter's Bay.

In the charge preferred for assaulting a constable, the Grand Jury ignored the bill. They found true bills against James, Richard and John Conway for assault on Mary, Bridget and John Cantwell, and were then discharged. Between three and four o'clock on Friday morning the Court-house was discovered to be on fire and in a very short time it was burned to the ground. The weather was extremely cold, and a high wind was blowing and it was impossible to do anything to save the building. The furniture and papers were all saved. The building, which was a wooden one was about twenty years old, two storeys in height and was situated on the Square. The Court met next morning in the Grammar School-house and adjourned on Friday evening. The following is a list of the cases disposed of:—

James Hell, appellant, vs. Samuel [illegible] and others. Appeal dismissed.

County Court. [illegible] O'Hanley.

Flora Steele vs. Roderick [illegible]. Action of ejectment. Verdict for Plaintiff.

Massey Manufacturing Co. vs. John McPhee. Verdict for defendant.

Michael Brennick, appellant, and Henry Bears, respondent. Judgment below confirmed.

Michael Burke, appellant, and Edwin Clay, respondent—two appeal cases from convictions under the Scott Act. By consent of Mr. Peters, for appellant, and Mr. Wyatt, for respondent, one appeal was dismissed, and the judgment appealed from affirmed with costs, and in the other case the appeal was allowed, and the judgment below reversed without costs.

Alexander Martin, appellant, and Andrew Mooney, respondent. Scott Act appeal, dismissed.

Same vs. same. Judgment for appellant.

Margaret Steele, appellant, vs. Clay, respondent. Scott Act case. Appeal dismissed.

John McKinnon, appellant, vs. Clay, respondent. Scott Act case. Judgment reversed.

Same vs. same. Appeal allowed.

Grand Manan, N. B., Feb. 26.—Schooner *Minnie*, Capt. Young, for Campobello, with seven men on board, left Grand Harbor on Saturday evening and has not been heard tell of since. A telegram was received from Digby, N. S., to-day, stating that two trunks and a quantity of smoked herring were picked up on the Nova Scotia shore. One trunk was marked "Freight, Gulliver's Hole," and belonged to one of the men on board the *Minnie*. It is supposed the vessel foundered at sea and all hands were lost. Most of the men leave sorrowing widows and orphans.

Around the World.

A fire in the Parliament Buildings, Ottawa, last week did $5,000 worth of damage.

St. John's, Newfoundland, containing a population of 30,000, is still unincorporated.

Right Rev. Bishop Power of St. John's, N. F., has gone to Rome on an *ad limina* visit.

Cancer caused fifteen deaths in Boston in one week recently—just one-half as many as consumption.

In the Mayoralty election in Montreal on Monday, Beaugrand was elected by over 1,900 votes.

A contemporary states that there are about 600 dressmakers, milliners and seamstresses in P. E. Island.

The land granted to the volunteers who served in the North-West rebellion amounts to about 340,000 acres.

Mr. Gladstone has announced that the Government do not intend to suppress the Irish National League.

Poundmaker and twenty-eight of his companions in the Penitentiary have been baptized by Archbishop Taché.

The "Three Classes" in English society of which we hear so much are the nobs, snobs and mobs. The mobs are the rising class.

A sleigh containing Alex. McDonald wife, and three year old child went through the ice in Bras 'Dor Lake, C. B., on Saturday night, at Little Narrows. All were drowned.

Lord Randolph Churchill has written a letter to the Grand Master of Orangemen, in Belfast, eulogizing their late demonstration, in the writer's honor, against Home Rule.

Crowfoot, the chief of the Black-feet, has been presented by Sir George Stephen with a handsome silver locket and chain, the former containing a perpetual pass over the C. P. R.

Mr. John P. Sutton, who travelled through Canada last year organizing Branches of the Irish National League of America, is now Secretary of that body, with headquarters at Lincoln, Nebraska.

Servia's attitude towards Bulgaria is threatening. It is reported that Eastern Roumelian troops have been ordered to Bulgarian frontier, and Prince Alexander will go the front immediately.

On Monday morning the baggage-room of the Canada Pacific depot, at Winnipeg was destroyed by fire. The building was valued at $150,000, and its furnishings at $20,000, insurance only $40,000.

The deposits and withdrawals in the Government Savings Banks during January were respectively $595,333 and $413,853. The total amount to the credit of depositors on January 31st was $19,056,028, an increase of $2,188,496 since January, 1885.

In the House of Commons on Saturday Hugh E. C. Childers, Home Secretary, said he was unable to consider Lord Churchill's speeches in Ireland. Trevelyan's Crofters Bill passed its first reading. It provides for fixity of tenure, fair rents and compensation for improvements made by tenants.

