

case it pays. We hear nothing of produce being a drug in the market now-a-days. But a few years ago, worth 14cts, now 29 to 32cts. Oats, 35 to 40cts., now 45 to 50cts. Potatoes, 25cts, now 40 to 45cts. Hay (English), \$7.50, now \$9.50 to \$10.00, and other produce advanced in price accordingly.

No. 12 Polling District.

(Comprising Port Greville, Brookville, Fruerville.)

BY C. SMITH, ESQ., PORT GREVILLE.

Hay is a little beyond average this year and as it has been secured in very good order, with few exceptions, the quantity required to be imported will not be as large as for the last two years.

The crop of Oats this year was very good. Yields were entertained that the heavy storm in August had very much damaged the crops, but when harvest came people were agreeably surprised to find that the grain had suffered but trifling damage.

I do not know of any Wheat being raised in the locality.

Buckwheat is very good, a full barley is very good.

I cannot say much in regard to fruit.

With Strawberries were a very small yield. Cranberries and gooseberries were very scarce indeed. As for Apples I might almost say that we have none at all, having to depend chiefly on Corn-walls for this luxury, although I might say that the people are trying to raise Apple trees. Within the last three years several persons have set out grafts which flourished well, some of which have blossomed this third year, and which will probably bear some fruit next year, but I do not think we can compete with Hants or Kings Counties on account of the heavy fog here in summer.

Potatoes are about an average crop and very sound, taking the crop as a whole. I think that it exceeds last year by nearly a quarter.

I will now say a word in regard to the progress of Greville. Eleven houses and barns have been erected, or are in course of erection, here this year. One large brig is being launched, and the keel of another built by Capt. James Pettis and others. Capt. Geo. Pettis will lay the keel for another brig in a few days. Smith & Hatfield are going to build a small schooner. A. A. McLellan has a schooner nearly ready to launch. Besides this, the Bar projection which is being built under the superintendence of J. R. Smith, Esq., together with the lumbering, which is being carried on by Benjamin & Phillips at Mrs. Elderkin's mill; Tibbits & Woods at Wilkinson's mill; Cannings and others of Ratchford River; Smith & Hatfield Messrs. Kerr & Wm. Carey at Fox River, gives quite a business like appearance to the place.

For the Amherst Gazette.

Mr. EDITOR.—As many of your readers may not understand the cause of the arrest of Mr. D. Douglas, referred to in his letter recently published in your columns, I will briefly relate the circumstances of the case.

In 1871, about the time I had completed the repairs on the store in question, he came to me and said he was going to have it insured, and asked me if I, with John Roach, would sign a certificate of its valuation at \$1200. At first I thought this a high figure, but looking at the very high price of labor and building material, I concluded it was not far out of the way. The certificate was not filled in with the understanding that it was to be filled in at \$1200. After the building was burned I learned that I was blamed for placing too high a value—\$1650 or so. After some time had elapsed, I wrote to Mr. Hutt, the agent at Halifax, for a copy of the certificate, which was sent duly certified, signed my name and that of John Roach, and witnessed by A. E. Souter. Now, this certificate was not the one, nor of the same date, as the one, that I signed when I was getting the building insured, but is dated after the building was burned, and was, as far as I can judge, such a certificate as would be required to secure the payment of the insurance, and I believe it was prepared for that purpose. As far as I know I never signed any such paper; I never saw it, or was asked to sign it. I asked John Roach and he said he never signed any paper of the kind, except when Douglass was getting the building insured, just when we were about done repairing it. I then took action against him for forgery and had him arrested, feeling that was the only course by which I could clear myself of the charge of assisting in the perpetration of a fraud, for I knew that building was not worth \$1650. At the investigation before Mr. Bliss, the original document was, for the first time, shown to me, and there it was signed with my name and the name of John Roach, and witnessed by Alex. Souter, and the handwriting of my name was so similar to my own as, perhaps, convinces anyone that it was mine; and yet, if it be possible that we both signed that paper, neither of us can remember the least thing about it? I have lived in Amherst, and have been well known here for the last fifteen years; the community knows what my reputation is. Now, I say, if I ever signed the document in question, my signature was obtained under false pretenses; and if Mr. Douglas can bring any circumstance to convince me that I signed that paper I will make a public acknowledgment to that effect.

