

sense of responsibility and self-reliance can be engendered amongst the people, leading them to look upon it as a disgrace to apply to the Government for aid, some good will be accomplished. If those above want find there will be no outlay for public improvement in a district so long as this poor expenditure continues to swallow up their money grants, they may wake up to the exigencies of their own interests. Until such a feeling takes possession of the public mind, we can hope for little improvement in the depressing state of affairs that has existed and progressed of late years. Instances have occurred of applications of married sons and daughters in comfortable circumstances, who appear to think it no disgrace to have the nearest members of their families, their parents who ought also be the dearest to them, put upon the permanent pauper list, thus ignoring all sense of responsibility and natural obligation. It is very difficult to form rules to check this growing evil. It is of course the duty of the Legislature, in the event of a general failure of the fisheries, and if the supplying merchant should feel it unwise to continue supplies, to respond to the call of humanity by setting in motion means of temporary relief. However, the matter has now assumed such proportions that he considered the time has arrived when the Legislature must step in and make provision to check indiscriminate expenditure, and to meet the exigencies of special districts when misfortune attends their industry. So recently as last week letters have been received by the Executive from clergymen of different denominations and other reputable parties, stating that the bearers and their families were actually starving. Perhaps the gentlemen making those recommendations may, in some cases, have been deceived or imposed upon, but the difficulty is to find out who is really in want. To provide machinery for thorough investigation would entail very great expense. To give indiscriminate relief would demoralize the whole people. To withhold succor, and refuse all aid, would inflict injustice upon many; and, as the hon. the President has truly said, it is easier to find fault and point out cases of extravagance and unwarranted expenditure than to treat cases upon their merits. Though the condition of the country with respect to the permanent poor expenditure may not afford a better exhibit than last year, he was happy to be in a position to corroborate the assertion of hon. Mr. Bowring, that the amount of poverty in the colony generally is not nearly so extreme as it was last season; an effect, attributable amongst other things, to good prices for their produce, and a successful potato crop, rendering the people freer from pauperism than they were in 1886 and the spring of 1887.

The committee then rose, reported progress, and asked leave to sit again, and the house adjourned until Monday next.

MONDAY, February 27th.  
The House met at half-past four o'clock. Hon. G. T. RENDELL, pursuant to the "order of the day," moved the House into committee of the whole upon the address; Hon. Jas. Pitts in the chair.

After considerable deliberation the committee rose and reported, and the address was subsequently read a third time and passed. Order was then made that it be engrossed and presented to His Excellency the Governor by a deputation of the whole House.

MESSAGE FROM THE ASSEMBLY.  
A deputation from the Lower House brought up, for the Council's concurrence, a Bill to amend the Act passed last session to regulate the prosecution of the seal fishery.

Hon. the COLONIAL SECRETARY said, with regard to that Bill, there has been no understanding between the Council and the hon. member who introduced it in another place, as to taking charge of it in this Chamber. The gentleman referred to left St. John's for his home on Saturday, and has not since returned, so that it might be as well to let it stand over until he comes back. He should not like assuming the responsibility of moving in it without having an interview with him.

Hon. M. MONROE thought it would be rather discourteous to let the Bill lie without being read a first time. He was not aware of the nature of its provisions, but had no objection to its first reading, as that would not bind the subsequent action of this Chamber. If there were no objection, then, he should move that the Bill be read a first time.

The Bill was accordingly read a first time; to be read a second time to-morrow.

The House then adjourned until half-past eleven o'clock to-morrow.

**MESSRS. JOB'S STEAMERS**

The sealing steamer *Neptune*, Capt. Blandford, will leave for Catalina at daylight on Monday next, and will there take her customary clearance. She will recruit one half her crew in this port and the other half in the outport named. The steamer *Hector*, Captain Edward White, will sail from this port on the usual date, the 10th of March, which will be next Saturday week. Messrs. Job's third steamer, the *Nimrod*, will be under the command of Captain Henry Dawe, of Bay Roberts, and will try and strike the fat somewhere in the Gulf. She will sail for Channel on Monday next.

