Miramichi Advance.

CHATHAM, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1878.

Trade Returns.

It is highly creditable to the Government, as it will be satisfactory to the country, that the Departmental Reports were ready to lay before Parliament at its opening, something that has not heretofore been accomplished since Confederation. The backwardness of Departmental work in this respect was always a source of dissatisfaction, causing, as it did, waste of time in Parliament on account of enquiries and replies which the presence of the Reports would have rendered unnecessary. The improvement made has, doubtless, involved much work on the part of Ministers and the chief officers of the several branches of the services, for it was always stated to be difficult to effect reform in the matter, the leisurely performance of duty being a marked characteristic of the Ottawa official of a few years ago. As the policy of promptness has been carried in to effect at Ottawa it is to be hoped it will been forced in the outside service also, even more than it has been.

The first Blue Book reaching us this year is from the Department of the Minister of Customs, the "Tables of the Trade and Navigation of the Dominion of Canada." It is very voluminous, containing 946 pages, and complete in the details of the important subject with which it deals. In the classification of Imports and Exports it is a great improvement on former Returns, information not included in such returns heretofore being given with a thoroughness that shows an intelligent desire on the part of Commissioner Johnson to meet the ever-increasing requirements of the commercial public.

The value of Dominion Exports and Imports, together with the duty collected each year ending 30th June, since 1868 are shown to have been, in round numbers, as follows; the falling off of the past few years being due to the decline in values:—

Year	Exports	Imports	Duty
1868	$67,567,883	$78,459,644	$9,916,431
1869	69,678,761	79,415,195	8,996,909
1870	72,672,499	74,814,289	9,462,940
1871	74,178,618	96,022,971	11,945,855
1872	82,980,068	111,420,527	13,045,498
1873	88,189,268	128,011,324	15,017,730
1874	89,351,928	128,213,593	14,421,882
1875	77,805,070	122,070,268	13,861,328
1876	89,096,485	99,626,946	13,223,114
1877	78,875,228	99,227,922	12,548,451
Tds for 10 yrs:	$782,389,387	$968,045,100	$119,652,931

The total, under head of duty, contains an apparent error in addition, caused by our throwing off the odd cents in that column. The Trade of the Dominion with Great Britain, for the past year was larger than with any other country, our Exports thereto, from the Provinces of Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, being $41,507,469 against $34,307,924 to all other countries. Our Importations from the United States, however, are $51,000,000, against $39,000,000 from Great Britain and the trade as between Great Britain and the United States, both Import and Export is, for the former, $61,130,708 and, for the latter $77,087,914. Our trade for the past year with all other countries combined was $13,948,254.

The percentage of duty on the total value of Imports, both dutiable and free, for the past year was as follows:—Ontario, 11.23; Quebec, 12.27; Nova Scotia, 13.84; New Brunswick, 15.77; Manitoba, 15.92; British Columbia, 16.18; Prince Edward Island, 19.25. The average for the Dominion was 12.63, against 13.76 last year.

The rate of customs duties per head of population in the different Provinces was as follows: P. E. Island, $2.83; Ontario, $2.87; Nova Scotia, $3.35; New Brunswick, $3.82; Quebec, $3.87; Manitoba, $6.41; British Columbia, $6.07. The rate for the Dominion averaged $3.39.

The Commissioner of Customs says that from an examination of the Returns from the principal Ports of Entry and information otherwise obtained, he has been led to believe that the prices of general merchandize have continued to recede. The belief that prices had touched the lowest figures during 1876 was, therefore, erroneous. Stocks in Warehouse have diminished during the year, and the practice of ordering in smaller quantities and oftener is becoming more general. This, the Commissioner thinks, will assist in the recovery of the country from the Trade depression which is so general.

The Exports, Imports and Duty collected at each Port in New Brunswick for the year ending 30th June, 1877, were as follows:—

	Exports.	Imports.	Duty.
Bathurst,	$68,008	$38,745	$6,274.01
Bay Verte,	13,625	628	84.90
Campo Bello,	59,711	22,321	6,266.64
Caraquette,	29,608	14,271	4,062.35
Chatham,	961,879	166,279	28,651.92
Dalhousie,	186,617	16,198	5,240.02
Dorchester,	46,793	17,049	3,476.93
Fredericton,	58,233	241,230	50,262.16
Grand Falls,	75	11,813	2,257.07
Gillespie's,	139,232	15,856	2,977.75
Moncton,	6,922	36,228	14,454.85
McAdam,	27,564	25,734	1,353.03
Newcastle,	207,981	54,370	16,436.27
Richibucto,	309,998	60,049	8,682.60
Richmond,		628	1,039.62
Sackville,	41,502	54,339	7,443.09
Shediac,	157,617	101,739	3,124.57
Shippegan,	300	2,100	1,201.12
St. Andrews,	35,220	55,589	11,280.57
St. George,	66,140	13,459	1,717.30
St. John,	3,431,910	5,615,511	851,967.42
St. Stephen,	76,658	225,542	41,380.70
West John,	600	261	87.18
Woodstock,	65,551	72,518	16,181.55
Totals:	$5,902,775	$6,916,909	$1,091,012.24

We do not know the bases on which values are estimated at Ottawa, but they are evidently less than they should be. For purposes of comparison, however, this is not an important matter.

