

The Evening Telegram

ST. JOHN'S, MARCH 5, 1888.

THE ORGAN WANTS INFORMATION.

The Government organ wants our opinion on the great "saving" effected on the ocean and coastal steam contracts. We will try to satisfy the Mercury. To tell the truth, we have been struggling with ourselves lately to account for our dullness in not seeing some reason for the eulogies laid on so profusely all round.

First, we were told that Governor Blake was entitled to our everlasting gratitude, &c., for doing his duty. If we have formed a true estimate of His Excellency's character, those fulsome eulogies must be very obnoxious to him. For our part, we believe he will always do his duty, regardless of what party sycophants and their organs may think of his conduct.

Now, the grave assurance is imparted to us that Sir Robert Thorburn has also done his duty, and that he returns to us from the Mother Country "flushed" with triumph. We have seen or heard the word "flush" somewhere before. It didn't occur to us, however, that they "flushed" in the circle our "prentice premier" has been moving in lately. We have heard of "jack pots," though. Can it be that the "four thousand saved pounds" were in a "jack pot," and Premier Thorburn held a "flush," and so "saved" them for us? We wonder can it?

Then, again, we are asked to be thankful that the representations of two such distinguished men as Governors Blake and Shea, backed by the diplomatic skill of our "flushed" premier, has obtained from Great Britain the enormous sum of four thousand pounds for a limited period—an Empire whose policy has always been to subsidize, which has spent millions of pounds in encouraging trade and postal communication with the remotest parts of the earth,—we are to rejoice and be exceedingly glad that, after a connection of three hundred years, during which time we have added hundreds of millions of dollars to the volume of trade done by Great Britain, to say nothing of the numerous "fishocrats" we have sent "home" to help pay the income tax,—we are to be thankful, we repeat, that our stepmother, Mrs. Britannia, has promised to give us four thousand pounds and to send us back a "flushed" premier to tell us so. No doubt, he will also be able to tell us why we should be so grateful for such a long-delayed favor. Great Britain has assisted all her colonies by mail subsidies. Why not Newfoundland?

Another cause for thankfulness, we are told by the Mercury and the Government, is the great saving of \$19,000! Now, after three years of office, we are going to save \$19,000! We, the Government of retrenchment and universal reform, are going to save \$19,000! True, the Allans are certain to get as much as they ever did. True, we are still to have cattle boats on the ocean route. True, we have to pay the highest rates for passage and freight; but, you know, we are going to save, or rather mother is going to pay for us,—we shall save, "don't you know?"

Some of us, however, can't see it. Perhaps we are dull of apprehension; but somehow or other we fail to realize how we shall save what we never had. The fact that we are living above our means is beyond question. The maximum of taxation has already been passed. We did that last year. The necessities of life are taxed to their utmost limit. Our revenues for the past year have fallen short of the estimates. The ocean steam contract has always been an expensive luxury, and if we could not pay for it last year, how could we this? Why, the thing is ridiculous. A man reduced from an income of one thousand a year (which he had lived up to) to an income of two hundred, could, with as much reason, point to his carriage which he was able to keep, because his mother paid for it, and say: "I am saving the money the carriage costs me!"

The plain truth of the matter is that we cannot afford to live as we have been living. The heavy taxation is grinding all the working classes into deeper depths of poverty. The poorer our people get the less they will contribute to the revenue. According to the Government doctrine, they are saving because they cannot afford to buy.

Nine-tenths of the people of Newfoundland have no more to do with Great Britain than with Africa. Their faces are set westward—thither "the course of empire takes it away." Their food comes thence, and all their home ties are there. The fine communication kept up by several unsubsidized steamers will create an ever-growing feeling of kinship with the neighboring provinces, and we believe the day is not far distant when we shall cease to pay large sums of money from the general revenue to keep up direct steam communication with Great Britain, merely to please the few at the expense of the many.

A CONSTELLATION OF SWEET SINGERS

We are fully warranted in promising the music-loving lieges a brilliant concert at the Athenæum Hall this evening. Indeed, it is only necessary to mention the names of the constellation of sweet singers who have volunteered their services for the occasion to satisfy all that a charming musical treat is in readiness for to-night. The concert will be under the direction of Mr. Simpson, who will be sustained by the following well-known and popular vocalists:—

- Pianoforte Duet.....Misses Rowe.
Song.....Miss Harris.
Song.....Mr. Corner.
Violin Solo.....Messrs. McNeil and Rennie.
Song.....Miss Fisher.
Duet.....Misses Jardine and Murphy.
Song.....Mrs. O'Dwyer.
Song.....Mr. Simpson.
Song.....Miss Jardine.
Bombardon Solo.....Mr. Hennessy.
Song.....Miss Murphy.
Song.....Mr. Flannery.
[God save the Queen.]

