

THE AYLESFORD UNION.

AYLESFORD, N. S., MAY 1, 1898.

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CURRENT HISTORY.

Mr. Gladstone continues in a very precarious state of health.

The new Pork-Packing Co. of Middleton have been granted exemption from taxation for a period of ten years by the Annapolis County Council.

The United States has already exhausted the \$50,000,000 naval appropriations, and this is only a beginning. War is an expensive as well as deadly luxury.

Work has commenced in remodelling the Baptist Church in town. Sunday services will be conducted by Rev. B. N. Nobles in Margeson's Hall until the church is completed.—Advertiser.

At a public meeting last Monday evening the citizens of Wolfville passed a resolution authorizing the Town Council to tender the Municipal Council a sum not to exceed \$25,000 for the purchase of a site in or near the centre of that town for a new Court House and other buildings in contemplation. Berwick has offered a free site and a \$5,000 bonus, at the same time requesting the Municipal Council to petition the legislature to divide the county for purposes of holding court. Kentville has not yet been heard from, and as for Aylesford, our law-abiding and peace-loving citizens, have no use for a Court House.

The works of the Atlantic Powder Co. at Dover, N. J., were blown up and six men were killed.

Edward Sears was elected mayor of St. John on April 19th by a majority of 175 over Ald. Daniel.

Since the war scare flour has advanced over \$1.00 per bbl. in price and cornmeal 25c. They are still on the rise.

Gen. Gascoigne has resigned command of the Canadian Militia to take effect as soon as his successor can be appointed.

The joint resolution requiring armed intervention in behalf of Cuba unless Spain should withdraw her forces at once having passed both Senate and Congress received the president's signature on April 20th and was forwarded at once to Minister Woodford at Madrid. Spain thereupon, without delay, broke off diplomatic relations, withdrawing her minister from Washington and handing Woodford his passports before he had an opportunity to deliver his country's message. This action precipitated a state of war between the two countries, although the formal declaration was not made till some days later. Thus far hostilities have been conducted chiefly on paper. Havana and ports of the Cuban coast have been blockaded, and a number of valuable merchant ships taken as prizes, but little powder has yet been spent and no lives lost. The movements of the Spanish navy are largely unknown, but may culminate in some unwelcome surprises on the Atlantic seaboard before many days. Meanwhile a collision between the Pacific squadron of the two nations is imminent in the neighborhood of the Philippines. Nearly all the European nations have made declarations of neutrality except Austria, who strongly favors Spain.

Rev. Geo. C. Lorimer, D. D., of Tremont Temple, Boston, will lecture in College Hall, Wolfville, under the auspices of the Acadia Athenaeum Society on the evening of May 11th, upon the subject, "Changes and Chances; or Tides in the Affairs of Men."

Nothing seems lacking in the equipment of the American Militia for the present cruel war. Orders issued to the Ninth New York regiment require that each man shall carry a hairbrush, a whisk broom, twenty-four handkerchiefs, extra shoes and wearing apparel and a napkin.

—St. John Sun.

The victory at Atbara seems to have insured the easy success of Sir Herbert Kitchener's expedition in the Soudan. The Arabs are deserting the Khalifa, and the advance of the British and Egyptian forces is everywhere greeted with delight by the native population. It is now thought possible that Khartoum may be taken with fighting.

Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, Chancellor of the exchequer, presented the budget statement in the British House of Commons on the 21st inst. It showed a total revenue of £116,016,000, with a reduction of the national debt to the extent of £6,605,000 and a clear surplus of £3,678,000. This does not look much like an early decadence of the empire.

Rev. H. Alfred Porter has received a unanimous call to occupy the pulpit of the Calvary Baptist Church in the city of Brantford during his summer's vacation. Mr. Porter's work at Rochester Theological Seminary during the past year has reflected great credit upon himself and caused him to rank as one of Canada's brilliant young men. He will return the coming year to complete his course.—Advertiser.