**The Evening Telegram.**

ST. JOHN'S, FEBRUARY 29, 1888.

**OUR FISHERY AFFAIRS**

**The Attorney General's Ignorance.**

"We'll allow Americans to buy bait, for they compete with us as men and do not interfere with our markets."

The Attorney General, fresh from Washington, is reported to have used the above expression during the debate on Mr. Bond's amendment to the Bait Act. Mr. Winter's gross ignorance of all the circumstances connected with the privileges granted the Americans (for the sum of \$1.50 per ton for any and all fishing vessels that may choose to avail themselves of our resources) is simply appalling and disgraceful.

For the small sum of one hundred and fifty cents per ton, an American fishing vessel may be placed on a footing of perfect equality with ourselves. In short, Americans may and will ship crews, transfer their catch, buy bait, and do anything and everything necessary to carry on the voyage here. Their vessels can make as many trips to the banks as they like. Vessels will be sent from time to time during the season with supplies for them, carrying, as return cargoes, loads of fish transhipped.

How will it be with our fishermen when they wish to avail themselves of the American markets? Will they not be met with heavy duties, almost prohibitory? Let the Attorney General ask his supporter, Mr. March, for his opinion on this point. "He has had experience!"

But the *Mercury* says we are to have free trade in fish as a further concession. Every sane man knows this statement to be purely imaginative. The Americans, who can buy, for one hundred and fifty cents per ton, privileges worth thousands of dollars to them as fishermen, are not the men to throw open their markets to foreigners. The men who forced Newfoundland to pay duties on seal oil, on the ground that it was not fish oil: who forced the Canadians to pay duties on the *carx* which held their lobsters, on the ground that *carx* were not fish,—these are not the people to give free entry to fish and oil to compete with themselves.

The Americans have got all they want, as far as Newfoundland is concerned, and they will use their privileges to their full extent. As far as Newfoundland fishermen are concerned (we mean the rank and file) this new sale of our fishing privileges will be satisfactory. They will get employment on board first-class vessels, will be well fed, and be paid either in cash or its equivalent, without any "twenty per cent." deducted from their pay on settling days; and, what will be of still greater advantage to them, they will get new ideas of their rights as men. Now a fisherman in Newfoundland is looked upon as a creature who must be kept alive between the set periods appointed for elections. His greatest value is as an elector, for the fact remains that, without voters, there could be no Government situations—a dismal outlook for the crowd of fops and jacks who float on the political stream with no care for ought but office, for which they willingly sacrifice what remains of their principles.

As to the effect the surrender of the fishing rights of Newfoundland will have on the smaller outfitters for the Banks: I believe it will have the effect of still further contracting their facilities for disposing of their produce. There is now no ray of hope from the American market. The terms they offer us are positively exclusive. We believe that had a capable man been sent to Washington, Newfoundland would have sold her rights on better terms. There was no need to sell them at all. But, alas! alas! the only lever we had to get terms from the Americans has been bartered away for "a mere song"—a song which American fishermen will not forget to whistle and sing next summer in every port of the colony.

**ADVENTUROUS SPIRITS.**

The crew of the S.S. *Aurora*, which arrived here the other day from Dundee, consists almost exclusively of men of Shetland, bold, adventurous spirits whose fame has travelled beyond their surf-beaten isles, and of whom the only Newfoundlanders who came out in the *Aurora* speak in high terms of praise as being "good men with generous hearts." Their qualities as seal-hunters, roaming over a trackless field of ice, dozens of miles from their ships, in search of hoods and harps, is a test of endurance and hardihood to which the fishermen of foreign countries are strangers; and if they can stand that test with the hardy searovers of Terra Nova, they will have fairly won their spurs in a sphere of the greatest physical labor and danger known to the mariner.

