NEWS ITEMS.

Corn is selling for ten cents a bushel in many parts of Texas.

The revenue of Great Britain for 1878 shows an increase of £1,183,485 sterling over that of 1877.

P. J. Kearney, a Montreal auctioneer, has been committed to gaol to stand his trial for receiving stolen goods.

A Boston physician of very large practice says that he has never known it to be so sickly in that city as now.

A coloured justice in Alexandria, Va., has just sentenced a wealthy man to be whipped for stealing ten cents worth of ice. The case has been appealed.

The Toronto Gas Company have given notice of their intention to apply to the Legislature for power to furnish the city with the electric light

There are 1,500,000,000 pounds of wool clipped in the world each year it is said. This would suffice to pull a pound of wool over the eyes of each inhabitant of the globe.

The abstract of the returns from the various volunteer regiments in the United Kingdom to the War Office, on 31st October last, show a grand total of 194,179.

There are 272 telephone stations under the direction of the German Post-Office authorities. The instruments work perfectly over lines fifty kilometres long—say thirty-two miles.

There are in London 1,927 architects, 971 surveyors, 5,657 builders, 31,690 carpenters and joiners, 17,983 bricklayers, 853 marble masons, 6,029 mason paviors, and 21,719 plumbers, painters, and glaziers.

Spain is of more account in this world than is generally supposed. It took, together with its colonies, 2,500 distinctions of all kinds at the Paris Exhibition, while England and her colonies took but 2,455.

Chinamen whose pig tails were cut off when they were put in prison in California, are suing the sheriffs for extravagant sums, testifying that by loosing their hair they have been deeply disgraced.

An Afghan soldier in the British service was hanged for firing to warn his countrymen of an advance on Peiwar Pass. Eighteen others were sentenced to terms of from seven to fourteen years' penal servitude for desertion.

The first wine made from oranges has just appeared on the market of Valencia, Spain. Four sorts have been produced, one of which is a sparkling wine. They are all of an agreeable flavor, an attractive color, and of fair strength.

Nobody should starve. The wheat crop of this year in the United States is estimated at 400,000,000 bushels; the corn crop at 1,500,000,000 bushels, and with a larger surplus of beef and pork than was ever raised in a single year.

A swarm of bees took possession of the chimney of a Middlefield, (Conn.,) Methodist church during the summer, and when a fire was kindled in the stove on a recent Sunday the floor of the church basement, literally flowed with honey.

Geologists having reported that there is in Japan enough workable coal to produce a yearly yield equal to that in Great Britain for 1,000 years, the Japanese Government have agreed to grant a loan of $1,500,000 for the purpose of working them.

The Manchester *Guardian* says that a fund of £5,000 is now being raised to enable the cotton operatives of Manchester to march on London to the number of 20,000 or 30,000 for the purpose of forcing Government to abolish the Indian import duties on cotton!

Experiments in the co-operative store system have signally failed in Canada and the United States. There are many indications that the system which was initiated in England and assumed large proportions there will soon be abandoned by many of its old champions.

The Pope has, it is stated, revised the rule established in 1869 settling the duties of Catholics with regard to parliamentary elections. Neither candidates nor electors will be any longer required to demand a modification of the oath of fidelity to the king and dynasty.

A new bell has been blessed at Moscow in memory of the emancipation of the Bulgarians, which, though smaller than the monster Ivan the Great, still is larger, the London *Times* says, than any other in the world. I weighs 63,076 pounds, though the contractor asseverated that it weighed 79 2 28.

The royal families of Europe are unusually busy in marrying and giving in marriage. I has been announced that a marriage has been arranged between the eldest son of the Prince de Joinville and the Infanta, sister of the King of Spain. The Crown Prince of Austria will, it is said, soon be betrothed to the niece of the King of Saxony.

Last year there were 142 violent deaths in Vermont, including 3 murders, 34 suicides, 20 accidental drowning, 13 deaths by the cars, 12 by falls, 9 by carriage accidents and 6 accidental shootings. Hanging was the favorite method of self murder, and the youngest and oldest suicides were 14 and 81 respectively.

The Greco-Turkish frontier commissioners will carry on negotiations at Athens. The Grand Vizier states that he accepts the principle of rectification of the frontier upon the condition of Turkey retaining the strategical line and the Powers engaging to observe neutrality in the event of Greece raising any further claims or attempting invasion.

Nine hundred and seventeen failures were reported in New York city during the past year, or the largest number for any year since the panic. The liabilities amounted to $63,958,408, an increase of $12,000,000 over the preceding year. These large amounts are mainly due to the repeal of the Banking Act, as the failures for the past quarter are much less than usual.

La France states that an ultimatum was despatched to the Bay of Tunis on Saturday. The German Consul at Tenus refused to countenance the Bay's hostile attitude to France. The Council has been instructed further as to the wishes of the French Government. *La Liberte* says the conflict between France and Tunis wil soon be settled by diplomatic means.

