THE HERALD

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Mr. Davies' Inaccuracies.

BEFORE proceeding to remark upon the very serious charges which, in his speech before the Junior Liberals, Mr. L. H. Davies made against the Liberal Conservative party of this Province, it may be as well to repeat a few of the utterances contained in that remarkable effort. Mr. Davies said:

"It was just as important that we should have good men in our Local Legislature as at Ottawa. I would call the attention of our young men to the fact that, when they see the rights of the people wrung from them, a Tory leader is always at the head of the Government. I say that every political outrage has been carried out by one of the party which are called by the mongrel name 'Liberal-Conservative.' I stand here and take the responsibility of my words and say that our affairs have been totally mismanaged by the Tories while in power."

What a nobly magnanimous action on Mr. Davies' part to take the responsibility of his own words! Who on earth did he expect would be responsible if not himself? Mr. Davies may be an exceedingly clever man, a rising statesman, a budding diplomat and all that sort of thing, but there are very few of his acquaintances willing to become responsible for a tithe of what he says.

We have already dealt with Mr. Davies' rhodomontade regarding the commission of political outrages by the Liberal-Conservative party; we have now to consider his statements in reference to the conduct of provincial affairs during the term of their ascendancy. Mr. Davies said:

"Our affairs have been totally mismanaged by the Tories while in power. Had the money which was actually ours, and which we possessed, been kept and properly managed, we could have gone on for years without taxing the people. When we went into Confederation we had a revenue of $400,000, and $270,000 were lying to our credit in the local banks for buildings which we had sold to Canada. In three years $223,000 over and above our income were spent. I told them this thing would not last." Every school-boy knows that we sold only one building, the Post Office, to the Dominion, for which we received $69,000, but a story never loses anything by Mr. Davies telling it. Aside, however, from this, Mr. Davies has stated the situation most unfairly. Granted that we had a revenue of $400,000 upon entering Confederation, anyone with the slightest idea of the financial position of the Island then, and for the two or three succeeding years, knows that our revenue was bound to decrease proportionally as we drew upon our capital at Ottawa for payment of the Railway and for the purchase of Proprietary Estates. When we went into Confederation, our railway was not half finished, and until we paid in full for its construction, we received interest at five per cent. upon the amount unpaid. That helped to swell our receipts, but the faster the Railway was constructed, the faster our revenue decreased. Another amount upon which we received $40,000 annually was the sum allowed for the purchase of Proprietary Estates, and which was not touched until 1875—that amount was never intended to remain a source of revenue for all time. How manifestly unfair then for Mr. Davies to represent our position in the way he did. He said: "In three years $223,000 over and above our income was spent. I told them this thing would not last." How considerate in Mr. Davies, and how utterly abandoned that wretched Tory Government, of which Mr. John Yeo, the present leader of the Opposition, and political partner of Mr. Davies, was Finance Minister. "Where was I?" said Mr. Davies, "I was in my place, but when I cried they would not listen." Where was Mr. John Yeo, in those days, we ask? He was bringing down the Estimates session after session, making annual Budget speeches, spending the money hand over fist and telling the people that everything was lovely. He heard Mr. Davies cry, but he did not listen—he hears him now, he smiles blandly and quotes familiarly "*Vox et praeterea nihil.*"

It is true that upon December 31, 1873, we had a balance to the credit of the Island of nearly $270,000—it is also true that in three years this amount had decreased by $223,000. But it must be noted that this balance was not a true balance. Against it stood to be charged over $6,000 of unpaid Treasury notes afloat, over $800 of unpaid warrants, and between twenty-five and thirty thousand dollars of other outstanding bills. It was also liable to be disturbed by charging against it payments which properly belonged anterior to Confederation as well as by crediting to it amounts due before that period. Taking these into consideration therefore, and assuming that our receipts during the three years had been sufficient to cover our expenditure, the balance on Dec. 31, 1876, would have been $256,408.71. But the revenue during those years was not sufficient to meet the expenses, and on December 31, 1876 we find a deficit amounting to $211,000 which, added to the decrease in the first balance, makes the $223,000 spoken of by Mr. Davies.

It will naturally be said that Mr. Davies was correct in his statement, and that the Tories must have mismanaged affairs sadly to spend $223,000 over and above their income in three years. That is exactly the impression Mr. Davies desired to leave, but it would have been only honest on his part to have gone a little deeper into the matter and explained how this large amount was spent. Was it in eating and drinking—was it on delegations or in salaries or increased pay to themselves that they managed to run up such a heavy debt? Let us see.

