Local and General News.

PEARLS I take to be the devout thoughts of oysters living in holy hermitage. *Beecher.*—Ah!

"OLD NORTHERN LIGHT."—Your communication will be published on receipt of name, in confidence.

DR. J. H. ARNOLD, may now be consulted at his office, over Mr. Street's Drug Store, Newcastle.—1626.

DR. E. A. BAXTER will remain in Chatham for a few weeks longer and may be found as usual at Dr. J. Baxter's office, Water St.

MEETING of the Chatham Amateur Dramatic Club will be held in the Masonic Hall to-morrow evening at 8 o'clock.—Those wishing to become members are requested to attend.

IMPROVEMENT—The Montreal *Evening Star* presents a fine typographical appearance in its new dress, being printed on entirely new type furnished by the Dominion Type Founding Co.

PROGRESS.—A "Knight of the Ring," hailing from St. John, was in town last week trying to secure rooms in which to hold classes and give exhibitions in the "manly art." Happily, he did not succeed.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—There are a few people in the County whose writing we do not recognize at sight and some of them have been sending us communications lately, forgetting the necessary form of also sending their names. If they will be kind enough to put their names to their favors shall find a place in the Advance.

WIDE AWAKE for March has come to hand. It is as usual, teeming with fun and merriment for its youthful patrons, as well as "grown up" readers. A finely illustrated paper on James Lowell forms a very attractive feature.

Only $2.00 per annum, free of postage. Ella Farman, Editor. D. LOTHROP & Co., Publishers, Boston.

LIGHT WANTED.—We have moonlight nights now but do not always have them, and one night last week when "Pale Luna" did not "ride majestic" our street lamps did not stone for her absence by throwing their effulgent rays athwart the dark and icy thoroughfares. Why is this thus, Mr. Gas-man? Complaints are being made quite frequently of remissness in the matter of lighting the lamps on dark nights. Chatham.]—*News.*

We are glad to learn that the vessel has suffered no serious damage and that she will be got off almost immediately if not now off, and will be taken into Ardrossan for repairs.

NEW LONDON.—On Tuesday evening last a New Lodge, under the auspices of the "United Temperance Association" was organised in Napan, Bro. B. Stapleton P. D., assisted by several brethern from Chatham, Moorefield, and Chatham Head Lodge, initiated about twenty five members, after which the following officers were installed:

Provincial Deputy, Bro. John Galloway.
President, Bro. William Kerr.
Vice, Sister Miss Isabel McIntosh.
Secretary, Bro. John Creighton.
Treasurer, Bro. James Edgar.
Senior Councillor, Bro. John Johnson.
Jun. do. Sis. Miss Christina McKnight.
Chaplain, Bro. David McLean.
Finance, Bro. Alex. Dickson.
Recorder, Sister Miss Maggie Gordon.
Marshall Bro. James McDiarmid.
Deputy Mar. Sister Annie McDiarmid.
Guard, Bro. George Edgar.
Sentinel, Bro. John McDiarmid.
Past Pres., Sis. Miss Agnes McKnight.

The Lodge will be known as Napan Lodge, No. 443.

Lecture.

The second lecture of the course under the auspices of the Y. M. C. A. was delivered in St. Andrew's Church, on Friday evening last, by Rev. R. S. Crisp. The subject, "The Prophet of Horeb," was ably though briefly handled. Commencing with Elijah's first appearance and his warning to Ahab, he spoke feelingly and eloquently of the great prophet's trials and triumphs, and concluded with a vivid word painting of the last great scene in the holy man's earthly career. The reverend gentleman interlarded his remarks with words of good and wise counsel to his hearers, enjoining especially upon them the pressing need of every one to give some time every day to seclusion for self communing and questioning.

The Chair was occupied by Mr. A. W. Paterson, president of the Association, who after complimenting the lecturer, took the opportunity of making a brief *resume* of the history of the Chatham Y. M. C. A., and making an appeal to the audience to give their sympathy and aid thereto.

The next lecture of the course will be delivered by Rev. T. L. Smith, due notice of which will be given.

Concert.

