NEWS ITEMS.

The recent famine killed off 10,000,000 Chinese.

The trial of the City of Glasgow Bank Directors begins on the 20th of January.

Some admirers of Mr. Gladstone propose to present him with an axe on his sixty-fourth birthday.

Computation from all sources in the United States, shows the aggregate wheat crop of the past season was 425 million bushels.

News from Turkestan says the Chinese are concentrating against Kuldja, a post in Kashgar occupied by the Russians.

Russia has now 25,308 elementary public schools, in which are instructed 1,152,712 pupils, 193,871 of these being girls.

A Michigan man tried to commit suicide by holding his head in a hot oven. After getting properly baked he saw his foolishness.

A Providence, R. I., watchmaker is credited with drilling a hole through the entire length of a common pin from head to point.

The amount of paper money in circulation in Japan is announced by the Government to be one hundred and fifty millions of dollars.

A fleet of Russian iron-clads and swift unarmed vessels is gathering in the Chinese Seas, but for what purpose has not transpired.

Ten thousand five hundred barrels are a good many apples—yet this quantity left New York City for Europe on a recent Saturday.

The police of Berlin on the 1st of last August, notified the Kings of Spain and of Italy that an Internationalist plot was afloat to kill them.

A Boston physician tore up the prescription that he had written for a boy with diptheria because the mother had no money to pay for it, and within a few hours the boy died for lack of medicine.

The supremacy of American industry is now established beyond dispute. The other week a butcher in New York made a sausage which measured seventy-six feet six inches and weighed sixty-one pounds.

The difficulty between Russia and China on the frontier is growing fast. It is reported that a Russian expedition from Yari Vernaic has been fired upon by Chinese troops and forced to return.

In the following states and territories there is neither an insolvent nor assignment law, namely; Alabama, Colorado, Mississippi, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Texas, Utah, Wyoming and Washington.—*American Paper.*

At midnight on the first day of the year the normal hour is to be fixed throughout Sweden, and all the government, railway and telegraph clocks will be set simultaneously. At Stockholm the clocks will have to be put back twelve minutes.

The standard for recruits for the infantry of the line is to be raised from 5 feet 5 inches to 5 feet 6inches, and that for the Royal Engineers from 5 feet 6 inches to 5 feet 6½ inches. The standard for recruits for rifle regiments as at present—5 feet 4½ inches.

Twenty years ago the steel production of the whole world amounted to little more than 300,000 tons, at an average cost of £30 a-ton. Last year the production went beyond 2,200,000 tons, and its cost only showed an average of £12 a ton.—*English Paper.*

English journals take a more hopeful view of the timber and lumber trade. In the Provinces, stocks are reported to be somewhat low, and in view of the reduced production in Canada and the United States during the present season, prices will probably rise in the spring.

Mary Maples, the daughter of a gentleman of New York, married against her father's wishes. The father left all his property to her when she renounced what was recently granted to him and her estate handed over to the married Chaser quitting his home for the evening, she was left alone. On his return he turned up his the girls of them sted on with a

During the Franco-German war a couple of hundred Uhlans arrived in a Norman village. One of the peasants hurried to a neighbouring hamlet to warn a well-to-do farmer that he might expect a visit from the unwelcome raiders. The farmer was equal to the emergency. Calling his wife and daughters, all went to work with a will. Torn quilts, tattered petticoats, dilapidated gowns, were thrown over the backs of the cattle, enveloping them up to their horns, while their feet and heads were bound with straw. Then the sheep and goats were treated in the same fashion; bottles of medicine were scattered about; a large trough was filled with water, and in its midst was placed a great syringe. Up came the Uhlans; but at the sight of the strange-lly attired animals and the monster squirt they hesitated. At last one of the troopers inquired what was the matter. "The rinderpest," said the farmer. He had to answer no more questions. His visitors turned their horses heads and galloped off to make requisition elsewhere.

Communications.

For the "Agriculturist."

Emigration to New Brunswick, and how it should be conducted.

SIR.—The situation of New Brunswick is one which renders it especially well adapted as a place of residence to natives of New Brunswick; the frequent and abundant means of communication with the mother country; its healthful and invigorating climate in which the moist damp winters of Great Britain are replaced by clear bracing cold weather; its fertile soil, several millions of acres of which are yet in a wilderness state, all are inducements well worthy of consideration by those desirous of changing their abodes in order to better their condition. In too many of the emigration projects which have been started and carried out in this country, there has been too much want of system, and among other errors, the sunny side alone has been held up to view, so that emigrants on their arrival found that they had been mistaken in their ideas of the country; that they had been misled; that things had been done in a hurry; roads had not been properly constructed, and they were not informed as to how the trials of the first few years were to be met and surmounted.