"HIGH LICENSE."

Letter from Rev. J. E. Manning.

DEAR SIR,—I noticed in your yesterday's issue a letter from a "Mr. Nehemiah McGrath," with an enclosure from the Chicago Tribune, respecting the success of high license. From that clipping it appears that Governor McGill quotes Bishop Ireland as stating that "the high license law is the solution of the temperance question. * * * There is scarcely any poverty among the French of Minnesota, simply because there are no saloons among them." Then, sir, we get Governor McGill's supplementary remarks to the worthy Bishop's words, which cut the ground from under his feet and entirely contradict the statement as to its solution of the temperance question and the absence of saloons. He says: "There has been a reduction of saloons under the law, and there are many facts which warrant the inference (only) that there is much less drunkenness now than there was before the law went into operation."

Now, sir, high license is not a solution of the question of the hour; that solution is to be found only in the entire destruction of the traffic. You cannot save men from drunkenness while you allow the trap to exist. We are often told that if we cannot kill the traffic we must restrict it, and in support of this the well-known illustration is given of the tiger and his restriction to one part of the town to stay his ravages. This is what Lord Dundreary would call "a barren idealty." Suppose you keep the tiger out of one half the city, that is not high license. It is prohibition for that part. High license lets the tiger range at will throughout the city, but ties an official stamp to his tail and charges his owner \$1,000 instead of \$100. But the tiger remains and the fangs are there. The traps still exist, and there is not a home in the city safe from his ravages. This reminds me of an address of Canon Wilberforce to the Church of England Temperance Society about two years ago, when he said, if they did not abandon their double basis the tiger would become too strong for them and their lot would be similar to that of

"The daring young lady of Niger, Who went for a ride on a tiger: They returned from that ride, With the lady inside, And a smile on the face of the tiger."

The only remedy is, shoot the tiger. Helen Crosby, in one of her articles on "Prisoners of Poverty," stated: "I have been watching for 35 years, and in all my investigations among the poor, I never yet found a family borne down by poverty that did not owe its fall to rum." In other words, the wolf has never entered the home except when driven thither by the tiger of drink. What do our high license advocates say to this?

No man who objects to prohibition on principle can avoid opposing license or partial prohibition on the same principle. We would have all who consider this question remember that, by placing a higher license fee on the traffic, you transfer the danger to higher grounds. The dealer must charge higher prices, and must fly at higher game in order to pay his fee. Let our respected legislators ponder the danger they are thus throwing into the path of their own sons.

In conclusion, sir, whoever, by his vote, either at the ballot-box or in the Legislature, helps to perpetuate license, i.e., partial prohibition, commits himself, de facto, to the principle of prohibition. Consequently he must allow the right of the colony to define it in accordance with public need, even if that means its total extinction. The issue tersely says: "The license system is not so much to regulate the traffic as to restrict and regulate prohibition. License takes a man from home, puts rum into him, and leaves him in the gutter. Prohibition puts rum out of the saloon into the gutter, and leaves the man at home." I am, yours, &c., J. E. MANNING. St. John's, March 2, 1888.

An interesting and important case—William Rhodes, of this city, versus Captain Alexander Fairweather, of the Dundee sealing steamer Terra Nova—will be heard in the Central District Court to-morrow. It is instituted to recover damages for the unlawful taking of seals before the statutable time. Sir Wm. White-way appears for the plaintiff, and the Hon. J. S. Winter for the defendant.

AGAINST PROHIBITION.

Strong Letter from a Harbor Grace Churchman.

HE SAYS PETITIONS ARE NOT GENUINE,

And Demands Justice for the Liquor Dealers.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,—As I believe the columns of the EVENING TELEGRAM are open to all correspondents, and that your own opinions are not compromised thereby, I am sending a short letter which you will oblige by inserting in your widely read paper.