The concert at the Masonic Hall on Monday evening last under Mr. Burwood's management was a complete success. The programme, rather a long one, was faithfully carried out with the exception of one song. Where all of the performers executed their parts well it is perhaps unfair to particularize, but a few deserve special mention and none more so than the opening piece a beautifully executed piano-forte solo by Miss Annie Shirreff. "Whispering Hope" a vocal duet by Mrs. McAndrews and Miss Whittaker was very well rendered and received great applause; the songs "Gathering shells from the sea-shore" by Mr. Nichol, and "Home by the river" were also well received. "Tis evening brings my heart to thee" by Mrs. Martin, and "Let us gather bright flowers" by the same lady and Miss Annie Shirreff were attentively listened to and vigorously applauded. Mrs. Goggin sang a comic song "Barney O'Hea" so well as to draw an *encore* to which she responded with a repetition of the last part of the song. The "Larboard Watch," by Messrs. Burwood and Nichol was given in fine style. "Maid of Athens" was well sung by Miss Gillis and received a well deserved *encore*. The different choruses were also well sung. Rule Brittannia of course, taking first place. The programme was closed with "What are the wild waves saying" by Mrs. Martin and Mr. Burwood, making one of the most enjoyable portions of the entertainment. Mr. Ridling, who sang "Good bye sweetheart" was not up to his usual standard owing to a severe cold, and did not acquit himself as well as he usually does.

Mr. Burwood will probably repeat this entertainment in Newcastle about 1st proximo.

It is to be regretted that the superabundant energy of young Chatham exhausted itself in frequent cat calls, stamping, and like means of annoyance during the first part of the performance. Such disorder as this in an audience is, unfortunately, rather frequent in our town and is none the less annoying that it is caused by unruly boys and would be "bloods."

The Miramichi Religious Tract Society.

The Annual Public Meeting of this Society appointed for Febr. 13 and postponed on account of the severe snow storm, was held on Tuesday evening last in the Temperance Hall, Chatham. On the motion of the Rev. W. Wilson Col. McCully was called to the chair. After the Choir had sung "Rescue the perishing," the Chairman called upon the Rev. W. Wilson to open the meeting with prayer.

The Rev. James Anderson, Secretary of the Society, then read the following Report.

REPORT, 1876.

The Committee of the Miramichi Religious Tract Society regret their inability to submit such a bright and cheering statement of the operations of the Society, for the past year, as they would wish. Last year's Report was a very gratifying one indeed. It spoke of the great prosperity which, in the Providence of God, had been granted to the Society for the year 1875. The sale of books at the Depositories at Chatham and Newcastle had been large and the contributions of the Society's members and funds were satisfactory, consequently the money in the Treasurer's hands at the close of the year was sufficient to meet all liabilities, while there was a considerable stock of books unsold. So prosperous was the Society's financial state that the Committee felt able to make a generous offer to all the Churches within the field of its operations; they offered to each congregation books to the amount of its annual collection, while at the same time securing the usual discount to each subscriber on individual purchases. It is a matter of regret that congregations with the exception, viz. the Episcopal Church at Chatham, did not take advantage of this liberal offer. Notwithstanding the comparatively poverty stricken state of the funds the Committee have agreed to continue this offer for the ensuing year.

During the past year the sales of books at the Depositories have been comparatively very limited. Doubtless this has arisen from a cause well known to all and especially to our business-men, of whose liberality to our society and every good cause in former years, we have a grateful sense. Miramichi, like other parts of the world, has, for the past year, suffered from a comparative dullness of business. The cloud of commercial depression which has covered so large an area has darkened our stores. Hence the comparatively small sales of books effected by the Society for 1876.

And the same cause has operated against our only other source of income, viz., the annual subscriptions of the Society's members and friends. Chatham made a general collection amounting to $34.50. Douglastown also made a collection amounting to $9.00. Newcastle made no collection. These facts supply one reason for the smallness of our realised funds at present.

Still we are not without a gleam of hope and a cause for gratitude to Almighty God, whose we are and whom we serve. The dark cloud which, for the past year, has darkened our prosperity, has its silver lining, and there is every indication that it will soon pass away, when the sunshine of success will once more gladden the field under our cultivation. The Society is still quite solvent. Its assets, consisting of cash in hand and unsold but saleable books, exceed its liabilities. This is evident from the Treasurer's financial statement, which we herewith submit:—

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Account current 16th January, 1877.