To one landing on our shores, without means, the difficulties to be contended with are indeed great, but there is no doubt that agriculturists possessed of moderate means, and with reasonable expectations, will succeed in obtaining in a very few years by exercising a reasonable amount of industry and economy, comfortable homes for themselves and families.

Those who posses sufficient funds can for £100 stg., obtain good farms of 100 acres, at a distance of 4 to 6 miles from railroads; for from £200 to £300 stg., farms can be had having on them fair houses and barns. Those desirous of settling in the wilderness, should not attempt anything of the kind until they found that good roads have been made to their intended farms at least a year before occupation, so that they may have had time to become consolidated and fit for travel, and settlers ought also to be prepared with means enough to support themselves for the first year as well as to pay in part for the construction of the log houses in which they are to reside until they can earn money enough to replace them by better ones. By the formation of associations or companies before leaving the old world, emigrants would find themselves in a much better situation on their arrival here. These associations, by taking time, could find out the character of each member. If all were agriculturists, and from one community so much the better, as they would then transplant their society in the old world to the new. If possible a pioneer, one of good judgement should be sent out to examine the proposed locality, making all the necessary enquiries, as to the quality of land, means of access, nearness to railroads and other attendant circumstances which it should be deemed advisable to have investigated. This would apply especially to those intending to occupy forest lands where the feeling of loneliness would be relieved by the society of home friends.

In the conduct of an immigration scheme everything should be prepared for the intending settler before his arrival, and he should know exactly that what had been promised him had been duly fulfilled. He should also know what were the difficulties with which he had to contend and how they were to be met and obviated.

The best land in New Brunswick is to be found on the St. John and its tributaries above Woodstock. The rock is largely slate and highly carcous. On the Tobique river there is a vast deposit of gypsum presenting a perpendicular face to the river of more than 100 feet in height. 500 tons or more could be thrown down at a time by means of nitro-glycerine or other powerful explosives. The gypsum is now hauled 65 miles by sleds to the country of the Aroostook where it is largely used for the production of potash. By the people of the Province it has been at little used, although its use is now increase. The French of Madawaska are experimenting on it. As regards land in the district referred to—with exception forms but a very small good. Whereas on the lower which is largely covered by the soil is poor and sandy, of the flat lands bordering annually covered by the which leave behind them a ing the soil extremely

the good land on the covered by forest, is wick Railway and by settlers were same, and time able purchase even the most from which ld not reach vided he

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Advertisement.

Card of Thanks.

It is with mingled feelings of pride and pleasure, that we avail ourselves of this, the earliest opportunity afforded us, to thank our many friends in town and country, for the liberal patronage they have favored us with since we opened our new store, directly in front of the City Hall, in October last, and more especially would we tender our heartiest acknowledgement of their favors during Christmas week. It will always be our aim to give the very best attention to our patrons and keep them supplied with first-class Staple and Fancy goods at all times. We wish all our friends a merry holiday season, and a very HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Yours respectfully,

A. A. MILLER & Co.

FTON, Dec. 28, 1878.

The Agriculturist.

FREDERICTON, N. B., DECEMBER 28, 1878.

1878.

The obituary of 1878 will be written within the next three days, in the columns of a hundred newspapers, in the old and in the new world. It has been a very eventful year marked by the ravages of the three great scourges of humanity, war, pestilence, and famine, and by attempted assassinations of Kings, for the greater part it has been overshadowed by commercial depression and financial gloom, but it has shown bright streaks in the bounty of nature, and plentiful harvests. It has indeed been very full of incident. It opened with Turkey in the grasp and seemingly at the mercy of Russia and with Constantinople all but open to the advance of the Czars flushed and victorious hordes. It found England paralysed in action, agitated by the question of peace and war, with dissensions in her Cabinet, the resignation of the Earls Derby and Carnarvon following therefrom. Russia presumptuously confident of the strength of her position flung the peace of San Stefano in the face of Europe. Then came a warlike reaction in England, the fleet was sent to the neighborhood of Constantinople, 6 millions stg. were voted, the reserves were called out, immense preparations were made for conflict by sea and land, and lastly, Indian troops passing through the Suez Canal landed in Malta. The nations of Europe were surprised, and relieved by the resolute attitude of England. Russia drew in her horns, and consented to very considerable modifications of the peace of San Stefano.

Whether the Treaty of Berlin has secured "peace with honor," for England is a question, which cannot yet be answered with certainty. Peace certainly did not follow the treaty of Berlin, for besides insurrections in European Turkey, there soon came reports of difficulties in Afghanistan, through Russian intrigues, and eventually war with the Ameer of Cabul ensued. The significance of the Afghanistan affair will be better understood two or three months from hence. It is certain that 1878 in leaving the Treaty of Berlin, still unfulfilled and England's little war with the Ameer unfinished has left a legacy of trouble to 1879.

