

CARD.

Dr. Carfagnini acknowledges with thanks the handsome Donation of Fifty Pounds, (£50) from Peter Butler, Esq., Port-de-Grave, towards the Building Fund of the Cathedral. Feb. 18.

CARD.

The Treasurer of the BENEVOLENT IRISH SOCIETY, respectfully begs to acknowledge the receipt of the following Donations in aid of the Funds of the Society: The Most Rev. Dr. CARFAGNINI, £10; Rev. W. WATSON, £1; LAWRENCE MACKAY, Esq., £1 4s. T. STRAPP, Treasurer. Feb. 18.

THE STAR

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18th, 1875

OPENING OF THE LEGISLATURE.

On Thursday, 4th inst., His Excellency the Governor, opened the Legislature with the following SPEECH.

Mr. President and Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council. Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly.

I have again much pleasure in soliciting your advice in the conduct of public affairs.

Since our last meeting in this Chamber the colony has passed through the agitation of a General Election and it is a matter of high credit to the constituencies and of just congratulation to us all, that though in some instances the districts were warmly contested, no breach of the peace anywhere disgraced the record of these proceedings.

I am happy to observe that our staple industry of the Tcod Fishery, both shore and Labrador, has for the last season been sufficiently successful to afford fair returns to the several interests engaged in this pursuit. The improved communication effected by steam between the various settlements of the Labrador during the fishing season has been highly valuable, and it will be worthy your consideration whether this service may not be placed on a more permanent and yet more satisfactory footing. The advantages derivable to our Fisheries from the employment of a superior class of vessels in their prosecution merit your attention, and it would be well to inquire whether the encouragement already afforded to the building of such vessels, which has resulted so beneficially, might not be further extended.

The connexion established last autumn by the employment of a steamer between Channel and Bonne Bay, and the intermediate localities, will I trust, prove to be a boon to all whose capital and labor are embarked in our western Herring Fishery and lead to the speedy extension of this important branch of trade.

The want of local law regarding the inspection of pickled fish, having been brought by the Chamber of Commerce in August last, under the notice of my Government they obtained the acquiescence of the Dominion authorities in an arrangement which has sufficed to exempt our last season's shipments of pickled fish to Canadian markets from those injurious restrictions to which they must otherwise have been subjected. The value of this produce was thus largely enhanced, but as the course adopted by the Local Government was only provisional and based on the understanding that early Legislation would be proposed to supply the defect in our Statute Book, your consideration will be invited to a measure for this purpose.

The result of the Seal Fishery of last spring, I regret to notice, fell short of an average productiveness. A peculiar and abnormal feature which distinguished it was the large proportion of seals found to be still immature and comparatively valueless at the unusual advanced date at which the sealers entered on the ice-fields. The Act of last session, designed to prevent the waste and loss of this element of wealth, does not appear to have attained its object and the enquiry suggests itself, whether a provision of further stringency might not be applied with advantage to the prosecution of this enterprise.

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Hon. House of Assembly.

I am glad to be enabled to inform you that the revenue of last year from all sources reached the sum of \$833,127, which must be regarded as an evidence of the progressive prosperity of the Colony.

The estimates for the current year will be laid before you on an early day. They have been prepared with due regard to economy and efficiency and I rely with confidence on your readiness to provide adequately for the exigencies of the Public Service.

Mr. President and Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council. Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Honourable House of Assembly.

The subject of the value of our Northern and western forests and agricultural lands has recently received more than accustomed prominence from the able and able pen of Mr. Murray, of the Geological Survey. I would earnestly commend to your attention how far the possessions, now to so large an extent left to decay and lawless abstraction, may be converted into sources of colonial wealth and made to subserve the great object of settlement and productive industry, within such restrictions as should fully provide for all the requirements of our fishing population. As a means of promoting the cultivation of these and other agricultural lands of the colony, the enactment of a measure

to encourage settlement with judicious provisions would seem to be a wise, and well directed endeavor.

The period appears to have arrived when a question which has for some time engaged public discussion, viz: the construction of a railroad across the island to St. George's Bay, should receive a practical solution. Independently of the benefits to flow from opening up the great resources of the interior of Newfoundland to the industry of its people, there is the well founded expectation that a line of railway would attract to our shores the mail and passenger traffic of the Atlantic for which this island would offer the safe and most expeditious route between the Eastern and Western hemispheres, and thus would be secured those vast commercial advantages which our geographical position manifestly entitles us to command. As a preliminary to this object, a proposition will be submitted to you for a thorough Survey to ascertain the most eligible line and with a view to the further enquiry whether the Colony does not possess within itself the means of inducing capitalists to undertake this great enterprise of progress.

The important question of the Telegraph monopoly which formed the subject of a special address to me last session continues to engage the anxious attention of the Government.