Jan. 18, 1876—By balance in Treasurer's hands,		$217 19
Jan. 16, 1877—		
Books sold by J. Ellis,	$233 17	
" " W. West,	38 76	
		341 93
Collection at meeting, Newcastle,	$5 85	
Miss Percival, 2 yrs sub.,	1 00	
Subscriptions, Chatham,	34 50	
		41 35
		$600 47
PAYMENTS.		
May 25, 1876—		
Paid per Bill £69 16s. 8d. at 108,	$343 89	
Dec. 12, 1876—		
Pd. telegrams for books,	55	
Dec. 15, 1876—		
Paid freight to Halifax and Duty,	28 31	
Paid freight from Halifax to Chatham,	4 92	
Paid J. Ellis commis'n on $283 17,	14 15	
Paid W. Watt, commission on $38 76,	2 93	
		394 75
		$205 72
Due Parent Society, £69 16s. 10d.		
Books imp'ted, Dec. 1876,	74 2s. 4d.	
	£143 19s. 2d.	
Less Bill as above,	69 16s. 10d.	
10%	£74 2s. 4d.	
	$365 60	
To meet the above—		
Books at Chatham,	$340 90	
Books at Newcastle,	128 20	
	$469 10	
Off 40 per cent,	187 60	
		281 50
		$487 22

JOHN ELLIS, Treas.

According to the statement our indebtness is $365.60, to meet which we have $205.72 in cash, and $281.50 in books, in all $487.22, so the Society is quite solvent. But inasmuch as $365.60 is to be paid to the Parent Society at the end of May next, it is necessary that before that time something over $152.88 worth of books be sold. We, then, ask our friends to visit either of our Depositories, and examine our publications which for cheapness and quality cannot be surpassed. Especially would we call the attention of parents who wish to supply their children with pure, wholesome literature to our books. Indeed, a house, however, costly may be its furniture, is only half furnished if it be without a library.

We would here mention that the London Religious Tract Society with characteristic liberality has presented our Society with £5 worth of tracts. For this generous gift we tender our cordial thanks to the Parent Society.

Messrs. Ellis and Watt continue their valuable services in the management of the Depositories. Universal testimony declares these gentlemen, as far as the interests of our Society are concerned, to be "the right men in the right place."

Our Society, then, enters upon another year's work, not with a feeling of discouragement, but with renewed determination and hopefulness. We hopefully continue to sow the seeds of religious truth in the minds of young and old, with the prayer upon our lips that the dews of the Divine blessing may descend upon our labours, imperfect though they be.

As in the past so in the future we confidently commit the interests of our Society to the prayers and sympathy and encouragement of the Christian people of the North Shore. All of which is most respectfully submitted.

JAMES ANDERSON, Sec'y.

The Report being read and in the absence of the Rev. T. Smith, who was expected to move its adoption, Rev. Mr. Anderson, simply moved that the Report now read be adopted. D. Ferguson, Esq., in a few well chosen words seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The Choir then sang "What shall the harvest be." A. W. Paterson, Esq., moved the next resolution: "That the society be recommended to the hearty and liberal support of all Christians, inasmuch as its object is the diffusion of a pure and whole-some religious literature and that the attention of ministers, parents, Sunday School Teachers, and all Christian workers be called to the large and select stock of books in the Society's Depository in Chatham and Newcastle." The motion was seconded by Mr. R. Sinclair and agreed to.

The choir sang "Go bury thy sorrow."

The Rev. W. Wilson moved the next resolution "that the Society record its gratitude to Almighty God for past success, and hope confidently for ever greater things in the future." Seconded by Mr. W. Simpson.

The choir sang "Only an armour-bearer" Rev. Mr. Anderson moved that a hearty vote of thanks be given to the Depositaries Mess. Ellis and Watt, and the Collectors for their excellent services in the interests of the Society. Seconded by Rev. W. Wilson and carried unanimously.

Rev. James Anderson said, that the society and the meeting should accord the choir a very hearty vote of thanks for their excellent services. If the speaking was not up to the mark the singing was first-class. The motion was heartily approved. A collection was then taken up which amounted to $5.75. A vote of thanks having been given to the chairman and the doxology been sung, the meeting was closed with the benediction.

Correspondence.

[We invite correspondence on all local subjects, and will be glad to publish anything that will advance the interests of our readers, individually, or of the communities in which they live. Local News Items, Notices of Improvements—either moral or physical—Reports of Meetings, Agricultural, Lumbering, Fishing, Mechanical and other Industrial notes are especially welcome. We do not expect that all who desire to assist us in the above way are good writers, but that should not deter them from sending along their favors. We want the news and will see that it goes into the paper in proper shape]

The Way it's Done.