The expenditure in connection with the principal New Brunswick Custom Houses is as follows:—

Port.	Salaries.	Rents and Contingencies.	Totals.
Bathurst,	$1,884.94	$1,017.05	$2,901.99
Caraquette,	303.00	75.81	378.81
Chatham,	4,009.00	89.17	4,098.17
Dalhousie,	2,360.00	81.00	2,441.00
Dorchester,	1,100.00	52.44	1,152.44
Fredericton,	3,220.00	483.42	4,006.42
Moncton,	1,600.00	43.15	1,643.15
Newcastle,	3,200.00	93.13	3,293.13
Richibucto,	3,400.00	98.43	3,498.43
Sackville,	1,000.00	58.42	1,058.42
Shediac,	1,160.00	86.70	1,246.70
Shippegan,	600.00	33.78	633.78
St. Andrews,	2,950.00	266.13	3,216.13
St. George,	1,050.00	63.38	1,113.38
St. John,	47,185.00	1,610.49	48,795.20
St. Stephen,	4,911.66	380.65	5,292.31
Woodstock,	2,528.20	254.22	2,782.42

There are other matters of detail which are very interesting, but the above embraces what is of interest to the general reader. Those who have the time and inclination to evolve comparisons and theories out of dry statistics have much material at hand in the book under notice. We presume that it will furnish some of our political economists at Ottawa and elsewhere with excellent subjects for both study and debate and they must all give credit to Hon. Mr. Burpee and his assistants in his Department for the promptness with which it is placed before Parliament and the public.

Shocking Murder.

A most revolting murder case is occupying the attention of the St. John authorities, a report of which is on our fourth page and is continued on the second page.

Matters in the East.

Although the British fleet promptly passed through the Dardanelles by order of the British Government, and in face of the Porte's protest, Russia's evident intention of occupying Constantinople has not been carried out even after she had, subsequently, declared it was her intention to do so. The British fleet, after entering the Sea of Marmora, lately retired to Mondama Bay, some forty miles below Constantinople, for better anchorage and communications. Russia would now seem to have been checkmated and has assumed a more moderate tone. The attitude which Germany has recently taken caused much disappointment in Russia, but the latter has accepted Bismark's friendly offices, and is even about to declare that she has no intention of occupying Gallipoli. Austria is said to have suggested that the coming Congress should be held at Baden-Baden in order that Bismarck may preside.

Northumberland in Parliament.

The *Hansard* Report contains the following respecting the doings of the hon. member for Northumberland in the House of Commons:—

THURSDAY, Feb. 7th.

HON. PETER MITCHELL having presented the duplicate of the indenture of his election for the Electoral District of Northumberland, N. B., to the Clerk of the House, and having taken the oath according to law, and subscribed the roll containing the same, took his seat in the House.

FRIDAY, Feb. 8th.

THE HON. PETER MITCHELL, Member for the Electoral District of the County of Northumberland, New Brunswick, was introduced to the House by Mr. Kirkpatrick and Mr. Wright (Ottawa).

MR. KIRKPATRICK: Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Peter Mitchell having been duly returned to represent the Electoral District of the County of Northumberland, has taken the oath and subscribed the roll, and now desires to take his seat.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. gentleman having taken his seat yesterday in this House, I think may now fairly resume it.

Mr. Mitchell took his seat.

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD: Mr. Speaker, I presume that it is by order of the House that you made that statement. I presume the Speaker is only the mouth piece of the House, and can only speak when directed by order of the House, and not otherwise.

MR. SPEAKER: I merely made a statement of fact as to the competence of the hon. member to take his seat.

MR. HOLTON: Mr. Speaker, I was about to object to the hon. gentleman's being again introduced when you spoke.