I have reason to hope that the vexed difficulty of the claims of the French on our coasts will soon reach a termination acceptable to the Colony. Her Majesty's Government and the Government of France having lately entrusted it to a Joint Commission to be dealt with on the basis of those resolutions adopted by the Local Legislature in its last session and expressly approved by Her Majesty's Government.

I am sure you will heartily join with me in thankfulness to the Almighty for those bounties with which the Colony has been recently favored, as well as for our preservation from epidemic disease which has afflicted several other communities, and in now leaving you to your deliberations, I trust the Divine blessing may direct them for the public good.

REPLY.

To His Excellency Sir STEPHEN JOHN HILL, Knight, Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, Companion of the Most Honourable Military Order of the Bath, Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Island of Newfoundland and its Dependencies.

We, the Commons House of Assembly of Newfoundland, in legislative session convened here to tender to Your Excellency your thanks for the graceful speech with which Your Excellency has been pleased to open this, the first Session of a new General Assembly.

We are pleased to share with Your Excellency the satisfaction that although the Colony has, since the last meeting of this House passed through the excitement of a General Election, the proceedings of the constituencies have been marred by no recorded breaches of the peace.

It is to us, as to Your Excellency, a matter of congratulation that the result of our staple industry, the cod fishery, has afforded to those interested in its prosecution a remunerative return; and we do not question that the improved system of steam communication which has been instituted combined with the employment of a superior class of vessels contributed largely to this result. It shall be our care to consider in accordance with your Excellency's suggestion the desirability of further encouraging, by legislative action, the shipbuilding industry and of placing the Labrador steam service on a yet more permanent and satisfactory basis.

We heartily concur with Your Excellency as to the advantages resulting from the extension of the Western steam service to Bonne Bay. We are assured of the benefits to this extended service to the Western herring fishery and we join with Your Excellency in the hope that what has been already effected in this direction may be the prelude of yet more extensive operations.

The necessity of a law to regulate the inspection of pickled fish, especially that exported to the Canadian markets, demands our careful consideration in order to make permanent the provisional arrangement which has already been wisely effected.

The facts adverted to by Your Excellency in regard to an industry so important as the seal fishery are thought with the deepest interest to the people of the Colony, and we ourselves as their representatives are fully impressed with the responsibilities of our position and with the gravity of the consideration with which this subject demands.

It is gratifying to us to note the progress in the material prosperity of the Colony as evidenced by the productive-ness of last year's revenue. We thank Your Excellency for the promise that the estimates for the current year shall be laid before us, and it shall be our pleasing duty to provide supplies as may be necessary to the due performance of the public service.

We shall take into our earnest consideration the matter of our forests and agricultural lands with a view to the enactment of such a measure as may lead to the protection of valuable property from unrestrained abuse, and to the encouragement of settlement in those portions of the island which present so many natural advantages to the agriculturalist. In the enactment of such a measure it shall be our care to make due provision or adequate protection of the fishery interests.

We cordially agree with your Excellency that it is time that some practical action should be taken in the consideration

of the feasibility of constructing a railroad across this island. The completion of such an enterprise having regard to the many advantages which our island possesses as a Cis-Atlantic terminus of ocean traffic, appears sufficiently practicable. The benefits which would accrue to the Colony from such an undertaking would be unquestionably large while the advantages would to the world in general could scarcely be over-estimated. Towards a consummation so desirable as the effectuation of such a railroad, the first practical steps appear to be the institution of an efficient survey of the probable route; and with a view to promote a movement so progressive we shall carefully consider such propositions as may be submitted to us.

With regard to the important question of the Telegraph Monopoly, we are gratified to learn that it is receiving from Your Excellency's advisers that attention which its importance demands.

We rejoice to learn that the long vexed question with relation to the claims of the French within this Island approaches a probable settlement, the terms of which we trust, may prove acceptable to the people of this Colony.

It is our privilege, as it is our duty, to unite with Your Excellency in the expression of gratitude to Almighty God for the blessings of the past year not the least of which is the immunity from epidemic diseases with which our Colony has been favoured; and we further join with Your Excellency in the trust that our deliberations may be so guided by Divine assistance and blessing as to promote the best interests of the constituencies the care of which has been confided to us.

[FOR THE STAR.]

Benevolent Irish Society.

Under the Patronage of His Lordship the Most Rev. H. CARFAGNINI, D.D., O.S.F., Bishop of Harbor Grace.