To The Editor of the Miramichi Advance.

SIR:—As the Editor of the *Daily Telegraph* wishes to reserve his columns to defend Mr. Venning now that the reasons are exposed why the smelt nets were stopped, I send you an account of a second supposed meeting to accomplish that purpose, and as I do not want it to be imagined that I am taking any undue advantage of Mr. Venning on account of his being in Ottawa, send him a copy of your paper at my expense.

Second supposed meeting, present, Venning and Hickson:—

Venning—I have come to Bathurst to see about those nets that you wrote me were destroying all the smelts.

Hickson—We will go on the ice and look at them. (They go to the ice.)

Venning—Where are all your nets?

Hickson—There they are—

Venning—Counts, one, two, three, four, five. Where are all the rest?

Hickson—That is all.

Venning—You have surely more than five nets set. You wrote me there were a great number of nets set here, catching large quantities of fish, and destroying all the smelts: you must have more nets set.

Hickson—You see all.

Venning remains on the ice some time, going from one net to the other, and at his request the fishermen draw their nets several times but catch very few fish, and says to the fishermen before leaving:—*You are not catching many fish, I hope you will catch ten times as many as you are doing.* To Hickson, *I dont think these nets are doing much harm, they are not catching many fish.*

Hickson—But these smelts are spawning, they spawn every month and are always spawning when they will not take bait.

Venning—You surprise me, I always thought that smelts spawned in the Spring, in fresh water.

Hickson—The common smelts do, but if you will examine those you will find they are of a different kind, see how bright and silvery looking they are.

Venning—You are close to the sea here, and fish fresh from sea are always bright. After those fish go into fresh water they get darker in color.

Hickson—I have carefully studied this subject for the past two weeks, (Aside,—Since Burns wanted the nets stopped,) and I say those smelts are spawning. Come and see my friends, Armstrong, Baldwin and Malloy, leading fishermen of Bathurst, they will confirm my statements.

(Enter Burns, Armstrong, Baldwin and Malloy.)

Hickson.—(aside.) You must stick to the spawning, it is hard to get Venning to believe it.

Venning.—Hickson tells me the smelts are spawning, what do you think about it?

Armstrong.—Certainly they are. I have had extensive experience catching smelts, been engaged in the business for about two months. The first month I caught them with a seine at the entrance of the harbor, afterwards tried to catch them at the town but my seine was too small, and the smelts have been spawning ever since. I now buy only those that are caught with hook and line, (all the larger fish are taken that way,) the small ones that are caught with nets are spawning.

Baldwin & Malloy.—We never caught any smelts; have been buying for the last three months those caught with hook and line; what cannot be caught that way are spawning.

Burns.—I never was engaged in the business but believe what my friends here say about it. We must have those nets stopped, my customers want it.

Venning.—It will be difficult to stop nets here and allow them elsewhere.

Hickson.—Bathurst is the only place known where smelts spawn during winter in the salt water; they are a peculiar species only discovered here lately.

Venning.—But if this business gets into the newspapers how can I defend my action.

Hickson—I will manufacture materials for you as fast as you can use them.

Venning—Now, gentlemen, I will send Mowat to examine and report on these smelts. Hickson, you send a sample to Ottawa; whatever you agree on I will recommend. Everything must be done under color of protecting the fisheries, and there are certain forms to be gone through before these nets can be stopped. (Leaves.)

Hickson—I told you Venning would believe me.

Burns—Yes, we must succeed; it will give me a good many French votes.

So the second supposed meeting closed.

J. S.

Letter from Mr. Fayle.

TABUSINTAC, Feb. 9th, 1877.

To the Editor of the Miramichi Advance.

SIR.—Silence any longer on my part has ceased to be a virtue as the continued and unceasing persecution that I am subjected to by three or four individuals in this settlement, whose own characters are little short of the midnight assassin's, has compelled me to take this method of defending myself. This was suggested to my mind on reading a garbled communication in the last *Advocate* from Tabusintac, the writer of which must have been ashamed to sign his name, which gives such a graphic account of the parties being fined for trotting their horses over Tabusintac bridge. But what the writer means by dating his letter the 9th of January and also stating that it was on Sunday the 7th of January that those poor men went to church and were returning home; men, women and children, freezing to death, and that because they trotted their horses across the spans is more than I can tell. As I am the justice before whom the complaint was lodged, I will tell the truth of the whole affair and leave the public to judge. The spans of the Tabusintac Bridge being but recently completed and because of the principle on which the spans were constructed the trotting of horses across them would have a very injurious effect.