In the beginning of 1878 Victor Emanuel first King of United Italy died, and the grief his people was testified in a spontaneous and fervid manner. In a few weeks afterwards the venerable Pontiff Pius IX succumbed to death, and a remarkable era of the papacy closed. His successor Leo XIII, appears anxious to bring the church into peaceful relations with the States with which she is in conflict, and some way may yet be found to reconcile the differencies between the Vatican and Germany.

Of all the nations of Europe France has been most peaceful and prosperous in 1878. Having early in the year escaped civil war by the good faith and sense of her President and some of her statesmen, her people were enabled to give their minds unreservedly to peaceful pursuits, and to make their grand Exposition a success. It is very remarkable that while France was acting as a peaceful host in the world, her victorious antagonist Germany was full of trouble, discontent and perplexity. Roused by the attempts on the life of the venerable Emperor of Germany made by supposed socialistic fanatics, Prince Bismark finding a Parliament pliant to his will, with the view of crushing out socialism and revolution, placed great restrictions on the liberties of the people. This system of iron rule, that necessitates the maintenance of huge armies and police forces, and absorbs so much of the best blood and talent of the nation is militarism is becoming very burdensome to them. All over the continent of Europe in the lower strata of society there has seething discontent, as if the forces were in preparation for a burst of revolutionary violence. The attempts to assassinate the King of Spain and Italy were indications of the revolutionary passions working underneath the grand, and fair outward show of society. To the King of Spain, 1878, has indeed, been a memorable year. In January, his nuptials with the beautiful Princess Mercedes were celebrated with great pomp, and attended by representatives of all the Crowned Heads in Europe; three or four months afterwards, he and his people mourned the untimely death of the youthful Queen.

After the Treaty of Berlin was signed was almost confidently expected there would come a revival of confi and trade in England and throughout rld. In the United States, business have mended somewhat, but in Eng expectation of a brighter state of been grievously disappointed. of the city of Glasgow Bank, in ides creating a great scandal and confidence in monetary insti ntailing loss and misery on financial crisis which was he islands. Things have ose since then, what with well established firms of mills and factories, rvation among oper trade outlook is of

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and the departure and arrival of Governors General. The defeat of the McKenzie government came upon the county as a regular surprise. Now, that the heats of the contests have had time to cool, and preconceptions to become rectified it would be rash to say that it was a calamity. A better judgement of the effect of the transference of power from Mr. McKenzie to Sir J. A. McDonald will be able to be made this time next year. Canada had an affectionate farewell to the honey tongued Earl Dufferin, and gave an enthusiastic welcome to the young Marquis of Lorne and his Consort Princess Louise. Every body in Canada hopes for the best from the rule of the new Governor General. May nothing happen to disturb the present happy relations. There is no doubt but that his royal wife has given Canada a lift in general estimation. People in England account it a place of more importance now, and even its republican neighbors, look upon it with more respect, and with just a dash of deference.

On the death roll of 1878, several distinguished names have been marked; we will not linger to make any record save that of the Princess Alice, daughter of the Queen, for whom the land is still in mourning.

Beet Root Sugar.

The subject of sugar is being discussed very generally now in the United States, the frauds committed by many New York Refiners have attracted a great deal or attention, and even of consternation at the discovery that poisonous adulterations are being practiced by them. The manufacture of sugar from beets is now being much written about, and the indications are that it will become before long a regular industry, an industry in which farmers must be especially interested, as they will have to produce the material. In Ontario, arrangements are in progress to establish a Beet Sugar Factory at Hamburg, for which government assistance is to be asked. The Quebec Government has offered a bonus for a similar enterprise. The Toronto *Mail* of a late date, writing on this Hamburg project says:—

Whether aided by a Government grant or not, the undertaking apparently has a fair prospect of success. Large crops of sugar beets can be cheaply raised in the Province and among the residents of the Dominion are several experts in the manufacture of sugar from beets, as practised in France. The cultivation of the root can also be advantageously pursued in Quebec and the Lower Provinces, and there indeed, the subject is receiving much attention. At Moncton, N. B., it is proposed to enter shortly into the manufacture of beet root sugar. In several districts of New Brunswick crops of this valuable root have been grown to test the practicability of its cultivation on a large scale. The results were eminently satisfactory, especially on light soils in the neighbourhood of Woodstock. The seeds were sown the first week in May, and came to maturity about the middle of September. The average weight of each beet was about four pounds, and some weighed as high as thirteen pounds. The average yield was about thirty tons to the acre. In Maine the sugar beet has been found exceedingly useful as a rotation crop, and apart from its use as a sugar product, it is highly esteemed for its value for feeding cattle. Ontario cannot afford to be distanced in the development of industries connected with agriculture by any of its sister Provinces, and therefore the promoters of this new enterprise are entitled to encouragement and support.

