

The Evening Telegram.

ST. JOHN'S, JANUARY 13, 1888.

A VERY WEAK REPLY.

The "Mercury" Fails in Its Defence of the Premier.

MR. THORBURN'S CONDUCT REALLY INDEFENSIBLE.

THE Government organ tries hard to make it appear that Premier Thorburn is innocent of the charge brought against him by the TELEGRAM in our issue of Tuesday last. It is needless, however, to say that the effort only adds to the discomfiture of the indicted party, by still further exposing his mercenary conduct to public criticism and reprehension.

But to return from the Parson to the Premier. The Mercury admits that the latter "self-sacrificing servant of the Commonwealth" received last year, in the shape of Government sops, the pretty little sum of \$8,788.35, but gravely assures us that a certain percentage thereof had to be paid out in wages, &c., and therefore Mr. Thorburn didn't make the big profit on the transaction that some people may suppose.

Why, it is a notorious fact that the present Premier of Newfoundland is one of the most selfish and mercenary men that has ever occupied such an important office. The way in which he toadied to Sir Ambrose Shea as soon as he found it necessary to do so to obtain a knighthood; the violation of his oft-repeated promise to conduct the public business of the country on "sound commercial principles"; the Placentia railway bribe offered by him to Messrs. Donnelly and Emerson, with a view to secure their support in the Lower Chamber,—all point to the unmistakable fact that he has been actuated by personal and party considerations all through his brief and inglorious political career.

In the first place he made a great mistake by going into politics at all. Then he committed a still greater "error of judgment" by sacrificing whatever little honor he had left for the sake of a title which no one but a "feather-headed noodle" would be bothered with any way.

Obviously, then, it was an unfortunate day for Terra Nova when her people allowed the present party to assume power, and more unfortunate still when they consented to accept Mr. Robert Thorburn as the nominal head of that party.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"TAMMANY HALL."—Your letter anent "the incorporation movement" has been received, but we fail to see any ground for assuming that such a condition of things as you predict would be forced upon property-owners under that form of municipal government.

THE CURLING TOURNAMENT

Opening Contest Between Scotchmen and All-Comers.

THIS evening in the Parade Rink opens that hale and whole-souled winter sport which more than any other generates hardihood of body, strength of arm and nicety of eye; and, above all, cultivates the genial and fraternal spirit between man and man.

IMPORTANT COMMERCIAL CASE.

A RATHER important case to the trade was decided to-day by Judge Prowse in the Magistrate's Court in the matter of a claim of ten dollars for wharfage at Boston on certain goods shipped on through bill of lading from Chicago to this port, the claim being made on behalf of the Boston forwarders in the shape of a lien upon the goods forwarded, namely, 250 bris. corn meal.

LAST NIGHT'S CONCERT.

A FAIR and fashionable audience attended the concert at the Star of the Sea Hall last evening, and it must have appreciated it from the applause that met the efforts of many of the performers. The ladies of the Riverhead Choir sang remarkably well for their first appearance in a public hall.

"The Surgeon and the Poor Commissioner."

IN reference to the communication under the above heading, we are authorized by the acting District Surgeon to give a flat denial. Upon receipt of the Poor Commissioner's order the acting District Surgeon immediately visited the cases of contagious distemper referred to in Torbay.

The annual meeting of the St. John's West Circuit Sabbath School Committee will be held in the basement of George Street Church to-night (Friday) at the close of the prayer meeting.

The Present State of Newfoundland

CONFEDERATION.

NOTHING can exceed the lofty ridicule wherewith anti-Unionists treat the argument that Confederation would unite us with a great country and make us sharers with its prosperity. They think it foolish, if not disloyal, because, say they, we are already united with the greatest Empire in the world, and what greater happiness could we wish or hope for on earth?

I have neither time nor patience now, nor could I fairly demand space, to deal at length with all the trivialities that have been set up as arguments of Unionists to be summarily bowled down by their opponents.

In the world's wide field of battle, In the bivouac of life, Be not like dumb-driven cattle, Be a hero in the strife.

And it is a well-known fact that such of our youth as have joined in that strife in Canada, in the States, and elsewhere, when thrown upon their metal, and removed from the "lotus eating" influences that characterize this unhappy country, have earned honor and independence.

The Short-line Railroad project is not a Confederation scheme at all. If it be accomplished, it will be a benefit to the world at large, not to Canada alone.

In fine, without wasting more time upon the views anti-Unionists choose to take of the arguments for Confederation, or answering objections that have been refuted over and over again, I pause to admire, before I finish this letter, the cool assurance wherewith they set themselves up as arbiters of public opinion and protectors of popular rights.

Our Trinity correspondent announced that the schooner Marian and several others had reached that port a few days ago. Their insurance had expired with the close of the year, but their owners had taken the risk of making the passage safely—no small risk at this time of the year.

hundreds of young men parading our streets in idleness who had better be trained to the honorable duty of defending an honorable flag, if such a fate were really in store for them. In fact so ruthlessly dishonest are those "Leaders" efforts after popular suffrage that the burden of their advice to the people is simply this,—that they must never suffer any change that involves discipline or labor,—that they must insist on living as a nation of children, to be fed with a spoon—and when grown up, to be exhibited as walking gentlemen or debased paupers.

Tell the people this, and you will easily enlist popular prejudice in your favor; but will you, or those whom you sway, represent the true interests of the country? Yet those who speak and write in this style are forsooth the only advocates of right, and revel in that intolerance that truth alone can justify!

NO HARM IN STEALING A SERMON.

The Law and the Profits on the Subject

DEAR SIR,—In looking over the correspondence in your columns on the subject and reading your able editorial remarks of yesterday, it occurs to me that after all there may be no great harm in stealing a sermon, if the object is to do good, and to save souls from going down to the bottomless pit.

