NEWS ITEMS.

One hundred recruits for the Manitoba Mounted Police will leave Ottawa for the scene of their labors on the 1st of May. The men are all said to be of fine physique and young.

Ninety-six peers have forwarded to the Archbishop of Canterbury an address expressing alarm at the increase of auricular confession in the Church of England, and urging him to publicly condemn it.

The New York *Tribune* reports that the daughter of Wm. A. Townsend, publisher, of New York, and one of the wealthiest citizens of Nyack, was privately married recently to Jas. Weeks, her father's good looking coachman.

A gentleman had a bad eye and was advised to have it out so that he might save the other eye. He took chloroform and the doctor, a famous specialist, took out the good eye by mistake. The patient is blind and cannot shoot the specialist.

Andrew Jones, of Chester, Pa., argued with Lizzie Welsh, from 6 p. m. until midnight, in a vain endeavour to convince her that it would be well to marry him. Then he committed suicide, and the girl says that is she had known he was so deeply in earnest she would have accepted him.

Besides the light throwing assegai (of which the Kaffir generally carries three or four), there is also a much heavier one used for close quarters. This stabbing assegai has a blade double the weight and length of the other, with a shorter and much stouter shaft, and is a most formidable weapon in the hands of a powerful savage.

A steamer with part of the cable to be laid between Natal and Aden, left the Thames on the 7th for Natal. The Natal and Zanzibar section will be open for business in July. This will place South Africa within a week's communication with London. The remainder of the line will be completed before the end of the present year.

The greatest activity prevails in carrying out the preliminary measures for the construction of the submarine tunnel between Calais and Dover. No less than 7,671 soundings have been taken, which have brought up 3,207 specimens of different geological formations. The tunnel, which is to be 22¾ miles long, will be dug through a stratum of gray chalk.

According to the *Times of India*, there is a tremendous dispute raging in Madras over a hair from the Prophet Mohammed's beard. This holy relic is enclosed in a case, guarded by an official, who has a Government pension of 100 rupees per annum, and six fanatical Mussulmans are disputing for its possession. The dispute has been taken before the Madras High Court.

Every one who has any knowledge of savage and warlike tribes like the Zulus must know their marvellous capacity for undergoing fatigue, for supporting long fasts, and for making long and rapid marches. Indeed, it is a notorious fact that a Zulu warrior, fully equipped, can travel at the rate of from eight to eight and a-half miles per hour, and that for four or five consecutive hours.

A Paris despatch says the epidemic of glanders, which has prevailed for some time past in the cavalry stables of Lyons, has reached such a pitch, in spite of the efforts of veterinary surgeons, that the military authorities have decided to send the Hussars and Cuirassiers into camp before the usual period. It is estimated that the value of horses attacked by the malady, which have been slaughtered, is not less than 400,000 francs.

It is intended to award commissions to several of the surviving non-commissioned officers of the 24th and other regiments who shall be recommended for promotion by their commanding officers. Since the commencement of the present war in South Africa the sergent-instructor of musketry of the 90th Light Infantry has been gazetted to a commission as second lieutenant in his regiment, and a number of other staff sergeants have had their names noted for promotion.

As showing how history repeats itself, a correspondent of the *Times* points out that the great disaster at Isandula is but a repetition, on a far more extended scale, of what occured at the action of Berea, in 1752. General Sir G. Gathcart divided his force into three separate commands. The cavalry, under Colonel Napier, were first engaged, and the 11th Lancers lost 35 killed out of about 60 men. The Basutos dressed themselves in the uniform of the slain, and then advanced towards General Eyre, who mistook them for the 12th Lancers, and only escaped by the speed of his horse.

A kind of traffic in children has been carried on in the Russian province of Pekov, under the stress of hard times. A canvasser will go among the poor peasants, and induce them, by offers of small sums of money, to surrender their boys, between seven and twelve years of age, to be put in apprenticeship for three or five years. He takes them to St. Petersburg, where he furnishes supplies of them to the factories, receiving from ten to fifteen roubles for each boy. There are women who scour the province for girls, from seven to fourteen years old, and these also are taken to St. Petersburg to be hired out.

It is reported that the Duke of Connaught will have a taste of soldiering at Aldershot, in command of his battalion, before he quits the Rifle Brigade; and that the general officers there shall be instructed to make no difference in his Royal Highness's favor, but to trust upon him every garrison duty which devolves in the ordinary course on one of his rank. After vacating his command of the Rifle Brigade, he will go for a short time to the cavalry, and thence on to the Staff as Assistant Adjutant-General of a district. Ultimately, he will, it is believed, be given a short spell of service at the House Guards, and afterwards get a brigade.

From tests recently made in India with the Martini-Henry rifle, the arm used by the infantry of the English army, it is shown that the range of these guns is much greater than has commonly been supposed—greater, indeed, than has been claimed for them by their inventors. An ordinary rifle of this class is sighted for a range of 1,400 yards, but at the trials referred to it was found that its fire was perfectly effective at 2,100 yards, and hence all that was required to secure this vast increase in the offensive and defensive power of the infantry service, was a purely mechanical change in the apparatus for sighting at long distances.