MR. MITCHELL: Mr. Speaker, I think it something remarkable that the head of this House should have made the remark that he did on the presentation of a member. I felt yesterday, when objection was made to members taking their seats without being presented to the Speaker, by a gentleman whose right to speak with relation to the practices and privileges of the House of Commons of Canada cannot be questioned here, that I should take the step which I have taken. When he (Sir John A. Macdonald), yesterday pointed out the fact that no new member had the right to take his seat in the House until, according to the rules and privileges of Parliament, he had subscribed the oath and been presented to the Speaker, I felt that this practice should be followed. I took the oaths yesterday, and I then supposed that no doubt could arise with regard to my taking my seat. I believed that I had a right to my seat; but, when that objection was made by my hon. friend who leads this side of the House, it seemed to my mind fit that I should place myself in a proper position before the House. When, as the House knows, and the country knows, that owing to the objection taken from the other side of the House last Session, I found that I had unwittingly placed myself in such a position that great doubt existed as to whether I had the right to take my seat or not, I felt, as I feel now, that I should wipe off and remove the objection made against me; and having done so—having gone back for re-election in my county, at considerable inconvenience to myself, and to the great inconvenience of the numerous majority in my county who so nobly sustained me—I say I did not deserve the slur which was thrown out against my having taken my seat yesterday when I was ignorant as to whether I had the right to take my seat or not; and what I would further remark is that, wishing to set myself right with the country, I do not think that the fact of my innocently having so taken my seat, and having innocently infringed the rules of the House affords any justification for such comment; and when I attempt to set myself right and place myself in such a position that no man on either side of the House can raise the question or the slighest doubt about Peter Mitchell taking his seat, or the right of the county of Northumberland to send me here, I think it comes with no very good grace to make such a remark on my seeking to remove the only difficulty that exists with regard to my possession of my seat in this House.

We observe that a good many of the papers express the opinion that Mr. Mitchell gave himself unnecessary trouble over the above matter, merely to please Sir John A. Macdonald. There were ten other members who had been elected during the parliamentary recess, each of whom, like Mr. Mitchell, had taken his seat on the day of opening, after being sworn in, and it will hardly be believed that all the others would allow themselves to remain in a false position in reference to their right to sit in the House. Why Mr. Mitchell appears to be so anxious to have people think that everybody is questioning his right to his seat, when no one else is paying the slightest attention to the matter, is not clear, and we believe that the more sober-minded of his constituents would be just as well pleased if he were to assume the *role* of something more dignified than a mere automation or jumping-Jack to be moved at the whim of that "great apostle of corruption"—Sir John A. Macdonald.

THE DARDANELLES.—As considerable interest is felt concerning the Dardanelles or Straits of Gallipoli just now, on account of the recent movement of the English fleet to that locality, a short description may not be out of place. The Dardanelles is a narrow channel varying from one to four miles in width and 40 miles long, extending from the Sea of Marmora to the Grecian Archipelago, thus separating Europe from Asia. The coast on the western or European side is rugged, but on the eastern or Asiatic side, the scenery is very beautiful. As the Key of Constantinople, it is strongly fortified on both sides with castles, batteries, and forts. The name Dardanelles is derived from that of the ancient city of *Dardanos* situated in the Province of Troas.

That "Public Document."

We continue, this week, to publish such portions of the Ministerial reply to Senator Macpherson's Pamphlet, figures from which were so glibly quoted by Mr. Mitchell in his recent Newcastle speech, he, however leaving his audience to understand that he had himself drawn said figures from original official sources. Mr. Cartwright's speech is continued from where we broke off last week:—