I can assure Mr. Douglas that I am not a tool for any man. I took the action that I did of my own free will and not because I was compelled to it by anyone, and doing so I acted conscientiously, believing that I was doing

justice to the public, to him, and to myself.

In conclusion, I would say, that if he will name the parties whom he would like to have brought to the front in this matter, I would be glad to bring them. I wish the community could have the exact truth in this matter, and I court a deep and thorough investigation.

JOSEPH COVE.

For the Amherst Gazette.

Letter from St. John.

DEAR EDITOR.—St. John can be seen in its best light at sunset. Trade is brisk, money plentiful and wages good. The stores are well filled with autumn and winter goods and aluminum and winter purchases. Goods are much cheaper here than in Amherst. This ought not to be the case! Wages will probably fall as there will be an influx of labor from the States.

The live in Carlton last week was very disastrous, some 200 persons were thrown into a panic and many on the English nation. He told them that Her Majesty having learned of the injuries inflicted upon her allies thereby by the invasion of the Ashantees, whom they were unable to repel, had sent him to unite in one person the chief military and civil administration. He communicated that, with all their resources at his disposal, he would chase them from the country, with such punishment that in future they need have no dread of these enemies. He required them to furnish a statement of the number of fighting men they could furnish and the date at which they could be at Duran.

As it is probable some of our readers know little respecting the Ashantees and their country, we give some particulars which may be interesting at this juncture:

The Ashantees are quite a separation here about the finding of buried treasure, however for that is the question, "where?" that officers might go to do likewise. It was thought first by some to be a box to indicate a lot of old "old diggers" of the city, who have spent many a night down the bay digging along the shore—and who tell us yet about seeing "blue and green lights, ghosts &c." and striking "the elixir" and "some body spoke and the box willed away thro' the earth, &c. &c."

As it is probable some of our readers know little respecting the Ashantees and their country, we give some particulars which may be interesting at this juncture:

Ashantees is quite an extensive kingdom of West Africa, lying along the Guinea Coast, and being 280 miles long and the same in width. The inhabitants on the coast are well built, but those in the interior are inferior.

Society is of five orders: King, caboceros, governor, traders, slaves. The Ashantees, owing to a dispute with the Fantes declared war against the English in 1824, and being defeated were compelled to recognize the independence of tribes under British protection. Coomassie, the capital, contains 50,000 inhabitants. The principal export is gold, of which the man has found no record. They are worth from \$200 to \$1000. They are very thin and about the size of a 25-cent piece, very thick along the sides of 12c pieces. They are clipped to weight, and pounded with a hammer to shape—superscriptions, and dates very ancient. They are doubtless spoils of some buccaneers, and probably there is some treasure where this was found, if it has not already secured. The funder would be a fool for showing any till he had received all. Doubtless there has been enough digging to clear several farms already.

In addition to the Ashantees, the Queen will find more formidable foes than Theodore's troops of Abyssinia. The former have to be hunted through the thick jungle instead of subduing in open field by broadswords. But shell will do good execution in scattering them from their jungle retreats. We have already read of a small affair in which dismay was carried into their ambush by a 20-pounder Armstrong sighted at 1700 yards dropping a shell in the midst of a number who had been seen by telescope to collect in one locality.

The heat of the next five months is intense in the kingdom, and the climate is so unhealthful that little successful work can be done for some time.

The election of Mr. Tilley to the governorship of this province gives general satisfaction except to the Anti-Confederate Grays (there are any difference?) and Annalists. We learn this from the *Globe*, *Freeman* &c. Doubtless, however, there would have been more satisfaction if he had been appointed governor some time ago.

Mr. Burpee will find some difficulties to his election but he will probably certain friends and respect for the man who put him in. There seems a difficulty in finding any one to fill Mr. Tilley's place. There is no man here who could fill it but we have some that would do; but conflicting interests, jealousies &c. will probably put some small and water men in the place to distract St. John for a time.

More than usual preparation is being made here for intellectual and musical entertainments during the coming winter. There are arrangements made for readings, lectures and concerts, in different parts of the city. Could not something good be got up, in Amherst for the winter? If you, Mr. Editor, with your baton, could command the staff, let a gathering round you at the Masonic hall last summer, you might supply all the music necessary for anything.

