THE HERALD.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1883.

Public Accounts of Canada.

THE Public Accounts, which have been laid before Parliament this session, disclose, upon examination, a state of affairs which, to every man who wishes Canada well, must be decidedly satisfactory. The history of our Dominion, during the years from 1874 to 1879, is not a pleasant subject for contemplation, neither shall we revert to it. The questions of Free Trade, Protection and Fair Trade have almost exclusively engaged the attention of our people for the last five or six years. The fly-on-the-wheel policy of the Liberal Government had disgusted the great mass of the electorate, and, at the first opportunity, Sir John Macdonald was returned with an immense majority to work out the problem of Protection to Home Industries, and to avert, so far as it was then possible, the dire effects of Mr. Mackenzie's administration. Sir John's policy was purely speculative—it had to be formulated, and well considered—in the very nature of things, it was impossible that, should any beneficial effects result from it, they would be apparent for a few years. It had to be put into practice, and time given it to shew wherein it required amendment. But little over three years' trial has it had, when we think that the verdict must be triumphantly in its favor. The age of deficits has passed—let us hope never to return—a new era seems to have dawned, and instead of the Finance Minister annually being compelled to admit that the operations of the year had left him deeply in debt, that the trade of Canada was growing smaller, and her credit getting worse, that it was impossible to borrow money, but that he was unable to help it, he now can congratulate the representatives of the people that the country has had sufficient to meet all its obligations, to extend its borders, to enter into new operations, and that there is something to spare. This is the Conservative mode of governing the country, as contrasted with the Reform (!) method. But we are told that all this is wrung from the pockets of the taxpayers; that the Government is actually robbing the country, by exacting more revenue than is needed for actual requirements. What, then, will be said regarding those years in which there were deficits—the Government must have suffered, and the amount remained in the peoples' pockets. But we do not propose to indulge in empty boasting. We are prepared to prove our statements at the risk even of tiring our readers with a lot of figures. We know they are rather dry reading, but when adduced in support of facts, they are interesting to taxpayers at least.

First, we will deal with our financial position on the 30th June, 1882, as compared with former years. In 1867 the net debt was $75,728,000; in 1873, when the first Conservative Government went out of office, $99,848,000, an increase in seven years of $24,120,000. During this period there were expended upon capital account $36,192,600, so that actually the assets of the country were increased, or the people enriched to the extent of the difference, viz., $12,000,000. Between 1873 and 1878, when the Liberals were in power, the debt was increased to $140,362,000, or by $40,514,000. During this period the expenditures upon capital account were only $38,515,000, or the country lost $2,000,000. To carry on the comparison—from 1878 to 1882, since the Conservatives returned to power, the debt has still further increased to $153,661,000, or by the amount of $13,299,000. During this period the capital expenditure reached $29,416,872, being a gain of over $16,000,000 to the country. On June 30, 1882, the net debt was $153,661,650, against $155,395,780 in the preceding year, being a decrease of $1,734,130. The average rate of interest paid on this debt was, in 1882, 4.40 per cent., against 4.85 per cent. in 1878, and 5.54 per cent. in 1871. The first loan which will mature will be in 1885, and amounts to over $32,000,000. This bears 5 per cent., and it is proposed to replace it at not exceeding 4 per cent., thus effecting an annual saving of $324,000 in the item of interest alone.

Turning to the consideration of the actual revenue and expenditure for the past year, we learn that the total receipts, on account of the Consolidated Fund, were $33,383,455.52, and the total expenditure $27,067,103.58, leaving a surplus of $6,316,351.94. The year before the surplus amounted to $4,132,743, making, for the two years, a gross sum of $10,449,095. For the five previous years the total deficit was $7,970,186. Although the expenditure in 1882 was larger than in any previous year, the administration of affairs seems to have been carried on with economy, and it is a fact that in several branches the expenditure has decreased considerably, notably in Legislation, Penitentiaries, Pensions, Militia, &c. In the revenues derivable from Customs, Excise, Post Office and Public Works, there has been an increase over 1879 of ten and one-half millions, and a corresponding increase in the expenditure of these same departments of less than half a million.