The Annual Meeting of the Benevolent Irish Society took place in the Total Abstinence and Benefit Society's Hall, on Wednesday evening last, 10th inst. After the usual business of the day had been disposed of, the election of Officers and Committees for the ensuing year, took place and resulted as follows:

- Mr. P. Devereux, re-elected President. Joseph Lamont, Vice. Jas. Callanan, 1st Ass't. Thos. Malone, 2nd. Thos. Strapp, Treasurer. John Hogan, elected Ass't. J. Barry, Secretary. John Cody, Ass't. Robert Lahey, re-elected Chairman of Charity. Thomas Cody, Review & Co. N. Fitzgerald, 1st Mch. Maurice Malone, 2nd.

COMMITTEE OF CHARITY.

Messrs. Mathew Power, Jas Kelly, Richard Murray, Arthur Thomey, John Pumphrey, Terrance Collins, Jas. Walsh, and M. J. Flynn.

COMMITTEE OF REVIEW AND CORRESPONDENCE.

Messrs. Isaac Pumphrey, and William Dunn. JOHN BARRY, Secretary. Harbor Grace, Feb. 11, 1875.

[FOR THE STAR.]

METROPOLITAN.

BY TOODLES, SR.

My interest in the affairs of the great Capital having been awakened by the letter to the "Standard," of my promising son, Toodles, jr., of whom I am justly proud, I hastened to leave Brigus and all its allurement proceeded as quickly as the state of the roads and other impediments would allow me, to the seat of Government and the abode of Fashion.

I arrived on the evening previous to the great event of the day the opening of Parliament. On the next morning I fell in with an entertaining party of young friends principally of the government benches (I am quite above associating with the others) and after being the fortunate participator in a "Sam" which my friends stood at the "Army & Navy," valgarly called Yankee Welsh's, we proceeded to the House of Parliament.

We passed through an expectant concourse of citizens, intent, like myself, upon viewing the brilliant pageant which attends the opening of the House. I gained easy admittance to the Building through the influence of my friends, and by their favor also, was provided with a commanding position in the window of the Clerk's Office. As a fitting sequel to the entertainment we had already enjoyed, we spent the next half hour in the passive consumption of that grand sustenance, the Indian weed.

Suddenly as the hands stood on the hour of two, the shrill blast of the trumpets sounded the approach of the Vice-regal party. His Excellency's garb was arrayed in the gubernatorial uniform, with nodding plumes, and the badges of his orders sparkled on his manly breast. His Private Secretary looked hardly less imposing in the uniform of the Royal Artillery. His Aide-de-Camp, we regret to observe, contrary to all rule wore nothing but his ordinary habiliments. This circumstance

was unworthy of the splendid pageant in which he was concerned. The tramp of many horses and the tintinnabulation of the bells, lent life and spirit to the scene. A detachment of the household Brigade upon a grey horse, clothed in all the magnificent accoutrements of the Cavalry, accompanied and guarded the Vice-regal progress. A regiment of the Footguards was drawn up in the Court yard of the Parliament Houses, and the music of its bugle awoke the echoes and sound shrill and clear through the frosty winter air. Upon His Excellency's entry into the Council Chamber an imposing suite lent the grace of its presence to the occasion. There was the Major, befittingly of the former splendor of his scarlet uniform, representing the Magisterial dignity of the district. The Sheriff of the county with his white wand of office tipped with gold. The Usher of the Black Rod with a similar instrument in back; but rejoicing in the additional glories of a sword and cocked hat. Various functionaries in black silk gowns and other paraphernalia of office, and amongst those one whose figure despite his generally disappointed bearing, bore a more than commonly imposing aspect. He was singular in wearing a head dress of medical fashion. Ignorant of its use or wearing I enquired of a young legal friend, who told me that this article of attire was exhibited in memory of his former connection with the Agricultural Society, which had presented him with a wig of peculiar construction, supposed to resemble the natural head-dress of their most valued but now long deceased ram. The Lords sat around in their easy chairs and rose and bowed with benedictory grace as the Representative of Majesty 'rove in sight.' (This nautical expression was suggested to me by my intimate friend Capt. Rabbits, M. H. A.) The Lords were not as I was led to expect, in their uniforms, they wore the attire of daily life, although it was said that Pinsent and Donnelly had brought in a measure for the general adoption of gorgeous habiliments to which their office entitled them.