A bold robbery occurred at Chicago last Tuesday evening. Two unknown men drove up to Goldsmith's pawnbroking establishment in a cutter, and one of them locked the door while the other entered, broke in a show case, and secured two trays of diamonds claimed to be worth $7,000. The men then drove rapidly away, and nothing has been learned of them since.

The south-eastern portion of the district of Wynaad, in Malabar, India, has been found very rich in gold. Experts state that upon a superficies of twenty-five miles long and thirteen wide they have found ninety localities of ore from two to four feet thick on the surface, which yield 200 ounces of gold per ton. The land is 3,000 feet above the level of the sea, and healthy for nine months of the year.

The N. Y. *Herald's* Richmond, Virginia special says: It is variously reported here, and published by the local press that an immense fissure has been discovered in the Blue Ridge mountains, extending from the middle fork of Rapidan river to the Shenandoah, a distance of twelve or fifteen miles. The cleft in the mountain is quite wide, and is so deep that cattle have fallen into the opening and gone down to unfathomable depths in the bowels of the earth.

American journals take a very hopeful view of the trade outlook for the present year. Foremost among the obstacles removed from the path of progress, the Boston *Advertiser* places the financial difficulty. Much has been done to make a proper balance between supply and demand. The *Advertizer* thinks the numerous and important failures throughout the country have served a good purpose in restoring the equilibrium in the business atmosphere, and imparting a healthier tone to mercantile transactions. Another favorable effect of the long continued depression in trade has been the introduction of greater economy in the methods of doing business. With increased activity in business and an improved demand for merchandise, prices will naturally be affected favorably, and with increased profits will come increased prosperity to all.—*Toronto Mail.*

Terrible Tragedy at Brockton, Ont.

The Toronto *Mail*, of last Saturday, contains the following account of a terrible tragedy that occurred at Brocton, Ont., on the 3rd of January:—

In a neat rough-cast cottage, on a side-line, about one hundred yards from Dundas street, directly north of the White Bridge, lived James Larmour, an old pensioner and his wife. He is described by the neighbors as having been a quiet, good-natured man, at times addicted to liquor. He was employed as a flax-dresser in a rope-walk at Brockton owned by a Mr. McGregor, near which, about thirty feet from the road, his house was situated. He was seen on Thursday afternoon passing the Brockton Club House with a load of wood, and was afterwards seen unloading the wood at his own door. Those who saw him did not judge from his appearance that he had been drinking, the opinion being that he was perfectly sober during the afternoon. Little is known of his actions during the day, his house being some distance from any other. About nine o'clock on Thursday night the inhabitants of Brockton were alarmed by a cry of "fire" and a lurid reflection in the sky of of a conflagration, Larmour's house was in flames. Many of the inhabitants hurried to the scene, but their efforts to extinguish the fire were of little avail, as it had gained great headway, having seized upon the entire building. When the fire had nearly burned itself out one of the spectators discovered the remains of two bodies in the ruins. County Constable James Woods, who was present, was informed of the circumstance, and after satisfying himself that a couple of persons had been burned to death, he secured a vehicle and started to inform the coroner. The drive was one of the most distressing that Woods ever had, the wind and snow beating piteously against him for seven miles. After undergoing great suffering he reached Dr. Batty, the coroner at Lambton Mills, and informed him of the occurrence. The coroner visited the scene early next morning, and called an inquest at the Brockton Club House. The witnesses examined could not tell of the origin of the fire, the testimony being mainly as to when Larmour and his wife had last been seen, and as to their intemperate habits. The jury, after considering the evidence, returned the following verdict:—That two persons, supposed to be James Larmour and his wife, were burned in a house near the White Bridge, in the township of York, on Thursday, the second day of January, but how the fire originated there is no evidence to show.

During the afternoon a *Mail* reporter visited the ruins and saw the bodies, or what was left of them. There were two rooms in the house, which faced the south, and a shed which served as a summer kitchen.

In the last mentioned apartment the remains were found. They were covered with cinders and partly burnt wood, nothing but the half consumed skulls being visible. After the inquest, County Constable Woods came to the city and instructed Mr. McCabe, the undertaker, to bury the remains.

On enquiry at the pension office it was found that Larmour was a pensioner from the 64th Regiment of Foot. He was fifty-five years of age, and had been in the service twenty-one years. He had been drawing pension since August, 1861, and had served through the Indian mutiny, having marched with Havelock to the relief of Lucknow.

A Husband Murders his Wife and Cuts his own Throat.

ATTLEBORO, Mass., Jan. 6th.—At 1 o'clock on Saturday morning the people residing near the centre of this town were startled by shrieks and cries of murder uttered by a female. This woman proved to be the mother of one Gardner C. Tingley, a jeweller who lived with his wife and three children, aged respectively eight, six and three years. The first person who rushed into the street at the sound of the alarm were told by Mrs Tingly that her son had arisen in the night, while she was absent, grasped a razor and assailed his wife in a most brutal and fiendish manner. The poor woman had been rudely awakened from a quiet sleep only to be sent into that deep that knows no waking. When the horrow-stricken neighbors reached the house a ghostly picture met their gaze. Mrs. Tingly lay on her bed, a corpse, surrounded by pools of warm blood. Her throat had been cut. The carotid arteries were severed and the wall, several feet distant, was splashed with blood which had spurted from the throat. To add to her horrow the little child by her side was sprinkled with its mother's blood and was screaming and cuddling up to the lifeless body. There was no evidence that the poor woman had suffered much after the fatal gash had been made; her countenance wore a serene look, and were it not for the terrible surroundings it would be difficult to think she had died any other than a peaceful natural death.