A glance at the Trade Statistics is most satisfactory. The aggregate trade of Canada last year was the largest it has yet been, and amounted to a total of $221,556,703. When the National Policy was first suggested, it was argued that one of the results of its adoption would be a large falling off in our trade with Great Britain, and that our relations with the Mother Country would be prejudiced in consequence. Experience has proved the fallacy of this argument; let us turn to the proofs. In 1879 our aggregate trade with Great Britain was $67,288,848; in 1882, $95,871,802, or an increase of over $28,000,000. Comparing the trade with Great Britain as with the United States, we find that in 1879 the imports from Great Britain valued $30,993,130; in 1882, $50,597,341, an increase of nearly twenty millions of dollars; in 1879 the imports from the United States valued $43,739,219; in 1882, $48,289,052; an increase of four-and-one-half millions of dollars. In 1879 Great Britain's proportion of the import trade was forty-one per cent; and that of the United States, fifty-nine per cent. In 1882 Great Britain's proportion has risen to fifty-seven per cent; and that of the United States declined to forty-three per cent. With foreign countries the aggregate trade has also largely increased, particularly in the cases of Germany, the Spanish West Indies, South America, and China and Japan.

One rises from a consideration of the several returns set forth in the Public Accounts and Trade and Navigation Reports with a feeling of content, satisfied that the country is prosperous, and that the government of it is in the hands of men who not only have its welfare at heart, but have also the head to direct its affairs successfully.

The Debasing Influences of Ignorance.

IN our article last week, upon the Mission of the Press, we called attention to the fact that moral causes have brought ruin and destruction upon peoples and nations. One of the most prominent causes of misery is the undeveloped state of many minds. Man is created with limited powers; his mind is capable of being wonderfully developed. A mine of the purest gold lies dormant in the human intelligence. As the marble must be chiselled to give it life and beauty; as the mine of gold must be carefully delved, so must the human mind be properly trained and patiently stored with useful knowledge. Education, in its true significance, means that all the powers of the soul should be brought into force and vigor. Man, without this moral training, instead of being only a little inferior to the angels, is but a grade removed from the dumb animal of the fields. The intelligence of man, *although limited, is founded and* fashioned upon the uncreated Wisdom and infinite Intelligence of the living God. If the hidden taculties of the soul are fully developed; if the intellect is properly trained to think correctly and act honestly, you have the most faithful and the grandest image of God, man standing forth and towering up to the sublime heights of the Creator's wisdom and knowledge. The intellect will then discover its proper object to be truth, as it exists in God. This will give the loftiest aim and purpose to man's words, actions, and aspirations in this world. He will steadily and constantly tend to the end of his creation, and, as faithfully as the needle points to the pole, he will direct his course to God. All his words, all his actions, will have a supernatural motive. Such a man is a good citizen, a peaceful member of the community, a person who complies with the requirements of his exalted dignity, and always aims at his final, noble destiny.

If we glance at the opposite character—the man without training of any kind—we will shudder at the very contemplation. The wide universe is as a sealed book to the man without knowledge. The heart of such a semi-savage corresponds with the untilled mind—it will produce a harvest of evil deeds and foul crimes. He cannot have a lofty aim in life, inasmuch as he does not know the end for which he exists. Like the rudderless vessel, tossed on the foaming deep, he is at the mercy of every wave of his brute-like passions. He follows the bent of his evil inclinations, as the beast follows his natural instinct. It is only a question of development, whether he shall come forth as the robber, the murderer, or the libertine. He is a fit graduate for either. He becomes a social pest, the terror of decent society. Statistics amply prove the old saying, that "ignorance is the parent of vice."

What, then, is the duty of every person interested in the progress of our country? Is it not to see that the children be properly educated?—that the priceless boon of education be placed within the reach of all, rich and poor alike; and, being so, to observe that they avail themselves of its advantages? But, above all, is it not the obligation of every Christian to take care that the training of the heart be in keeping with the development of the mind? Without moral cultivation, an educated man is but a learned monster, capable of putting in play all the refinements of vice without restraint. Parents, teachers, ministers of religion, legislators, all should take good heed that the coming generation be so thoroughly trained, that they may be adorned with those moral and social virtues which will render them intelligent and useful members of society.

Parliamentary Proceedings.

OTTAWA, FEB. 20.

In the Commons, the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery attended, in obedience to an order of the House, with the papers in the controverted election case of Macdonald and Robertson, returned for King's County, P. E. Island. Action was delayed.

Sir Leonard Tilley introduced a Bill providing for the raising of a loan, at a rate of interest not exceeding 4 per cent., to pay off and discharge the loan falling due in March, 1885, and which bears 5 per cent. interest.

