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On Thursday last, in his place in the N. B. Legislature, Mr. Douglas Hazen, leader of the Opposition, formulated charges of alleged irregularities in the Public Works department of the Government, connecting therewith the name of the Hon. Commissioner of Public Works. The challenge of Mr. Hazen was promptly accepted by Premier Emmerson who expressed gratification that the definite formulation of charges had placed him in a position to call for a proper investigation and defend himself from the charges, the truth of which he emphatically denied. He accordingly moved for a committee of seven members of the Legislature to which the charges made by Mr. Hazen with the evidence he might be able to offer should be submitted. The committee appointed by the speaker is composed as follows: Messrs. Carvell, O'Brien (Northumberland), Gibson, Mott, Shaw and Glasier. As the investigation would probably occupy several weeks, and the members of the committee represented that it would greatly interfere with their private business to be kept so long from their homes at this season of the year, and as Mr. Hazen stated in the House that in the charges he had formulated he did not impute political or personal dishonesty to the Hon. Commissioner of Public Works, it was agreed, by consent of Hon. Mr. Emmerson and Mr. Hazen, that the charges should for the present be withdrawn and it is understood that the committee appointed in the case will be discharged.

**Notices.**

The officers of the Nova Scotia Eastern Baptist Association have accepted the kind invitation from the Oxford Baptist church to meet with them in July next. My address for a few months will be Bridgetown, N. S.  
T. B. LAYTON,  
Sec'y Eastern Assn.

The Shelburne County Quarterly Conference will meet with the Baptist church at Lockeport on Tuesday and Wednesday, April 9 and 10. On Tuesday a. m. the Auxiliary Home Mission Board will meet. As this is the annual meeting it is quite important for all the churches to be well represented.  
ALLAN SPIDELL, Sec'y Treas.

**News Summary.**

Lord Salisbury has returned to London from the Riviera.

The business failures in the Dominion this week numbered twenty-two, against twenty-nine in the corresponding week of 1892.

The election in Brockville, Ont., on Thursday, resulted in a Liberal victory by a majority of 249, the vote being Comstock, 1,752; White, 1,503.

Seeding will be somewhat earlier than usual this spring in Cape Breton. Farmers report the ground in good condition and very little frost.

The sealing season, although short, has been very successful this spring, and there have been no accidents. The steamer Harlaw secured 4,000 in three days.

D. M. Stewart was presented with a silver service Friday by members of the staff of the Bank of Commerce, Montreal. Mr. Stewart is going to the Merchant's Bank of Halifax as inspector.

J. McDonald Oxley, of Montreal, has formed a company for the manufacture of condensed cattle food for which he holds the patent in Canada and the United States. Sir William Van Horne is interested in the enterprise.

The General Mining Association of Sydney Mines are preparing for large shipments of coal to the Upper Provinces, and expect to break all records in that line. One day last week they raised 1,788 boxes—the record.

The steamer Aorangi, from Australia, brings advices that the commander of the German man-of-war Falke, at Samoa, has been arrested by the British and is now being held a prisoner on the British vessel Porpoise. He was surprised by a squad of British sailors handing arms and ammunition to Mataafa's men.

An American shell fired last summer during the bombardment of the town of Manzanillo, Cebu, by the United States warships, exploded last Sunday, killing three persons and wounding many others. The shell had been fired into a cafe called the "Labyrinth of Gold," and workmen were digging it from under the floor, where it had been penetrated deeply. The shell exploded, wrecking the room.

It is alleged that the European ambassadors in Washington are boycotting the Mexican ambassador, Senor Aspiroz. Thirty years ago Aspiroz was judge-advocate general for the Mexicans when they tried and shot Maximilian, the Austrian archduke who, under the protection of Louis Napoleon of France, claimed the throne of Mexico. The Austrian government has never resumed diplomatic relations with Mexico. The two embassies in Washington have had no communication since the death of Maximilian, for Emperor Francis Joseph cannot forgive or forget the execution of his nephew. It is thought strange, however, that the British, French, Russian and German ambassadors, ignore Aspiroz, as he is not supposed to have done more than his duty at the trial of Maximilian.

Some interest has been aroused by the reports of the Registrar-General, just issued, which estimates the population of England at more than 31,000,000, with women in the majority by 960,000. There were more marriages in 1892 than in any year since 1876, proving the theory that when trade is good matrimony flourishes. The total number of marriages was 249,145, or 16 to every 1,000 of the population. It is a good sign that the record of ages of marriages shows a tendency to advance, while second marriages are decreasing, but the number of divorced persons who remarried is the largest on record. Of divorced men who remarried, 114 married spinsters, 21 married widows, and seven divorced men married divorced women. One hundred and twenty-nine divorced women married bachelors and thirty-three married widowers.

The steamer City of Para, from Central American ports, brings details of an Ocean tragedy. While the vessel was at Corinto an open boat containing the remains of nine men who perished months ago, drifted ashore there. The bodies were horribly emaciated, and the manner in which their limbs were contracted showed that they must have died in terrible agony. Not a drop of water and not a particle of food was in the boat. In December last Louis W. Maslen, of the El Triunfo Pier Co., three of the post officials and five boatmen were out to the rail company's steamer lying in the offing at El Triunfo. They boarded the mail boat and stayed until signs of an approaching storm warned them to return. The gale came up quickly and overtook the boat soon after it got away from the steamer. It was never seen again until it floated into Corinto harbor. Louis W. Maslen was the son of E. W. Maslen, deputy naval officer of this port. The names of the other victims are not given.

The Chicago Board of Trade learns that the winter wheat crop is in a bad condition. The reports and private advices received by big grain houses indicate that despite the increased acreage the crop this year will be one of the smallest harvested in many years.

The bishop of Oxford tells of a lady of Somerset who bewailed the loss of a somewhat ill-bred but extremely wealthy neighbor, who had been very liberal in his help to her country charities. "Mr. X. is dead," said she "He was so good, and kind, and helpful to me in all sorts of ways. He was so vulgar, poor, dear fellow we could not know him in London, but we shall meet him in heaven."

Statistics gathered in Chicago show that the average age at death in 1872 was 12 years and 3 months; in 1882 it was 19 years and 6 months; in 1892 it was 23 years and 4 months; and for the first six months of 1893 it was 29 years and 7 months. This implies an increasing duration of life in Chicago of nearly 50 per cent, during the last quarter of a century.

Lord Aberdeen, at the dinner of the Royal Colonial Institute in London, expressed the view that life membership in the House of Lords might be given distinguished colonial leaders.

**Clothes Pride.**

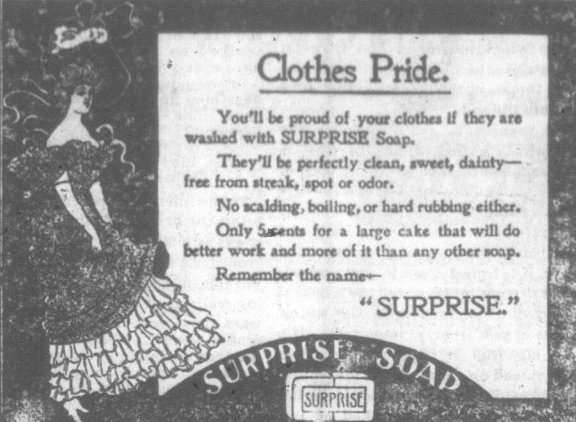
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