Not far from the blood bespattered bed, upon the floor, lay the murderer, also covered with blood and apparently struggling in the agonies of death. It was evident at a hasty glance that after killing his wife he had drawn the blood stained weapon across his own throat, making a wide gash and a deep incision into the trachea, but failing to reach the carotid arteries. He breathed with difficulty, the blood and air rushing from his wounds. He had also hacked his arms in several places in attempts to reach the arteries, and had drawn his weapon several times across his abdomen, making bad wounds, from all of which the blood was flowing. Physicians were quickly summoned. The wounds of Tingley were staunched, but the loss of blood was so great that but slight hopes of his recovery are entertained.

It is well understood that Tingley was in straightened circumstances. He was out of employment. Although his family enjoyed the ordinary comforts of people in his station in life there is little doubt that he was rendered insane by his embrassments, and it is a fact insanity has been noticed in other members of his family. To her prompt flight to give the alarm the old lady attributes the saving of her life. It is considered strange that the maniac did not kill the child, but doubtless the screams of the women in the street compelled him to hasten matters and try to kill himself before he could be prevented.

The military veterans who, having faithfully fought their country's battles under Wellington and Napoleon, sought quiet retirement in this Dominion, are rapidly passing away. The pension rolls show few names of Waterloo heroes. In Montreal there lives a relic of the grand army of Napoleon—Alphonzo Demers, who is in his ninety-third year. The story of his life is thus told. He was born in the town of St. Etienne, France, and is just verging upon ninety-three years of age. When twenty years of age he was conscripted into the French army, and served under Napoleon in nearly all his campaigns from that time. He served in the disastrous affair to Russia, the evil effects of which he speaks with horror and dread to this very day. On his return he was drafted into the Imperial Guard, and did duty with them throughout the Prussian campaign, and finally finished his career as a soldier on the field of Waterloo. Being a strong supporter of Napoleon he was subsequently arrested, but, effecting his escape, fled to Canada, where he has since resided. His body is one mass of scars honorably gained—a sword cut on the head at the battle of Eylau, the loss of the left arm at Waterloo, an eye at Leipzig, the left thumb at Friedland, and innumerable other cuts. The Legion of Honor was pinned on his breast by the Emperor himself immediately after the battle of Dresden. He was subsequently offered a commission in a line corps, but he preferred remaining in the Imperial Guard.

THE NATIVE ARMY OF INDIA.—The recently ordered addition of 15,000 men to the native army of India will bring up its total strength to about 140,000. Of the present force of 125,000 there are 102,000 infantry, 12,700 cavalry, 900 artillery, 3,500 sappers and miners, and about 200 body guard. The strength of the European troops upon the Indian establishment, exclusive of those temporarily detained in India, is about 62,600, consisting of 4,300 cavalry, 12,500 artillery and engineers, and 45,800 infantry. The total force for the future will therefore be over 202,000 men. The addition to the native force will increase the annual expenditure about $1,350,000 making it about $80,350,000. The proportion of European officers attached to the native regiments is dangerously low, being only 1.3 per cent. Properly immediate measures will be taken to increase it.

Communications.

For the "Agriculturist."

St. John Agricultural Society.

SIR,—The Smithfield Market Grounds near the Marsh Bridge are well known to farmers visiting the St. John Markets, and who may have noticed in the papers last month that a fire on the adjoining lot had totally destroyed the commodious Stable which was only built about four years ago, and was insured for $1,000, a little more than half its original cost.

We are pleased to notice the commendable enterprise of the Directors of the St. John Society who have already covered the ruins with a new building, both larger and having an improved appearance, its dimensions are 50 feet frontage on the Marsh Road, and 100 feet in length, and height of post 25 feet, giving a spacious loft for stowing hay, &c. Mr. William M. Fowler completed its erection in twenty working days and Mr. J. C. Wood the present lessee is now prepared to accommodate upwards of one hundred horses in the new building.

Sleighing is good this week and has the effect of the farmers bringing their hay and produce to market. Hay is selling at from $12 to $14 per ton.

J. H.

St. John, January 9, 1878.

The Agriculturist.

FREDERICTON, N. B., JANUARY 11, 1879.