Many of the existing customs of the Russian peasants are relics of the old times of paganism. Thus, in the province of Saratov in a season of drought the peasants still resort to the ancient fashion of attempting to draw down the rain. In each of the villages every resident, old and young, tries to throw a paiful of water, perhaps around a corner, upon some unguarded or unthinking pedestrian. Men, women, and children, drenched to the skin, and armed with buckets or scoops pursue each other through the streets, amid uproar and laughter. Thus, according to tradition the gods of the clouds are propitiated and send rain.

What is regarded a very hard measure was meted to James Beer by naval court-martial at Devonport, England. The prisoner admitted deserting from the Marines, but pleaded that he had an unconquerable liability to sea-sickness, and was constantly ill on shipboard. Finding his life wretched, and his constitution weakened, he left the Marines and joined the 52nd Regiment. He appeared in the uniform of a corporal, having been promoted for good conduct. He stated he wished to serve the Queen. The facts were admitted as true, and, nevertheless, this bad sailor and good soldier was sentenced to six months' imprisonment with hard labor.

A correspondent of the London *Standard* asserts that the coming man of France is Clemenceau, the member of the Chamber of Deputies from Montmartre. Since Gambetta's retirement he has risen to a commanding position on the Leaf of the House, though until the present session he had not been distinguished in debate. He is a ready and fiery speaker, and able at all times to secure a hearing. He is a physician by profession, and speaks English with usual perfection for a foreigner. He is under 40, and has represented his present constituents since 1871. He is a dead shot and an admirable swordsman, and has made repeated attempts to force a duel with the notorious Paul de Cassagnac, who wisely avoids encountering him.

Communications.

For the "Agriculturist."

Fredericton Inundated in 1831.

SIR,—In looking over some old letters of my father's recently, I met with several written to him from Fredericton in 1831, by Mr. Cottrill of the Rifle Brigade. A portion of one of these, dated April 13th, will be interesting to many of your readers:—

"I must hasten to give you a description of a most awful occurrence which took place here last Friday, Saturday and Sunday,—one which threatened destruction to the whole town of Fredericton. On Friday afternoon, the ice in the great River Saint John, broke up and appeared to move off in its usual manner; but about four o'clock it stopped, in consequence of the ice becoming jammed about three miles below town. On Saturday afternoon it started again, and stopped at night about seven o'clock. Then the danger commenced. The ice began to impede the current of the water, and it overflowed the town. Distress appeared in every countenance. The Barracks are situated on the bank of the river, and was the first to suffer. The street from the river to the Barracks was impassable in a few hours, except for boats and canoes. At eleven o'clock on Saturday night, I removed my family into the Stone Barracks. I had to carry Mrs. Cottrill across the road, when it was up to my knees in water. The soldiers were ordered to be in readiness to move off at a moment's notice. The command boat was got ready, together with camp equipage, to take us to the mountains. The water continued to rise until about one o'clock on Sunday, when the Lord appeared for us and delivered us from our perilous situation. The ice broke its way through below, and the water fell from the streets, to the great joy of all. The damage which it has done I am afraid is very great. On Sunday afternoon, houses and barns were seen floating down the river. The banding of the lower colonnade in the barracks was floating about the yard. We have not had any accounts from the country, to hear how they have suffered."

H. C. C.

The Agriculturist.

FREDERICTON, N. B., APRIL 26, 1879.

A Sort of Political Parallel.

Political parties act very much in the same manner everywhere. The outs when the condition of the country is bad, charge the government with bringing it about, either by their do nothing, or intermeddling policy, as the case may be, and the ins repel the accusation, and bring forward reasons in plenty to prove that it is produced by causes over which the government has no control. In Canada we all know the conservative party held the liberal government responsible for the depressed state of the trade of the country and denounced their fly in the wheel policy, and the liberals contended that the depression was not particular to Canada, but was general, affected the principal nations of the world, and had been brought about by numerous causes, which no government could arrest. The majority of the people believed the assertions of the conservatives, that if their party was restored its power, prosperity would be brought back. Now the people have got the national policy, and are waiting for the prosperity.