The House was poorly attended, many of the members being engaged in stumping Ontario for the local elections.

FEBRUARY 21.

In the Commons, Mr. Hesson moved for copies of any correspondence that may have passed between the Governor General and the British Government, as to the selection of a successor to His Excellency. A portion of the press had pointed to Sir John as the coming man; he hoped these rumors were not true, as the Conservative party could ill spare him. Yet some journals who considered him unfit to be leader of a Government, and bad enough for anything, considered him a proper man for Governor General.

In reply, Sir John Macdonald said that there was no correspondence upon the subject that could be brought down. Whatever it was, it was with His Excellency as an Imperial officer, and with that correspondence the Government had no concern, and could exercise no control over it. He had no doubt that whoever Her Majesty might send as successor to the present illustrious incumbent, would be graciously accepted. As to himself, he had no aspirations, and if he had, there was not the most remote chance of them being satisfied. He was condemned to the grateful and onerous task of leading the Conservative Party, a position which he expected to fill so long as he remained in public life, either on one side or other of the House, as the people might determine. Besides, he had pledged himself to the House to move, in 1892, the readjustment of the constituencies in Ontario, and that pledge he must keep. This subject was one that had been very fully aired at the time of Confederation, and he still held the views he then enunciated. As the Queen, in England, stands above and aloft from all parties, so had we, in Canada, the advantage of having a representative of the Crown, standing above all parties, and holding the balance between them. He was of opinion that it would be a very great misfortune if this system should be changed, and he had repeatedly stated that opinion in 1865, 1866 and 1867. In this respect, our Constitution was far preferable to that of the United States, where the President is the head of a party, instead of being the head of the nation. He repeated that it would be a great misfortune, in his opinion, should the present system be altered, but he was happy to believe that there was no likelihood of that. Under our present system, Canada was growing in importance in the eyes of the world, as an auxiliary nation to Great Britain, and he hoped it would be continued to the end.

The motion was withdrawn.

The Opposition are following up the old practice of moving for bulky, and, what will prove in many instances, useless returns. To obtain these, a large staff of additional clerks has to be employed, and as it will be impossible to procure some of the papers this session, we may expect soon to be treated not only to a homily upon the extravagance of the Government in employing extra clerks, but to numerous complaints as well, upon the unwillingness of the Government to bring down the returns.

FEBRUARY 22.

In the Commons, Mr. Hackett asked whether it is the intention of the Government to build, this year, the Branch Railway from Cape Traverse to the Main Line of Prince Edward Island Railway.

Sir Charles Tupper replied that it was the intention of the Government to proceed with the work in the spring.

FEBRUARY 23.

Dr. Jenkins moved, in the Commons, for a select committee to consider the question of steam communication between Prince Edward Island and the Mainland, winter and summer. He said that there were so many sectional jealousies concerning the matter, that it was impossible to arrive at a proper conclusion without a committee to investigate the whole question.

Mr. Davies opposed the motion, as tending to cause further delay. Surveys had already been made, and reports obtained from competent engineers, and the Committee proposed would procure no new light upon the subject. He criticised Dr. Jenkins' remarks upon the effect of the National Policy upon Prince Edward Island, which he said had been most disastrous. Real Estate had largely depreciated, and the people were leaving the Province by hundreds. Prices since 1878 were lower than ever before. There was scarcely any shipping left, the people having had to sell it at a sacrifice, because they could find no employment for it.

Mr. Hackett was in favor of the motion, and of getting all the information possible upon the subject. He clearly showed the inaccuracy of Mr. Davies' statements regarding the effects of the National Policy, and read from a comparative statement of prices in P. E. Island markets of farm productions in 1878 and 1882, which showed an increase of prices ranging from 25 up to nearly 100 per cent. He showed the registered tonnage of Island shipping when they entered the Union in 1873, was 38,913 tons. Their tonnage owned in 1882 showed an increase over this of 3,000. He said that Island shipping had gone largely into foreign trade, because higher freights prevailed in that direction.

Sir Charles Tupper was in favor of appointing the Committee. It had been found that the *Northern Light* was not competent to keep up communication all winter, and accordingly a vote had been passed to build a Branch Railway between Cape Traverse and the main line, and work would be commenced immediately in the spring. It was intended to extend the summer service, and the Island might rest assured that every means possible would be adopted to carry out the terms of Confederation.