I viewed the whole proceedings from a select place in the gallery into which I was induced by my former Marchant, Mr. Keizerew, M. P., who has great influence now. A dignified gentleman with a cockade and an Irish brogue, at a nod from His Excellency, ordered the gentleman with the sword and black rod to summon the Common flows from the House of Assembly. He did so and they bundled in, and were ordered back to choose a Speaker. His Excellency in the meantime went out somewhere, and we, including the galaxy of lovely ladies that sat all around the room) were kept waiting for over an hour, when His Excellency and all the attendants came back, and shortly after I heard a lot of fellows rush in, and the gentleman with the black stick let down a bar, to shut them out from where the nobility were, and as I leaned over the gallery I could see in front a man with another sword and a painted eub which I was told was a mace, and from where I was looking an apparently inebriate old lady in a silk gown was brought in supported by a cadaverous looking man on one side and a pretty jolly looking fellow on the other. She had white gloves on as if for a party and I understood the cadaverous looking man to say that the lady whose arm he had was elected Speaker, so then I knew it was a man! and then the Speaker spoke up, and asked that he and the rest of the members of the Assembly might have the privilege of saying what they liked, and the right of calling upon His Excellency when they chose. I thought, having heard and read so much of the conduct of the members, that it was very foolish of His Excellency to consent to the first request, and very condescending and gracious to allow the second. Then His Excellency made a speech which you will get in full; and the main part of it was about building a railroad from here to St. George's Bay, and I thought that part of the speech was a fitting termination to the general Farce. Everybody was expecting to hear about the Jim Dolbin Commission and other things, and how they had spent the fine Revenue, but there was nothing about such trifles; the new railway was everything.

It was a pleasure for an Outharbor man to see such a fine pleasant looking man as the Governor, and to hear him speak, and at first I thought he meant what he said, but I was told after, that it was only the bumbug that the government got him to say. After all that was over, I went into the House, they told me I would see the new Speaker in full there, with his new gown and wig and a new red canopy and curtains, with fringe and bell pulls about it. I saw the Speaker and found he was not an old lady, but our young friend softened at Brigus and Harbor Grace attending the Courts, but he had not the wig although he had the new gown and a lovely canopy, and he filled the chair well. He made a fine

speech, but it was the Governor's over again, and then a member got up and made another speech nearly the same, an echo as they called it of the Governor's Speech; he was not much to look at but he got through it first rate, and folded his arms, and didn't look often at his paper, and they told me his name was Alexander, and that he was a clever fellow compared with the man that proposed the Address last year, who, although he had a small speech written out in the crown of his hat could not get along then; the next man that made a speech this year was the Bowring sort, he could hardly stand for fright, and they said he came from Hants Harbor.

I asked them to point out Ambrose Shea, which they did. A fine clever looking man he is. He is at the bottom of this Railway dodge, but he had on and said nothing this day, as they told me he was getting his puppets up to speak first, after having got the Railway into the Speech, and by-and-by he will come out strong upon it, and show all the blessings and advantages that are to flow from it.

Nobody else spoke. There does not appear to be any Opposition, worse luck! and they meet again next Monday. You will perceive, that young Toodles has helped me to polish up my description of this great sight of the capital. He is a boy to be proud of, educated at the Harbor Grace Grammar School, and with Latin and lies at his finger's end. If I don't get back to Brigus soon, I shall write you again; and the company here, particularly about the House of Assembly, is so pleasant that I don't think I shall leave the capital yet. The increased duty on spirits and tobacco makes no difference to the members and officers of the People's House. St. John's, Feb. 5.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE STAR.

In a former communication of mine addressed to you some time last fall, I endeavored to explain the necessity of bringing under the notice of the Government the establishment of medical aid throughout the Labrador coast. There is no place in the Island that has a greater interest in the Government, with respect to this matter, than have the people of this town; and consequently it is the duty of those who are more immediately connected with the welfare and prosperity of the people who resort to this locality during the summer, to petition the House of Assembly, now in session, to take up the subject, and adopt such measures as will meet the necessities of this all-important question. I suggested that one or more medical practitioners should be appointed by the Government, and be stationed on board the mail steamer, plying up and down the shore, so that the services could be availed of by any of the 1000 of us, if required. I have no doubt whatever, but that the Government would willingly receive any petitions—containing the opinion and suggestions of those who are well acquainted with that locality—and that the subject would meet with that attention and consideration which such an important question justly merits. Yours, &c. MEDDLE.

Feb. 18.

LOCAL MATTERS.

Great scarcity of Coal in town.

Splendid Skating on the Harbor last Tuesday.

Rabbits are very plentiful in this neighborhood.

Our Swilers' are beginning to make preparations for the Spring's campaign.

On Monday night last the thermometer stood at twelve degrees below zero.

Owing to the severity of the weather a number of our foreign vessels are considerably overdue.

A large number of Deer were seen in the neighborhood of New Harbor a short time since.

The steamer "Hercules" left St. John's Monday morning, for this port, but owing to heavy ice, was compelled to put back.

The schooner "Release," Clune, master, which left Barbadoes, for this port, put into St. Kitts in a disabled condition.

The South Side Sheep Association will begin active operations early this Spring. Success to the enterprise, it is a step in the right direction.

The Factory, under the management of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, is making rapid progress.

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Forster' Liberal P of princip tablishme tion of coo re-distrib and reform refuse to platform. Hartington Fawcett at tions. Th general sup their progr eating part French, adopted the al Bill, gra public the Deputies, of the Sen