The total receipts for the three years, 1874-5-6 were $936,240.50 or considerably less than $400,000 a year, as Mr. Davies would lead the people to believe while the total expenditure was $1,147,803.23, or an excess of $211,562.92. In what way was this extraordinary amount spent? We shall proceed to enumerate. For Railway purposes in land damages, salaries of Engineers, Commissioners, Appraisers, for the extra amount awarded the Contractors by the Arbitrators—altogether there was paid under this head $139,627.98—quite an item. When we sold our Post Office, in which was situate our Law Courts, we had to provide another building in Charlottetown which cost $60,032.05. A Courthouse and Gaol were also built in Summerside at an outlay of $56,172.99. For the improvement of the Hillsborough Ferry, the steamer *Southport* was built at a cost of $24,259.66, and the *Elfin* was acquired for $12,507.28. The Commissioners sitting under the provisions of the Land Purchase Act had gone through the most of their work by the end of 1876 and, in one way or another, had cost $23,286.85. The Queen's County Gaol was almost entirely rebuilt at a cost of $14,454.34, and County Courthouses were erected in several villages at an outlay of $9,332.03. There was also an expenditure of $3,795.19 paid for valuing estates and other purposes in connection with the Land Office, which we include here, because Mr. Davies spent a large sum for similar services, and we give him the benefit of such expenditure—a total of $343,468.37 for exceptional purposes—for services properly chargeable to Capital Account.

Railway	$139,637.98
Courthouse & Gaol, Ch'town	74,486.39
do Summerside	56,172.99
Southport & Elfin	36,766.94
Land Commission, &c.	27,082.04
County Courthouses	9,322.03
	$343,468.37

During the same period the whole amount received from the Land Office, and from Land Assessment—that is, the sum total drawn directly from the people was $156,152.06, which added to $211,562.93 drawn from capital makes $367,714.99, or only $24,000 more than the amount above shown as expended for special works. In other words, only $24,000 of the amount drawn from the people were spent for ordinary purposes of government, the remainder of $132,000 with $211,000 drawn capital being applied to permanent works. We think our readers will agree with us that this puts the matter in a different light. The Government of the day would have been justified in applying the greater portion, if not the whole, of the amount contributed by the people, to the ordinary expenses of the country, but having an unusual revenue from other sources, they applied it to works of permanent utility. Mr. Davies said "had the money been kept and properly managed we could have gone on for years without taxing the people." Will he kindly point out any mismanagement which took place in the expenditure of this $343,000? Will he shew how we could have kept it and still built our Courthouses and our Steamers, paid for our Railway and the expenses of the Land Commission? Certainly we might have drawn the $129,000 paid on account of the Railway, from capital at Ottawa, but how would that have improved matters? We would have lost five per cent interest which it was drawing at Ottawa, and possibly have invested it in our Local Banks at four per cent, which would have been clever financing.

Although Mr. Davies came into power in September, 1876, we have charged the whole of that year's expenditure to the Tories, and he took very good care that everything that he could rake or scrape up in the shape of a bill should be charged in the accounts for 1876, so that he started with a clear sheet in 1877, and we are going to treat him in the same way when he went out of office by charging to the year 1878, a very large amount of unpaid bills which he left behind for his successors to liquidate. The years 1877 and 1878 were the only two full years during which Mr. Davies was at the head of the Government, and we shall see how he managed. The total receipts during these two years were $638,959.98 and the total expenditure, inclusive of bills left unpaid at the end of 1878, and which Mr. Sullivan had to pay in 1879, was $725,837.37, leaving a deficit of $86,877.39. Rather poor management; but let us see did Mr. Davies make any extraordinary payments, properly chargeable to capital. Upon the new Lunatic Asylum he spent $63,858.28—he bought the Carey farm for $7,280—for expenses connected with the Land Purchase Act and for valuing estates he paid $17,085.46—for building County Courthouses at Souris and Alberton he paid $6,525.22, and for a balance connected with the Railway, $983.94—these sums make a total of $95,732.90. But as we have no desire to treat Mr. Davies unfairly we shall include two other amounts paid during his administration for what may fairly be considered special services. These are $14,282.43 for macadamizing and $4,310.71 for repairs to the steamers *Southport* and *Elfin* before delivering them to the contractors for the Hillsborough Ferry. These items sum up together $114,326.04.

Asylum	$63,858.28
Land Purchase Act	17,085.46
Macadamizing	14,282.43
Carey Farm	7,280.00
County Courthouses	6,525.22
Southport and Elfin	4,310.71
Railway	983.94
	$114,326.04

During these two years Mr. Davies drew from the pockets of the people, through the Land Office and by direct taxation, the enormous sum of $130,269.83, and with the deficit of $86,000 when he went out of office, all he had to shew for his expenditure was the items we have enumerated, representing $114,326.04. When the Tories were in power from 1873 to 1876, they took only $24,000 of the people's money to apply to the ordinary purposes of Government. Mr. Davies in two years took $302,000, and if he had been given more opportunity, there is no telling where he would have stopped. This, then, is the man who has the presumption to say that the Tories mismanaged our affairs. Mr. Davies is either ignorant and does not know what he is talking about, or he is dishonest and trying to deceive the people.