A second, and if possible still graver, misstatement of Mr. Macpherson is the declaration several times repeated that "Mr. Tilley's estimate was $22,483,183, and that it provided for all things." Let me call your special attention to this assertion. I have sat opposite to Dr. Tupper for four years, and no one who has sat opposite to Dr. Tupper for that period is likely to be easily astonished at any statement, however wild and reckless, affecting matters of finance. But the Commons from this time forth must yield the palm to the Senate, and even Dr. Tupper be content to see himself completely eclipsed by Mr. Senator Macpherson. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) I presume that Mr. Macpherson had access if he chose (and indeed he actually speaks of these documents by name) to Mr. Tilley's several estimates, as also to his budget speech, and to the Public Accounts and Dominion Statutes for 1873. These are not very recondite authorities, and yet he had only to consult them to ascertain for himself that Mr. Tilley either got or took authority to expend, in all, a total of some $23,685,009, in 1873-4. And the most extraordinary part of the whole affair is that, as you will see by reference to page 31 of this pamphlet, Mr. Macpherson did actually know of the existance of all the items embraced in that amount, except perhaps the last two; but never having read or properly studied Mr. Tilley's original estimates, he has in some bewildered and bewildering fashion muddled up Mr. Tilley's several statements, made at several different times and under various different circumstances, till he has finally landed himself in this computation of $22,483,183, quite oblivious of the fact that it could not on his own showing cover the several items he has himself enumerated, and that nowhere from first to last in Mr. Tilley's supplemental or in his original estimates will he find one word in reference to the additional expenses authorized by the Acts of Parliament, except in the one solitary item of $100,000 taken to cover contingent expenses on the admission of Prince Edward Island to the Union. (Hear, hear.) Now, this is the case of downright sheer stupidity, aggravated, however, by his obstinate refusal to accept Mr. Scott's correction on the spot, and by the self-conceit which made him set up to be a better authority on a question of this kind than the responsible officers of Government. If Mr. Macpherson had ever read my budget speech (which he quotes), he ought to have hesitated before disputing my formal and authoritative statement, to which I have already referred, and which he might have been very sure was not made without due reference to the officers of the Department. The mistake itself, though it appears to involve a marvellous inaptitude for simple addition, is not so very bad; but made in regard to a question of such grave importance to his own argument, and presisted in after repeated warnings, it affords a very fair indication either of the care or of the capacity which Mr. Macpherson has employed in his very pretentious onslaught on the general financial administration of this Government. (Hear, hear.) As to the main point. I have further to observe that, apart from the item of election expenses, the late Government had further ordered a large expenditure to be made for coal cars and engines on the old Nova Scotia and New Brunswick railroads—that they had left us very heavy extra bills to pay for expenses incurred on the Dawson route, and on account of a whole shoal of minor items, most of which are set forth in schedule A, brought down by us in 1874. (Hear, hear.) So far, therefore, from my statement, "that the true estimate for 1873-4 should have been $24,100,000," being an exaggeration, it was largely within the mark—how much I will not say, as I have no wish to give these people a chance to raise a discussion on a side issue. Now, gentlemen, hear well in mind that this most random statement of Mr. Macpherson, that "Mr. Tilley's estimate was $22,483,183, and provided for all things," is the chief corner-stone and indispensable foundation of the most important of Mr Macpherson's so-called calculations, and you will, perhaps, be able to form some idea of the real value of the good Senator's financial lucubrations. (Hear, hear, and cheers.) The slightest intelligent consideration of Mr. Tilley's estimates would have shown him that the sum of $22,586,727 mentioned by me did not make (as I expressly stated) the smallest provision for the additional expenditure, amounting at the lowest calculation to $418,000 (over and above the special grant of $100,000,) which rendered necessary by the admission of Prince Edward Island into the Union; nor for the sum of $200,000, being part, and only part, of the actual disbursements incurred for the service of the Mounted Police in the North-west, which force was organized under a special Act, above cited, of that same session, passed by Mr. Tilley's colleagues, and providing in detail for the number of men, the rates of pay and allowance, and all other matters appertaining to the Mounted Police. (Hear, hear.) Now, what say you to this gross and palpable blunder, solemnly set forth by a gentleman who professes to be an authority on the question of Dominion finance? Here we have him three-quarters of a million wrong on the vital starting point for purposes of comparison, and that, too omitting every possible disputed item—giving him all he claims—and omitting to debit the late Government with many very considerable sums justly chargeable to them. (Hear, hear. * * *

A fourth, and if possible still more absurd error, is the statement that we have increased the taxation from $3.50 to $6 per head. Now, if this were true, it would be a most serious reflection on Mr. Macpherson's own friends inasmuch as the increased taxation imposed by us was put on solely to provide for additional expenditure incurred by them—the necessity for which they had themselves publicly admitted before they left office.

But as I shall presently show you, it is not even approximately true; and the mere fact that Mr. Macpherson should have been ill-advised enough to make, and other parties indiscreet enough to repeat, so very foolish an assertion, is perhaps one of the very best proofs I can give you of the utter recklessness with which the most unfounded charges have been scattered broadcast against this Government. I presume that Mr. Macpherson's arithmetical powers will enable him to understand that if we are now paying $2.50 per head—on a population of 4,000,000—more than we did in 1870, we are paying just 10,000,000 additional taxation (over and above the amount fairly due for our increased population) more than we did in 1870.

This single statement contains a whole nest of blunders. The fact itself is quiet misstated. The increase of our population from natural causes and the admission of new Provinces is wholly ignored. A considerable amount of interest on investments accumulated since 1870 is overlooked, as also a large amount of additional receipts not properly to be treated as taxes.

And here, again, how stands the fact? Says Mr. Macpherson, in the passage I have already quoted, "The taxation had increased from $3.50 in 1870 to $5.76 in 1876, and $6 per head is now required." Now, here there is some difficulty in ascertaining exactly what year is meant; whether the year 1869-70 or 1870-71.—Both are years for which the late Government are wholly responsible, but to prevent cavil, and to give Mr. Macpherson every possible chance, I will give you the results from a comparison of both, which are briefly as follows:—In 1869-70 the estimated population was almost exactly 3,400,000, the gross revenue $15,512,225, and the average per head $4.56. The receipts from actual taxes, Customs, Stamps, and Excise were $13,087,881, and the average per head $3.85. In 1870-71 the population by census was nearly 3,500,000 souls. The gross revenue was $19,335,560, and the average per head $5.52¼. The receipts from taxes $16,320,387, and the average per head $4.66. In 1877-78, the estimated population was supposed to be over 4,000,000. The gross estimated receipts are $23,400,000 (from which are to be deducted some $250,000 interest on investments not existing in 1870), giving an average per head on $23,150,000 of $5.79 nearly. The estimated tax receipts are $19,150,000, giving an average per head of $4.79. It results, therefore, that the increase per head as between 1877-78 and 1869-70 is upon gross receipts $1.20 per head; upon tax receipts proper, 94 cents per head. And as between 1877-78 and 1870-71, upon gross receipts 26½ cents per head; upon tax receipts 13 cents per head. And that Mr. Macpherson is in error as between 1869-70 and 1877-78 to the extent of $1.27 per head on a comparison of the gross receipts, or say $5,080,000 per annum; and as to the actual tax receipts to the extent of $1.56 per head, or say $6,240,000 per annum out of $10,000,000. (Hear, hear, and loud cheers.) Further, that as between 1877-78 and 1870-71 Mr. Macpherson is in error, on a comparison of the gross receipts, to the extent of $2.23¼ per head, or say $8,940,000 per annum; and on comparison of the actual tax receipts, to the extent of $2.37 per head, or say $9,480,000 per annum. (Hear, hear.) I reserve comparison with the years 1871-72 and 1872-73 till a later period.