Mr. H. J. Lee, who lodged the complaint, was instructed by the Chief Commissioner and also by the Supervisor not to allow but prosecute parties who would trot their horses across the spans. Mr. Lee had notices placed on each end of the spans warning the public against trotting their horses over them, and took a good deal of trouble by warning and counciling the public against violating the law. Mr. Ebenezer Vanadistine had, previous to the day in question, been guilty of the same offence and was cautioned by Mr. Lee not to do so again and Mr. Lee frequently heard that Mr. Hugh Murray, Jr., had said that he did and would trot his horse when he pleased across the spans. Mr. Lee lodged a complaint against these gentlemen for violating the law on Sunday the 14th, and not Sunday the 7th as stated in the *Advocate*. The public can judge of the writer's reasons for altering these details. I issued Summonses against the parties, and on their appearing I read the charge against them. They all pleaded guilty and I imposed a fine of $2.00 and costs on each, the fine to stand over as a guarantee for their future observance of the law. They paid the costs I demanded, but not all the costs allowed by law, for I was quite willing to take less, and went away quite satisfied.

Mr. Hugh Murray, Sr., was present during the proceedings and acted in such a manner as to lead one to suppose he was there for the express purpose of making a disturbance.

I acknowledge that in disposing of the charges in the manner I did I took a greater responsibility on myself than the law would bear me out in, but I acted in the interest of justice and good will towards all men, little thinking that I would be so bitterly assailed by the very parties I had partly screened.

In a day or two after Mr. Vanadistine and Mr. Murray, Jr., called on me and said I charged them too much costs and demanded a detailed statement of the costs, which, to satisfy them, I gave cheerfully, telling them at the same time to go to His Honor, Judge Williston, with the bill of costs and if I charged any more than allowed by law I was liable to be fined severely. This I considered would certainly satisfy them, but no, I was only adding fuel to fire, for the main actor on the stage, and who, by the way, wanted me to lay no fine on the parties charged, and make Mr. Lee pay all the costs, because I refused to follow his advice commenced a regular warfare against me from that day. He has visited, I may say, every dwelling in this settlement slandering and abusing me, and bringing the most malicious charges against me and trying to get others to aid him. Failing in this he went to Newcastle and commenced the same mode of warfare, then down to Chatham and there he got a petition drawn for the purpose, I am told, of taking the office of a Justice of the Peace from me, and I now tell that gentleman I will venture the assertion that he will not obtain six freeholders' names to said petition, even should he travel the whole parish.

I am quite willing that my acts, both of a private and public nature shall be brought before the public; fully convinced in my own mind that I am not perfect, nor free from errors, more than other men occupying the same position. The Editor of the *Advocate* says that he agrees with his correspondent that the circumstances under which the parties trotted across the bridge should have been taken into consideration. I say that Mr. Lee and myself did take the whole matter into consideration and that we did not need the assistance of the *Advocate* correspondent on that point.

There are other matters mentioned in the communication to the *Advocate* that I intend to deal with in my next communication, and if the parties I have named in this can vindicate their actions all right. In conclusion I ask the parties interested if I had delivered up a certain private letter that they requested of me and which was exclusively my property would they have assailed me so bitterly.

Yours, etc.
RALPH FAYLE

Bass Fishing in the North West.

North West, Feb, 10th, 1877.