Committee was accordingly appointed.

The Bill to extend the charter of the Farmers' Bank, Rustico, has been referred to the Committee on Banking and Commerce.

Terrible Panic in a New York School.

SIXTEEN CHILDREN CRUSHED TO DEATH.

An appalling calamity visited New York on the 20th inst., which has cast the shadow of death over nearly a score of households, and filled with anguish and lamentation many other homes, which little girls had left to attend school, in the afternoon, full of health and merriment, and to which they were brought, a few hours later, maimed, terrified, and, in many cases, unconscious. The scene of the catastrophe was the school building connected with the Church of the Redemptorist Fathers in East Third Street, and the cause was a slight fire which was discovered under the narrow stairway connecting the second and third storeys. Fourteen girls, pupils in the school, were killed outright—all of them perishing from suffocation, in part caused by smoke, and in part by the huddling at the foot of the stairway of nearly 100 panic-stricken children, who, by the breaking of the banisters, were hurled together in a struggling, helpless mass. A few moments later another victim was added to the fatal list.

The excitement in the neighborhood was so intense, and the crowd that gathered in the immediate vicinity was so large and compact, that persons seeking information in regard to their children, who were regular attendants of the school, were unable, in most instances, to obtain any knowledge of the safety or fate of their little ones until they visited the Fifth Street station house, to which eleven bodies were taken for identification. The fire which had caused the alarm, the subsequent panic, and the sacrifice of life was of really a trifling character, and was readily extinguished by the firemen, who were promptly at the scene of death. The Sisters, under whose charge the school is conducted, acted with great presence of mind, and made every effort to allay consternation and avert a panic, but when one of the terrified pupils cried "Fire!" the rush for the stairway became general, and it was impossible to prevent the crush that followed.

The news of the calamity spread through the East side, followed by the most exaggerated accounts of a great loss of life among the school children. Hundreds of agonized parents, anxious to know the fate of their little ones, gathered around the building, struggling vainly to get a glimpse of fifteen little palefaced corpses that were carried out one after another, to see if their children were numbered among the victims of the catastrophe. The scene that followed the crash, that led to the death of the fifteen little girls, and the wounding of nearly a score of their companions, was one of horror, and many of those who witnessed it shed tears. Mothers and fathers struggled like senseless beings in the narrow passageways that led to a staircase in the fatal building, where, by the breaking of a flimsy railing, fifteen souls were precipitated into eternity.

At the time the fire was first discovered, Rev. Father Hespelein was in the first-class room, in which were about twenty of the eldest girls. The smoke was first noticed by two of the Sisters on the fourth floors. They began to whisper in undertones to each other. Gradually the smoke became thicker, and made itself apparent to the children. They began to get uneasy and move about in their seats. Suddenly a childish voice screamed "fire." In an instant all the children rose and made one wild rush for the doors. The Sisters vainly tried to check them by voice and by force, but the thickening smoke that drifted upward from the second floor, where the stairway was on fire, only excited the children to a pitch of frenzy. In a solid body they dashed by their teacher, crying and screaming, all seeking to make their escape down the staircase. Some of the Sisters managed to partially restrain their frightened pupils, and induce them to go down the stairs in some semblance of order.

Sister Bonaventura was on the landing on the first floor, trying to check the press. She shouted to the children to be quiet, and to take their time in descending the stairs. But the children heeded her not, and the constantly growing crowd above only added to the crush. The Sister tried to force the children back, but the weight of those above impelled them onward, and wedged her in among a crowd of struggling little ones. Still the brave Sister seemed only intent on staying the frightened rush, but all her efforts to soothe their terror were in vain. Cries and screams broke out from the struggling mass, as more and more frightened children, who were trying to escape, bore down on those blocked in beneath. The weak wooden stair-guard began to creak under the strain, and suddenly there was a loud crash, and screams of terror and pain. The stair-guard, no longer able to stand the pressure, had burst, and as it fell in the narrow passage below nearly fifty, urged on by the crowd above, fell over the unguarded side.

The scene that followed baffled description. Fifty children or more lay in one struggling heap on the landing, uttering the most heartrending cries. It was one living, inextricable mass of arms, legs, bodies and heads, five deep. Those who had fallen underneath were suffocated by those above. The smoke, and the frightened children running into the street, had already alarmed the neighborhood, and crowds of anxious parents rushed into the school building.