The discussion of these matters may, at this distance of time, appear unprofitable, but as Mr. Davies did not consider them out of date when he thought there was a chance of making a point against the Liberal Conservative party, we have followed him up in order to expose his inaccuracies, and to show the people how little reliance can be placed upon his statements.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

WE have to thank some unknown friend at Ottawa for copies of Parliamentary papers, which we have received regularly since the opening of the session.

BECAUSE we took our own part when the *Examiner* called us a "second hand journal," and accused us of stealing its news, that sheet now says that we deliberately persist in the defamation of a contemporary newspaper.

THE Grits are playing ducks and drakes with the finances of Ontario. They have increased the ordinary expenses of government one hundred and fifty per cent, have made large draughts upon their capital to meet pressing demands, and are now about to seek pecuniary relief from the Dominion. Such has always been the history of Grit administration.

WE hear great complaints, and they are not without good foundation, that only one clerk is detailed to attend to both boxholders and general delivery wickets at our city Post Office. Surely the present staff is large enough to afford a clerk at each, otherwise it must be increased. The people must be accommodated even at the risk of a little inconvenience to the officials.

THE attention of the Stipendiary Magistrate, and of the police, is directed to the very reckless driving and driving without bells, which have recently become so prevalent in this city and which, we learn, have not been unattended with accident. Some of our citizens have also become very careless about clearing the snow off their sidewalks. If we have City Bye-laws they should be enforced, and some of our prominent men who are so ready to prosecute a poor woman for selling a drop on the sly, are equally guilty of a violation of the law in not keeping their sidewalks clear of snow. It is a poor rule that will not work both ways.

THE residents of Summerside held a meeting on Monday evening last at which a resolution was passed expressive of their dissatisfaction and regret at the manner in which the Dominion Government had violated their engagements in the matter of continuous steam communication with the mainland, and insisting upon the strict and immediate fulfilment of the Terms of Union. Another resolution was passed urging upon the Government the necessity of investigating the requirements of the Cape Traverse route, and of taking immediate control thereof, so as to render the same safe and practicable. The proceedings of the meeting were ordered to be transmitted to the Secretary of State for the information of the Dominion Government.

THE Rev. Kenneth McLennan of Kingston, Ont., formerly minister of St. James' Kirk in this city, has written the Toronto *Mail* upon the subject of the recent ice-boat disaster. He puts our case in a strong light from the standpoint which a seven years' residence on the Island enables him to assume, and calls upon the Government to redeem their plighted faith with this Island. The attention of the residents of the Mainland must surely be attracted by the able and eloquent pleas of Archbishop O'Brien, Prof. Schurman, General Laurie and Mr. McLennan, and we are induced to hope that, this session, a larger degree of interest will be manifested by the representatives from the other Provinces than is usually the case upon "Island Day" in the Commons.

THE revenue for the seven months ended 31st January last was $18,465,930, and the expenditure in the same period, $19,513,640, shewing a deficit on the current year's transactions of over a million dollars. Some of our contemporaries see in these figures signs of trouble ahead—we do not. In the first place this seven months expenditure includes the full year's subsidies to the Provinces, as well as other very large portions of the contemplated outlay for the year. In the next place, the revenue for the month of January, as compared with the same month last year, shews an increase of $125,000, all of which occurred in customs duties, which may be accepted as an indication that the revenue from customs for the rest of this year will be in excess of last year. The Grits are busy shouting about a deficit—a year ago they were howling about the surpluses which the Government were wringing from the people. Nothing will satisfy the Grits except the reins of Government, and that they are not likely to get.

THE want of proper accommodation at the city Post Office and of facilities for postal delivery, are becoming more severely felt every day. Each evening there is a tremendous rush at the wickets, and the application for a letter requires not only an inordinate expenditure of time, but a heavy draught upon the patience and meekness of our christian community. Are we ever to enjoy the privileges which other towns in this Dominion possess of a house to house delivery, and of letter boxes at various points of the city? Turning, the other day, to a fyle of this paper of 16th May, 1883, we read that Mr. Brecken had had several interviews with the Postmaster General upon the subject, and that that official's reply impressed him with the idea that we would, ere long, be in line with other cities as regards postal facilities. Two years have passed and we are no farther advanced. Mr. Brecken is now Postmaster and we believe it would be as much to the advantage of the officials as of the public to have one or two letter carriers. An improvement we must have.

As will be observed in another column, the Benevolent Irish Society intend celebrating St. Patrick's Day this year, by attending Divine Service in St. Dunstan's Cathedral in the morning, and by a grand concert in the Market Hall in the evening. The committee in charge are sparing no pains to make the celebration a success; they have laid tribute upon the best musical talent which our Island affords and, as will be noticed, special inducements are offered, by reduced railway rates, to persons desirous to attend from the country.

Love of Country.