The bass fishing has been poor this season, the best fishing being done during the past week. There are about thirty shanties on the ice and about five hundred men employed fishing. There is very poor ice in this river, and that is almost cut to pieces with fishing holes. There is very little unlawful fishing done at present, thanks to Overseer Hogan, who has been making every exertion to prevent, as far as possible, all unlawful fishing. He has taken seven or eight nets during the past week. But our Overseer has more than the fishermen to contend with, in this matter.—There are some parties buying fish on this river who make it a practice to buy unlawful fish whenever they can get them, and who have made it a practice to encourage unlawful fishing both in salmon and bass fishing, and, as long as they continue to buy unlawful fish, it will be difficult to prevent some of the fishermen from catching them, whereas, if they could not get sale for them they would not try to catch them. A man can go out and catch from fifty to one hundred pounds of those small fish during the night, worth five cents per pound, good encouragement for him, especially as the large bass are scarce and money hard to be got this winter. Now, the man who buys these unlawful fish is quite as much to blame as the man who fishes them. One party, in particular, makes it a practice to condemn all such work in public, but to clear himself and keep on the good side of the fishery officer, you will often hear him declare that he never bought a small bass nor a salmon after the season had closed, (but fresh salmon are worth some money in winter time) in fact, when questioned by the Warden as to whether he bought unlawful fish or not he, in order to clear himself from any suspicions, informed on one of those very men he was encouraging in unlawful fishing. If the Overseer was to keep a sharper look out he might find some small bass concealed in some of this gentleman's outhouses. The price of marketable bass is eleven cents per pound on the ice.

Yours, etc.,
HUNTER.

Letter from Escuminac.

MR EDITOR:—As times in this part of the country have been very quiet during the winter some of the inhabitants of the settlement known as the Hardwoods, thought they would make a frolic to pass away a day of this dull winter, and came to the conclusion to hold the same on Monday the 12th of February, and I have no doubt the majority of the young folks of this community would have been very glad to attend the same, had it not been that the party who got it up could find no other day except the Sabbath to invite the folks in this community. Now, Mr. Editor, do you not consider that the moral standard and religious principles of a certain class of our community must be at a very low ebb, when they can find no other day except the Sabbath to drive from house to house, to invite the inhabitants of this place to attend a frolic. Now, I hope for the good name of the place, that parties in the future in getting up a frolic, will try and find some other day except Sunday, to invite their neighbors, and remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy, for I feel quite certain that if the Parish of Hardwicke had a lock-up and Policeman that the transgressor would be punished by the laws of our country for her actions on Sunday last. I have, Mr. Editor, been living in Escuminac now for some time and have so often witnessed these transactions that I consider it my duty to speak of them.

Hoping you will excuse me for occupying so much of your space I remain,

Yours,
AN OBSERVER.

ESCUMINAC, Feb. 13.

Bay Du Vin Notes.

Bay du Vin, Feb. 15th, 1877.

DEAR ADVANCE:—"What is the news?" "Has it not been an awful storm," is what you now hear on all sides. After the storm in asking how much snow fell the word was three feet, then it dwindled down to two and a half, then to two. So, not to mislead your readers, Mr. Editor, I measured it to-day, and found that on an average down here the fall was fourteen inches.

Four of our countrymen, with teams, were caught in Chatham in the storm, and among them our Overseer of Fisheries. They made their appearance yesterday, having had a hard time to make home.

Four of our smelt fishermen have left Bay du Vin, and have been pursuing their calling with success, at Black Brook, so far as getting plenty of smelt goes, but about the price, I cannot say. I have heard that they are a drug in the market. Montreal market has been overstocked lately, as I have seen a telegram of a late date to a Bay du Vin shipper, warning him not to send any more there, at present. All the fishermen have left Bay du Vin, but the Dodger, and to-day he hauled his cottage off the ice, and hung up his net to dry, having been warned by the Overseer that smelt fishing was done for this season.

There is to be a concert, or the life of Bunyan illustrated in song, on the 1st of March at the Village; Mr. Phillips the Escuminac light keeper, is to be the leader. A collection is to be taken up at the close, in aid of the Union Church, a new Protestant place of worship that is being built at Escuminac.

If the roads are good before that date the friends of the movement in Chatham will, it is said, take a drive down.

And now since the smelt fishing is done, what will be next excitement? It is a long time to wait for the salmon; there's nothing now to talk about but politics, and I suppose it will be dull for the rest of the winter.

Friend Tweedie will not, it is thought, pitch into the Government with the ardour and rashness of a young and impeteous youth, as he did last session, as since that time he has taken the yoke upon himself that makes a man be counted among old and thoughtful ones.

I remain, yours, etc.,
A GOOD WILL.

THE BUDGET SPEECH.

(*Special to the Miramichi Advance.*)

OTTAWA, Feb. 20th.