Don't go to Boston to get work. The Superintendent of the Employment Department of the Young Men's Christian Association says there are now 1,500 mechanics—nearly all well skilled in their trades—who are wandering about Boston streets in the vain search for something to do.

Col. Burt, Postmaster at Boston gave a lecture in that city Sunday evening during which he illustrated the practical usefulness of letters written by showing his audience 200 letters taken in the office, the previous day, which were not properly prepaid or directed, and some 250 postal cards, with all sorts of messages on the backs, but not a sign of a direction on the face.

A London bootmaker has just invented a boot with small wheels, which will enable us to go as rapidly as a horse, with the advantage of stopping at a moment's notice.

The total number of railway accidents in the United States, for the year ending August, 1873, was 1,809, in which the killed amounted to 341, while 1,410 were injured.

California is going into the business of raising cotton. She sends one thousand bales to market this year.

CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER.

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Full Moon, 4th; 11th, 34m. a.m.
Last Quarter, 11th; 34m. p.m.
New Moon, 19th; 11th, 23m. a.m.
First Quarter, 27th; 35m. a.m.

U. S. Centennial Exposition.

Plans are being matured for celebrating the centenary of the U. S. State holding in Philadelphia in 1876, the greatest Exposition which has taken place in that country. Estimates and plans of the buildings required have been received from various architects, who place the cost at from three to ten million dollars. It is expected that ground will be broken in a few weeks.

The buildings are to consist of:

Art Galley, covering 1/2 acre; Grand Pavilion on Main Industrial Hall, 36 acres; Machinery Hall, 10 acres; Agricultural Hall, 5 acres; and Conservatory.

There is no doubt that the structures will be most magnificent. The form of the Industrial Hall will be rectangular, 2,040 ft. by 650 ft.

In order to render the musical department of the exposition as international in character as the exhibition itself, there will have to be some modification of the present plans. The local societies of Philadelphia are not sufficiently known to fame to exert that influence necessary to draw from the old world those musical celebrities required to make this department a perfect success on a grand scale. One or two conductors in the U. States stand so high above all others in their capacity for conducting and executing a work on so grand a scale as will be necessary to harmonize with the occasion, that the massas will be committed to the care of Court Martial. It is evident that the "Virginia" affair, growing out of the cold-blooded murder of about 40 persons on this vessel, which sailing under American colors, was captured and taken to Santiago de Cuba, where the massas was committed after a summary trial by Court Martial, is one which creates much excitement just now. It is said that those killed included British as well as American subjects. Much activity exists in U. S. yards; a strong petition from the negroes has gone up to the President to emancipate their brethren in Cuba and the general cry of press and people in the U. States is for war.

SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS' MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Board of School Commissioners for Cumberland proper was held on the 11th inst.

President: Rev. G. Townsend, John Munro, and J. A. Steele, and G. Scott, W. F. Sutton, J. Bragg, J. W. Baker, Jos. Sandage, and A. A. Stevens, Esq.,

in the Rev. G. Townsend's

office.

The Hon. Isaac Burpee is not to be opposed for the County of St. John.

J. B. DeVicer, Esq., has issued his card as the Government Candidate for the City of St. John. A. Rowan, Esq., was nominated for Lower Canada 1863 and 1864, while he was in office.

The Hon. Mackenzie will be returned by acclamation. Hon. Mr. Cartwright will be opposed vigorously.

POLITICAL.

The Hon. A. J. Smith will doubtless be returned unopposed, as a contest would be useless as well as needless.

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Hon. Edward Blake, M. A., Q. C., is the eldest son of the late Hon. W. D. Blake, a distinguished jurist of Upper Canada, who had a seat in the Canadian Assembly from 1817 to 1849; was for a short time Solicitor-General; and subsequently Chancellor of Upper Canada. Educated at the University of Toronto, he became a barrister in 1856, and six years later was appointed to the Bench. He was returned for the County of Simcoe for the Canadian Assembly from 1854 till 1861, and again for the County of Simcoe in 1867, and was re-elected for Simcoe in 1871, and again for the County of Simcoe in 1874.

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