**"SPEED THE PLOUGH!"**

**Claims of the Agricultural Society.**

An entertainment of a very high order will be given under the auspices of the Newfoundland Agricultural Society, in the Athenaeum Hall, to-morrow (Thursday) evening. The object is a very laudable one—the establishment of a fund for the development of agricultural pursuits in this colony; and as His Excellency Henry A. Blake, Esq., C.M.G., and R. J. Piment, Esq., D.C.L., are Patron and Vice-Patron, respectively, it is only reasonable to expect a large and appreciative audience on the occasion.

By reference to the Society's advertisement, in another column, it will be noticed that "the committee have succeeded in securing the best musical talent" available. Add to this important and attractive circumstance the fact that one of our Judges presides, and that His Lordship will be ably supported on the platform (if necessary) by literary members of the Society, such as John Studdy, Esq., Major Fawcett, &c., and we have the assurance that a pleasant and profitable evening is pretty certain.

We do well to encourage the efforts of this Society. Agriculture is an industry whose influence must always have an upward tendency; and never in the history of our Island-home has there been a period when such an influence was more needed than at the present moment.

In a moral point of view, the life of the agriculturist is the most pure and holy of any class of men; pure, because it is the most healthful, and vice can hardly find time to contaminate it; and holy, because it brings the Deity perpetually before his view, giving him thereby the most exalted notions of supreme power, and the most fascinating and endearing view of moral benignity. The agriculturist views the Deity in His works; he contemplates the divine economy in the arrangement of the seasons; and he hails *Nature* immediately presiding over every object that strikes his eyes; he witnesses many of her great and beautiful operations, and her productive faculties; his heart insensibly expands, from his minute acquaintance with multifarious objects, all in themselves original; whilst that degree of retirement in which he is placed from the bustling haunts of mankind, keeps alive in his breast his natural affections, unblunted by an extensive and perpetual intercourse with man in a more enlarged, and therefore in a more corrupt state of society. His habits become his principles, and he is ready to risk his life to maintain them.

**"TWO GOLDEN JUBILEES."**

The subject of Father Morris' lecture, which will be delivered in the Star of the Sea Hall next Tuesday, is one of living interest, one replete with instruction, and one that will give the history of Church and State in the British Empire for the past fifty years. The "Two Golden Jubilees" is the title of the lecture—the story of the era, in one department, of human activity which has elapsed since Father Pecci stood a young man before the Altar, pledging his life and labors to the service of the Omnipotent; and in that other vast department of worldly advancement which has taken place since the young Princess Victoria of seventeen was awakened from sleep one night in Kensington Palace to hear from the lips of British ministers that she was now the wielder of that mighty sceptre which extended over strange lands to the uttermost bounds of the earth. Here is a subject of tremendous importance indeed; here is one that might well stir the ambition of a Tully or a Sheridan to win undying laurels with—one the mere contemplation of which fills the mind with wonder. The Rev. M. P. Morris is a good lecturer; that he will be well prepared to do justice to the splendid theme, we may well be assured. He will be actuated in his efforts by the benevolent wish to serve the institution over which he so effectively presides. As for the audience—it will be an immense one—we are sure; the people desire to give what they can on those occasions to sustain the orphanage of Villa Nova, and they will be well repaid, for they will hear a vast amount of instruction on these great historical subjects, identified on the one hand with the name of His Holiness Leo XIII., and, on the other, with that of Her Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria.

AND now comes the ominous information that the Board of Health spent, during the year past, the huge sum of nine hundred pounds. On what? is a fair question to ask. There was no epidemic to contend with, no extensive visitation of contagious sickness, thank Heaven! Of course these Board of Health charges afford a convenient receptacle for poking away expenditures of a corrupt and secret nature. Let us have the full details that this enormous sum of money is associated with. Such irregularity is what might be expected from the irresponsible character of the Board.

**HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY NOTES.**

**Bond's Amendment to Bait Bill.**

**MORINE'S AMENDMENT FOR RAILWAY NORTH.**

**Murphy's Amendment For Bank Fishermen.**

Mr. BOND'S amendment to the paragraph referring to the Bait Bill was as follows:—

"We notice your Excellency's intimation that the Government propose adopting measures for enforcing the provisions of the act passed last session respecting bait fishes. Whilst we entertain decided opinions as to protecting our bait fishes, we feel that the course which has been taken in this direction is of such a speculative character as to cause grave doubts as to its being in any way effective towards accomplishing the object apparently in view. The act will certainly operate to the serious pecuniary loss of a large number of our fishermen heretofore engaged in the bait traffic, and owing to considerable property which, by the provision of the Bait Act, is rendered comparatively valueless. We, therefore, regret that no provision has been made for affording compensation to those who have been, and will be, sufferers to a large amount by a rigid enforcement of the act. We are also constrained to conclude, from instructions already issued by Government and upon the act itself, that whilst our people will be debarred from engaging in this trade, it will be carried on with impunity by the fishermen of the Dominion of Canada. Had a law been enacted by which the wholesale and wanton destruction of bait fishes would be prevented at those seasons of the year which the natural habits of those fishes would point to as a close time, and with which the privilege of procuring bait fishes conferred upon foreign vessels would be confined to those purchasing the same in our harbors, a lucrative trade would be secured to our people on the one hand, and upon the other they would be permitted to engage in the more important industry—the cod fishery—more constantly than they have hitherto; and there would be no excuse for threatened retaliatory measures by a foreign and heretofore unfriendly power."

For the Amendment—Messrs. Bond, Morine, Parsons and McGrath. For the Government—Hon'bles Winter, Donnelly, Penny, Goodridge, and Messrs. Scott, Callanan, Morris, Greene, Carty, Bradshaw, Watson, Chairman McKay, Rolls, Kane, Peters and March.

After Mr. Bond's Amendment was lost, against which, in direct antagonism to the interest of their constituents, who sell bait to Americans, Messrs. Greene, Scott, Callanan, Peters, LeMessurier, Veitch, Godden, Penny and Morris voted, Mr. Morine arose to move an amendment in addition to Placencia railway paragraph of address. It was as follows:—

"We are deeply sensible of the entire absence of any expressed intention on the part of the Government to continue the railway from Harbor Grace Junction towards Hall's Bay, with a view to meeting the wants of the very large population in the Northern districts, and the developing of those valuable agricultural, mineral and timber lands in the interior of the Island. This, we consider, should be commenced without delay, and should be continued as rapidly as a due regard for judicious economy and the revenue of the colony will permit."

The vote on this stood as follows:—For Amendment—Messrs. Bond, Morine, Murphy, Parsons, McGrath, Morris, Scott, Callanan and Greene. For Government—Hon'bles Winter, Donnelly, Penny, Goodridge, Messrs. Greene, Carty, Watson, Bradshaw, Chairman McKay, Rolls, March, Godden, LeMessurier, Peters, Kane and Veitch.

It was lost, and the Northern members will have to answer their own constituents the reason why they refused to vote for a railway North.

Mr. Murphy now arose to move an amendment in addition to the Fishery Bureau paragraph of the address. It was as follows:—

"We would recommend before the close of the present session some legislation to be made on the subject of our Bank fishery which, of recent years, has become of so much economic importance to the labor of this colony. The said legislation should deal with the custom of charging 20 per cent. interest for cash after the voyage is in the hands of the supplier or his agent, and also with the custom of charging supply prices for goods after the voyage is in the hands of such supplier or his agent, to the great detriment of the fishermen engaged in this hazardous industry, who usually are after the first trip in credit. The said legislation to benefit the fisherman only after such time as the voyage or fish is in the hands of the supplier or his agent, and also only after, as far as from the facts can be ascertained, he is in credit. The amendment was moved in a short speech showing the terrible injustice done our Bank fishermen by present practices. The vote was taken and was the same as the last."

The address was passed at 12 o'clock and His Honor the Speaker acquainted the House that the Governor would meet the House to receive address at 12.30 next day.

Tuesday's Proceedings.—A deputation consisting of all the members of the Assembly waited on His Excellency yesterday. On to-morrow we shall give a graphic account of the freezing reception thus met with. The House is adjourned till Monday next.