The Minister of Finance made his Budget Speech yesterday. He reverted to the unwarthy course taken by the Opposition newspapers which, in their endeavors to discredit a political party, did not scruple at injury to the country. As to expenditures on the Public Works he showed that upon the chief enterprises during the past three years they were as follows: Intercolonial $4,153,000; other Maritime Provinces railways, $522,000; P. E. Island railway, $1,530,000; Pacific Railway Survey, $1,551,000; Pacific Railway construction, $4,356,000; Lachine, Welland and other Canals, a total of $8,108,000, or a total expenditure on capital account on canals and railways in round numbers of $20,300,000, exclusive of the Pacific Railway. Some six or seven millions mentioned in the Estimates would probably cover the necessary expenditures to complete these works. A couple of millions was wanted to meet debentures falling due soon. Sixteen or seventeen millions worth of work had been done in various Provinces which the present Government inherited from their predecessors when the Government came into office; there were $90,000,000 maturing liabilities outstanding now; the total is rather under than over $24,000,000. He expected the I. C. R. and P. E. I. railways would each cost the country $250,000 less per year than hitherto if the income remained as at present, the general expenditure of the country has at last arrived at a fixed state, saving $800,000 so far in the current year on services, and if another equal amount for the remaining half the deficiency would be completely wiped out. This would be regarded as certain; we would thus go on with a clean sheet, having an Imperial guarantee of two and one half millions sterling still available.

The excise duty on petroleum has been entirely removed and the customs duty thereon reduced to nine cents. This will cause a deficiency in the income of about $150,000 which the Finance Minister proposes to meet by imposing an additional two cents per pound on tea, two cents per gallon on beer and some discriminatory changes in respect to the different classes of tobaccos, cigars &c.

The only real changes are those respecting petroleum, tea and beer.

The speech was the most brilliant and powerful that Mr. Cartwright ever delivered in this House.

THE DOMINION PARLIAMENT.

OTTAWA, Feb. 12.—In the Commons today, Mr. Barthe introduced a Bill to repeal the Insolvent Act.

Mr. Cartwright presented the public accounts for the last fiscal year.

A debate then arose on the motion of Mr. McDonald, Toronto, to open the proceedings of the House with prayers. It was adjourned.

Mr. Currier moved for the correspondence respecting the navigation of the United States canals and rivers.

Mr. Mitchell moved for correspondence in relation to the fishery clauses of the Washington Treaty. He said all the points agreed to under that Treaty had been arranged except the original clause of the Treaty—viz., the Canadian Fishery question. Now, after six years, we were further off than ever from a settlement, in fact, in a worse position. He did not make the motion in a hostile sense, but to enable the Government to bring it, if possible, to an amicable arrangement.

It was near time for us to know what our neighbors over the border mean. If they do not intend to carry out their obligations it was time we knew it. The treaty was practically a nullity through the action of the United States. He wanted to know whether it was the fault of the United States, Great Britain or Canada that the treaty has not been carried out, and what degree of blame was to be attached to either. He believed the fault rested between England and the United States. The Minister of Marine said there were portions of the correspondence which it would not be wise or politic to submit to the House at present, but there were some papers that could be brought down, and these would show that no blame whatever was attached to the Government of Canada.

Mr. Mackenzie, before the orders of the day were called, gave ministerial explanations, as promised. Three vacancies occurred in the Cabinet since last session, by the elevation of Messrs. Laird and Letelier to the governorships of provinces and the retirement of Mr. Geoffrion, through long illness. These vacancies were filled, as the House is already aware.

A portfolio was offered to Mr. Joly, who, for personal reasons, declined, but not before it was tendered to Mr. Pelletier.—When Mr. Joly declined, Mr. Pelletier was again approached, and this time agreed to enter the Cabinet. There were no other explanations to be made, as the changes involved no change of policy.

Sir John A. McDonald spoke, complimenting the members of the Government who had retired since last session, especially referring to the ability displayed by Mr. Laird.

OTTAWA, Feb. 15.—In reply to Mr. Sinclair, Hon. A. J. Smith said the Government was doing all in their power to establish safe and speedy communication with Prince Edward Island.

Sir John A. McDonald explained an item in the estimates crediting him with a refund of $25,000. He was not astonished that its appearance should cause a commotion, but he could assure the House that he never handled a farthing of this money. At the time of the Fenian raid a committee of the late Government was formed consisting of Messrs. Cartier, Hincks, Morris and himself to administer the secret service funds. It was spent in securing information from parties, who would probably lose their lives were they known. Many claims were put forward, some of them of a preposterous nature, and he had a difficult and delicate duty to settle them.