The Hon. Donald Ferguson's lecture on the above subject was fairly well attended, notwithstanding the other attractions of Monday evening last. Mr. W. C. DeBrisay, Vice-President of the Benevolent Irish Society, under whose auspices the lecture was delivered, occupied the chair. His Honor the Lieutenant Governor, the Reverend Fathers McIntyre, Gallant and McDonald, and others of our prominent citizens, were present. Mr. Ferguson in the course of his lecture, which was nicely written and well delivered, traversed the fields of sacred and profane history, both in prose and verse, and culled from song and story many a beautiful selection, that aptly illustrated his theme. As he himself intimated, all will not agree with him in saying that the power and prestige of a country are the most fruitful sources of patriotism. We, ourselves, believe that Poland and Ireland, the Niobes of the nations, have produced more and grander examples of the purest and most unselfish patriotism than any other country in ancient or modern times. Washington, too, was a patriot of the loftiest type, ere his country had prestige or could afford him protection. But "many men have many minds;" and although we may have different views on these matters from the lecturer, we cannot refrain from bestowing a just measure of praise on his very able effort. In closing he gave an eloquent description of Canada, showing how deserving she is of the love of her sons, and augured well for her future greatness. He paid an able tribute to the press, but pointed out that it had a power for evil as well as good, and in no way is the former used with more direful results than in depreciating our Dominion. Public questions, he said, should be judged rather from a patriotic than a financial standpoint.

At the close, Professor Clark, in a few apposite remarks laudatory of the lecture, proposed a vote of thanks, which was seconded by Judge Reddin, and carried unanimously. Mr. Ferguson suitably acknowledged the vote, and the audience dispersed with the fervor of patriotism, no doubt, burning more brightly than ever in their bosoms.

Parliamentary Notes.

Mr. Charlton has introduced a Bill into Parliament for the better observance of Sunday, which prohibits the running of excursion trains or steamers on that day, under a penalty of $500 for each offence.

Dr. Orton, M. P., has introduced a measure to extend better banking facilities to agriculturists. The scheme contemplates the establishment of bank shares, which farmers can purchase by first mortgage on their property, these mortgages to be negotiable and interest thereon to be guaranteed by the Dominion.

The total number of settlers that arrived in Canada last year was 103,824, or 30,000 less than in 1883. Of these 20,779 proceeded to Manitoba, including 9,728 from the United States and 6 920 from Great Britain. From the other provinces 9,486 persons removed to the Northwest last year, three-fourths of them going from Ontario.

The total number of light-stations in the Dominion on 31st December last was 507, and of lights shown 597; the number of steam fog whistles and automatic fog horns, 33, and the number of light keepers, engineers and crews of light-ships 652. The steamers owned by the Dominion are the *Napoleon III*, *Druid*, *Newfield*, *Sir James Douglas*, *Northern Light*, *Lansdowne*, *La Canadienne*, and the steam launch *Dolphin*. The *Northern Light* commenced the winter service last year on the 17th December, and continued till 16th January, 1884. On 16th March she succeeded in breaking out of Georgetown harbor, and continued to make regular trips up to the 23rd of May, when navigation regularly opened. She earned last year $6,206.10, and there was expended upon her $19,539.

The question of our Winter Communication has been before Parliament, and the necessity of something being done at once for its improvement has again been pressed upon the notice of the Government. The subject was brought up by Mr. McDonald in a motion for correspondence relating to the placing of piers, and procuring of Steam Tugs at Capes Traverse and Tormentine. Messrs. Hackett and Jenkins also spoke, as did Mr. Wood from Westmorland, N. B., and Mr Landry from Kent, N. B. Mr. Wood asked the co-operation of the Island members towards securing from the Government a subsidy for the Cape Tormentine branch railway, on which, he assured the House, rapid progress was being made. Our Island members spoke well and to the point, but as the motion was only one for the production of papers, it was agreed to without any signification by the Government of the action they intend to take in the matter.

The report of the Postmaster General presents very interesting statistics, and affords some idea of how Canada is advancing in settlement. During the year 442 new offices were established, making the number in operation on 1st November last 6 837. Mail service was organized on 2,488 additional miles of post route, and more frequent communication given on existing routes—thus the annual mail travel has been increased by 1,421,195 miles. The amount of matter passing through the offices has also largely increased, and has been accompanied by an increase in both revenue and expenditure. The Money Order system has been extended, and orders may now be procured upon France, Sweden, Norway, Denmark and the Netherlands, and generally with all British possessions and foreign countries with which Great Britain has similar arrangements. The money order business has largely increased, the total issue last year being $10,067,834, as compared with $9,490,899 in 1883. The transactions of the P. O. Savings Banks have also extended, the number of depositors having increased from 61,059 in 1883 to 66,682 in 1884, whilst the amount held on deposit increased from $11,976,237 to $13,245,552. The revenue of the department last year was $2,330,741—the number of registered letters carried about 3,000,000—the number of postal cards 13,580,000—the number of letters 66,100,000—the miles travelled by the mails 20,886,316, and the miles of mail route 47,131.