We hear very much in these days about prohibition, and it has been broadly stated that the people loudly demand it. Now, this I deny. The people, as a body of intelligent colonists, do not desire prohibition, being well contented with the Local Option Bill and the establishment of the many temperance societies scattered throughout the length and breadth of the land. It is said that petitions numerously signed have been forwarded to the two branches of our Local Legislature, praying for the passing of a Prohibition Act. Now, sir, these petitions are not of great value. Persons have been asked to sign them, and have done so in ignorance of their true import and meaning. Persons' names have been affixed to them, without authority; children's names have been appended who were not able to form a judgment on the questions one way or the other. It appears to me that some folks are crazed on this subject, putting total abstaining from drink in the place of the command: "Be temperate in all things." As long as people keep clear of intoxicating liquors—that is the one thing needful—others, sir, such as gluttony and the like, can be passed over and thought little of. There seems to me as if there were some ulterior object in view by this Prohibition League. Who constituted the members thereof to be judges over other men? For "why is my liberty judged of another man's conscience?" If A. B. cannot avoid taking too much of the intoxicating draught, why should he compel C. D. to drink nothing? Such a bill as the one contemplated to be passed would be simply this: "To oppose the weak at the instance of the strong." The Prohibitionists, by their noise and clamour, wish to be considered as the strong.

Oppress the weak, sir! I boldly assert this would be the case. I copy a few words spoken by the Hon. John Bright in Birmingham some time since: "Now, my opinion is this, that 'if a trade in this country is permitted by law, that trade has a right to be defended by law; that the trade of the licensed victualler, of the seller of alcoholic drinks is a trade that has been permitted and is now permitted, and I think parliament and the law are not justified in inflicting upon it unnecessary difficulties, and unnecessary irritation. Now, I think that so long as it is not condemned by parliament, it has a right to demand that it should not be subjected to passionate and hasty legislation. I will apply that to the case of this great town and another town as great in which I was in former years politically connected, the town of Manchester. In Manchester and in Birmingham there are 4,000 houses connected with the sale of intoxicating drinks. Now, those 4,000 houses, without being perfectly accurate, were in the occupation of something like 4,000 persons and families. There was no valuation provided for them; there was no compensation offered or suggested, and the plan was one of what you would call 'root and branch reform, and the publicans and the licensed victuallers, wherever you got a majority, were to be exterminated, as if they had been vermin. Now, I don't think a policy of this kind in any country will be held to be statesmanlike or just. I am against dealing with a question of this nature, affecting the interests of so many people by what you may call a hurricane. I would like to deal with it in a more just and what I call a more statesmanlike manner, according to the legislation that becomes an intelligent people in a tranquil time. These are my grounds which presented themselves to my mind so strongly, but whilst wishing success to all reasonable efforts for promoting temperance, I was unable to support this bill.'" Mr. Editor, let our legislators ponder over these words of a great English statesman, and I have no fear but that the league and its supporters will be discomfited. Apologizing for the length of this communication,

I am, yours respectfully, A CHURCHMAN. Harbor Grace, February 27, 1888.

LOVERS of high-class amusement will be delighted to learn that T. W. Robertson's celebrated play—"Caste"—will be produced at the Star of the Sea Hall on the 11th and 12th April, in aid of a most deserving charity.

'HONESTY' REPLIES TO 'VINDEK.'

Rev. Dr. Howley's Ecclesiastical History.

DR. MULLOCK'S REMARKS ON PATRIOTISM.

DEAR SIR,—A correspondent signed "Vindex," in some late issues of the Colonist, has created such a furor over his envenomed attacks on some slight inaccuracies he thinks he has discovered in Dr. Howley's "Ecclesiastical History," that newspaper correspondents are alarmed lest the authorship of those letters, full of spleen and vengeance, might be attributed to them. One reverend gentleman has already publicly repudiated any connection with such a dangerous character as "Vindex."