The Trade Troubles in England

The week that has just ended has been a very strange and gloomy one for England. The country appears to be shaken from its sense of confidence and security and apprehension for the future has taken hold of many. The weather has been severe, and it has increased the distress prevailing in the manufacturing centres. Thousands of applications for relief have been made in Manchester, Wolverhampton and elsewhere. And this distress has been greatly aggravated and will be prolonged, by the strife between capital and labor. The masters contend that the workmen must agree to a reduction of their wages or to an increase in their hours of work. The competition of foreign manufacturers, especially of Belgium and the United States where wages are lower and hours of work longer, is telling against them. They must produce at a cheaper rate, and sell lower, and—if they are not too selfish—be content with smaller profits, to maintain their ground. On the contrary the Trades Unions which control the action of labour, are obstinately opposed to the reduction of wages or increase of hours of work—and as long as their reserve funds last they will maintain the contest and only, like the Oldham cotton spinners, who spent £60,000 on an unavailing strike, yield to the pinch of dire necessity.

The strike mania has been wide-spread, it has affected the colliers of Northumberland, Durham, Derbyshire, and Yorkshire, dock labours at Hull, railway employees on the Midland and the London and Northwestern railways, &c., cotton spinners at Huddersfield, masons and cutlers in Sheffield, shipwrights on the Clyde, and the engineers, whose Union, it is said, numbering 40,000 members and having a reserve fund of a million and a half dollars, is the most powerful organization of the kind.

To those outside the contest, the action of the workmen and operatives, or of the unions controlling them appears to be dictated on narrow and short-sighted view of the situation. They look upon the masters as their natural enemies, and are very keen to insist upon what seems to be their immediate interest, the maintenance of wages at the highest, and of hours of work at the honest rate. They do not take a broad and general view of the situation. They do not, or will not, see that the condition of things is changing! that England's supremacy in the labor markets of the world is threatened, that foreign countries which were wont to purchase largely are growing independent of English manufactures, and are pushing their own! that even the superiority of English manufactures is not incontestible, that foreign operatives being intent to work for lower wages and longer hours than themselves, foreign manufacturers are able to compete in the English markets, and undersell the goods produced by themselves. They are proud and obstinate, and will not yield, though the situation is pressing. Instead of taking what to outsiders seems a sensible view of their case, and submitting to a reduction of wages, they prefer to carry on a contest which embitters the relation between themselves and the masters, until all their available means are spent, and then in a bad temper and deteriorated in their morals, they are brought by necessity to accept the terms they proudly rejected. Many large firms in England have been compelled to shut down their mills, and close their factories, and reject large orders on account of the "striking" propensities of their operatives. It is a great annoyance and loss to masters to be obliged to adopt this course, but there is no doubt that the operatives will be the greatest loosers in the end.

It is not surprising that the wide-spread distress among the working population, the continued depression in trade, and the conflicts between capital and labor, master and workmen, which makes the depression worse and retards the return of better times, should awaken apprehension in England. Earl Derby spoke lately in Liverpool, in rather a gloomy way, of the commercial and industrial future. He reviewed the condition of trade in England, and the obstacles which stood in the way of its revival. He showed how the increased ability of other nations to manufacture for themselves, was constantly diminishing, the market for English goods, and how difficult it would be for England to keep on paying large sums of money in return for articles of food, which she was compelled to purchase from America and other countries. The only remedy which suggested itself to his mind, after long and anxious reflection, was wholesale emigration to America and Australia, and he urged this with great earnestness. His speech, of which we have given the substance, as reported by telegraph, tended to further depress the already depressed state of feeling in England. It is hardly safe, however, to believe Earl Derby's view of the situation implicitly. He is naturally of an apprehensive and despondent turn of mind, and may have painted the picture too darkly. Bad as the state of affairs is, they may take a better turn in time. The depression of trade, which shows signs of lifting in the United States, may extend. English good sense may prevail, and the dispute between master and workmen may soon be amicably settled, and their relations being no longer subject to hard friction, they may settle down to work and maintain their position against competition at home, and hostile tariffs abroad. But still taking the most sanguine view of the situation there is much in it to excite anxiety for the future of England. If England ever falls from her lofty position, it will in all probability be from troubles similar to those under which she is now suffering but immensely intensified.

Live Stock Trade with England.

The *Toronto Mail* last Saturday had an article on the growing trade of Canada with England in live stock and beef, mutton, pork, poultry, butter and cheese. At present there is a lull in live stock export trade, as the shipment of cattle in winter is a too expensive and risky business, but there will most probably be a great revival in spring. Adverting to the preparations for the spring export trade, the *Mail* says:—

"For fat heifers and steers, contracts are being entered into for the next three months at the rate of about five cents per pound, live weight, and Ontario farmers will have no difficulty in disposing of animals of this class. A reduction in the rates of freight, which range from £5 to £6 sterling per head for cattle and 8s to 12s for sheep and hogs, is anticipated, and with it improvement in the ventilation and water supply. A considerable quantity of stock is landed at Birkenhead and, therefore, expense is involved in moving the animals to Liverpool. A meeting of live stock dealers was recently held at the latter port, and a request made to the Liverpool authorities to provide adequate accommodation for the trade, especially as liberal proposals had been received from Barrow-in-Furness to furnish all necessary facilities. No doubt this defect will be remedied so that the trans-oceanic live stock trade will enter upon a still more prosperous era during the coming spring."