In England it is the liberal party, now looking forward with hope to a general election, which accuses the government of having produced the continuous state of depression of trade and agriculture by their imperial policy, by their policy of interference in the affairs of other nations, by their wars in different quarters of the world, by their increased expenditures and taxation. The government totally deny the hard impeachment. The question of the depressed state of trade and agriculture in England, which is likely to have great bearing on the fortunes of political parties, was raised, lately, in the House of Lords by Marquis of Huntly, who enquired if it was the intention of the government to institute an inquiry into its causes by a select committee or Royal commission. Earl Beaconsfield spoke in the course of the debate. He acknowledged that the state of depression was excessive, that it had never, within his recollection, been equalled. He distinguished between the depression in trade and commerce, and that in agriculture. He argued that, there had been no diminution in production, in the volume of foreign trade, but the prices had been lower and lower. He accounted for the depression in agriculture, to successive bad harvests, and to the hitherto unexampled occurrence of low prices at the same time, to the competition of foreigners, and to the increased price of gold which lowered prices. Unlike Sir John A. MacDonald and Mr. Tilley, Earl Beaconsfield did not hold out any hope that the government could by manipulation of the tariff relieve the depression under which trade and agriculture are suffering, on the contrary he said, "There is nothing in my mind which would be of more bitter association than to pretend that by some small adjustment of taxation we can offer them a remedy when their distress is produced by numerous and complicated causes." The only remedy offered for the depression in the course of the debate, was suggested by Lord Forbes. "He could not see what good result could be produced by inquiry, all that was wanted was patience, and he believed that patience was the easiest and best thing to adopt." But the result of the debate has been that an investigation into the state and prospects of British Trade has been set afoot.

Last Saturday evening Mrs. Scott Siddons appeared before a Fredericton audience and reconfirmed the favorable impression she made several years ago. Her reading is rather characterised by sparkle, animation action, the effect of which is greatly aided by her very attractive appearance, than by deep feeling. Her best pieces were "Curfew must not toll to-night," "the Maniac," "the Creed of the Bells," and the scene from the "School for Scandal." Miss Fannie Richards diversified the entertainment by singing several songs in her popular style. A very fair audience was present at the performance, all the reserved seats being occupied, and some would have been more than occupied if all those who engaged them, could have sat in them.

ALARM OF FIRE.—On Monday morning about nine o'clock, fire was discovered breaking out on the roof of the dwelling house of F. A. H. Stratton, Esq., on Brunswick street. The Steamers "Alexandria" and "City of Fredericton," with hand engines 3 and 4 and Hook and Ladder Truck were quickly on hand but their services were not required, as the fire was extinguished with a few pails of water. As the engines were out and steam up, the opportunity was taken to try them, and it was found they worked in a most satisfactory manner.

ENORMOUS EGG.—A hen—a cross between a Plymouth Rock and a Brahma—owned by Mr. Isaac Stewart of this city, laid last week an egg, measuring 6½ x 8½ inches, and weighing 5 ounces. Match it who can.

A meeting of "Alexandra" Steam Fire Engine Company, will take place in the City Hall on Tuesday evening next at 8 o'clock.

The Zulu Campaign.

The eagerly expected intelligence of the result of the advance of the relieving forces was received on Monday, and was, happily of a cheering nature. On the 4th of April Ekowe (pronounced Echawey) was relieved, and the success of the movement to its aid, has lifted a load of anxiety from many hearts, and will further rouse the spirits of the inhabitants of Natal, which were much depressed after the disastrous day of Isandula, and which only recovered a better tone on the arrival of the British reinforcements. From the dispatches from Cape Vincent, April 6th, it appears, that, the relieving force under the command of Lord Chelmsford made a day's march from the Uyoni River, and arrived at Ginglelova, April 20th, where it encamped. On the following morning 11,000 Zulus under the Chief Dabulmansi, who was the leader at Isandula, attacked the entrenchments, trusting no doubt that his numerical superiority would enable him to completely surround, crush and assagai the British. But his repeated assaults were repulsed. Four hundred and seventy-one of his warriors were shot dead in the trenches, and his force fled suffering greatly in the pursuit. The loss of the British is stated to be one officer, Lieut. Johnson of the 99th regiment, and four privates, and Col. Northey, of the 60th regiment, the surgeon and fifteen men severely wounded. Col. Crealock, Major Barrow and ten men were wounded on the following day. Under cover of night Lord Chelmsford, with the 91st, 60th, and 57th regiments and a body of marines marched into Ekowe, which originally was a Norwegian mission station, and is situated on rising ground, but is commanded on all sides by high hills. What hearty cheers from the beleagured garrison must have saluted, in the early dawn, the advancing column. The joy of the moment of relief must have gone far to atone for the pain and suspense of their two months imprisonment. The garrison which numbered 1250 men, do not appear to have been driven to the direst extremity, judging from the statement, that but 28 died in that time, and 128 were sick in hospital. According to the plan of campaign, the 60th regiment was to have garrisoned Ekowe, but the dispatch says that the place was totally evacuated, and Colonel Pearson's force marched out towards the Jugela.

A much severer fight that what occurred at Ginglelova, on the 3rd of April, took place at Lunberge, on the 28th of March, when a large force of Zulus surprised Colonel Woods camp, and a fierce hand to hand conflict ensued, but the attackers were repulsed with greater slaughter. The loss of the British is variously estimated at 400 killed and wounded; that of the Zulus at 2,500. The officers killed were—Colonel Weatherly and his son, Captain Barton, Baron Vonsleetkroka, Lieutenants Nicolson and Bright, and Major Walkett, Captains Gardner, Fox and Peace, and Lieutenant Smith wounded. It may be expected that, future dispatches will correct some of the statements made; but the general impression, that, the news from South Africa leaves on the mind is, that whatever hard fighting the British troops may have yet to encounter, the Zulus are not likely to repeat Isandula, and that, the successes of the British arms is likely to repress any disposition that the Boers of the Transval, who have been demanding complete independence, may have to make common cause with the Zulus.