"Vindex," whilst he expresses his admiration for the Doctor's "love for fatherland," and "the ardor of his patriotism," takes occasion, from this very patriotism, to make a cowardly onslaught on the Doctor's learned work, and issues forth, in the pages of the Colonist, with the Decrees of the Council of Trent in his hand, like a shillalah, seeking, after the manner of his ancestors of Donnybrook fair, renown, for some one to tread on the tail of his coat; and, with Donnybrook obstinacy, though being himself the head and front of all the offending, he accuses the Doctor of "keeping alive controversy" for selfish purposes. I sincerely admire the Doctor's patriotism, and therefore must unreservedly condemn the sneering references made to it by his adversary, "Vindex." It ought to be the sacred duty of every citizen to encourage that love of country which Dr. Mullock so zealously preached to us and instilled into our youthful minds. Alas! discord and disunion reign since the halls of St. Bonaventure College have ceased to resound with the whole-souled and stirring lectures of the great deceased Prelate. If his teachings had been fostered and his example followed, the jealousies of native ability and birthright would not now be animating the heart of "Vindex" and his approvers, and all the harm which this kind of controversy has engendered would not exist. 'Tis such writers as "Vindex" who have caused those troubles, for ever to be deplored, which have deprived the See of Harbor Grace of a holy and zealous Prelate.

I cannot better close these few hurried lines than by quoting Dr. Mullock's remarks on patriotism, to be found in his published lectures on Newfoundland, and which many of your readers will doubtless remember well:—"My subject is Newfoundland, the land we live in, the native or adopted country of all here present. Of all the feelings implanted in the heart of man, next to religion, there is none so strong as patriotism: the dulce et decorum est pro patria mori (it is sweet and honorable to die for one's country) is not alone the expression of the pagan moralist, it is the universal feeling of all people in ancient and modern times. * * * It is, then, to encourage this sacred feeling of patriotism among the youth I now see around me, that I have been induced to take the subject of Newfoundland in this and the following lecture as most calculated to foster it. It is a great and noble country, of untold wealth, of wonderful and unknown resources, and the few people who now fringe its shore (for 130,000 inhabitants are but the germ of a future population of millions) sprung from the most energetic nations of modern times—English, Irish and Scotch—possessing in themselves and intermingling the poetic and fiery imagination of the Celt, the steadiness and perseverance of the Saxon, and the enterprize and coolness of the North Briton, are destined to be the founders of a race which, I believe, will fill an important place hereafter among the hundreds of millions who will inhabit the Western hemisphere in a few ages."

Trusting you will kindly make room for the above, which, I regret, has grown to much larger dimensions than I intended, I am, Mr. Editor, your obedient servant,

HONESTY. Harbor Grace, 3rd March, 1888.

NOTE FROM MR. GUEST.

JAMES MURRAY, Esq., St. John's, Newfoundland. DEAR SIR,—I duly received your favor of the 16th ult., and should have replied before, but I missed the mail. I was glad to hear from Mr. Eustace, a connection of my grandmother, but I am more anxious to communicate with any of my relatives on my grandfather's side of the house. I am pleased to report that I (thanks to your kindness) received a letter from a Mrs. M. A. F. Whitten yesterday, who no doubt will aid me in obtaining some particulars. I am anxious to trace the family history of John Guest, my grandfather, and connect it with the Guests of Great Britain. This is quite difficult, owing to the fact that my father (Robert Guest) died some twenty years ago, and his brothers are scattered, and only two of them alive; and these things, coupled with the fact that John Guest died when they were lads, and that they, the family, sold out and removed from St. John's shortly after the great fire, makes things very hard to trace. Please send your account for advertising in the paper, and any other expense you may have been to and I will remit.

Yours truly, JOHN GUEST. YARMOUTH, N. S., Feb. 13th, 1888.

THE SALMON SITUATION.

A Very Interesting Extract.

DEAR SIR,—The following item is taken from the London Grocer of the 11th ult., and may be of some interest to the trade. In view of the facts that we are so much nearer to the English consumer than the packers of the Pacific coast, and that the quality of our salmon is unrivalled, would it not be worth while for some of our merchants to turn their attention to the business of salmon canning.

Personally I have no knowledge of the trade, but if we can successfully compete with Nova Scotia in the lobster trade, it seems to me that we should (and with a far greater chance of success) be able to compete with the American salmon canners.

If judicious laws for the preservation of this valuable fish and active business enterprise will go hand in hand, it is at least possible that a stable and remunerative business may be built up which shall prove a valuable auxiliary to our trade and resources.

Yours sincerely, B. St. John's, March 5, 1888.