Yours truly, J. B. St. John's, Jan. 13, 1888.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

THE opening lecture of the Academia course will be delivered by Mr. Furlong this evening at 8 o'clock. Subject: "On a Free Pass."

THE total number of banking schooners insured in the St. John's Mutual Banking, and in the Mutual Banking—the two Marine Insurance companies of this city—during the past year, was a hundred and fifty vessels, aggregating twelve thousand eight hundred and forty-eight (12,848) tons, insured for a hundred and thirteen thousand three hundred and sixty-five (£113,365) pounds.

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By Telegraph

THE CHOLERA PLAGUE IN CHILI.

Bodies Dug Out of the Snow.

EARTHQUAKES IN THE STATES.

The Small-Pox in San Francisco.

OFFICERS DISMISSED BY RUSSIA.

Sir Thomas Esmonde on Home Rule.

ANOTHER BLIZZARD IN NORTHWEST.

HALIFAX, N.S., Jan. 13.

Cholera continues in Chili. Six hundred and forty-four deaths occurred at Valparaiso in two weeks.

Fourteen bodies of women have been dug out of the snow near Fiume, Austria. Many are still missing.

Earthquakes are being experienced in the Southern States.

The small-pox epidemic in San Francisco is spreading.

All officers in the Russian army of Polish extraction have been dismissed, and Austrian families have been ordered to leave Poland.

Sir Thomas Esmonde, a member of the British Parliament, addressed a large audience at Halifax last night in favor of Home Rule in Ireland.

Another blizzard prevails in the Northwest. Thermometer 60 below zero, and railways are blocked.

FROM CAPE RACE.

(Special to the Evening Telegram.)

CAPE RACE, This Evening. Wind north, blowing a brisk breeze and weather fine. A fore-and-aft schooner passed west at 9 o'clock this morning.

DINING WITH THE BISHOP.

HIS LORDSHIP DR. POWER entertained the following gentlemen at dinner last evening in the Episcopal Residence:—His Excellency the Governor, Lord George Fitzgerald, the Premier of the Government, Mr. Justice Piment and Mr. Justice Little, of the Supreme Court, Hon'bles A. F. Goodridge and W. J. S. Donnelly, Judge Conroy, of the Magistrate's Court, Walter B. Grieve, Esq., M.H.A., and Robert Langrishe-Mare, Esq.

LOCAL VARIETIES.

A WEST END correspondent writes as follows:—"It is reported up our way that the Postmaster is endeavoring to get an individual in over all the carriers, instead of promoting right along and giving the preference to those who, through attention, deserve it. This ought not to be, and the carriers would feel thankful if you would expose the contemplated injustice."

It is stated that Mr. T. R. Smith of the firm of C. F. Bennett & Co., who for several weeks past has been seriously indisposed, at one time so much so that his recovery was deemed doubtful, is much improved and will soon be in his accustomed place again.

DIED.

Yesterday evening, after a lingering illness, Mary Amelia, aged 18 months, infant daughter of Drucella and the late Nathan Mills, of Petty Harbor.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

- ENTERED. 9—Parejero, Thoms, Pernambuco, 39 days, Balne, Johnston & Co.—ballast. Miranda, Lesemann, Halifax, 3 days, Harvey & Co.—3562 bris flour, 3 puns rum, 37 puns molasses, 190 bris apples, 150 bris meal, 75 bris oil, 75 bxs soap, 1067 bris pork, 40 bxs, 6 cases tobacco, 70 bris sugar, 25 trcs tallow, 100 bxs raisins, 9 bxs hams, 300 cases canned meats, 150 bris beef, 105 bris pease, genl. cargo. Souris Light, Boland, Boston, 8 days, Cliff, Wood & Co.—500 bris flour, part general cargo. 11—Lilian, Mealey, Cadiz, 32 days, Job, Bros & Co.—170 tons salt. Prince LeBoo, Thorne, Liverpool, 29 days, J. Murray—231 tons coal. 12—Fanny, Kidd, Liverpool, 29 days, Job, Bros & Co.—197 tons coal, 60 bris tar, 120 bdls oakum, 20 bris sugar, 35 bris soda, 103 pkgs powder, 8 bags rice, 20 bales bagging. CLEARED. 10—Sunbeam, Woolgar, Pernambuco, P & L Tessier—3658 qtls fish. Miriam, Manning, Barbados, A Goodridge & Sons—1815 qtls fish, 3 trcs, 6 bris salmon, 100 bris herring, 9 half-bris, 6 tubs sconds. New Dominion, Lemieux, Barbados, Balne, Johnston & Co.—1914 qtls fish, 174 bris herring, 1 tierce, 1 brl salmon, 340 bdls hoops. 11—Stella, Nisbet, Barcelona, J & W Stewart—3800 qtls fish. Aureola, Brien, Rio de Janeiro, P & L Tessier—4560 qtls fish. Little Vixen, Dornom, Barcelona, P & L Tessier—2800 qtls fish. Spuaway, Richards, Oporto, J. Murray—2420 qtls fish. Miranda, Lesemann, New York, Harvey & Co.—1410 qtls fish, 197 bris herring, 1 qtr-cask wine, 6 butts tobacco. LOADING. 30—Crystal Stream, Europe, Balne, Johnston & Co. 6—Royal Home, West Indies, Job, Bros & Co. 7—Dora, Brazil, Job, Bros & Co. 9—Dunure, Brazil, P & L Tessier. 10—Vidonia, Brazil, Bowring Bros. Gratis, Europe, A Goodridge & Sons. 11—Lavinia, Brazil, J & W Stewart. 12—Parejero, Brazil, Balne, Johnston & Co. Fruit Girl, West Indies, Harvey & Co.