Meantime Mr. Macpherson may take his own choice of his starting point.—When the smallest possible blunder involves an error of $5,000,000 per annum, it seems hard to deny him the benefit of the doubt. (Hear hear.) As to the further question—who is responsible for this increase of taxation or expenditure? whether it be 94 cents or $1.23, or 13 cents per head, I shall have again a word to say before concluding my remarks.

We shall continue these extracts as before, and advise our readers to pay particular attention to them.

THE CONSOLIDATED STATUTES have come to us printed and bound in capital style. The work is one for which the present Local Government deserves the thanks of the whole people of the Province.

REPORT OF THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE.—We have received the Report of the Minister of Agriculture for the Dominion for 1877. Though not a bulky report, it embraces many subjects, being chiefly occupied with Immigration. It gives the reports of the European Emigration Agents shewing the work done during the past year and the prospects for the future.

A SHARP REBUKE TO LORD DERBY.—The *Morning Post* said: "A fatal mistake has been succeeded by a great humiliation. Lord Derby's career as a Minister ought to terminate, and 'The Dardanelles' ought to be engraved as an epitaph on his political tomb. It will now become us to speak in extremely moderate language until deeds shall justify the resumption of that confident tone in which the England of Lord Palmerston used to maintain the cause of law and order."

THE SMELT FISHERIES.—Saturday next closes the season for smelt fishing with nets. It is expected that the close season for Miramichi waters will be from that date to about 31st November. Indeed it is a question worth considering whether it would not be better to continue the close season in the main Miramichi River until 31st December, fishing in the branches to commence about as usual. The experience of the present winter has shown that young bass are caught in the main river to some extent during December, after which they seem to go to waters not fished by smelt fishermen. The quantities of these fish taken were not large, it is true, yet the smelt fishermen are, we think, quite prepared to confine their operations to the tributary streams until the main river smelt grounds are practically free from them.

Dominion Parliament.

The debate on the address in the House of Commons last week was an unusual one, the Conservatives making a determined effort to throw as much dirt as possible at the Liberal Party. The correspondent of the Toronto *Globe* says:—

"The debates, so far, have been distinguished by more acrimony than those even of last session. It is now evident that the tactics of the Opposition in the House are to be very similar to those practised by the party leaders during the recess. They do not dare to raise a square issue, but will do all they can in the way of dirt-throwing in speeches of most unconscionable length, in order to fill the *Hansard* with materials for the coming elections. The subject matter is not new in any one particular. Every charge, statement, and argument has been repeated over and over again, but it is considered apparently most convenient that they should receive their publication at the expense of the country. Of course their accusations provoke rejoinders, and so the battle rages."

The Premier endeavored to have the opposition reserve the airing of their local and personal grievances to be brought up at a more fitting time is the session, but to no purpose, the coarsest abuse and vilest insinuations characterising the debate and lowering the dignity of Parliament, both at home and abroad. The Members of Opposition refrained—although requested almost every day to do so—from formulating a single charge against the Government so that it might be investigated; they did not dare to move an amendment to the Address and, in short, behaved as men feeling the disadvantage of their desperate position. Many members have been guilty of utterances which ought not to be tolerated even in a less respectable assemblage than the Parliament of the country, the fair fame of which they have already done so much to injure. A few members on the Government side were provoked to reply, but the government men, as a rule restrained themselves for the sake, no doubt, of the regard they had for the decencies of Parliamentary discussion on the Address. Among the Conservative speeches it is difficult to find one that contains much of anything, save in the matter of picnic charges and unparliamentary language. On the other side, the general policy of the Government, as compared with that of Sir John and his followers received most attention. Mr. Young, who said he would not descend to the level of those who had attacked him and his party, referring to Sir John's policy and the charges of Government mismanagement, said:—

Sir John, before his last election promised protection in his speeches at Hamilton; but what was the result? When he came back to the House he did not propose a single measure for the protection of the manufacturing industries of the country. The hon. member was attempting the difficult task of riding two horses. He was endeavouring to ride the protection horse in Ontario, and the free trade horse in the Maritime Provinces. But, skilful as he was, the hon. member was sure to come to the ground. (Cheers.) The people of Ontario saw that the course of the hon. gentleman was merely a political game to influence the next election, and the few Reformers who were caught at first by the cry of protection were deserting and leaving the agitation to Conservative politicians, who had taken the question up because they were without a vestige of other principles, and were glad of any cry which would serve as a covering for their past misdeeds. (Cheers.)