A correspondent writing from Fort Ekowe on Sunday, February 16, says:—

Ekowe (pronounced Echawey) was originally a Norwegian mission station, abandoned by its occupants, and more or less wrecked by the natives when the present trouble began. The mission had made but few converts, and had been only tolerated of late by Cotywayo. It consisted of three houses of sun-dried brick, straw thatched, and a church of the same material, roofed with galvanised iron, all of which are still standing, and inclosed in the fort—the houses forming stores, the church an hospital, and the small tower a look-out place. Besides these, at some distance outside of the present fort, were three other houses, now pulled down to prevent giving cover. The water is obtained from a stream, kept up by a spring, and flowing through thick woods, most of which have been cut down. The fort is an irregular hexagon, and is surrounded by a ditch ten feet deep and ten feet wide, and has all sorts of military obstacles outside. The ground here rises about 2000 feet above the level of the sea, but the fort is commanded on almost all faces. To the south-east, 1400 yards off, is a hill about 500 feet higher than this, from which, as indeed from all the high points round here, magnificent views can be obtained. The sea glitters on one side, about twenty miles off; and all round we overlook green rolling ground, dotted here and there with Karaff kraals, the slopes covered with a dark bush, which stretches in green waves till they surge into a chain of hills some 300 feet high, only to drop again into a common valley. Nevertheless, at sunrise or sunset, with a clear sky, the charm of the view does tend to alleviate one's repugnance to being planted out hear. Outside the houses were two magnificent groves of orange trees, a coffee garden, some banana patches, two or three fine clumps of bamboo, and several timber trees; all these have been levelled to the ground by the ruthless fortifiers, with the exception of a few fine specimens of the eucalyptus globulosa, or blue gum, which are still within the fort. The church is loop-holed for defence; and we have 450 yards of parapet for the use of musketry and batteries for one Gatling gun, two 12-pounders, two 7 pounders, and two rocket tubes. On these faces of the fort which are unflanked there are caponiers, and the salients are rendered impracticable to a sudden rush by all sorts of cunning obstacles.

An Invitation to the Governor-General.

John Smith and others, on behalf of the residents of the village of Argyle, Winnebago County, Illinois, formerly tenants of the Duke of Argyle, have addressed the Governor-General, petitioning and requesting His Excellency and Princess Louise to honor their settlements with a "visitation during the week of our great exposition, which will be inaugurated on the 15th of September, 1879." They say, "that it would afford Your Highness inspiration and joy to interweave such a picture of experience with the responsibilities of your official life. The occasion of your visitation would constitute a sublime episode in the history of our settlement." The Governor-General in reply courteously declining the invitation, says, nothing could give him greater pleasure than to see there those who have left the Duke of Argyle's castles in Scotland to settle in Illinois, but next to the satisfaction he would have in seeing them, is the joy to hear that they are happy and prosperous in the land of their adoption. The closing sentence of His Excellency's reply reads like a gentle reproach to the residents of Argyle for choosing the protection of the stars and stripes instead of the old flag. He tells them that the soil of Illinois much resembles "the districts of Canada in the Northwest where a large number of our Highland and Scottish countrymen are finding unequalled soil, the resources of which, now being actively developed, promise a prosperity as great as can be found in any part of the American continent."

ONTARIO ELECTIONS.—Writs will be issued in time to hold the nominations on Thursday, 29th of May, and the polling day on Thursday, the 5th of June.

Sugar Beets.

The Sugar Beet Seed imported from Germany by the Department for Agriculture has been pretty well distributed, so that farmers can obtain it with as little trouble as possible. Agricultural Societies and others who have not already sent their orders to the Secretary for Agriculture should do so as soon as possible. We would urge every farmer in the Province to give the Sugar Beet a fair trial, so that they may know from actual experiment the cost of raising it. This information is necessary before a company would go to the expense of erecting a factory. In adopting this course the farmers run no risk of loss, as there is no doubt but that the beets are as valuable as any other root crop for feeding. We would suggest that a correct account be kept of the cost of producing the crop on a given extent of land—which should be accurately measured—all the details should be put down in writing as they occur, so that there may be no guess work.

We have received the following letter from W. D. Perley, Esq., Treasurer of the Sunbury Agricultural Society, which gives the conditions adopted by that Society, and on which prizes will be awarded:—

MAUGERVILLE, April 20, 1879.

DEAR SIR,—At a meeting of the Sunbury Agricultural Society this day, the farmers expressed a willingness to experiment in growing the Sugar Beet. The following are the conditions: They are to keep an account of the time of sowing, quantity of seed used, the quality and character of the soil as near as possible, the quality and quantity of manure and how applied, if any artificial manure is used state kind, quantity and how applied, the mode of cultivation, the time of harvesting, and the yield by weight and measurement per ¼ of an acre, with full particulars of cost of cultivation, &c. An accurate account of all the above particulars to be given to Officers of the Society on or before the 20th of November.