It is reported that 171 railroads, operating 60,000 miles, are ready to join the 24 o'clock movement, and to abandon all use of "A. M." and "P. M." and some urge no delay in the matter. The Canadian Pacific has taken the initiative and all the time tables, watches and clocks on the road have been adapted to the change.

The New York Graphic heard of the death of General Hancock at 3 o'clock on Tuesday afternoon, and at 4.30 had out a special edition of the paper with a full page portrait of the dead soldier, and another full page illustrating scenes of his life and giving pictures of his wife and daughter, besides a two-column sketch of his career and illness.

Many lumbermen throughout Nova Scotia have given up this winter's operations from lack of snow, and the provisions sent into the woods for them will be taken out again. Fortunately, most of the mills have a considerable quantity of logs on hand, so that the manufacture of lumber will not be entirely suspended, but the season is regarded as unprecedented.

There died at St. Joseph's college, Memramcook, N. B., on the 22nd ult., Rev. James McGee, a native of Emyvale, County Monaghan, Ireland. The deceased, a young man of 28 years, had been during the past three or four years studying theology at the Grand seminary, Quebec, where he was ordained deacon for the diocese of St. John, N. B. Some months ago, he was removed to St. Joseph's college, where he had prosecuted his philosophical studies.

A terrible snow and wind storm prevailed throughout the New England States on Friday last. In several sections snow fell to the depth of from eighteen inches to two feet. No such storm was experienced for twenty years. A North Conway (N. H.) despatch of Feb. 27 says: About a foot of snow fell Thursday night. The wind commenced to blow a hurricane on Friday, and has blown since. The highways are impassable. Snow is piled in drifts five to fifteen feet, and trains all snowed up.

In the Ottawa Parliament on Monday, Mr. McLellan, Minister of Finance, stated that the gross debt of the Dominion at the present date is $38,314,552, and that the assets are $75,791,837; leaving a net debt of $208,522,695. In reply to a question by Mr. Hackett, Mr. Foster, Minister of Marine, said it was not the intention of the Government to impose prohibitory regulations on the lobster fishery for [illegible] purposes, around Prince Edward Island.

In the Commons on Thursday, Healy, Nationalist, opposed a grant of £1200 for medals for volunteers who took part in the campaign against Louis Riel. He said if Canada chose to go to war with Riel, she ought to pay for the medals. M. P. Smith and Lord Randolph Churchill denounced Healy and praised the volunteers. Gladstone urged that the rejection of the proposed grant might possibly create bad feeling in Canada. The sum for the medals was agreed to on a vote of 209 to 66.

While Mrs. Gallant of Little Lorraine, was out looking for a calf which had wandered away, she struck her foot against the end of a "cradle hill," of which there are so many in that vicinity, and was surprised to see roll out from the end of a box which protruded from the ground a number of silver pieces of money. What is the exact amount of the find no one knows, but her husband said "he guessed he could part with 30 pieces anyway." Some of the knowing ones estimate the worth of the find at $2,000. The coins are of the time of Louis XV. of France, and have on the one side his superscription with the words Ludo. XV. D. G. F. R. Et. Hab. Rex; on the other a circle, with three fleur-de-lys, in the centre surmounted with a crown and encircled with a wreath around which are the words BENEDICTUM, 1720, SIT NOMEN DOMINI. Around the rim are the words FAC, REGEM, DOMINI SALVUM. The coins are of two sizes, their value being 21 06 and 52 cents.—*Sydney Reporter.*

Corsets, Brassieres, &c., now offering at extremely low prices, at Bear Store.

Felt Hats, Felt Hats, Hard and Soft. Big stock, newest styles, selling at the cheapest prices, at J. H. Moseley's.

E. Call's Unfounded Apprehension.

To the Editor of the Herald:

Dear Sir,—Everything appears to mark this age as one of innovation. The almost miraculous discoveries and inventions of the nineteenth century, by affecting every branch of literature, creating arts and developing sciences, cause some superficial observers to imagine that systems that are the result of the accumulated study and wisdom of ages, can be tinkered at with impunity by unfledged scientists.

Noticeable among the effusion of minds powerful to destroy, but often incapable of deducing one logical conclusion is an article in a late issue of your paper, entitled "The Decimal and Denary Systems."

Judging from the caption, not only are the different systems in need of re-adjustment, but the very names by which they are commonly known, seem to be misunderstood. What either decimal or denary may mean, when not regarded as that order of numbers which has ten for its ratio, should have been clearly explained by the writer before extolling the convenience of either system, since the terms decimal and denary are taken as identical. But if palpably absurd in the reading of the article, the writer is not more reasonable in the development of the subject; for after dealing in a general way with the merits of the decimal, and its great utility if universally applied, (a fact which no one denies) he urges a law compelling its acceptance.

The consequence of such a law would be, that all the gold and silver currency in existence, except the kind taken as the standard, would have to be re-coined—a task that any Government might well shrink from. We are not informed how he would dispose