SIR JOHN MACDONALD asked if the hon. gentleman wished to state that he was advocating an unpopular cry in order to carry the next elections. (Laughter.)

MR. YOUNG said the hon. member knew very well that in whatever he did as leader of the Conservatives his party would follow him; that if anything whatever could have secured his deposition from the leadership of the party it would have been his own actions in the past. (Cheers.) Nothing appeared to give so much uneasiness to the Opposition as the fact mentioned in the Speech that the commercial depression was passing away. He admitted that he would like to see it disappearing more rapidly, but at the same time he did not think that any person could candidly and honestly examine the commercial position without coming to the conclusion that the worst had passed, and that we are tending towards a better condition of trade.

AN HON. MEMBER—What does the Board of Trade say on that point?

MR. YOUNG said that body declared, at its last annual meeting, that the best and fairest tariff for Canada was a revenue tariff, and that 17½ per cent. was sufficient. (Cheers.) Among the evidences which proved that the depression was passing away was the increasing amount of importations. On some occasions this would not be an evidence of returning prosperity, but after three or four years of contraction the fact that importation had begun to revive was one of the best evidences that the depression was passing away. Then the decreasing number of failures was encouraging. During the first three months of 1877 the number of failures was 550, with liabilities amounting to $7,500,000. But there were only 220 failures, with $4,500,000 liabilities, during the last three months. This was a most extraordinary fact, and it proved that a great change had taken place in the commercial situation. In fact the only depression which appeared to be increasing was that which prevailed among hon. gentlemen opposite. (Laughter and cheers.) He was glad to hear the announcement made by the honmember for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton), that the expenditure of the Government during the past year had been $23,586,854. The expenditure during the previous year was $24,488,377, showing that during last year the Government had reduced the public expenditure by nearly $1,000,000. (Cheers.) This was a fact which ought to be known in all parts of the Dominion. When the Government came in four years ago he stated that in view of the heavy obligations the late Administration had incurred, if they were able to hold the public expenditure in check they would have to exercise the most rigid economy; that it would be almost impossible to curtail the public expenditure. But the facts showed that the Administration had only increased the expenditure during four years—after meeting all the obligations left by their predecessors—by $270,000, whereas while the late Government were in office they increased the expenditure by nearly $2,000,000 per annum. (Cheers.) There were several points in the Address which indicated very clearly that the Government had acted with great care in the management of the general affairs of the country. It was undeniable that the Government had taken a firm hold of all branches of the public service and initiated a large number of administrative reforms. Mr. Young then compared the contract systems of the past and present Administrations, showing that while the late Government were not particular as to whether the lowest tender was accepted or not, so long as the contractor was a political friend, out of $19,000,000 work contracted for under the present Government, $16,000,000 was let to the lowest tenderers. Another reform which reflected great credit upon the Government was the manner in which they had run the Intercolonial Railway. Under the late Administration the offices on that road were held by political favourites, the supplies were purchased at from 40 to 100 per cent. above ordinary prices, and corruption was very prevalent. The present Minister of Public Works took hold of the road and ran it on strictly commercial principles. In one year he gave the public better services, and saved $170,000. (Cheers.) This was a line of action which required some courage on the Premier's part, to carry out, and it proved that the Government were in earnest in their efforts to conduct the affairs of the country in an honest and economical manner. With regard to the Fisheries arbitration, although we might not have obtained all we were entitled to, yet he was glad that the result of the Commission had been to get something like justice done. (Hear, hear.) He was gratified to notice the paragraph referring to the Australian Exhibition. One result of the Government's enterprise in being adequately represented at the Exhibition was an increased demand for Canadian goods in Australia. This was a true way to promote our manufacturing industries. To adopt the suggestions of hon. gentlemen opposite, and adopt a Chinese wall of protection, would be a suicidal policy. (Cheers.) They had heard during this debate a charge made that the Government had trampled on every principle which they advocated when in Opposition. This would be a sad state of things if it were true, but he maintained that the statement was utterly untrue and foundationless. Among the great questions advocated by the Reform party when in Opposition were holding the elections on one day, voting by ballot, trial of election cases by judges, and a stricter parliamentary control over the public expenditure; and all these measures had been placed on the statute book. (Cheers.) In the face of such facts he defied hon. gentlemen opposite to point to any previous Government which had crystallized into legislation more of the measures they advocated in Opposition than the present Administration. With such a record the Government need have no fear of meeting Parliament or the country. He felt sure the people of Canada knew their duty at this crisis, and that, having punished the Conservative party in 1874 for their political sins, they would when the time arrived sustain Mr. Mackenzie and the Reform Government for their able, economical, and honest administration of public affairs. (Cheers.)

