

Provincial Notes.

ST. PIERRE, Miquelon, 30th May, 1891.—I don't suppose there are many folks down Halifax way who will take much interest in either the social, commercial or political life of the inhabitants of St. Pierre, but a few words may find an interested reader somewhere, so I venture my first letter with the hope that there may be even one.

We have had great times lately. What with the Queen's birthday, private parties and the like, one would imagine that instead of being exiled in a French colony that we were in some pleasant English village. Unfortunately, although the French and English people get on very well together in St. Pierre, there seems to be an inexplicable undercurrent of ill-feeling which every now and then crops up, sometimes in social life, at others officially, and renders a complete and sincere interchange of friendly courtesies next door to impossible. Whether this eternal bait bill has engendered a feeling of distrust in the French people I can't say, but there it is, and even the proverbial French politeness fails to cover it at times.

The Queen's birthday falling on a Sunday prevented anything further than a general libation to Her Majesty's health; but it was pleasant to find even in this remote corner of the globe Englishmen still enthusiastic and loyal to the old country. The American Consul (Mr. J. P. Freeker) raised the stars and stripes in honor of the occasion, and during the day received most of the English residents of St. Pierre at the Consulate, entertaining them with reminiscences of bygone days and his usual pleasant chat on the general topics of the day.

At present we have in our midst several visitors from different parts, the most noteworthy of whom are Mr. Stearns, of the Mutual Insurance Company; Mr. Fox, of St. John's, Nfld., of him more anon; and Mr. Wm. Cairns, also of St. John's, representing the firm of Monroe & Co. There are a number of others, and what they all find to do in St. Pierre beats me entirely, excepting that they seem to have a good time. The island doesn't look much of a place to have a good time on, but most folks manage to while away the time pretty comfortably and don't seem in a hurry to leave it. On the occasion of Her Majesty's birthday the St. John's delegates were most enthusiastic in their demonstrations of loyalty; in fact, quite outdid the local Anglais. However, Queen's birthday only comes once a year, so we forgive him the exuberance of his feelings.

I am sorry to record that Mr. Fox doesn't seem to pull a good stroke with the natives. Mr. Fox is a member of the Newfoundland Assembly, and the folks seem to think he is here on behalf of the Newfoundland Government, watching their interests in the bait question. I don't pretend to know much about the matter, or anything about Mr. Fox, but his position is anything but an enviable one, and were I in it I should vindicate myself through a St. John's paper, or quit. Some individual of an artistic turn of mind is exhibiting a picture supposed to be a sketch of one of the quays near the Custom House; a fox is peeping round the corner watching a fleet of schooners lying in the roads. The picture is suggestive of something which I should not like to attribute to the gentleman, but his profound silence is giving his detractors a firm belief in their supposition.

The "Belle Trees," a four-hundred-ton ship, went ashore at Colombie and has become a total wreck. She was just returning to St. John's with a cargo of coal for Sydney, after a most successful series of charters in the West Indies. Fortunately no lives were lost and the owners are fully insured.

We are just about starting a lawn tennis club. We haven't got a lawn, but are making a court which will do very well for a start, and as soon as a little interest in the game is worked up no doubt big things may be expected. Our young ladies are looking anxiously for the completion of the court; that augurs well for the future of the club; soon they will be wanting competitors,

Bless 'em, it's not much we can provide them with in the way of pleasure, so I hope the young men will not flag in their efforts to make the tennis a complete success.

On Monday, 1st June, the Bachelors give another "hop." Our last few dances have been wonderful successes, and no doubt this will be as good as its predecessors. The ladies here say there is only one fault with the dances, and that is that they don't come more often. I expect this will be about the final "hop" of the season, unless some of our Hebes, with their seductive ways, wheedle the married men into treading the light fantastic.

The weather has been extremely changeable. Last Sunday (24th May) we had a heavy fall of snow in the early morning. Up to the present it remains cold and quite unseasonable.

UMTOGATE.

FREDERICTON, June, 8.—The latest additions to the Infantry School are Major Buchan of Winnipeg, Capt. C. S. Mackinlay, Lieuts. Stairs and Ternan. The report that Major Buchan will be appointed permanently to this city lacks confirmation.

Mr. G. W. Babbitt, Bank of Nova Scotia, has been transported to the St. John agency.

In a Base Ball match on Tuesday between the Bankers and the Lawye.s the former won 19—17.

The concert last week given by the Womens' Aid Association, was a great success. Our local talent was ably assisted by Rev. J. M. Davenport and Mr. G. Cleaster of St. John.

Mr. F. D. Widder, of the Bank of Montreal, London, spent a couple of days in the city last week. He will probably be back e'er long.

The Tennis Club had a "Progressive Tennis day" on the 4th. Miss Allen and Mr. T. C. Allen, captured the first prizes and Miss Maunsell, and Mr. W. R. Ricey won the booby prizes.

Miss Bessie Botsford has returned from St. John.

Miss Harrison leaves for St. John to-day for a week or so.

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