Before the firemen could reach the building, nearly 500 people had blocked the passages and sidewalk, so that when they came it was almost impossible for them to enter. Cool-headed citizens entered the building and helped to extricate the children who lay crushed upon one another. The only way the rescuers could get to the heap of children was through a door leading from one of the rooms, and the door opening into the church passage. But a few of the volunteers could work here, and they as rapidly as they could dragged child after child out of the heap, and passed them to willing arms, in which they were carried to the church and street. Twenty or thirty had been passed out, the Sisters working with might and main in the task of life-saving before the firemen arrived.

The work of extricating the children was necessarily slow. Many were so wedged in that, although their heads or shoulders were visible, yet their bodies were held fast by those around them. The brave Sister Bonaventura lay unconscious beneath a dozen little ones. Tenderly the firemen carried her into an adjoining room, where she recovered. At the Station House was congregated a silent, sorrowing throng, and in the ranks were many anxious-faced women, who gazed with wide-distended eyes at the limp little forms which were borne by strong-armed policemen into the doorway of the Station House. The bodies were placed in a row in the back room of the Station House, and a slip of paper bearing a number in big blue characters was pinned to each of their breasts. Then the anxious, waiting throng of fathers and mothers were admitted. Women walked by the forms of the dead, steadfastly gazing at each face, and heaving a sigh of relief when they found that their worst fears were not realized. As they passed from body to body, their quickened breath and brighter eyes showed the relief they experienced on finding that their own were not among the lost, until, perhaps, the last wan face they gazed on, took the blood from their faces, and a shriek announced to the officer keeping the record of identifications that another body had been recognized. The scenes that ensued in the Station House sitting-room were of the most heartrending character, and even policemen, inured to such scenes, were seen to turn away from the sight with weeping eyes. Some, upon recognizing their dead, would fall prostrate on the floor and hug and kiss the forever silent lips, and pour out their lamentations in tears.

The fire itself was comparatively trifling, and the loss of life was attributable entirely to the insufficiency of the means of egress. In addition, the children were not posted in the fire drill, as is the case in the New York public schools. In the opinion of the Coroner, they all died from suffocation. The children were chiefly of German parentage; and in addition to the sixteen who were killed, it is supposed that between sixty and seventy others were injured.

The New Brunswick Legislature.

The New Brunswick Legislature was opened on Thursday last. Mr. Lynott, member for Charlotte County, was chosen Speaker, defeating the Opposition nominee by a vote of 21 to 17. Hon. D. Hannington, father of the Premier, was unanimously elected President of the Legislative Council. Governor Wilmot, in his Speech, congratulated the members upon the favorable circumstances under which they assembled, and upon the increasing prosperity of the Province. Provision is asked for the Provincial Exhibition intended to be held this year in St. John, which it is proposed shall take the character of a Dominion Exposition, and also afford an opportunity of celebrating the centennial anniversary of the landing of the Loyalists. Railway construction is proceeding satisfactorily. The Stock Farm is meeting with reasonable success. Arrangements have been made for the dissemination of correct knowledge for the benefit of intending settlers. The mission of the delegation to Ottawa upon the claims arising out of the construction of the Eastern Extension Railway, and the maintenance of prisoners in jails, is referred to. Legislation is promised upon the subject of amending the constitution, by vesting the powers in one Legislative Chamber, and several other measures of minor local interest. The Upper Chamber is engaged discussing a question of privilege. Hon. Mr. Kelly, a member of that body, removed to Toronto, and his seat was declared vacant, and Hon. Mr. Davidson appointed in his place. Mr. Kelly has since arrived and claims his seat.

Newfoundland Legislature.

THE Newfoundland Legislature opened on the 15th inst. From the speech we learn that the experience of their industrial pursuits last year was not favorable. The sealing enterprise resulted in comparative failure. The codfishery, both shore and Labrador, was below an average yield, while that on the Banks was but partially productive. High prices, however, compensated to a considerable extent for deficiency in their staple production. Agriculture was prosecuted with fair success, the principal crops having been plentiful and of sound quality. Although in mining operations the quantity of copper exported last year was less than in 1881, the exports were of superior quality. Shipbuilding is still active. Local manufactures continue to progress satisfactorily. The Customs Revenue exceeded the estimated amount. A collection of specimens of fishery productions and appliances is to be forwarded to the Fisheries Exhibition in London. Forty-five miles of railway have been constructed as far as Salmon Cove, in Conception Bay. Arrangements have been made for the extension of the line from Harbor Grace to Carbonear. The employment thus afforded formed a chief element of support for a large number of the people. Several lighthouses and a fog alarm are in course of erection.