"AMERICAN" advices just to hand from the Columbia River report that many of the packers are greatly discouraged over the salmon situation. The Fishermen's Union, a compact and powerful organization, has fixed the price of fish on the Columbia River at \$1.25. Tin plates, it is alleged, will cost packers 60c. per box more than last year. One of the largest handlers of salmon in the United States asserts that it will cost pretty nearly 5s. 7d. per dozen tins to pack salmon on the Columbia, making no allowance for expenses of selling. We have been unable to learn that a single ssie has as yet been made, and the packers take a despondent view of the situation. The stock is regarded as insufficient to meet the usual requirements from now until next season's catch is available.

LOCAL VARIETIES.

The closing of the mails has been extended to 10.30 o'clock to-night.

Don't forget the Athenæum concert this evening. It promises to be a very brilliant affair.

The thermometer marked 4 degrees below freezing point at one time last night. After daylight it went up to 34°.

"WHETHER" is communication by steam-boat or rail the more likely to develop our resources," is the subject of debate by the St. John's Mutual Improvement Association to-morrow (Tuesday) evening.

SOME of the Gulf steamers went out this morning, but a couple of them still remain in port awaiting an off-shore movement of the ice, which has been packed in pretty densely on the land by the prevailing southerly and easterly winds.

It will be seen by our advertising columns that Mr. N. Snow has accepted the challenge of Mr. Julius Jensen to a trial of speed on skates in the Parade Rink this (Monday) evening, should the ice be in fitting condition. This will be the event of our season of winter sports and one that will awaken prodigious interest. Of course good taste and pleasant feeling, as well as fair play, will greet the plucky pair.

It is stated that a project is afloat in Twillingate for tinning whortleberries by the ordinary process of preserving fruit, and that Mr. M. T. Knight has received a requisition from those interested in the enterprise urging him to advocate in the Assembly a concession of a drawback from the revenue upon the value of the sugar used in canning the berries. This idea of utilizing whorts is one of long standing, and certainly deserves a trial in a country whose facilities of affording employment are all too few.

THE Mercury characterizes as incorrect a statement made in the TELEGRAM on Friday last respecting the prohibition of land grants on the French Shore within half a mile of the sea. The statement rests upon the authority of an official of the Government, one well informed on the subject, one whose opportunities of positive knowledge are every whit as good as those of the editor of the Mercury, and who, unlike the said editor, is no dealer in half truths, and doesn't invoke verbal quotations to discredit an adversary. As for the Colonist's contradiction of the matter, it is not worth the paper it is written upon. If the Government wished to shelve publicity, coming, as it does, so inopportune and placing a weapon in the hands of the opponents of the Bait Act, it is not likely that any official of the Surveyor General's office would commit himself by giving a confirmatory reply "over the counter" to its reporter. No, Messieurs, the information comes from too good a source to be invalidated by either of you; and, till a responsible member of the Executive denies the fact in the Assembly, we shall still hold to its truthfulness.

DIED.

On Sunday last, Ralph Chesley, infant son of John B. and Sarah B. Ayre. On Sunday morning, after a long and painful illness, Stephen Francis, beloved son of Thomas and the late Bridget Maher, aged 19 years; funeral on Tuesday at 2.30, from his father's residence, Lzybank road; friends will please attend without further notice. On Sunday morning, after a long illness, Mrs. Bridget Kidney, aged 62 years; funeral on Wednesday at 2 p.m., from her late residence, 25 Adelaide street. On the 4th inst., at Fort Townsend, after a long illness, Sergt. Patrick Coady, T. N. C., a native of the County Kilkenny, Ireland, aged 70 years, leaving a wife and seven children to mourn the loss of a kind husband and fond father; funeral on Wednesday at 2.30 p.m.; friends and relatives are invited to attend. Last evening, at Burin, Isabella, beloved wife of Mr. John Kelly, leaving a husband and three children to mourn their sad loss.

By Snows McCAR Sand TREAT The Cl Snow- in Swed Justin Speaker sighted. A san the past Canal. The D The U injunctio protocol Tuppe yesterday the hand The C end of M return. to sign d FROM First BARQUE To-da the north prospect anticipat posed to afternoo F Wind weather passed w Grover C FRO Arrival Narro Expec TWELV fishing fl day night to the bay for fares of Infant, i the ice, for over driven ou severely escapes hauling creased dories to Peter R vainly str up. For schr. Inf much ex John Ke their tra a load o no head blowing. portion o them the and they Keating s two hour perished. A dory w Mitchell, their lives Halifax