Mr. Malachy B. Daly, Member of the House of Commons for Halifax, has been elected Chairman of Committees and Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons. This move has been rendered necessary by the enormous strain put upon the time and health of the Speaker, by being compelled to sit for many hours continuously in a chamber which is not always properly ventilated. To Sir John Macdonald's proposition for the appointment of this official, Mr. Blake of course made several objections. He insisted that the Deputy Speaker should have a knowledge of that language not spoken by the Speaker. In this Mr. Blake was simply making a bid for popularity with the French members, and as Sir John said, his object was "too thin." He then took the objection that the appointment could not be made by resolution, but required an Act of Parliament. Sir John replied that of this he was perfectly aware, and that it was his intention to introduce a Bill upon the resolution so soon as passed. We observe that the Opposition press are circulating the report that Mr. Blake caught Sir John "napping" on this matter, and that, until reminded by Mr. Blake, Sir John did not know of the necessity to bring in a bill. So far from this being the case, Sir John held the bill in his hand ready to be introduced, but very cunningly enticed Mr. Blake along until the Opposition cheers over Sir John's supposed discomfiture were deafening, when he quietly turned the tables on Mr. Blake by laying the bill on the table. Catch Sir John asleep! An hour or two later, when Mr. Daly took the Chair of Committee, he proved his knowledge of the French language by reading several resolutions in French and English easily and correctly. Mr. Daly will be remembered on this Island as the son of Sir Dominick Daly, who was our Lieutenant Governor from 1854 to 1859.

Ottawa has been inundated by immense delegations representing both sides of the liquor question. First of all the Dominion Alliance met, and its members showed no diminution of zeal in the cause they have at heart. Their session lasted several days, and they discussed temperance, Scott Act and Prohibition in its various phases. Hundreds of petitions have been presented to both Houses, praying that no change may be made in the Scott Act except with a view to prohibition. Last week the licensed victuallers met in council and interviewed the Government. The delegation of the victuallers borrowed additional strength from the support accorded them by the Banks, and Loan and Building Societies, and by the coopers and cigar manufacturers. The memorial of the bankers which was signed by almost every institution in Toronto, set forth that they were carrying a large amount of paper made by liquor dealers, and that the adoption of the Scott Act in so many counties was seriously affecting the securities held. The victuallers claimed compensation for the loss of their investments. Sir John Macdonald, in reply, pointed out that the Government, like Parliament was divided in opinion on the question of partial or total legislative prohibition and that all but one of the requests made by the victuallers, that for the appointment of a commissioner to enquire into the working of the Scott Act, must be dealt with by Parliament. Sir John further stated that in the event of a prohibitory law being passed, he personally would vote for and advise the allowance of compensation to those whose property and vested interests were affected.

The Intercolonial Railway is a Government institution that has certainly, in every point of view, proved more satisfactory to the people, since the Liberal Conservative Government resumed the reins of power six years ago. Up to that time the road was operated at a heavy annual deficit. Sir Charles Tupper then took hold of it, and by applying the pruning knife judiciously, by zealously cultivating new branches of traffic, without lowering the character of the road in the least, he established a new order of things—the revenue each year has not only been sufficient to cover the expenditure, but a small surplus has remained. Last year the net profit amounted to $9,068, and this notwithstanding the fact that the receipts were less by $17,000 than in the previous year, and that a heavy expenditure was made chargeable to revenue. For instance thirty-two miles of track were relaid; seventy miles were ballasted, nearly 300,000 new sleepers put in, new sidings constructed, seven new stations and freight houses built; the general offices at Moncton, destroyed by fire in 1883, were rebuilt; four new locomotives and eighty cars were supplied, and other necessary repairs made, the charges for which were all taken from the earnings of the year. Although the receipts of 1884 were less than in 1883, the freight and passenger traffic were much larger, and the difference is accounted for by the lower rates which were collected. The total gross tonnage carried in 1884 was 1,001,163 tons against 970,961 tons in 1883, and the number of passengers carried in 1883 was 920,870, or 42 270 more than in 1883. Our Island road was operated last year at a loss of $75,850, the gross earnings having fallen from $146,170 in 1883 to $144,501 in 1884. The chief engineer reports that he has no hope of any material increase in the earnings, although he expects that a better exhibit will in future be made as regards expenditure, and that the two sides of the account will be more equal.

The War in the Soudan.