In this connection we publish the chief portion of a letter from Mr. Earnest John Gennert, a native of Brunswick, Germany, and Manager of the Maine Beet Sugar Company. A correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* having asked, if "it is certain that the beets grown on New Brunswick soil, of the proper seed, will contain the necessary percentage of saccharine matter," Mr. G. answers the question as follows:—

Beets grow in Maine, in whatever place, on the Saco, Kennebec or Aroostook rivers, on the sea shore, in fact, any where, from sugar beet seed have proved equally good, and fully as good as beets grown from the same seed in Europe. Beets produced from "fancy" seed have turned out worthless even though this seed was furnished by the Department of Agriculture in Washington. The beets produced in Aroostook County are not any better in saccharine properties than those raised on Cape Elizabeth, opposite the city of Portland. But if your cautious correspondent wishes to make sure, let him help us to contract in New Brunswick for from one to five thousand tons of sugar-beets to be shipped to Portland. We will give him the privilege to be present when they are converted into sugar and give him a barrel of it to take home with him and sweeten, if not his life, at least his coffee and tea as long as it lasts. The beets grown in Canada, either from seed furnished by the Government of Quebec or from private sources, as far as they have come under my examination and observation, have been, without exception, good. Beets grown in Ontario, near the lakes in Waterloo County, were fully as good as those grown in St. Hyacinthe, on black, boggy land, which will burn, and the crops also, if you set fire to the soil. But as a general rule coffee and chocolate colored soil is preferred for sugar beets, and any soil which will produce good barley is considered all over Europe a No. 1 beet soil. Your correspondent, or the writer you quote, is mistaken when he states that beets grown close together, and the smaller they are the more sugar they contain. If sugar manufacturers had their choice they would always prefer beets weighing from 1½ to 3 lbs. apiece, grown on a foot or fifteen inches square foot space. This gives the farmer an immense crop, say from 30 to 40 tons per acre, and yet allows the principal part of the work to be done with the horse, or still better with oxen. A farmer who raises one acre (this way, which brings him cash into his pocket, say $100, will be very anxious to raise two or three acres the next year and when he finds he doubles the crop which follows the beets, he will find exactly what farmers found all over Europe—that sugar beet is the most profitable crop. But the farmer who raises scrubby beets will soon find it does not pay, and the sugar manufacturer will not thank him for it. I would much rather have taken an inferior beet this year, if I could have had ten thousand, than have none; it would have paid us a handsome profit, while the nineteen days work the Maine Beet Sugar Company had this year did not make it rich, although the yield of sugar was very satisfactory.

Now the best and only way to introduce the beet sugar industry on the American continent (P. E. Island not excepted) is to induce every farmer to raise "some" sugar beets, if not an acre let it be even a square rod, or even a single rood, and let the farmer observe the following: What splendid vegetable or greens they are when he thins them out; spinach is poor stuff in comparison; let him observe what splendid dish they make when about one pound heavy and brought on the table, cooked with a little butter, salt and pepper, and finally let him observe how much milk and butter he can produce on one square rod of his land. Should any farmer say that mangle wurtzel, turnips, etc., and also good for cattle, I will admit that he is not moving on the principle that half a loaf is better than no bread. But the farmer who raised a good crop on one acre will find out that there is no better cash crop, and that if he should go by degrees as high as five acres, he will raise more of any other crop than he ever raised before, and the production of the sugar beet will prove a source of additional wealth. But farmers who never raised any root crop ught to plant, not more the first year than one quarter to one acre. The profit to farmer would be far surer than on a deposit in a Savings' Bank, because Savings' of late years have been troubled with as the potatoe afflicted with Colorado tetles! What ever labor the farmer bestows on culture of sugar-beets will bring him compensation, because besides the consumption of his own table it will bring him cash as soon as delivered. It will improve ; it will help to fatten cattle and to large quantities of rough fodder otherwise worthless. It will double the produce

Trade Depression in A

The accounts that are published of the effects of the trade depression—in the stoppage of mills, the closing of factories, the reduction of wages, the want of work, and the destitution and starvation among the operatives, are of an increasingly gloomy character. The depression of trade is the very last subject on which to write a sensational article, but it would really seem as if some writers had exaggerated the miserable state of affairs in the manufacturing districts of England. Matters are worse now, it is said, than in the height of the American Civil War. Then only the cotton interests suffered, but now all manufacturing, commercial, and trade interests are affected. Overproduction, the disturbed state of Europe, the uncertainty hanging over the future as to peace or war, the competition of foreign manufacturers and producers in the markets of England, and the closing of foreign markets against English products, are the reasons given for the crisis.

CORRESPONDENCE.—Our correspondent, Mr. Edward Jack, discusses the question of "Emigration to New Brunswick, and how it should be conducted." He is a gentleman who has spent many years of his life, professionally, in the woods in different parts of the Province, and there is no one in New Brunswick better acquainted with its forest lands, and with its settlements, or, who is better able to point out where the best lands are situated, or how most successfully to carry out an emigration scheme and plan of settlement. Mr. Jack believes in telling intending emigrants the whole truth about the country, and what hardships they may expect to meet, as well as what results are certain to reward them, if they exercise a reasonable degree of perseverance, prudence, and economy.