**LOCAL VARIETIES.**

OPERATIONS to raise the coastal boat *Plover* will not be undertaken till Spring.

THE Christian Brothers gratefully acknowledge the receipt of Four Dollars towards their annual collection, from Mr. M. Cashin, Cape Broyle.

The mail-boat *Newfoundland* left Halifax at 7 o'clock last night for this port, and may be looked for here early on Friday morning, provided the ice doesn't raise its embargo.

It is to be hoped that the Post Office authorities will send, as usual, a mail for the north side of Trinity and the south side of Bonavista Bays by the S.S. *Neptune*, which sails for Catalina next Monday morning.

THE brisk breeze from the Westward to-day has cleared the offing of drift-ice. No foreign arrivals entered this port last night; the *Rosevear*, belonging to Messrs. Munn & Co., put into Cape Broyle Harbor, but was, no doubt, liberated by the present wind.

We must apologize to our esteemed correspondents "Nehemiah McGrath," "A Merchant," "Ergo," "H. P." and "Critic," for the non-appearance of their letters in to-day's TELEGRAM. To-morrow, however, we shall do our best to accommodate them.

SCOTCHMEN who read the TELEGRAM—and, sure, they all enjoy the people's paper—will be tickled to learn that the Emir of Afghanistan has fallen in love with bagpipes, and has ordered 200 of them for Cabul. The Shah of Persia has also ordered a considered number of the same instruments. Thus music soothes the savage breast.

THE steamer *Miranda*, of the Red Cross line, has got a charter to ply between New Orleans and ports in Central America, and will be purchased in all probability by the chartering company, as the steamer appears to meet their wants, manifesting a disposition to buy, and the owners manifesting every disposition to sell.

POLITICIANS are sly animals, and may generally, when they do wrong, be classed as rogues rather than fools. The men whom the people of our northern districts have deputed here to reduce needless taxation must be judged by general rules. However great the question which statesmen may debate, the right or wrong of it is a simple matter. Judged in that way, our local legislature usually does the right thing with reluctance. An evil proposal merits more open approbation.

THE skating ice of the Parade Rink was unaffected by the thaw of yesterday, for it seems they have a colder temperature by three or four degrees up there than prevails in the lower levels of the town. A crisp and smooth sheet of ice awaits the coming of the festive throng to-night, and there will be music from 8 till 10 p.m. To-morrow evening the carnival takes place, and the merry masqueraders will afford one more opportunity of spending a pleasant hour and of hearing some pretty airs from the Band.

THE types committed a rather humorous error with one word of a paragraph in Saturday's issue touching the musical practice of the T. A. Band: one, too, which illustrates how a change of even one word only sometimes has the effect of reversing the meaning sought to be conveyed. It consisted in the insertion of "dozen in place of good"—"eight or ten good players supported by three or four leading reed instruments" will give us what so many are desirous of hearing: the interpretation of classical music. Such a band would suit our local circumstances; to hear one composed of "dozens of instrument" is something that may be found at such events as the Boston Peace Jubilee, or some mammoth celebration at the London Crystal Palace.

This is not a convenient day for a natal day. It's rather hard for those youngsters whose "lines are cast in pleasant places" to have to wait for four years before receiving a birthday present. To hear Master Tom say, "Oh! I'm going to have lots of nice things on my birthday, the 28th of February;" and Master Will exclaim, "yes, and I'm going to have an evening party, the day after, the 1st of March, you must come," are hard sayings to poor Jack who listens sorrowfully, the victim of a strange mishap that he cannot comprehend, by which his birth-day is skipped over. Poor Jack's fate is a hard one, but perhaps by-and-bye some highly endowed young miss on fortune's side will console him by exercising woman's prerogative in leap year, and affording him substantial indemnity for being ushered into the world on the 29th of February.

**DIED.**  
At Sandy Point, Bay St. George, on Feb. 19th, Annie Mary Angela, only child of Antony and Annie M. Y. Nardini.

**SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.**  
CLEARED.  
29—Donna Maria, LeMarquand, Barcelona, P & I, Tessier—2816 qts fish.