

The Gleaner.

AS. H. CHICK. EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1888.

THE TRACK FROM THE BRIDGE.

The matter of building the railway track from the new bridge to the line of the Fredericton railway is exciting some attention among the property holders on Sunbury street, and throughout. Two lines have been surveyed, and the drafts are on file in the city clerk's office for examination. The company has not yet, we believe, given preference to either one of the lines. When the choice is made, however, we trust that the company will be met in a fair and reasonable spirit by the property holders. There will doubtless be a few cases in which the value of property will be slightly depreciated by the running of the track, and no doubt the owners will be indemnified, but in the majority of cases, while there will be some little inconvenience for a time, the present value will doubtless, in the end, be considerably increased. It is the experience of all places, which are centres of important lines of railway, such as this will be, that property in the vicinity of its head quarters has increased in value some four and five fold, and more. It would, therefore, seem to be only reasonable that the company should be met in a fair spirit. The smaller the demands, and the less the trouble, the better will be the city's general interests to consider.

Fredericton is destined to be an important railway centre. Her natural site, her other advantages, are certain of recognition by railway authorities some time. Workshops and important industries are, as a result, almost certain to follow. These must be of material importance to the business of the city. Much depends upon the attitude of our authorities and citizens generally when these things will come about. To oppose the interests of the railway people by unreasonable demands is not a step which will conduce to hasten the time for making these important additions and improvements.

AN UNWISE SCHEME.

Our contemporaries, actuated no doubt from motives of a lofty character and for the general good, have one and all condemned the establishing at Ottawa of a printing bureau, where it intended that all of the government printing will be executed. There is perfect unanimity, and more than ordinary sincerity, in their opposition. The Sun, the Advocate, the World, the Observer, and others in the province are sore at heart. Protest after protest has gone out, and we doubt not that between newspaper manager and minister may be an interesting war has been exchanged. The Observer, in getting at the truth, has admitted the force of the contention of every liberal journal in regard to the policy of centralization at Ottawa. "The people of the maritime provinces are almost unanimous in their condemnation of the scheme for centralizing everything at Ottawa, and they will be bitterly opposed to this latest attempt to accomplish that purpose," says our contemporary, and this truth is practically echoed by its friends.

We trust that our contemporaries will ultimately succeed in inducing the government to abandon their unwise scheme. We have the fear, however, that it has a difficult task. Influential as some people may regard the press, try as they may, they have not the intimate knowledge of the ins and outs of politics in their support, than most people, do not appear to have that appreciation and reverence for their influence which we have always fancied in most cases due. Unless our friends can force an influence, or compel the apparent belief that they are without influence, we have little hope that they will succeed in their agitation which, let us feel, has been in the public interest.

The establishing of a printing bureau at Ottawa is a very unwise plan. The avowed object is to effect a saving in the cost of public printing, but with all due deference to the promoters of the scheme, we say it cannot be successfully pointed out that the more is for purposes economical. Neither labor, material, or more competent workmen can be secured on better terms at Ottawa than in New Brunswick or in any other of the provinces, nor yet has the scheme the benefit of the argument that because all of the work is executed under one roof, the cost will be lessened, when a government controls the business. If it were a saving the government sought, there have been hundreds of opportunities to effect that. We need not go into detail in proof of this, but one instance will be sufficient to show that our contention is right. The St. John Sun, in supplying papers to one of the public departments, charged at the rate of four cents a copy for an issue that it retailed to the public at two cents. Had motives economical, or honest, actuated the head of the department, this bill would not have been paid, and the manager of the Sun would have accepted the regular rate for his papers. And the same argument applies to all of the departments, and to the cases of all the principal city organs, as the accounts will show. The work can be done cheaper than it has been, and much cheaper than a government provision can do it. In the establishing of this bureau then it must be clear to all that a regard for public interest is not the prime motive of the dominion government.

A year or two ago, when the Sun was not enjoying any local government patronage it recommended, and in fact:

NEWS OF THE WORLD CONDENSED.

From Our Own Telegraphic Reports and Our Exchanges.

Personal, Political and Religious News of the Day.

Cable, American, Canadian and General Topics.

Cable.
A London dispatch says: Sir Michael Hicks-Beach will soon enter the cabinet. The London Post desires the truth of the rumor that negotiations are being made with England to join a Franco-Russian alliance.

CARELESSNESS ON RAILWAY TRACKS.