I am of opinion that thirty or more members of the Society will try the experiment, and I feel satisfied that an honest trial will be made, so that a reliable opinion as regards the cultivation of Sugar Beets can be formed from our experiments.

Yours, truly,

W. D. PERLEY.

As many enquiries have been made for information as to mode of sowing and cultivating, we may again give the following as essential: The ground should be a rich mellow loam, well drained, drills from twenty-seven to thirty inches apart, a liberal allowance of well rotted manure spread in the bottom of the drill, as usual for root crops; should special manures be used in addition it may be sown on the manure before covering. After the manure is covered, which should be done by a double mould board plough, the drills should be lightly rolled before making a track for the seed; the seed should be sown immediately after the track is opened, before the earth has time to dry, and covered with about one inch of soil; if the soil is dry it may be covered a little deeper. As soon as the plants are well up the weeds should be cut with the hoe or cultivator, and when the plants are about two to three inches high they should be thinned to about ten inches apart, the after cultivation should be sufficient to keep the ground clean and free from weeds. The soil should not be drawn away from the plants as in turnip cultivation.

The New Jerusalem Lime Kiln.

The Queen's County Agricultural Society has done a good work during the last two or three years, by furnishing lime to the farmers of New Jerusalum, at a very low price, and of an excellent quality. Mr. Webb, the Secretary, has sent us an account of the kilns, and the cost of producing the lime which may be interesting to others, and induce them to adopt a like course. The Society intend building a new kiln, which is to be constructed of good stone and in workmanlike style, and to be finished by the 1st of May. It will be sixteen feet high, five feet round at the bottom, widening to ten feet at half the height, and sixteen feet to the top. The walls will be five feet thick at the bottom and 2½ feet at 8 feet high and to the top. The contract was given to the lowest tender for $101. The kiln, on what is known, as the Clowes lot, has been lengthened nearly three feet, and it will now burn from thirty to forty hogsheads more than before. The cost, including repairs, &c., was in all $84. It is the opinion of some people, that, the form or plan of the new kiln is not good; that it will not burn all the lime; that more or less raw stone will be left after each burning. The Secretary says if these opinions prove to be correct he will not fail to make the fact known for the good of others.

The Society counts the cost of production of lime, at the expense of wood, quarrying, burning and delivery. Mr. Webb, says, that 20 cords of wood will burn 110 hogsheads, cost of wood per kiln, $19.50; other work, $33—in all $52.50. The lime at 50 cents per hogshead will bring $55, which leaves a balance of $2.50, which goes towards repairs.

The effect of lime, Mr. Webb remarks, on crops is various, and it acts differently on different lands; applied to some crops scarcely any benefit will be discerned the first season; on lands on which barnyard manure will produce a good effect for only two or three years, the addition of lime to the manure will have the result of producing heavier crops, and will cause them to continue to do so for more than double the length of time. From 5 to 20 hogsheads of lime, slacked dry, per acre, or air slacked, spread on the land and worked into it by plough, cultivator or harrow, with an addition of other manures will pay on any land not too much exposed to surface water. It need not be wondered at if lime does no good on a side hill from which the spring and fall rains have washed all the light soil away. On some soils, such as clay, or lands which have accumulated the wash from higher lands, lime, without any other manure has a good effect.

Those who wish to know more regarding the manufacture and use of lime for agricultural purposes, can attend the monthly meeting of the Society, on the fourth Thursday of each month, in the Temperance Hall, New Jerusalem, or correspond with the Secretary-Treasurer who will, to any brother farmer, cheerfully give the information derived from the operations of the Society.

☞ Cotton Goods are selling as cheap as ever at the Albion House.

LEASE OF WHARVES.—Yesterday the lease of the city wharves for this year, 1879, was sold for $370, being an increase of $59 over the amount obtained in 1878.

NEW SERIAL STORY BY JEAN INGELOW.—A new serial story by Jean Ingelow will begin in the number of *Littel's Living Age* for the week ending April 26th. It is published from the author's advance sheets, and opens in a very interesting way. The progress of a new story by this popular writer will be eagerly watched.

A new volume of the *Living Age*, by the way, began with the first number of April, affording a good time for the beginning of new subscrptions.

For fifty-two numbers of sixty-four large pages each (or more than 3,000 pages a year), the subscription price ($8) is low; while for $10.50 the publishers offer to send any one of the American $4 monthlies or weeklies with *The Living Age* for a year, both postpaid. Littell & Co., Boston, publishers.