The order issued by Colonel Littleton, Private Secretary of the Governor General requiring all ladies who appeared at the vice-regal court to wear low necked dresses, has been severely criticised in the press and fulminated against from the pulpits. It was probably made in ignorance that it was an innovation on the customs prevalent in Canada, or that it would be so very distasteful to the feelings of the people. It is reported from Ottawa that the order will not be enforced, and the regulations in vogue at the vice-regal receptions and entertainments in the time of Earl Dufferin will be followed.

It is a good "sign of the times" that the question of exemption from taxation is to be taken up by the Ontario Government. That so many religious institutions should not pay their rightful taxation is a standing crime. The Ontario Government can better deal with the evil than any other of all our provincial governments—at any rate, better than the Provincial Government at Quebec—it has not so much Roman Catholic Ecclesiasticism to face and please. But I hope the work will be thoroughly done—let all who share the privileges of citizenship share also the burdens of it. There is no reason in the world why the clergy should be a privileged class.

Double Parricide.

An appalling tragedy occurred lately between the members of a family named Epperson, residing in the lower part of Hancock County, Tennessee.

It appears that from incompatibility of temperament, or some equally valid cause, Mr. J. N. Epperson and his wife could not live pleasantly together in their old age, though the parents of a large family, and a separation was the result—the self-divorced husband leaving home. On Wednesday morning, however, he returned and it was not long before he and his wife from quarrelling proceeded to blows. At this juncture John Epperson, a one-armed son, endeavoured to protect his mother, whereupon his father drew a pocketknife and inflicted four serious wounds on his remaining arm. A fearful struggle ensued, in which the son succeeded in wresting the knife from the grasp of his father, and immediately dealt the old man a fatal blow, the blade penetrating the heart and producing instant death.

Soon after the above occurrence another son, Thomas Epperson, returned home, and seeing the evidences of the bloody tragedy before him, asked John if he took his father's part in the fight with their mother? His brother answered, "No, I took mother's part." Thomas thereupon rejoined, "Then I will take father's part," and, drawing a pistol began firing at his brother, who ran into the house, Thomas following. The mother attempted to keep him from entering, but, with all his worst passions aroused to the highest pitch, he raised his arm and fired a pistol ball through her breast, from the effects of which she died in a few moments.

Without an instant's pause after the commission of this fiendish act the murderer continued firing at his brother John, whom, however, he failed to hit, though he shot another brother, George Epperson, through the thigh, inflicting a severe flesh wound, and with another bullet shattered the knee of one of his sisters who was in the room, the horrified witness of the bloody acts, though powerless to prevent them. It is feared the girl cannot recover.

After committing these atrocious crimes, Thomas Epperson fled from the scene of murder, and has not yet been apprehended.

John Epperson surrendered himself to the authorities, but was acquitted, the coroner's jury finding that, in killing his father, he only acted in self-defence.

R. C. B. Concert.

On Thursday night the Reform Club Band gave their concert in the City Hall, and it was largely attended, the body of the hall and the front seats of the gallery being well filled. The duetts and solos seemed to be more to the taste of the audience than the larger performances, but the Band executed several pieces, among them a new fantasia, "Mixed Candy," with great effect, and the playing of the orchestra, which consisted of two violins, cornet-a-pistons, and flute was pleasing. In the quartette "come brother come," the voice of Miss Martin came in with fine effect, but her vocal powers were shown to more advantage, in the duett "Hope beyond" with Mr. W. Wilson. Miss Fannie Richards, who has a sweet and powerful voice of high reach was the prima donna of the concert, Her Magnetic Waltz Song, and the famous song, from Robert le Diable, were rapturously encored, and in response she sang "Baby Mine" and my "Dearest Dear Little Heart." The cornet solo "Potpourri of Popular Melodies," by Mr. Williamson, (though not so artistic as the other solo he played, "Home Sweet Home") in which he was accompanied on the Organ by his little daughter, Miss Bessie Williamson, only eight years old, brought down a storm of applause, the better part of which was meant for the young performer. Mr. W. Wilson sang in excellent style, "the Tars Farewell," a good sailor's song, but it has not the popular rolicking swing of "Nancy Lee" by the same composer. He was encored.

Miss Richards presided at the piano and played all the various accompaniments with taste and expression.

The practice of encoring, particularly when the programme is long, might very well be dispensed with. At any rate there is no excuse for any of the audience slamming the seats by way of applauding. No wonder that several seats are broken. And it is not quite the thing for the audience to rise and leave the hall, while the national anthem is being played. In former years an audience would have stood still until the last bar of "God Save the Queen" but, as the French say, "we have changed all that."

Loss of the "Charlie Bell."