The recent numerous accidents on railway tracks should be a warning to those who walk much upon them, to keep their eyes and their ears open, so that they shall not be surprised when a train comes dashing along. Even the most intelligent people are often very careless when walking upon railway tracks, and it is even to be wondered at in view of this, that more accidents than recorded, do not occur. The recklessness with which some persons drive their horses over railway crossings in the face of advancing trains, and the stubbornness with which they persist in forcing a frightened beast forward in the face of danger, deserves punishment by law. A man has no more right to expose his horse to danger than can easily be avoided than he has to expose himself to it. Not long since, the writer saw a man who prided himself upon his acquaintance with horse flesh, stubbornly persisting in pushing a bulky horse across a railway track with the rapidly moving train a few yards from him, and only the other way we recorded the case of a man who, in crossing the Northern and Western road, had his sleigh smashed by the locomotive, and came nearly losing his own life and that of his horse as well. Railway employees cannot be held responsible for accidents such as these. The man who is determined to force his frightened horse across a track with a train dashing towards him, may perhaps have within himself all the feelings of a hero, but to those who are watching his efforts, he presents a sorry spectacle.

Premier Mowat has introduced in the Ontario legislature a bill which will create some interest in this province. It relates to the maintenance of wives deserted by their husbands. It is proposed "to enact that any deserted wife who can prove her husband's desertion, may apply to a justice of the peace, and the magistrate, if satisfied that the husband, being wholly or in part to maintain his wife, or his wife and family, has wilfully refused or neglected so to do, and has deserted his wife, may order that the husband shall pay to his wife weekly sum, not exceeding ten dollars, as the magistrate or justice may consider to be in accordance with his means and with any means the wife may have for her support and the support of her family." The allowance may be collected by execution. Provision is made for varying the order of the justices upon proof that the means of either the husband or wife have altered since the order was made.

The bill, which will no doubt pass into law, will, however, effect but little protection to most deserted wives. It is a protection only to those whose husbands remain in the country. Those who "ship to other climes," and who, as a rule, manage to dispose of their property beforehand, the law cannot of course reach.

THE SUN'S ATTITUDE IN THE QUEEN'S COUNTY CASE.

It is charge that electors in Queens are making false declarations when they declare their votes for Mr. King. The Sun, in its issue of the 10th inst., makes the declaration, or the number made, is a gross calumny. Did our contemporary believe that Baird's election was honest and fairly won it would have no reason for fear anything from the declarations, and would not be so violent in its abuse of Mr. King's friends. It is either knowledge of the fact, or well founded suspicion, that from time perpetuated that looks the Sun to its present position. It is quite clear that a thorough investigation is called for.

FROM THE LUMBER WOODS.

Big Game News—Fisher Blancheville in the Camps—The birds are there. The St. John Sun, Feb. 6. We have had one of Quebec's genuine snow storms since my last. On the 20th of last month there was a fall of about 20 inches of heavy snow, and everything in the clearing snowed up. No mail for a whole week and when it did come the carrier had to go on snowshoes.

Every man in this country has a pair of snowshoes and has a good chance to use them. There has been no postage teams to the camps for a fortnight. Mr. Walker Stevens broke the road from the Seven Islands last week. He was on his way to the station en route to his upper camp.

Father Blanchette paid a visit a few evenings ago with his literary scheme. He had a gentleman's gold ring and a mahogany cane. He sold 22 dollars worth of tickets. The drawing is to take place the first of March. He has been selling tickets among all the camps, the proceeds to be applied to finishing the church. Father Blanchette speaks very good English and understands human nature as well as some of the best gentlemen in our own province. He says that the Englishmen are more liberal than the Frenchmen.

Mr. R. H. Brown lost a valuable mare last night. It was taken with "colic," and only lived about four hours. The loss of a horse up here is a great inconvenience, as it is a hard matter to find one to replace it.

This settlement host of a family of "Abergines," among them a very pretentious young lady, and it is supposed to be quite a stir among some of the crowd as to who is the best man in the eyes, which, by the way, are very black and sharp. It is thought that the "old man" may take a hand in the play and it is said that the toughs and scalping knives are not over, some of our men go home late from the top of their head.

IF YOU HAVE A COUGH.

A cough, do not neglect it, buy at once a bottle of Allen's Lung Balm.

The "Horn" Balming Extracts are so useful to use to their names, but are prepared from fruits of the best quality.

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Any person who has made an invention, and desires to know whether it is probably new and valuable, can obtain the same by applying to the Patent Office.

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JAMES R. HOWIE, Practical Tailor. English and Scotch Goods.

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