It is now admitted that Khartoum has fallen and that Gordon is dead. The man who has given the most intelligent account of the events attending the fall of Khartoum, is Abdul Kerim, one of Gordon's servants. He secured his escape from Khartoum, after the city fell, he says, by bribery. He bought a camel and crossed to Debbeh, the journey taking 12 days. From Debbeh he came to Korti in an English pinnace. He says that Faraz, upon whom Gordon relied implicitly, was really the person who delivered Khartoum to El Mahdi's troops. When they entered the city Faraz prevented the garrison from firing upon them. Faraz had once been a slave and Gordon secured his liberation. He says when Gordon made Faraz military commandant he used to receive letters from El Mahdi. When Gordon would ask him about his correspondence, Faraz would say they were unimportant and Gordon apparently took him at his word. General Gordon's clerk and the chief clerk of the arsenal were killed. El Mahdi did not enter Khartoum until the third day after the capitulation. He inspected the city and then returned to Omdurman where he remains. After Gordon fell, the Arabs killed his clerk, and nine others with spears. Others who were with Gordon escaped. The man declares that with the exception of the attack in which these murders were committed there was no fighting in Khartoum. During the attack, however, all Europeans and most of the notables were killed. While the attack was in progress, the male inhabitants joined the insurgents. Abdul states that no women or children were killed and all who submitted to the invaders and surrendered their valuables were permitted to depart unharmed It was reported that El Mahdi ordered Faraz to be hanged—and that the prophet's soldiers plundered Khartoum, killing all the Greeks in the arsenal and beheading all prisoners except the Greek consul, Nicolai, and a doctor. Abdul Kerim says El Mahdi has 40,000 good fighting men who, however, have been somewhat scared at the results of battles at Abu Klea, Gubat and Kabbabish.

It is announced that in view of the fact that the fall of Khartoum and the death of Gordon have rendered the main objects of Wolseley's expedition impossible, the government has deemed it expedient to change the whole plan of the campaign in the Soudan. Brackenbury, who succeeded the late Gen. Earle, has been ordered to abandon his advance on Berber and to concentrate his troops at Korti. Redvers Buller, who evacuated Gubat on the 13th inst., and withdrew his forces to Abu Klea, has also been ordered to fall back on Korti. Additional troops in Wolseley's command will be concentrated at that place and at Debbeh and Koresko, the main body being at Korti. It is probable that Gen. Wolseley may evacuate Korti and retire to Debbeh. At Korti the general could be surrounded. The whole army entrenched at Debbeh could hold its own if necessary until the rising of the Nile occurs.

The ministerial speeches in parliament conceal the true situation in the Soudan. Wolseley has applied for reinforcements on the Nile, and it is reported he wants 2,000 English troops to try to march from Koresko across the desert up to Abu Hamed, where Brackenbury has been ordered to remain until a simultaneous advance with Graham's force from Suakim can be made upon Berber. Should the Mahdi threaten Dongola, Wolseley will retire to Debbeh. It is feared that the appearance of the Mahdi near Dongola would lead to a general rising in Nubia and Upper Egypt in his favor. Egyptian troops are between Assouan and Wady Halfa.

Upon the capture of Khartoum El Mahdi seized all the treasure in Gen. Gordon's possession. This included a large amount of bank notes which El Mahdi is now trying to discount. A few copies of leaden medals struck by Gordon, to commemorate the long siege of Khartoum, have been received in London and are selling for double their weight in gold.

Eighty of the Canadian *voyageurs* remain at Korti for further service in the Soudan. All the officers offered to remain until the end of the campaign and the offers of three of them, Dennison, Kennedy and Neilson were accepted.

The first battalion of the Coldstream Guards, 846 in number, started last Thursday for Suakim. They left the Wellington barracks amid pathetic scenes of leave taking. Relatives and friends had assembled in force. A detachment of hussars left Aldershot also for Portsmouth, where they will embark for Egypt. The steamer *Tyne* sailed from Portsmouth on Thursday, with reinforcements and stores for Soudan. Advices from Gakdul Wells on the 17th inst., reports arrival there of Gen. Wood and three companies of infantry.

A despatch from Korti says Gen. Buller, who began his retreat from Gubat several days ago, was compelled to halt at Abu Klea wells and entrench his troops in position there in order to safely defend himself against El Mahdi's men, who are gathering in large numbers on his line of retreat and continually menacing the British forces. Special despatches indicate that Wolseley will have to send strong reinforcements to Buller if the latter is to be rescued from his perilous position. Grave fears are entertained in some quarters that Buller may meet the fate of Gordon unless speedily succored. The Government has called out the militia and suspended the transfer of officers from the regular army to the reserves. This action has created a profound sensation, and a general feeling of alarm respecting the safety of not only the forces under Buller, but also those under Wolseley and Brackenbury.

The opinion is widely expressed that the war office has received more startling information from Wolseley than that conveyed in the telegram in relation to Buller being hemmed in at Abu Klea wells.

Another message from Wolseley says General Buller reports from Abu Klea on Tuesday, as follows: "About thirty of the enemy's cavalry scouted around us all day Monday. They were reinforced about an hour before sunset by 400 infantry armed with rifles. The infantry crossed a hill to the northeast of us and have kept up a well aimed desultory long range fire. This fire thus far caused sixteen casualties. I am perfectly satisfied here against the attack of even a large force but of course this long range firing is annoying." Wolseley adds that Gen. Wood, who is at Gakdul, is sending transports to Buller, as the latter needs additional transport service. Wolseley further says "I anticipate that on the arrival of camels at Abu Klea, Buller will move to Gakdul."