In view of the unbounded market for first-class cattle which England affords, the *Mail* urges on the farmers of Ontario to turn their attention more to the breeding of cattle than the raising of wheat. Three-fourths of the cattle that have been exported from Canada, it says, have been purchased in Buffalo and Chicago. Canada is capable of raising as fine herds as the Western States, and Canadian exporters on account of the expense of transporting the cattle they purchase in the States to the port of shipment, would prefer to buy Canadian raised live stock, providing they were equally well-bred. The attention, therefore, of the Ontario farmers, the *Mail* says:—

"Should be devoted to breeding graded Durhams, which possess good style and grow rapidly in size and weight, or Herefords, whose characteristic is rapid development at an early age. The animals should not be sold until they turn the scale at from 1,300 to 1,500 lbs. The best Canadian beeves attain the English standard, but do not reach the higher qualities. The ordinary cattle of this country are useless for shipment, and can only be disposed of in some of our home markets. Having secured the class of stock required—and it is to be found in the Province—the breeders should carefully feed it up to the required standard for exportation. It is a too common practice among farmers to sell a well-bred steer half fattened for from $15 to $22, when, if it were developed to its best form, it would command from $60 to $75. It is computed that stock thus raised is worth 30 per cent. more for the home market. Fodder is so cheap that cattle feeding can be profitably pursued, and it is calculated that a profitable speculation may be found in purchasing lean steers and stall-feeding them during the winter."

The *Toronto mail* addresses its advice specially to the farmers of Ontario. The farmers of New Brunswick, could, it may be presumed, by bestowing great care in the breeding and feeding of cattle raise stock up to the English standard. Those who make it their business to select stock for the export trade would purchase New Brunswick bred cattle as they do cattle in the United States, but the same objection, perhaps, expense of transportation to the port of shipment, would still make them prefer to purchase Canadian bred live stock. But if it was seen and found that farmers of New Brunswick could raise stock up to the standard, would it not pay enterprising persons to create a provincial cattle export trade and to make arrangements with some steamship line to make regular weekly or fortnightly trips between St. John and Liverpool.

Opening of the Ontario Legislature.

Governor McDonald opened the legislature of Ontario last Thursday. In his speech His Honor said "while our agriculturists are suffering from the low prices of grain and other produce, it is most satisfactory to notice the already extensive and growing trade between Europe and Ontario in live cattle, horses, sheep meats and dairy products, in which many of an enterprising citizens are now engaged with, I trust, profitable results to themselves and certainly to the benefit of the country at large." Our agriculturists may also be suffering from the low prices of grain and other produce, they certainly are not enjoying the profits of such a trade as many of the enterprising citizens of Ontario are carrying on.

The session now opened is the last of the present Provincial Parliament. The Toronto *Mail*, by the way, pours vials of wrath on the local government and legislature, but then it is a Reform Government and Legislature. It says, that, since the present government have been in power, they have carried no useful measure of reform, that they have no measures to submit this session, and that the sooner they dissolve, and go to the polls and be wiped out of existence the better for the country. It complains that the cost of the legislature, during the four years, has been half a million of dollars, and that the salaries of ministers and their subordinates amount to $600,000; that the Province has not been benefited by this expenditure, and that there is a great disatisfaction among the more thoughtful with the local house, and that many think it a useless and increasingly extravagant institution. One charge against it is that since the member's indemnity was fixed at $150 per session, it has been raised since to $600 and $800 $800 per session is equivalent to $15 per day, about three times as much as the State of New York, richer and more populous than Ontario allows it local representatives. Economy, the *Mail* says, must be the test question at the general election. The *Mail* is evidently of the opinion that if the local legislature was abolished it would be better for the Province.

Annual District School Meetings.

On Thursday last the Annual district school meetings took place throughout the Province when the people voted the funds to sustain the schools. In some quarters fears appeared to be entertained that the hardness of the times would be pled as an excuse for not making a liberal provision as was made last year, but most probably when the action taken at the school meetings is known these fears will be dispelled. The hardships of the times may be an excuse for not building new school houses and providing new furniture, but not for stinting the provisions necessary to sustain the common schools as efficiently as they have been, or for closing any of them.

We see that it is stated that the votes for school purposes, at many of the school district meetings, have been liberal.

The Dominion Parliament is summoned to meet for despatch of business on the 13th, of February.

A despatch from Ottawa, Jan. 6th, giving substance of announcement in the *Royal Gazette*, states, that the Canada Temperance Act, will be in force in the city of Fredericton from and after the day in which the annual, or semi annual licenses for the sale of spirituous liquors now in force shall expire.

Wood Trade Circular.