[Continued from fourth page.

SATURDAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

The third session of the inquest was held on Saturday afternoon, commencing at 2.15.

Margaret Carney, sworn, corroborated the evidence of Johanna Graham already given and recognized the prisoner as the man they saw on the road on Wednesday.

Mrs. Ellen Rolston deposed that prisoner was in her bar between 3 and 4 p. m. on Wednesday, and had two drinks and something to eat. Had known him by eyesight several months.

James O'Neil deposed that he was employed at the Cold Brook Rolling Works. Saw the prisoner for the first time on a cross road between Mr. Ward's and Mr. Kane's towards the Marsh road between twelve and one o'clock on the day the murder was committed. Prisoner got on witness' sled and rode to McGee's barn. He said he wanted to catch the train.

Arthur Henry, sworn, lived on the corner of Black River, and Lock Lomond roads. On Wednesday about noon he saw a man running towards the city past Mr. Davidson's and 300 yards from Crowley's house, but could not be sure prisoner was the man.

George Geer, sworn, had known prisoner for two years. Saw him on Fort Howe about 3 o'clock on Wednesday afternoon. He called out to witness, but did not stop.

Mary Ann Wells sworn. This witness was very deaf and stated prisoner boarded with her at Sand Point. When he came on Wednesday afternoon he did not wash his hands, but sat down by the stove and went to sleep. His wife earns her own living and his too.

The inquest at this point was adjourned till Tuesday at 2 p.m.

MONEY TAKEN FROM DECEASED.

There is hardly a doubt that, whoever the murderer may have been, he must have obtained some money from Mrs. Quinn. A short time prior to her death she informed a man living in the vicinity that she had $20, which she carried concealed on her person, which she intended to save to pay her burial expenses. This sum was not found on her person after her death, and the natural supposition is that it was taken by the murderer.

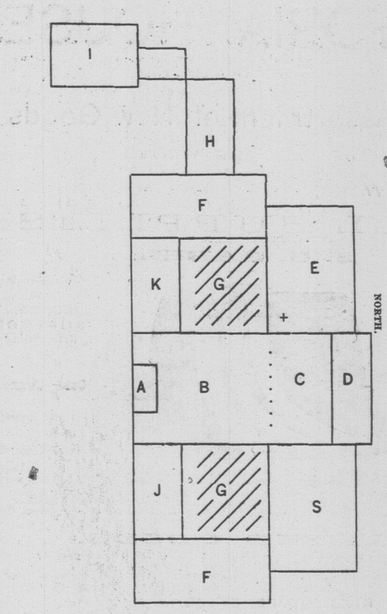
The Jury have found a verdict against Vaughan.

Disastrous Fire.

The following account of one of the heaviest fires that has taken place on the Miramichi was issued in the form of an Extra from this office on Thursday afternoon last, the matter having, however, received a little revision in reference to minor points:—

About half-past two o'clock on last Thursday morning His Lordship Bishop Rogers detected a slight smoke in his sleeping apartment adjoining the Pro-Cathedral on the second storey of the well known pile of buildings of which that structure formed the centre. He at once looked down into the Church and not seeing the Sanctuary lamp burning as usual, thought it had accidentally gone out.

Hoping that all was right he was about to compose himself for sleep when he was made sensible of the fact that there was cause for alarm, the presence of smoke being unmistakeable. Hastening to ascertain whence the smoke came, he decended the hall stairs and opening the door of the private Chapel, was met by a volume of smoke which accounted for the Sanctuary lamp appearing to have gone out and proved the startling fact that the building had been seriously on fire for perhaps half an hour. On returning to his bedroom, he perceived, through his window, the light in the second storey windows of the tower, the fire being, as was afterwards evident, in the lower part of the tower, just inside and around the centre door.



His Lordship, assisted by Thomas Fitzgerald, a student of the College, gave the alarm which was soon communicated to the town and, as the people began to hasten to the scene of the fire, the flames, climbing up through the tower and reaching their lurid arms out against the clear sky, gave the startling assurance that the whole block was doomed to destruction.

As many of our readers know, the building, or rather combination of buildings, was very large. The main part was composed of the old Chapel, which was moved to its late site, enlarged and afterwards gradually flanked by the additions which latterly gave the Block its imposing appearance.

The Block was of wood, two and a half storeys high and having a basement of dressed sandstone under its principal parts. The diagram will assist the reader in understanding a description of the pile of buildings.