Informer Carey Accused.

James Hackett, an employee of the Grand Trunk Railroad Company, who resigned from the Dublin Metropolitan Police in 1881, rather than obey orders to fire on the people, makes public a long statement regarding the informer Carey, with whom he was on very intimate terms. Hackett says that he was at Carey's house on the night of the murder of Lord Cavendish and Under Secretary Burke. Carey's wife was flushed and excited, and was evidently trying to conceal something. She endeavored to hide some weapons under her cloak. Carey was in the house, but would not present himself. Subsequently he expressed gratification at the murder. Hackett says he has good reason to believe that Carey planned the murder and was the chief conspirator; that his wife was within easy distance at the time of the tragedy, and that she carried away the bloody weapons and concealed them.

A MEETING was held in Crapaud, on Tuesday, the 20th inst., to discuss the question of local and interprovincial steam communication. We have not yet received any report from the secretary, but we understand that among other matters brought before the electors, was the question of the route of the Cape Traverse Branch Railway, which they were unanimous in declaring should tap the main line at North Wiltshire, passing through the settlements of Crapaud, Tryon, Kelly's Cross and Lot 30. Petitions to the Dominion Government for the adoption of this route are already in circulation.

Mysterious "Number One."

EXCITEMENT in Irish affairs is culminating. Every telegram from Dublin contains fresh disclosures by the informer, Carey, and the assertion is frequently made that the police are just about to put their finger upon "Number One." This mysterious personage is regarded as the leader of the assassins, and accordingly occupying the chief place in the conspiracy. He is generally believed to be a prominent member of the Fenian Brotherhood, bearing, at times, within the twenty-four hours, the different names of McCafferty, Cluseret, Macadarras, Walsh, Milne, Oliver, Macdonald, and without whom no list of Irish conspirators could be complete, the irrepressible O'Donovan Rossa. His present residence is variously conjectured all the way from St. Petersburg to New York. Intense interest centres in "Number One," and to his discovery all the energies of the British Detective Force are now bent.

General News.

Canada was favored with 5,000 immigrants during the month of January.

An increase of five per cent. will be made on all lady teachers' salaries over $350 in Toronto.

Mr. Senecal is seeking incorporation from the Quebec Legislature, for a colonization company with $10,000,000 of capital.

Since her husband turned informer, Mrs. Carey has been completely boycotted, and her tenants refuse to pay their rents.

The Coxbeath Mining Co. of Boston, have taken out a license to prospect for silver as well as gold at East Bay, Cape Breton.

It is rumored in England, that the Duke of Argyll is about to publish a reply to Mr. Henry George's "Progress and Poverty."

The French Admiral at Madagascar has been ordered to vigorously suppress all attempts to resist the rights of France on that island.

It is stated that the Dublin authorities have received valuable information regarding "Number One," and are quite positive as to his identity.

It is asserted by a Dublin correspondent, that there is no ground for the statement regarding the existence of another widespread conspiracy.

A table in the "Railway Age" shows that the railroad construction in the United States, during 1882, exceeded that of 1881 by two thousand miles.

P. J. Sheridan, who is in New York, declares that Carey's statements respecting him and his connection with the Phœnix Park murders, are fabrications.

The Quebec Government has ordered actions to be taken against all parties accepting money for the return of dead bodies in the medical college at Montreal.

Last year was one of unusual prosperity for European steamers, some of the leading ones clearing from $40,000 to $50,000 on each round voyage of four or five weeks.

A despatch from California says Hon. Mr. Chapleau is daily gaining strength, but his medical attendants will not let him leave until an advanced period in the spring.

It is stated that the Archbishop of Quebec has received an important letter from the Vatican, in connection with the Laval University and other troubles in the province.

Fitzpatrick, one of the Phœnix Park prisoners, and who is said to have acted sentinel for the murderers at the time of the commission of the crime, has been released.

Fourteen French bishops have been summoned before the Council of State, for publishing a papal decree placing, on the Index Expurgatorius, certain treatises on education.