City Council

There was a special meeting of the City Council on Monday night. An order was passed for the issue of debentures, to the amount of $4,000, for permanent Exhibition Building, stating mode of payment; an assessment of $500 was ordered to provide for payment of interest on loans and debentures in aid of said building. The city officers, (the same as last year,) were appointed with no change in salaries, Ald. Gunter making a single and desperate effort to have them reduced. Constables and surveyors of lumber were appointed. No action was taken on report submitted by the Mayor with regard to the St. John Fire Relief Fund. A motion was made by Ald. Burchill to grant a wholesale license to sell liquor to Mr. Alex. Barchill, and it was carried 7 to 3—Aldermen G. H. Simmons, Smith, and Babbitt voting in the negative. The license was granted by authority of sub-section 8 of Section 90, of "The Canada Temperance Acts," as follows:—

Provided also, that any merchant or trader exclusively in wholesale trade, and duly licensed to sell liquor by wholesale, having his store or place for sale of goods within such county or city, may thereat keep for sale and sell intoxicating liquor, but only in quantities not less than ten gallons at any one time, and only to druggists and other licensed as aforesaid, or to such persons as he has good reason to believe will forthwith carry the same beyond the limits of the county or city, and of any adjoining county or city in which the second part of this Act is then in force, to be wholly removed and taken away in quantities not less than ten gallons at a time.

An endeavor was made to fix the licence fee at $200, but as the law gave the Council no power to go beyond $100 it was fixed at that figure. Messrs. Limerick and Grieves were approved as bondsmen for the license granted to Mr. Alex. Burchill. The Mayor, in furtherance of a report made by him, was appointed a delegate to arrange with the Local Government the boundary liae between the Normal School Building and Phœnix Square. The petition of A. F. Randolph, Andrew G. Blair, and 231 other ratepayers, to heve a platform laid from Long's Hotel Corner to the Railway Station was presented by Ald. Smith, and referred to Road Committee. His Worship corrected some misrepresentations that had been made of his speech regarding the High School.

New Brunswick Penitentiary.

Among the numerous "Bluebooks" received from Ottawa, is the Report of the Minister of Justice as to Penitentiaries of Canada, 1878. J. G. Moylan, Esq., Inspector of Penitentiaries, reports an increase of crime in 1878, over the preceding year. In 1878, there was a convict population in the several Penitentiaries—Kingston, St. Vincent de Paul, St. John, Halifax, Manitoba—numbering 1,159, against one in 1877 of 1,081, being an increase of 78. He attributes the increase of crime to the financial depression that has prevailed all over the Dominion and the consequent dearth of employment. He found the St. John Penitentiary much overcrowded. 163 convicts and common prisoners were registered on 15th of August 1877, though there are only 88 cells in it. This overcrowding raised apprehensions of a epidemic during the hot weather, and of deeper demoralization among the unfortunate inmates, owing to the difficulty of exercising a strict and continuous supervision with a limited staff, over a large number of evil-disposed persons brought into close coutact and associations under cover of night. When the Dorchester penitentiary, the first wing of which is expected to be completed 1st of July, 1879, is opened, the convicts in the St. John institution, will probably be transferred to it. Owing to the large increase of convicts since the Dorchester penitentiary was first commenced, all the convicts in the Maritime Provinces cannot be sent to it until another wing is built, and Mr. Moylan recommends that it should be commenced immediately.

The Inspector with great zeal, and sarcasm urges more Christian treatment of discharged prisoners. Now they find, that though they have worked out their sentence, they have not worked out their punishment. Society, "virgin white," distressingly shudders at the bare mention of past offence, and immaculate, relentlessly shuts the door in their face, and drives them back into crime. "We all know that the real philosphy of the malice is to be expressed in some such formula as this: that society being interiorly rotten, must exteriorly wear a sensitive front; and that since sins are only vulgar when the criminal code has condemned them—propriety must show its breeding by cruelty." He advocates with much show of reason and right feeling the formation of societies in each Province for the rescue of returned convicts. He says that—

At some of the penal institutions on the Continent of Europe the most scrupulous care is taken to veil the names and antecedents of criminals, so that when they return into the world they may not be disgraced, and may have the best possible chance of starting afresh. This is Christian; it is also most politic. No good is done to anybody by multiplying miseries or throwing up obstacles to reform. The more we can diminish the incitements to evil the better for ourselves and for the hapless. The project suggested is worthy the consideration of good men who might, with little cost, and without any real risk, associate themselves to save convicts. It is equally feasible and quite as benevolent and Christian as our efforts in other directions. From an interested standpoint, the appeal in behalf of the returned convict should touch us more sensitively, and be responded to more liberally, than the many that are annually made in favor of the benighted idolators and heathens of Cochin-China or the Islands of the South Pacific. The returned convict has a soul to save as well as those for-away objects of our charitable zeal. He is at our door; we have not to traverse the wide ocean or distant lands in search of him. He is, moreover, our fellow-subject—our fellow-Christian. Will nothing be done to save him from relapse, to encourage him to lead a new and better life, in reality to "snatch a brand from the burning?"

☞ Call at Edgecombe's Dry Goods House, and see the New Carpets, Hearth Rugs, Curtain Damasks, and Lace Curtains just opened.

READY FOR FIRE.—Edgecombe & Sons who purchased No. 5 hand fire engine from the city have it now in first rate working order, and supplied with 100 feet of new rubber hose in addition to the old leather hose which is perfectly serviceable yet. There is plenty of water about and around the premises. Judging by the trial performances, No. 5 will be able to do "yoeman's service," in case fire should unfortunately break out in the Edgecombe Factory, or any of the contigious premises.

