

Of a Signal Fund.

In last Friday's *Globe* there is an article which gives the history of the Municipal Signal Fund, and a statement of its present condition. From it we learn that the fund was formed by an assessment on the 18th of November, 1869. Unlimited power was given to Municipalities in the Upper Canada, to borrow the credit of the fund, but in 1871 a resolution was passed making certain limitations, and of the extent to which municipalities could borrow from it. In 1870 the fund was amended so as to provide that no further loans could be made on the credit of the fund without the sanction of the Council. The fund was previously sanctioned for the payment of the loans. These were made at different times, but in 1871 the resolutions still in force were adopted. They provided that a sum equal to the amount of the loan, or a like percentage of the value of the property, or a like interest at six per cent. per annum on the assessed value of all the rateable property in every municipality which had caused money by debentures on the credit of this fund, was to be raised from 1871 onward till all the indebtedness of each municipality should be extinguished, it being provided that there should never be a less sum paid by any municipality than that accrued at the specified rate on the Assessment Roll of 1868. The amount was afterwards reduced to one third of a cent, but with the proviso that the lowest amount raised should equal that of 1868, which was taken as the standard year.

On the 1st of January, 1871, the total loans from the fund amounted to \$7,340,000, the amount accrued on interest to \$8,026,711, and the total payments to \$3,341,127. It will be seen that only a very small proportion of the amount borrowed has been repaid, and that the accrued interest is a considerable sum. The Government will require to take up the question of the fund before long and deal with it in a way, for it is manifestly unfair that municipalities should pay up with interest should be allowed to escape. The bill is now in the hands of the House of Commons, and it is to be hoped that it will be passed before long. The bill is now in the hands of the House of Commons, and it is to be hoped that it will be passed before long.

HURON COUNTY.—Indebted for money borrowed, \$23,000. Up to 1st January, 1871, it has paid \$8,943,831, and has to the credit of its sinking fund \$183,811. The *Globe* contains the following statement of the municipalities which have acted on others, and how, apparently without any very manifest reason, and in many cases without any reason at all. It is very manifest that in certain cases there may be some excuse for this backwardness in paying legitimate debts, but with the great majority there is no excuse. It is a shame that they should not be paid in full. Even where there have been no actual returns from the railways, yet the indirect benefit has been more than a compensation for all the outlay; had, were it otherwise, it would not at all follow that a municipality that makes a bad speculation should be allowed to escape. It is a shame that they should not be paid in full. Even where there have been no actual returns from the railways, yet the indirect benefit has been more than a compensation for all the outlay; had, were it otherwise, it would not at all follow that a municipality that makes a bad speculation should be allowed to escape.

Editorial Notes.

"It is stated that in consequence of the exorbitant claims made by the United States Government on the Treaty may be repudiated by the British Government."

A destructive fire occurred at Norwalk, Ont., last week. A considerable portion of the village was destroyed and the loss is very heavy.

Tranchemont charged with the murder of Mr. Alexander, at Montebello, during the election contest in Ottawa County last summer, has been tried at Aylmer, and found guilty of common assault.

Hop. A. Macdonald has been nominated for the representation of West Middlesex in the House of Commons.

Whiskey, liquor, and tobacco have been sentenced to four years in the penitentiary for storing and destroying a record of the Police Office, Toronto.

Bill has passed the New York Legislature providing for the establishment of free public libraries in villages, towns, and cities.

The Chicago Sanitary Commissioner reports that small pox is on the increase in that city. There were 19 fatal cases last week.

The claims made by the United States before the Geneva Conference are so preposterous that it is a failure.

President Thiers takes a gloomy view of the future of France. He fears that if the German troops were withdrawn the country would be torn by party strife.

Sir Edward Thornton has been applied to from England to obtain copies of every newspaper, periodical and magazine published in the United Kingdom, for use in an exhibition at the International Exposition to take place in London this year.

A telegram from Madrid dated 2nd inst. states that the late Governor-General of the Philippines is announcing a series of reforms. A company of 100 native soldiers belonging to the

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