We have received a copy of J. B. Snowball's wood trade circular for 1878. The result of the trade of the year has been anything but satisfactory. The exports were 30 per cent. less than they were in 1877, "still the quantity produced is so in excess of the demand that both the shippers and the banks interested in the trade have wisely determined to enforce a still further reduction." The shipments from the port of Miramichi have been confined almost entirely to spruce deals, and amounted in 1878 to 106 millions superficial feet, 44 millions less than in 1877. 244 vessels were engaged in the export trade, 137 sailed to ports in England, 19 to Scotland, 52 to Ireland, and 36 to the continent. A noted feature in the Micamichi trade is that it is done almost entirely on contract, and is distributed over a large number of ports many of them small.

There was more tonnage employed in the export trade from the ports of the North Shore, including Miramichi, where the great bulk of the trade is centered, Dalhousie, Bathurst, Richibucto and Shediac than from St. John—411 to 312—and fewer deals were carried, but more palings. The total shipment from the Province (not counting the exports from Caraquet and Tracadie amounted to 363,135,019 superficial feet deals, 4,535,761 palings, 3,365 tons of timber, and 8,109 tons of brick.

The circular which is dated December 26th, 1873, states that the weather has been most unfavorable to operations in the woods there having been very little frost or snow to the present time, which is quite unusual. On the 11th ult., when considerable ice had formed in our rivers, a heavy rain fell, swelling the streams and floating off logs supposed to be safe for the winter. This unprecedented freshet carried a quantity of logs, estimated at from 1,500,000 to 2,000,000 superficial out to sea, there being a channel of open water with ice on either shore of the river which prevented the drift lumber from landing, while the loose ice with which it was mixed rendered attempts to save it futile.

The cost of procuring logs, it is stated, on the Miramichi is constantly increasing, owing to the fact that lumbermen are obliged to go further into the forests each year to carry on their operations. The Government tax which was raised from sixty to eighty cents per thousand is still continued at the latter figure, and the tonnage and other incidental expenses are also increasing each year.

F. R. C. M. Concert.

A crowded house greeted the appearance of the Fredericton R. C. Minstrels in the City Hall. It was not such an audience as meets performers from abroad whose powers are unknown—cold, formal and slow to applaud, for it was familiar, hearty and ready to meet the first good joke, and good local hit with rounds of applause and peals of laughter. The minstrels who looked like very respectable "cultured gentlemen," dressed punctilliously in dress suits, in white waistcoats were evidently encouraged by the full house before them. The end men, bones and tambourine were got up in extra style and acted up to their characters very amusingly. The first part which included songs and choruses, sentimental and humorous, and side conundrums was the most enjoyable feature of the performance. The minstrels had tuneable voices well in concert. Of the songs sentimental—"Flowers are Blooming," J. C. O'Brien, "Only Speak Kindly to Me," J. A. McAdam, and "Ella Leene," L. C. McNutt, the last was the most warmly applauded. Few of the conundrums of bones, James Biggs, and tambourine, H. O'Brien, fell flat—one rather bold joke brought down the house, and one local hit convulsed it and drew quizzical observation on the victim. Fred Nixon's clog dancing was much admired. The 7 sisters, by H. O'Brien raised a hearty laugh. "The Sham Doctor," a Negro farce, dragged somewhat. The last scene of "The Coopers," where the characters engaged in a regular plantation breakdown was capital. The original and local burlesques, "An Hour in the Police Court," was funny enough in bits, but it was placed too far down in the bill.

The F. R. C. M. intend giving another concert in three weeks time, and their experience on Thursday night will, no doubt, have suggested to them what parts of their performance were most acceptable to their audience. More songs and fewer farces.

Horrible Execution.

Michael Farrel, of Quebec, who was sentenced to death for the murder of Francis Conway, in August last, suffered the last penalty yesterday morning. Before eight a large crowd gathered on the historic plains of Abraham, close to which the jail is situated. The great bells of the Catholic Churches tolled, and solemn service was held within St. Patrick's. About a hundred persons were admitted within the precincts of the jail. The hangman, one of the prisoners, who proved himself to be an ignorant and blundering fellow, and who was completely masked, and the jailor pinioned the felon. At two minutes to eight the black flag was hoisted, and Farrel came forth from his cell between two priests. After bidding his spiritual advisers farewell, he took his stand upon the drop. One account says, "the drop should have fallen but very many seconds elapsed before the stupid executioner could get the bolt to work, and the murderer turned a painfully look to him, as if to say, "now much more of this suspence." His pinioned hands caught in the rope instinctively as he felt the drop falling, and thus he hung between life and death, presenting an awful spectacle, one gentleman among the spectators fainted at the sight, the poor unfortunate uttered a piercing cry, and by continued shaking the hangman righted the rope and the body fell another foot, but not lifeless, for the body was convulsed with pain for several minutes after the fall, and death was not pronounced until twenty-five minutes past eight. There was never a more painful and brutal execution scene enacted anywhere.