The storm of Saturday night the 21st of December was very destructive to shipping, and there were many wrecks on the Maine coast. The schooner "Charlie Bell," in command of Capt. H. G. Knox, and having a crew of, as known, of three aboard—viz.,—David Fox, Charles Kimball, and Wheaton, sailed from New York on the 18th of December with a general cargo consigned to Hall & Fairweather, and Turnbull & Co. St. John, and A. P. Randolph, Fredericton, and others. The schooner was off the coast of Maine on the dark and tempestous night of Saturday; the wind from the S. S. East blew a perfect hurricane accompanied by driving snow, and the fated vessel was driven irresistibly on its dangerous course. It was dashed to pieces on the rocks of Thumb Cap Island near the mouth of the Damariscotta River some fifty miles this side of Portland. Capt. Knox, Fox, and Wheaton perished with the complete wreck of the schooner, only a few barrels of oil having, we hear, been recovered. Charles Kimball was thrown upon rocks, and was severely bruised and injured, and was taken to South Bristol near the scene of the disaster.

Great sorrow is felt for Capt. Knox, who is well known to many in Fredericton, as a thorough going seaman and a most honorable man. Up to the fatal night of the 21st, he had run a most successful career, and made many prosperous voyages. In some of his trips between St. John and Boston he made remarkable time. Capt. Knox was only 35 years of age at the time he perished, and he leaves a wife and family of eight children, now living at the Oromocto, to mourn their irreparable loss. The "Charlie Bell" was owned, seven-eighths by D. F. George, of this city and Capt. Knox, and one-eighth by Albert D. Wilson, of St. John, and there was a partial insurance upon it.

The harem of Shere Ali, the Emir of Cabul comprises three hundred women, including slaves. He has one son, Yakoub Khan, whom he lately released from several years imprisonment, and eighteen daughters of whom ten are married to distinguished vassals. They each received as dower the revenues of a town. The Emir lives generally at Cabul, in the palace of Bala Hissar, which has all the characteristics of a mediaval fortress. His two other palaces in that city are Mogoul Hissar, where his unmarried daughters and harem are located, and Tadschel Omrah, which contains the harem of his father. The Emir's aged mother resides with him.

TANNING IN TWENTY MINUTES.—R. D. Cox of Camden, N. J., has invented a process by which the skins of bullocks, calves, and sheep are tanned in from twenty to forty minutes. The strength of the bark at common temperature is the only ingredient used and for durability, solidity, and strength it surpasses anything ever known. This, as well as several other improvements he has made, will justly rank among the most remarkable in mechanical science. So says a contemporary.

The Loan and the Award.

Hon. Mr. Tilley has returned to Canada, after a short stay in England, and was feted by the temperance people in Ottawa. He has not returned, as it was suggested he would do, a K. C. B.; but his has been the signal honor, by his transactions in the London money market—if the Toronto *Mail* can be believed—to renew the confidence of Europe in the Dominion of Canada, a honor surely greater than Knighthood. Much has been said on both sides of the terms on which Mr. Tilley raised the loan, but the truth is, those who speak most confidently do not know how he succeeded, and they are not likely to know the exact particulars for some time. The most fair of the presumption is that the loan which was for £3,000,000 stg., half of which was guaranteed, was raised at the rate of 108. It may be presumed that Mr. Tilley had interviews with the Foreign and Colonial Secretaries in Downing street, and may have been informed that the million and a half stg. ($5,500,000), the amount of the Fishery Award) was placed to the credit of the Dominion of Canada. The disposal of that five and half millions will be a nice matter. It has been stated, but on no particular authority, that four and a half millions will be given to Canada, and a million to Newfoundland, and that only the provinces whose coasts are washed by the waters of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, will participate in it. Or, that the Province of Ontario is completely shut out, Quebec has a claim to only a very small share, and the bulk of the portion of the award that falls to Canada's share, will be distributed to Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island in arithmetical proportion to the ascertained mileage of their sea washed coasts. But it is just possible that if the money is placed at the disposal of the government of Canada, and the British government do not concern themselves with its distribution, that the government of Canada may say that the money belongs to the Dominion as a whole, and the whole Dominion must receive the benefit of it. The representatives of Ontario in the government and parliament may argue for distribution by population, and those of Quebec may support them as they would thus grab the second largest share, leaving to Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and P. E. Island proportionally diminishing fractions. But it is ridiculous to suppose that in the Dominion Parliament, any proposition will be made to fritter away the money that has been extracted with such pain from our American cousins. Suppose it conceded that the money belongs to the Dominion, Canada's share spent on any public work to benefit the Dominion as a whole, would not go far. The only way that benefit from the money will be felt, is to distribute it among the Maritime Provinces, Nova Scotia may claim a slightly larger share than New Brunswick, and New Brunswick a considerably larger share than P. E. Island. New Brunswick ought to get a million and a half, and such a sum would help to straighten up her finances considerably.