B represents what was the larger part of the original Chapel and formed the nave of the Cathedral. It had additions made to it at different times. These were included, finally, in what was known as "the Cathedral" the whole being—the Vestibule portion, fronting south and marked A, the body of the Church, B, the Sanctuary, C and the Vestry, D. The length of these from Vestibule to Vestry was 126 feet and the breadth forty feet. To the west of the Sanctuary on the first floor was a private Chapel and to the east the Organ Room and Chapel of the Christian Brothers.

The Residence of the Bishop and Clergy was in the west portion of the building marked, E and, St. Michael's College and the residence of the Christian Brothers and their Pupils, was in the east portion of the building which is marked S. The Bishop's Library was in the second storey of the centre building, immediately over the Vestry, which is marked, D. The residence of the Bishop and Clergy, and the division of the building occupied by the College were each 57x36 feet. Two wings, marked F, extended, one from the east and the other from the west end of the main structure in a southerly direction 74 feet, or to the line of the front of the Cathedral. That on the east, running parallel with and overlooking the "Chapel Hill" was occupied, in the upper storey by the Pupils of the College as dormitories, while the lower storey was the pupils' play and exercise room. A shed, marked J, connected the southern end of the east wing with the Cathedral front and the old Vestry, marked K, similarly occupied the space between the south end of the west wing and the Cathedral front on that side. Bounded by the Cathedral, the wings, the sheds and the College and Bishop's Residence, were areas or yards on either side of the former and which are marked, G. G., in the diagram.

The exterior of the whole structure presented the appearance of an almost square building of irregular height, the ground covered being about 20,000 square feet,

The point marked, +, was about the location of the Bishop's sleeping apartment and when His Lordship looked outside for the fire, through the window of his room and across the yard, he saw the reflection of the flames in the windows of the second storey of the tower, which was over the Vestibule. Other persons who saw the fire blaze up so as to show from the outside agree that it was in the Vestibule or Tower.

The wood composing the Cathedral was of course, very dry and, therefore, very inflammable. The structure seemed to go down before the fire like dried leaves. In a very short time the Organ Room and private Chapel were reached and the flames passed quickly to the College and Christian Brothers' living rooms and the dormitories. The Students got their trunks out and then turned their attention to their books.

They also endeavored to save the Christian Brothers' stock of School Books and Stationery, but all of that and much of the other personal property had to be abandoned.

While a large number of persons worked hard in the lower part of the building and in the Bishop's Residence and offices as well as in the Clergymen's rooms, moving furniture, etc., out, a few directed their efforts towards saving His Lordship's valuable Library. Not one half of his excellent collection of books were saved however, for the smoke found its way through the walls and became unbearable, driving the salvors from their work.

It was now apparent that the larger portion of the Bishop's Residence was no longer tenable, while the other end of the building was already in ruins, so doors were closed and much that could not be saved was left to perish.

The Rev. Messrs. Richard, Joyce and others managed to save most of the Vestments in the Vestry Room, but those in the Sanctuary, as well as the sacred vessels left there, were destroyed, it being impossible to enter the Cathedral from the first. The Rev. Mr. Bannon had a narrow escape from suffocation, having fallen down at the altar after an unsuccessful attempt to take the sacred vessels from the tabernacle.

While a large number of those present were engaged in the work of removing everything possible from the burning buildings, the Firewards and Firemen were doing their part of the work. It was known that owing to there being too little hose to reach the river, the Foundry Lane Reservoir must be depended upon, supplemented by the wells connected with the Bishop's establishments. The best judgment and experience, in view of this fact, favored the husbanding of the water supply rather than using it upon the main building which could not be saved in any case.

The Cottage marked H in the diagram formed a means of feeding the fire in its progress westward, and the wing used as a warehouse of the other large building in which the Convent, the Hotel Dieu Hospital, with its male and female wards, the Sisters' Schools, their Chapel, a District School, Music School, etc., were located, being only some twenty feet distant, the importance of checking and subduing the flames at the Cottage was realized by all. Extending south from the west end of the Cottage were outhouses and a large barn, marked I, and they also, if they took fire, would seriously endanger the Convent building.

While one band of workers proceeded to cut down and up and across so as to remove the eastern portion of the Cottage in contact with the burning building, another engaged in shovelling snow into the upstairs portion of the western end, so that in the event of the fire taking hold of the structure the melting snow would run down through it and, at least, render the burning less fierce and, consequently less dangerous to the Convent building.

The water from the Steam Fire Engine had been turned on at first, but for the reasons indicated above it was stopped, and a line of bucket-men passed well-water to these on the top of the Cottage and the latter threw it where it would do most good until the proper moment had arrived, when the stream from the Steamer was put on and, ably assisted still by the buckets, gradually checked the fire's further advance.

A little water was probably wasted at first, but the distance between the fire and the Engine was too great for the necessary promptness of communication between those at the nozzle and the Engineer. Amid all the confusion of so great a disaster, in a situation partially removed from our ordinary facilities for