We are very willing to give the *Telegraph* all credit for working up an interest among the farmers in the sugar beet question. It is a paper of great influence, still it is sometimes deceived as to the extent of that influence. The *Globe*, last Wednesday, contained the statement that, "a beet root sugar factory is to be started at Gibson in the spring at the lower side of the Nashwaak Bridge and near the mouth of that stream. The affair will be a stock company with a capital of $40,000." The *Telegraph* taking the statement for absolute fact, looks upon it "as encouraging to ourselves, for it shows that a large measure of confidence has been placed in our representations on this subject." We can state, on what we consider very good authority, that the announcement in the *Globe* is not correct. Of course there must have been some talk of establishing a sugar beet factory at Gibson to give rise to the report, but we are afraid that the company, if company there be, is composed of "dead beats" and not live beet men.

Kingston, Kent, Agricultural Society.

The annual meeting of the Kingston, Kent Agricultural Society was held on Saturday afternoon, January 4, in the Temperance Hall, B. Bailey, Esq., President, in the chair.

After the reading of the minutes of last meeting, reports from the committee of management of the show held October 1, and from the secretary respecting the stock sold December 1, for the society were read and accepted. The Secretary read his annual account, showing receipts—$1,776.09—Expenditure—$747.37—leaving a balance in hand of cash of $37.72; also, a detailed statement of the property held by the society in the shape of lime kiln and shed, limestone, wood, &c., $412.50.

The accounts having been reported correct by the Audit Comittee were on motion accepted. The report of the Secretary was then read and adopted.

The following were elected officers for 1879:—

B. S. BAILEY, *President*;
W. H. MCARTHUR, THOS. GAVAN, } *Vice-Presidents*;
JOHN BRAIT, *Secretary-Treasurer*;
JOHN BRAIT, *Salesman*;
Audit Committee—A. Givan, W. H. McArthur, W. J. Brait.
Directors—R. McCellan, J. Wright, J. Stevenson, J. Murray, A. McNairn, J. Phinney, J. Murray, J. Richard, H. Irving, W. Lawson, H. Jordan, A. Murray.

The Secretary was authorised to procure a small quantity of the seed of the sugar beet for trial.

Mr. W. A. Black, agent for the AGRICULTURIST being present, brought the paper under the notice of members and took down the names of a number of subscribers. The meeting then adjourned.

Mr. Gladstone.

The course that Mr. Gladstone has taken on the Eastern question has not been followed with approval by a large party. He appears to have been urged in opposing the policy of the Imperial Government not by broad statesmanlike and patriotic motives so much as by bitter antipathy to that "notorious person" at the head of the Government as he calls Earl Beaconsfield. But no one will deny his marvellous powers as a speaker and writer, or that he has done much and will probably do much yet to shape the course of political events in England, and to determine her policy abroad. He is a great gun in fact, as a monster piece of ordiance is called "the Woolwich Infant"—his admirers, or detractors have dubbed him, from the name of his constituency, "The Greenwich Infant." He made a great speech against the Indian policy of the Government some time since, and an English paper describes his appearance on the platform, which was crowded by local celebrities

It was pathetic to see how common the most imposing beings on the platform seemed when they were set as background to the strange, white face, the muscular pose of the Tribune. The speech began quietly with formal intonations and absence of gesture, so that one had time and chance to look fixedly at the speaker, and the eye could not leave him without distinct effort. It is a marvellous head. The forehead runs back with a sharp slant, but the lack of height is made up by striking breadth. Over the eyes the brows jut heavily. The nose is large, but delicate of outline, and the curve of the nostrils is fine. Two deep furrows cut downwards toward the furrows of the mouth, and these same furrows, when the mouth is writhed, give an effect half grotesque, half terrible. The jaw is massive and square, and almost cruel. And the eyes—I never saw such eyes in a human being. The whole character of the man looks out of them. They are intensely dark and small, and glittering. They never gaze steadily for a moment, but shift and flash with a strangefulness that is weird, and the weirdness is deepened by the bizzarre fashion in which the eyebrows slope upwards. The whole head is poised on a thick muscular throat, and the neck is planted on heavy shoulders which look powerful enough. It is the presentment of a devotee. Of strong will of steadfastness there is not much; but of passion and unstable fervour plenty. The speaker leans forward for a little, talking easily in conventional cadence. His voice is a full baritone, with an odd quaver of senility in some of his notes. Presently he straightens up and stands squarely. The left arm is pressed hard to the side, and crooked in somewhat ungainly fashion: but the right is moved freely and gracefully—sometimes high over the head. As long as he uses notes he constrains himself into quietness; but soon the need of memoranda is gone. The formal cadences cease. The sentances come fast, and all conventional ways of speaking are forgotten. The orator's face grows more and more intense; the baritone of his voice grows harder and a little shrill—higher and higher, till faint breaks can be heard as a more emphatic word is spoken; the fierce, white face is mobile to the point of grotesqueness, and the lights play weirdly on its pallor. A curious effect can be noticed in the nearer crowd. The people here and there involuntarily imitate the speaker, and commonplace faces show comic reproductions of the great man's infinitely permutable expression. Presently the voice dies down into a low, full clearness, and the period is finished. The audience draw breath and the astounding applaus thunders.

We learn that a meeting was held in Kingsclear a few days ago, and resolutions passed to endeavor to establish a Cheese Factory in that Parish or in Bright, and a committee appointed to make inquiries, and report at an adjourned meeting to be held at an early day.