It was announced in the Imperial House of Commons, on the 22nd inst., that the Government would ask for a committee of both Houses to enquire into the expediency of constructing a Channel tunnel.

A complete *alibi* has been proven for Gen. McAdaris, who is accused of being "No. 1" of the assassination conspiracy. McAdaris himself is highly indignant at the charge, and authorizes an emphatic denial.

This is the way that a Galveston (Texas) paper "drops into poetry": "Early to bed and early to rise, makes a man healthy and wealthy and wise; but still it wont work, however hard he tries, in bringing him wealth unless he advertise."

A Gloucester despatch states that the frozen herring receipts at that port, for the past two weeks, aggregate about 2,000,000 in number, from Grand Manan, where the catch has largely increased, and, as a result, prices have fallen considerably.

The cotton factory at Moncton is ready for the machinery, and the machinery is at hand ready for the factory. Looms are of three sizes, and number 244. There are 11,000 spindles. The cost of the factory, when fitted out, will be about $200,000.

The Prussian representative at the Vatican has been instructed to notify the Papal Secretary of State, that the letter of the Pope to the Emperor William does not afford a satisfactory basis for an arrangement of the question between the Papacy and Prussia.

Marshal Bazaine's book on the Franco-Prussian war has appeared. It asserts that the French War Department, at the time of the outbreak of hostilities, was in a state of complete disorganization, and that the defensive capabilities of Alsace and Lorraine were not utilized as they might have been.

Beyond the Mississippi River, there are 1,200,000 square miles not settled by white men, of this area, 240,000 square miles, embracing much of the best land, are included within Indian reservations, while much of the remainder consists of mountainous tracts, lands inaccessible or sterile, and arid regions which cannot be irrigated.

Premier Gladstone is ill. He is troubled with what is generally called "sleeplessness," but the London *Lancet* says this should be described as "wakefulness"—that being a more defined definition of his "pathological or, perhaps we should say, physiological condition," a very simple state of affairs, in which "the hypothesis of cerebral anæmia" is erroneous, seeing that it is the "vaso motor system in which a change, involving contraction of the arterioles, must occur," that is at fault. Could any fog be clearer than this?

The land agitation in Ireland has not been without its good effects upon tenants in England and Scotland, for legislation is promised in the Queens Speech to secure for them compensation for improvements made. The need is not so great in the kingdoms, because in them the landlords have less power over tenants than in Ireland. In fact, in many districts the land goes begging for tenants, instead of the tenants begging for land. However, it is only just that the laws in the three kingdoms should be assimilated. In addition to that, a vague promise is made in reference to "legislative wants of Ireland for which provision has not yet been made." As that tells us nothing, it is idle to speculate concerning its meaning; but it is satisfactory to know that further efforts will be made to remove, from the Irish people, the disabilities under which they have so long suffered.

NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

LONDON, Feb. 21.

In the House of Commons, Sir Herbert Maxwell, Conservative, asked whether P. J. Sheridan, who was alluded to by Carey in his testimony on Saturday, was the man who was connected with the "Kilmainham Treaty" negotiations. Mr. Trevelyan, the Chief Secretary for Ireland, answered yes.

Justin McCarthy, in an interview, said that Sheridan was known to Parnell merely as an active league organizer, and that his relations with Parnell were only in this capacity, the latter knowing nothing of his character. Frank Byrne, McCarthy said, is in constant ill health and has held a position in the land confederation ever since the time of Butt and Shaw. He was well known to all members of the Irish party, with whom he was in constant intercourse, as a quiet respectable man. McCarthy said he had spoken to many members during the day, and all agreed that it was inconceivable Byrne could have anything to do with the murders. His last act before going to France was to refuse a testimonial which his friends had raised on account of his feeble health. He said he could not accept anything while the country was in its present miserable state.

LONDON, Feb. 22.

The Marquis of Hartington said the Government had no intention of introducing any measures for extensive changes of policy, with regard to Ireland, that would be likely to arouse a strong party feeling, and absorb a large portion of the time of the House. Despite the repeated challenges of the Government, he said the Opposition had formulated no direct specific charge against them. Sir Stafford Northcote, Conservative, said the Opposition would meet the Government's challenge. He would state in what manner to-morrow.

LONDON, Feb. 23.