The Legislature of P. E. Island met on Thursday. Governor Hudgson in the opening speech spoke of the very unsatisfactory condition of the finances of the Province, and councelled the adoption of the most stringent economy. A Bill for the abolition of the Legislative Council will be introduced in the course of the session.

The vote was taken on the Permissive Bill in Prince Edward Island on Thursday, and it was carried by a vote of 857 to 233.

"A Stranger"

Some busybody who signs himself "A Stranger," wrote to the *Morning News* on Monday, after the fire on Brunswick Street that morning. "Stranger" is no stranger, for what object could a veritable stranger have in writing to St. John about a matter that did not concern him, that took place in Fredericton. The stranger pretence is "too thin." The letter is, no doubt, the production of some one in the habit of cooking up sensational bits of news for the "dailies," careless as to what wrong statements he makes or what wrong impressions he creates. He exaggerates in saying, that, the fire that morning threatened to result disastrously, but if he had not commenced on that key, he could have had no excuse for abusing the Fire Department, and alarming the citizens of Fredericton. He tries to throw ridicule on the tardiness shown in turning out the engines, and their being dragged by men and boys to the scene of the fire, where they arrived "ten minutes' after the alarm was given. He thinks it especially funny that the horses were not available at the time, and were brought at a hand gallop by the teamster in time to be too late to draw the engines. With regard to the horses we may say, that nine times out of ten fires break out at night, and are not of frequent occurrence at any time. It is absurd to suppose that the city could keep the horses always in their stalls eating their heads off, for the chance of a fire occurring; so that there was nothing out of the way in the team being on the hill at work that Monday morning. As for the slowness with which the engines were dragged to the tanks, it must be remembered, that, it necessarily took some little time to carry the alarm from Brunswick Street to the Engine House, yet the heavy engines were out and dragged by "men and boys" to the tanks according to "Strangers" own statement *in ten minutes* from the time the fire was discovered. As the fire never was alarming, and was all but extinguished by hand by the time the engines were ready to work, it would only have caused useless damage to the house to have played upon it. "Stranger" attempts to make fun of "several stylish young gentlemen" for the slow and clumsy way they forced a ladder against the house, the fact being that owing to a quantity of snow by the fence against which the ladder was placed, it was difficult to obtain a steady footing for it.

The Fire Department of Fredericton is not so completely equipped perhaps as the fire departments in large and wealthier cities, but it can be trusted to do its duty when a real emergency occurs, and "Stranger" cannot alarm the citizens by predicting terrible disasters from its management. The fire record here compares very favorably with those of the cities of St. John, Portland, Calais, and the towns of Woodstock and St. Stephen, which have been devastated and almost destroyed by fires, while Fredericton has in a great measure escaped.

The Ukase.

The attempt on the life of the Czar, following many murderous attacks on officials, has brought matters to a sort of crisis in Russia. A reign of suppression is inaugurated in six districts: St. Petersburg, Charkoff, Odessa, Moscow, Kieff and Warsaw, the civil administration in each of which is placed under the control of Governors General in the same manner as it is subordinate to the commander-in-chief of the army in the time of war. In districts where martial law has been proclaimed, the control of all educational establishments is vested in the Governors General, who are also empowered to send before the military tribunals all civilians in their districts; also summarily to remove from their districts all persons considered dangerous, to order arrest of persons in their own judgment, to suppress temporarily, or permanently any newspaper or periodicals, and generally to adopt measures considered necessary for the preservation of the public peace. In Russia, while the Ukase establishing this barbarous despotism continues in force, all liberty will be crushed out, freedom of speech and action will be absolutely denied, the inhabitants will live in an atmosphere of fear, suspicion, and espionage. No man will be safe, for at the caprice of officials he may be dragged from his home, summarily tried and convicted of some unsubstantiated charge, cast into prison or sent to Siberia; men prevented from meeting and speaking openly, will conspire in secret, and their passions concentrated by suppression, will burn more fiercely against their tyrants, and perchance, when life under such black despotism becomes unendurable, break out in bloody revolution. The Ukase if carried out, will, as the *Pall Mall Gazette* says, "provoke political assassination on the one side, which will be answered by political assassination on the other. For one such crime on the one side, there will be a hundred on the other, and these last inflicted on men and women innocent of all offences whatever. It is truly an awful state of things, nor is it possible to forsee how it may end."

Much ado about nothing.