A despatch has been received from Korti, in which the retreat of Buller from Gubat is further explained. This despatch says El Mahdi on the 11th inst., had been engaged three days in the work of collecting his army outside of Khartoum for an advance against the English at Gubat. He was loading steamers with guns and ammunition. On the 8th he despatched two sheikhs with three thousand men and four guns down the right bank of the Nile to erect forts opposite the English forces at Gubat. The Mahdi has ordered all tribes on the east bank of the Nile to assemble opposite Gubat.

Latest advices from Khartoum are to the effect that when El Mahdi heard of the result of the battle at Abu Klea wells, he proclaimed that his own troops had gained a great victory, and announced that the English were defeated. He paraded British accoutrements, such as helmets, hoisted on spears. The prophet made a proclamation that the garrison in Khartoum were on short rations and they believed what El Mahdi announced.

The third battalion of the Grenadier Guards has started for Suakim. Previous to their setting out from Windsor they were inspected by the Prince of Wales, who addressed them. The Queen commemorated the occasion by sending an autograph letter to the officers. In this she assured them of her good wishes and her prayers. The streets through which the guards passed were brightly decorated with flags and banners, and crowds of people thronged the walks on either side and cheered as the grenadiers marched by.

It is noticed that the quantity of ammunition and projectiles now under process of manufacture and preparation at Woolwich arsenal for transport to Egypt, is greater than the quantity sent out of the country during the entire period of the Crimean war. This fact induces the belief that the government are preparing for a long campaign.

Intelligence has just been received of the death of General Stewart from the effects of wounds received in his last battle, which occurred Feb. 16, at Gakdul wells where the wounded were brought from Gubat.

A despatch from Wolseley advising the Government of the death of Gen. Stewart says: "Gen. Stewart will be buried at the entrance of the valley leading to Gakdul. He will receive a soldier's funeral. No braver soldier or more brilliant leader ever wore the Queen's uniform. England can ill afford to lose this young general."

Two hundred and twenty-six of Gordon's black troops, accompanied by their wives and families, who had reached Gubat before Khartoum fell, arrived at Ambu Kol and have gone into camp there. The growing heat will shortly compel the removal of the British camp from Korti to some point further north.

A despatch from Abu Klea says: "Gen. Buller, who arrived here on the 15th from Gubat, commenced at noon of the 17th a systematic shelling of the Arab lines. Two well directed shots did the enemy great damage—one exploding amidst a group of men engaged in placing a howitzer on the summit of a hill east of our sailors' fort, and the other removing the wheel of a gun carriage. Lord Charles Beresford also did the enemy great injury with the Gardner guns. The honor of the day fell to Major Wardrope, who, with thirteen men, stole cautiously round the enemy's right, and found they had only a few hundred riflemen on the hills and no reserve spearmen. Major Wardrope and his men, keeping out of sight, fired a volley at the range of 800 yards on the enemy's flank. Leaving one man at this point to continue the firing, he took twelve others, and as quickly as possible pursued the same tactics at three successive hills, giving the Arabs the impression that fresh bodies of British troops were arriving. The Mahdi's forces became panic-stricken, ceased firing and decamped towards Metemneh, taking guns and dead and wounded with them. A few Arab scouts only were left three miles off to watch our movements. There has been no sign of the enemy. Gen. Buller will advance to Gakdul as soon as reinforcements arrive from Korti. The British loss during the engagement was four killed and twenty-five wounded.

Gen. Graham will have 8,000 troops in Soudan by the 9th prox. These will include Indian contingent. He started last Friday.

Later details of the night attack on Gen. Buller's forces while in retreat from Gubat towards Korti, say attack was made by a party of 400 Arab sharpshooters. On the British side two men were killed and eleven wounded. Among the latter is Chas. Williams, correspondent of the London *Chronicle*, who was shot in the leg but not seriously wounded. Gen. Buller has despatched a messenger to Gen. Wolseley describing his situation as critical, and stating that El Mahdi is advancing upon his position with an immense force. The only correspondents now left with Gen. Buller are Williams and Col. Burleigh, of the London Daily *Telegraph*, who was wounded in the action near Gubat in which General Stewart was shot.

An Arabian paper reports that the Mahdi promised Faraz 140,000 thalers to betray Khartoum, but gave him only 60,000, and when Faraz complained the Mahdi hanged him. It is said that the Mahdi captured 25,000 Remington rifles at Khartoum. Efforts have been made to induce the Porte to abandon the idea of an expedition to Egypt. Grand vizier and foreign minister have told Windham that the Porte's decision is final, and that the best guarantee against further annexation on the Red Sea coast is Turkish occupation of principal forts.

Enthusiasm of the London populace for a vigorous prosecution of the war in Soudan reached its culmination on the occasion of the departure of the Scots Guards from the capital. Their leave-taking was marked with the same pathetic incidents which characterized the departure of the Coldstream and Grenadier Guards, only a greater intensity of feeling was manifested. The march from the barracks to Westminster bridge was so thronged with patriotic multitudes that it was almost impossible for the soldiers to force their passage through. As soon as the guards came in sight the air was rent with cheers.