Mr. Cartier died, Messrs. Hincks and Morris left the Government, and he was alone left of the committee. When his Government resigned he had a balance of the fund in the bank amounting to thirty four thousand one hundred and seventy-nine dollars. Having settled all claims he drew two cheques, one in favor of the Receiver-General for twenty-five thousand five hundred and seventy-nine dollars, and another for six thousand six hundred for himself to settle detectives claims paid by his former colleagues, Messrs. Pope and Campbell. Such was the true history of the whole matter.

Hon Mr. Mackenzie said that the sum mentioned was paid into the treasury before the last session, but he did not refer to it because he desired to come to an understanding with Sir John relative to the manner in which this money had been used. He quoted the resolution adopted by Public Accounts Committee in May, 1872, which debarred Sir John from keeping this money in his possession after that time. He quoted Todd as to the manner of administering and auditing the Secret Service Fund in England. The reason why he kept the matter to himself was to arrive at an arrangement as to the disposal of the six thousand six hundred dollars. He contended that Sir John had no right to keep this money in his possession when he ceased to be a responsible Minister of the Crown. It was contrary to the Constitution that any person not enjoying the confidence of the country, nor a member of the Government, to administer public funds. He quoted Sir John's speech at St. Thomas, where he said the Secret Service expenditure was never told, and so closely were all secrets kept in connection with the fund, so closely was it kept under the control of Ministers, that if the Government in England were going out of office with £100,000 to their credit in the fund, they would not leave it behind them, but would take it with them, and use it for their own party purposes when in Opposition. Perhaps Sir John carried out this idea when he left office. It was clear any way that he had no right whatever, no matter what the circumstances were, to retain public money after he left office. (Cheers.) The Public Accounts Committee would have to deal with the whole subject. The matter then dropped.

Mr. Brouse moved for a committee of the whole to consider the resolution, declaring that a substantial recognition should be given to the volunteers who defended the British flag during the troubles in 1837 and '38. After debate, Hon. Mr. Mackenzie promised to consider the question fully so as to meet the views expressed and the matter dropped.

Mr. Mitchell moved for papers relative to merchant shipping.

Hon. Mr. Smith, of Westmoreland, promised them in a few days.

Mr. Domville moved a series of orders for the House for statements relative to buildings, etc., on the Intercolonial Railway.

The Premier promised as full a statement as possible.

After recess, Mr. Domville continued his motions for statements connected with the Intercolonial Railway. There were thirty of these motions, which covered every possible subject connected with the construction, maintenance and management of the railway. Nearly all the motions passed.

PARIS, Feb. 14.—By the explosion of a coal mine at Graissessse, in the department of Herault, fifty-five miners were killed.

NEW HAVEN, Feb. 15.—The steamship *Walker* cleared for Constantinople to-day, with a cargo of arms and ammunition for the Turkish Government, valued at over a million dollars.

THE GREAT SHOSHONEES REMEDY.—Is an Indian vegetable compound, composed of the juices of a variety of remarkable medicinal plants and herbs; the various properties of these different ingredients when combined, is so constituted as to act simultaneously upon the Blood, Lungs, Liver, Kidneys, Digestive Organs, Nervous System, &c., restoring their function, to healthy action, and being purely vegetable, is as harmless as Nature's own beverage. This medicine is a decided benefit in all, and a permanent cure in a large majority of diseases of the blood, such as Scrofula, Erysipelas, Salt Rheum, Canker, Pimples, &c. In prescribing this medicine we do not claim that it always performs cures; but this we do say, that it purifies and enriches the blood, permanently curing a large majority of diseases arising from its impurities. It stands far ahead and unequalled among the hundreds of competing medicines of the day. It has stood the test of ten years, and is to-day more popular than ever. As a summer restorative it stands unrivalled; it enables the system to bear up against the constant drain to which it is subjected by high temperature. Persons who are subject to Billious Colic, Dysentery, Indigestion, &c., should take the "Shoshonees Remedy." Price of the remedy in pint bottles $1. Pills 25 cents a box.

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Tobique (*New Brunswick.*)
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Chatham, February 20, 1877. 22y

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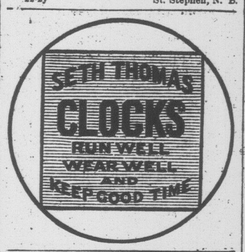

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