The times are very dull. Politicians, talkers, and newspaper correspondents are alive to the possibilities of every passing event. A rather laughable exhibition of great ado about nothing has been made within a few days by some wiseacres anent the safety of two rooms in the Normal School Building. It seems that the Board of Education recently arranged with the architect, Mr. McKean, to level two floors in the building before the re-opening of the school. When these floors were built the architect recommended that the levelling should be done when these floors had sunk as much as they would. It was thought that two year's exposure to the steam-heating had caused all possible shrinkage, and Mr. McKean went to work early in the week to level the floors as desired by the Board of Education. Some one, we are told, hearing of this, either in joke or otherwise, hunted up the Mayor and represented to him that the floors were about to fall on the children in the Model School. His Worship was naturally alarmed, and, trusting, we suppose, implicitly to the statement made to him, wrote to the Chief Superintendent that he had just discovered that the floors were unsafe and "that something must be done." But all was done that it was necessary to do. As we said before, the times are very dull, and the report of the threatened falling of the floors being capable of sensational treatment was eagerly seized upon by purveyors of news. But there was really nothing in it.

☞ The public are invited to inspect the New Goods daily opening at Edgecombe's. All new, choice, and at very low prices.

At five minutes past eleven, on Thursday night, the last of the tariff resolutions were passed in the House of Commons, Ottawa, amid loud cheering, which, we presume, came from the Ministerial benches. A Bill founded on the resolution, was after-introduced.

EXHIBITION DEBENTURES.—The Debentures for the Permanent Exhibition Building to the amount of $4,000, the order for the issue of which was made at the special meeting of the City Council on Monday, were all disposed of yesterday.

Mr. Eli Perkins has for sale a new patent churn, invented by Mr. George Barker, Sheffield, which seems well adapted for its purpose. It is worked by rotrary motion, by junction of cog and balance wheels, so easily that a child might manage it.

PERMISSIVE BILL IN CARLETON CO.—On Thursday, the vote was taken in Carleton County on the Permissive Bill. The returns as far as given show 1178 for and 49 against the Bill.

I. O. O. F. Celebration.

Last night the Victoria Lodge of the Independent Order of Oddfellows celebrated the sixth anniversary of the foundation of the institution of their Order in this city, by a Grand Promenade Concert and Bonnet Hop. The attendance of members of the Order from St. John and Moncton was not so large as was at first anticipated. Gilbert Murdoch, Esq., Grand Master of the Lower Provinces, and a few brethren from St. John were present; otherwise the attendance was large, the members of the Victoria Lodge being there in full numbers, and the ladies of Fredericton largely represented. The interior of the building was well lighted with large reflector lamps in addition to the gasaliers, and decorated with words of "welcome," and the watchwords of the Order. Banners with the names of the different Lodges throughout the Province were hung around the galleries. On the floor were drawn the hand and the three mystic circles of Fidelity, Love, and Truth, connected by links.

The members of Brysons Band in uniform, occupied the raised dias, and played a fine selection of pieces, as the prominaders made the round of the galleries, observing and observed.

During the evening the seats in the front of the galleries were well filled, many prefering to take their pleasure quietly. About 10 o'clock, A. G. Beckwith, Esq., one of the Masters of the ceremonies, called for a grand march, whereon among the brethren there was bustling to secure partners. When the forces were gathered, and the march commenced, each Oddfellow had a fair lady hanging on either arm, representing, we suppose, Love between Fidelity and Truth, and round the mystic circles they moved, presenting a fine spectacle to those who watched them from above. Soon after the march was finished, the serious business of the evening, the dancing commenced, and as seen from the galleries, the movements of the dancers through the various figures, produced a fine effect, though the light cloud of dust which rose from the floor, a little obscured the brilliancy of the scene. There were nineteen dances on the programme, and it was well on in the morning before they were finished.

Refreshments of various kinds, and liquids, all innicuous, were served to the hungry and thirsty during the evening by attentive attendants at the table where they were spread. All the arrangements were well carried out by the committee of management, and if the festivity was not as brilliant or successful as expected, the season and the dull times must be blamed.

THE STREETS, THE SPRING TRADE, AND THE STORES.—The streets do not present so muddy and dirty appearance as they did when we noticed their condition last week. The horses with the snow plough on Thursday, took the rough of the mud off the middle of the roads, and parties of men are now engaged scraping them clean. They will have a good deal to do if they perform their work thoroughly. The merchants are making preparations for the spring trade and are freshening up their stores, and filling them with choice goods which are continually arriving. The fine stores in the Sharkey Block are nearly finished, and have all their plate glass windows completely fitted in, and Mr. Sharkey has already moved his goods into one of them. Mr. Thomas Lucy we understand, has taken the store in the new block, next the Barker House alley, and will fit it up as a Boot and Shoe establishment, and Mr. Shute has leased the store next adjoining, and will soon we suppose commence to move in. Mr. Geo. H. Davis has been making great improvements inside and outside his store, which will look as tasty, and fresh, and handsome, as new paint and new fixings can make it. Mr. T. McCarthy is putting a new front in his grocery store in Regent Street, and making internal improvements. Colter & Son have made alterations in their building and have fitted up a new store in modern style into which they have moved. Mr. J. Wiley, Druggists, will give up their store next Wilmot's Alley, and occupy that vacated by the Messrs. Colter, which is being made ready in good style for him. In the store of Davis & Dibblee, the painters have been at work beautifying the ceiling and walls, making it the handsomest establishment of the kind in the Province. Mr. A. A. Sterling will