TELEGRAPH POOLING.—A short time ago it was reported that the Montreal and Dominion Telegraph Companies intended to amalgamate their interests, or as the phrase goes, "to pool" their gross receipts, but for some unexplained reason, the scheme fell through. It now appears, from correspondence published in the *Montreal Gazette* that the reason why the Montreal Company backed out of the arrangement was because the Dominion Company had reduced the message rate between the Upper and Lower Provinces from fifty to thirty cents. Sir Hugh Allen urged on the Dominion Company to abide by the higher rate, but without success. The interests of the two companies are now more widely divergent than ever, and the failure of the pooling scheme, it thought, will lead to very keen competition.

The Halifax correspondent of the New York *World* in spite of the express contradiction of the authorities persists in his statement that he held a conversation with the Duke of Edinburgh in the cabin of the "Black Prince," in course of which H. R. H. stated that he did not approve of the action of the British Government, either before or subsequent to the Empress of Berlin. A dispatch from the correspondent of the London *World* December 23, states that an enquiry of the first Lord of the Admiralty, he ascertained that the contradiction of the statement was expressly authorised by the Duke of Edinburgh, who denies all knowledge of the interview. Evidently the New York *World* writer told a bouncer, but having told a lie he is determined to stick to it. This incident will throw discredit on interviewing and interviewers. If the truth were known most of the newspaper interviewers with great people have been sheer inventions.

We have to acknowledge the receipt of a copy of the Accounts of the City of Fredericton for the past year from the City Clerk.

A recent cable despatch announced that Dr. Strousberg, the celebrated Russian contractor, had offered his creditors three cents on the dollar, which has been accepted. His career has been a most extraordinary one. Born in 1823, a Prussian Jew, he went to London in 1855, and in his boyhood joined the Church of England. When a mere youth he dabbed in London journalism and at twenty-five came to the United States, where he gave lessons in German. It might have been supposed that this country would have proved especially adapted to his peculiar genius, but it was far less so than fifteen years later, and Strousberg, having realized funds by having some damaged goods and selling them at a heavy profit, returned to London, where he invested his money in a newspaper, and then went to Berlin as agent for an insurance company. A chance acquaintance with some English capitalists led to his becoming a contractor. He went from one work to another, and within a few years was employing over 100,000 men, had purchased nearly an entire county in Poland, had an immense mansion in London, and another (now the British Embassy) in Berlin, not surpassed by any in that capital. His munificence was on a corresponding scale. When the famine broke out in east Prussia, he sent wholetrains full of provisions to his suffering fellow-countryman, and during one winter caused 10,000 portions of soap to be served out daily in Berlin. The France-German war ruined him. He afterwards borrowed money from the Bank of Moscow, and getting into disgrace with authorities was banished from Russia. He has since been permitted to return, and, at sixty years of age, has re-commenced to make his fortune.

THE PRETTIEST GIRLS IN MONTANA.—There was a prize for the prettiest girl at a ball in Gold City, Montana, and the delicate question was to be decided by a committee. The choice was generally conceded to lie between Miss McGowen and Miss Burt, and one being a blonde and the other a brunette, the committee was unable to judge their charms by comparison. The suspense was trying to the tempers of the rival beauties, and they fell to criticising each others looks. Then they quarreled. Next they fought. When they were parted, Miss McGowen's face was scratched as though she had been thrown into a bramble bush, and one of Miss Burt's eyes was swollen and nearly shut. That episode relieved the committee of embarrassment, for neither of the two young women was any longer pretty enough, the prize was awarded to another.

THE SKATING RINK.—On Monday evening the Skating Rink was opened, on which occasion, Mr. Estey extended a free invitation to the public. The interior of the rink is not like a fairy palace flooded with light and colour, but it is a very convenient place, where the young can be excellently well exercised. The rink offers attractions for the very young little girls and little boys, young men and even young men of the city. Taste, in most instances, and [illegible] in many others, [illegible] the circle exercised by the majority of those who patronize their skates. There was a Lancers who looked well [illegible] scene, which was further [illegible] by some of the [illegible] of the 78th Batt. Band. The rink may fairly be pronounced a [illegible] hope the result of the season will be satisfactory.

The Governor General presented prizes to the children of the Public Schools at Ottawa, before the Christmas vacation, and made a very appropriate speech. Referring to the water power at Carleton, His Excellency said that "any Englishman looking upon the Ottawa and the St. Lawrence should feel ashamed of Thames." Supposing that any Englishman was disposed to view the Canadian rivers to make comparisons, he would probably be amazed at the comparatively insignificant [illegible] the energy and enterprise of the people, its banks, because the highway of the traffic of the nation.

Mademoiselle McFarlane's [illegible] the Gibson Leather Company [illegible] was presented at Christmas, be[illegible] with an address, accompanied [illegible] which was very acceptable [illegible] of the recipient.