A Suakim telegram says the arrival of British troops has alarmed Osman Digna, who is trying to gather a large force at Tamai. Osman recently killed a messenger from Toka, bearing news that the Mudir of Dongola, assisted by the Shiprai tribes, engaged in battle with the Hadendows, who had attacked friendly tribes that were supplying the English with grain. Two thousand of the Hadendows were reported killed by the Mudir and his allies.

Despatches from Cabul say uneasiness prevails in Government circles because of the remarkable number of Russians who are pouring into the Afghan capital ostensibly as travellers. It is believed by the natives that the alleged travellers are military men, and that their visits are connected with the rumored scheme of Russia for the annexation of Afghanistan.

The Porte has sent to all the Powers a protest against the occupation of Massowah by the Italians.

Western Notes.

The farmers of Kildare Capes are building a bridge across Little Tignish Pond, which will result in making the road to Tignish three or four miles shorter. Each man contributes according to his means, some giving as much as $20, others paying their share in labor. They intend petitioning the Government for assistance, which should be readily granted.

Kildare Capes School is in charge of Miss Hunter, a young lady of excellent qualities as a teacher, as the condition of her school indicates.

Mr. John Auld has opened a general store at West Point, which is a great convenience, as the nearest place of business is distant ten or twelve miles.

Some of the people of Pierre Jacques have refused to allow travellers to break the fences or go through their fields, and compel them to keep the main road open all winter.

Two enterprising young men from Lot 8 propose erecting a sawmill near West Point.

West Point School is conducted by Miss Dunville, who is an able teacher, and a favorite with her pupils.

Supreme Court, Georgetown.

THE Supreme Court opened in Georgetown yesterday, Judge Peters presiding. The docket is very light; no criminal matter, and only two civil cases of minor importance. After a brief charge, in which he complimented them highly, the Judge dismissed the Grand Jury, which was composed as follows: George Wightman, Foreman, Montague; George Aitken, Montague; John Hamilton, New Perth; Daniel McDonald, New Perth; Nathaniel McLaren, Brudenell Mills; Edward Coffin, Lot 40; Donald Stewart, South Lake; James Aitken, Montague; Joseph Brehaut, White Sands; David McLure, Murray Harbor; Michael McCormack, Souris; Thomas Henry, Georgetown; Frederick Morrow, Souris; Duncan McDonald, Montague; Alex. R. Beaton, East Point; Robert Dewar, New Perth; James Johnston, Annandale; Allan Macdonald, Tremont Farm; John Parker, Cardigan; George McKenzie, Dundas; J. G. Sterns, Souris; Robert Whiteway, Murray River.

WITH snow falling steadily, and winter still triumphant, there is a certain mockery in the sudden appearance of one and another seed catalogue. "Vick's Floral Guide" leads the van, and as usual, needs no commendation, its solid merit having long ago given it a firm place in popular affection. The number contains the usual lists of new seedlings in both vegetables and flowers, and with its bright flower frontispiece, is quite worthy a prominent place on the sitting-room table, while the Illustrated Magazine has long been a faithful guide in all matters relating to the garden. James Vick, Rochester, N. Y., will send the "Floral Guide" to any address for 10 cents, which, if seeds are afterwards purchased, may be deducted from the order.

Scott's Emulsion of Pure Cod Liver Oil, with Hypophosphites,

Has all the virtues of these two most popular remedies. Made into a form that is very palatable and acceptable to the most sensitive stomach, and is without doubt unequalled as a combined food and remedy for lung troubles and wasting conditions.

Everybody uses Estey's Fragrant Philoderma for Chapped Hands, Sore Lips, etc., because it is superior to any other preparation that they have ever tried, and is perfectly harmless.

KEROSENE OIL—Fifty casks and 100 tins American Water White Kerosene Oil, for sale low.—GEORGE CARTER, Great George Street. oct 29 tf

'PHOSPHORIZED' EMULSION by its stimulating action upon the organs of digestion and assimilation, and by its powerfully alterative tonic and nutritive properties, purifies the blood from all its taint, and increases its solid constituents. Always ask for PHOSPHORIZED Emulsion, and be sure you get it.

No lady who delights in having beautiful soft white hands and a good complexion should be without a bottle of Philoderma on the toilet table.

It is a good rule to accept only such medicines as have, after long years of trial, proved worthy of confidence. This is a case where other people's experience may be of great service, and it has been the experience of thousands that Ayer's Cherry Pectoral is the best cough medicine ever used.

Pure Blood is the absolute necessity of Health, and no preparation has the same power to produce pure blood and remove all humor from the system as Estey's Iron and Quinine Tonic For sale by Druggists.

Ayer's Sarsaparilla is the best medicine for every one in the spring. Emigrants and travellers will find it an effectual cure for the eruptions, boils, pimples, eczema, etc., that break out on the skin—the effect of disorder in the blood, caused by sea-diet and life on board ship.

Physicians recommend Estey's Iron and Quinine Tonic as a Pleasant Bitter, a Certain App