In the Commons this afternoon, Parnell said the utmost he desired to do was to make his position clear to the Irish people at home and abroad. Mr. Forster ought to be ashamed for traducing him. He declined to reply to Forster's questions, and charges that gentlemen with having disclosed the secrets of his (Parnell's) associates. If Forster believed that the articles published in the *Irish World* were likely to incite crime, why had he not stopped the circulation of that paper? He compared the responsibility of Forster, who had read the articles and believed what the result would be, to that of himself, who had never read them, though they were now brought against him. Forster had unfairly singled out the name of Sheridan as mentioned in the "Kilmainham Treaty" negotiations. Why did he suppress the names of Davitt, Egan and Boyton, who were also mentioned as likely to endeavor to prevent outrages in Ireland?

Forster here exclaimed, "They were not mentioned to me."

Parnell continued: He had been challenged to defend himself from a charge, but he occupied a better position in the eyes of the Irish than Forster did in England. Forster was also guilty of *suppressio veri*, because the heading in the *United Ireland*, "Incidents of the Campaign," over a column recording outrages, ceased the moment O'Brien, editor of that paper, was liberated from prison. Forster's unfairness was shocking. Parnell also analyzed the evidence of Carey at the hearing of the Irish prisoners in Dublin, which, he said, was not a statement of fact, but belief or hearsay. It had been already disproved as regards Mrs. Byrne. The evidence in reference to the source of the murder fund, he said, rested upon the fact that some men, while in prison, had received checks from the sustentation fund of the Land League. Such aid had been given to thousands of prisoners. Forster's animus was due to the fact that he had attempted to obtain a promise from him (Parnell), but had failed to do so and had lost his office. In conclusion, Parnell declared that the present officials in Ireland were manifestly unfit to administer the Crimes Act. Forster ought to return to his congenial work. Parnell said he was hopeful that Ireland would weather this as she had weathered other formidable oppressions. He spoke over half an hour.

The Prince of Wales was present in the gallery the whole time Parnell was delivering his speech.

Mr. Trevelyan, Chief Secretary for Ireland, in reply to Parnell, proceeded to indicate the policy of the Government. They had been commissioned to suppress crime and the number of murders had been reduced from three monthly to one in the last four and a half months. This policy for Ireland was to say what the Government meant to do and then do it. He regretted that Parnell had not made his position clearer. Gorst's amendment to address in reply to the speech from the throne, was distasteful to Earl Spencer, the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, and to himself, and would if carried, lead to their resignations, as well as to the resignation of the Cabinet. He thought that nothing could be more fatal to Ireland, than to hand the responsibility of government to local bodies. Trevelyan said if the Government were convinced that the life of any official or private person had been pointed at by the inciting language of the press, they would act again.

During Parnell's speech, O'Shea exclaimed that Messrs. Boyton, Egan and Davitt, were mentioned to Forster, as a proof that the prisoners charged with the Phœnix Park murders, were not the members of the Land League.

Parnell pointed out, during his speech, that one of them had returned a check, which had been sent him from the sustentation fund, saying he had nothing to do with the League.

Parnell telegraphed to Mr. Sexton, requesting him to come to London to participate in the debate in the House of Commons.

Mr. Trevelyan said the Government would not press the present proceeding against John O'Brien, whose sentence to imprisonment for using intimidating language against landlords was confirmed recently, and who was arrested to undergo his punishment.

Justin McCarthy has written to Forster, informing him that he will personally attack him during a speech which he (McCarthy) intends to make in the Commons.

To-night Sir Stafford Northcote said he would be sorry to weaken or harass the Government, but even if the result be to cause them to resign, it would be better that it should happen than that they, relying on false security, should be led back to the ministerial policy of the past.

LONDON, Feb. 26.

Mr. Gladstone will arrive in London on Thursday. The police on Saturday renewed precautions for his safety. It is known that several additional suspected persons arrived in the city last week, and important information regarding their movements has been received.

PARIS, Feb. 24.

In the Deputies, Prime Minister Ferry explained the programme of the Ministry, and solicited the confidence of the country. He said the Government's first care would be to satisfy the wish of the Chambers, by applying the law of 1834—under which princes may be deprived of their military posts. The Republic is not endangered, and in the event of conspiracy it would have ample power to protect itself by rights inherent in all governments without infringing upon essential liberties of the people. The Government demanded measures to be taken against the utterance of seditious cries and against the authority of seditious placards.