Mr. D. Tapley, traveling [illegible] Railway, also received a C[illegible] from the section men of the [illegible] shape of a gold watch and [illegible] spontaneous offerings of respect and will from employees to those [illegible] sition of trust over them, must be very pleasant to the recipients.

SOCIALS.—The Social Club of Fredericton who have held a number of pleasant meetings already this season intend holding a social on the first evening of the new year, Jan. 1st, 1879, in the Temperance Hall.

The Fashionable Club, if we may so call it, to distinguish it from the Social Club, will hold a gathering in the same Hall on the Thursday evening following, at this festive season both of the socials will, no doubt, be largely attended.

The Dominion Government steamer *Northern Light*, which was built in Quebec especially for this service, commenced running on the 2nd of December, between Georgetown, P. E. Island and Pictou, Nova Scotia, and will run daily between these two places while the weather is mild.

TEMPERANCE CONVENTION.—We understand that a Temperance Convention is to be held at the Club Rooms, in this city, on Tuesday, the 31st inst., at 2 p. m., at which the friends of the cause from all parts of the county as well as from the city are expected to be present. Matters of importance are to be considered.

We would call the attention of our readers to the advertisement of the officers and teachers of the Methodist Sabbath Schools who intend holding an "old fashioned" Tea Meeting on Thursday, Jan. 2nd, 1879, and from what we know of their efforts in the past, we feel assured that those who attend may expect a real enjoyable time.

According to late advice from England Mr. J. Murray Kay has been appointed Manager of the St. John and Maine Railway, Mr. Howard D. McLeod remains as Superintendent.

LOYAL ORANGE.—At the last meeting of the Dominion Grand Lodge of the Patronic of Husbandry an address to the Governor General was prepared and was forwarded to Ottawa on the 20th.

☞ You can buy the best and cheapest Swing Machines in Fredericton for a Mere Brothers, opposite City Hall. They have all kinds. Call and see them. Sold on easy terms by monthly payments.

Valuable Cattle for Australia

The Australians are alive to the importance of keeping up their breed of stock. A very valuable collection of fashionable Durham shorthorns, selected by a Mr. Wm. M'Culloch was shipped lately from the port of London for the Colony. An English paper says:—

Mr. M'Culloch attended the sales of Mr. E. Bowly, Lord Penrhyn, Mr. Lockwood, T. Helford, Mr. G. Fox, Mr. T. Wall, the Duke of Devonshire, buying [illegible] wherever animals with good pedigrees were found with round forms and good constitutions, and the result is that a number of cattle has been bought, [illegible] The highest-priced one is Grand Duchess, purchased 22nd, by Baron Oxford. [illegible] which Mr. M'Culloch purchased at Sale in September for 2,100 guineas, [illegible] since calved a heifer calf to [illegible] Wheatherby, so that two female [illegible] able family are assisted to Australia. An Oxford bull was bought at [illegible] sale to accompany them. [illegible] ever, received for a last [illegible] sent off on Saturday being [illegible] two Red Roses, [illegible] Gazelle, a sister of the [illegible] the ingredients young bull [illegible] Duke of Hillhurst, dam Fresh [illegible] Gazelle 26th, by 2nd Duke [illegible] who had gone out in the Colonies [illegible] has been called "a pattern [illegible] by not a few good judges. [illegible] guineas at M. Lurlings sale [illegible] er, Lady Gazelle, by 3rd Duke [illegible] who was bought at three months [illegible] some occasion for 550 guineas [illegible] equal if not surpass her dam. [illegible] Roses which have grown out [illegible] Fox's sale 300 guineas and [illegible] respectively, and one of them [illegible] —was bred in Kentucky and [illegible] Mr. Fox. Thus, after crossing [illegible] she now takes another voyage [illegible] pedes.

MRS. HENRY, widow of the [illegible] Henry who died in the Argonaut [illegible] follows:—I have in my possession [illegible] piece of the Queen's [illegible] living at Torquay, Devonshire [illegible] the time of the marriage of [illegible] family being there also, [illegible] George Cooper—was [illegible] Duchess of Kent. A portion [illegible] being sent to the Queen's [illegible] Cooper, she kindly divided it [illegible] friends; and while others [illegible] struck me that I would keep [illegible] put it in a bottle in my dressing [illegible] it has remained since 1820.

A revolution in metal [illegible] result from the successful experiments [illegible] have been made with the new Parkes [illegible] called Indiaxhite. This vessel is [illegible] a new design, the old model being abandoned in favour of an [illegible] shaped figure. On a trial trip [illegible] fifteen knots was obtained, [illegible] Mr. Froude, claims that twenty knots [illegible] be [illegible] ed. [illegible] considerable attention [illegible] of passenger and freight steamers, and it is expected that some experimental vessels of the new class will be constructed.