This is a step in the right direction, and no better location for such an enterprise can be had than in the vicinity of McKinley's ferry. Those who have the matter in hand are of the right stamp, and we trust they will not allow any supposed difficulties to prevent their carrying it on to completition. A Cheese Factory or a Butter Factory might be established in many localities that are well suited for them.

The elastic sleigh invented and patented by Dr. Armstrong is a combination in which the body of sleigh, which may be of any desired shape, rests on a single bench, the knees being connected with runners by strong hinges, which allow the runners each a certain amount of play independently of its fellow. The forward part of body rests on a pivoted perch with a spring, so that the cross bar connecting forward part of runners oscillates freely in passing over obstacles on road, with the result of obviating the unpleasant jar of the ordinary sleigh, and the straining of body and other parts. The combination secures lightness, strength, elasticity and durability as well. Persons about purchasing sleighs, should before doing so, take a drive in the "Elastic."

BONSPEIL.—The Fredericton Curling Club will play a match with the Thistle Club of St. John, four rinks to each side on Thursday the 28th inst., if the weather permits. As the season has been very favorable for the sport, and the players of both clubs have had plenty opportunity to practice, a fine contest may be expected. Of course after the game the contestants will sit down to the traditional beef and greens.

ANNIE PARKER.—The *Borderer* says, that the statement of a correspondent of the *Moncton Times*, which we published last week, concerning the illtreatment in jail of Annie Parker, is untrue, and is denied by the party herself.

The *Telegraph* does us an injustice if it means to say that the AGRICULTURIST has only since the appearance of Mr. S. L. Peters letter, awoke to the importance of the beet sugar question, for we have urged the matter on the public all along. What we said was that Mr. Peters' letter showed that the farmers of New Brunswick seemed to be in earnest about the matter. Great credit is due to the *Telegraph* for the advocacy of the sugar beet cultivation, and we have, no doubt, it did much to waken up Mr. Peters and others. We are as desirous as the *Telegraph* to see the cultivation of the sugar beet flourish, and to have a sugar factory established. But in urging the farmers to cultivate that root this season they should not be led to suppose that they will be able to sell their product at a good price to a factory, until a factory is fairly established in the Province. If any farmer believes he can dispose of his sugar beets advantageously to a factory in Maine, he should be told that the strong chances are that he would be disappointed, as the duty imposed by the American Government on his roots imported into the adjoining State would pare down his profits to an indiscernible point. Nevertheless, we believe, that it would be for the profit of the farmers of New Brunswick to grow large crops of sugar beets, for they are as easy to raise, and as feed to cattle they are as good (not to say better than) as any other description of roots. They cannot go wrong in cultivating them any way; when a factory is established they can sell them, until it is, they can raise good stock on them, and good stock is quite as much needed as beet sugar.

We understand that the Secretary of Agriculture is endeavoring to make arrangements by which an ample supply of the sugar beet seed will be brought into the Province and disposed of at a moderate price.

On Tuesday evening Robert Shives, Esq., Dominion Emigration Agent, St. John, died very unexpectedly. He suffered much at times for several years, from some internal complaint, but as late as the Sunday previous he was out in fair health and spirits.

Mr. Shives learned the printing business with Messrs. Chubb, in St. John, and forty years ago established the *Amaranth* the first literary paper that ever appeared in the Province. On the death of Moses Perley Esq., he was appointed H. M. Emigration Officer, and after confederation continued in the office as Dominion Emigration Agent. Mr. S. was 64 years of age. He had many warm personal friends in St. John and elsewhere.

CIVIC ELECTIONS.—The elections for Aldermen of which official notice is out, will come off on the 27th of January. There will be opposition in some of the Wards. Messrs. John Moore and Alex. Churchill have conjointly signified their intention to stand for Queens. Mr. Daniel Lucy will also be a candidate in that Ward, and his announcement to the electors is out. Dr. Thomas S. Wetmore, at the request of a few friends, will offer himself for St. Ann's. During the course of next week intending candidates will be drawn out to make their announcements.

L. O. L. LECTURE COURSE.—The Rev. Mr. Reid delivered an interesting and able lecture on "Boston and its Environs," in the Orange Hall, last Wednesday night. The members of the Institution passed a resolution thanking the Rev. gentleman for his admirable lecture, which they desired might be published in the press.

The next lecture will be delivered by Fred. M. Sprdul, Esq., of Hampton, Kings, on the "Orange Institution and its Place in Society."

Everybody up to Friday was exclaiming, "what a magnificent winter we are having!" the days were bright and pleasant, the moonlight nights so magnificent as to make sleighing a luxury, and taboganing a grand frolic. Some snow fell on Fridav, (accompanied by high wind) which will improve the going, and the temperature has fallen considerably since. It feels like as if we were going to have a touch of winter in earnest.

FATAL ACCIDENT.—Last Wednesday a son—a child of about five years of age, of Wm. Crewdson living in the west end of Brunsw