OTTAWA, March 23.

at the House of Commons, after the introduction of several bills and petitions Mr Magill moved for copies of the correspondence relating to the enlargement of the St Lawrence and Welland canals. He thought that they should be enlarged so as to admit of the passage of vessels of 1,000 ton burden.

Mr Street believed the motion to be one of the highest importance and should be dealt with in a broad and liberal spirit.

Mr Shanley was not in favor of entrusting public works into the hands of commissioners. He could not understand why the Public Works department did not look after such matters. He thought that it would be wiser to spend money upon improvements within the Dominion than to throw away great sums in opening up the North-West.

Mr McCallum said that a commission to report upon the canal system was unnecessary, as the surveys and information required could be obtained at a cost of $3,000. He could not see what benefit there was to be obtained from enlarging our canals, except the pleasure of seeing American vessels pass through them free of charge

Mr Mackenzie said that the commission might answer the purposes of government "hangers-on," but it was certain that the country would derive no benefit from it.

After remarks from Mr Merritt, Sir John Macdonald said that the commission had been appointed in compliance with the wishes of a large deputation of members of both Houses of Parliament. The commission, which it was the intention of the government to appoint, would be composed of the best engineering and commercial ability in the country, and its report would prove to be most valuable and highly necessary for a full and patient consideration of the whole subject.

After remarks from Messrs. Galt, Holton and Currier the debate on this question was adjourned.

After the reading of several private bills Sir John Macdonald moved the third reading of the bill relating to the court of divorce and matrimonial causes in New Brunswick, the debate on which was adjourned and the House rose.

Ottawa, March 24.

The Speaker took the chair at 3 o'clock.

Mr McKenzie presented a petition from the people of Sarnia against fractional paper currency.

Mr Gibbs presented a petition from the people of Oshawa, and Mr Ryan a petition from Wm Workman and 30 others, to the same effect.

Mr Brown introduced a Bill to restore the charter to the Grand Junction Railway Company.

Sir G E Cartier presented a report from the Committee on Railways and Canals, recommending an amendment of the charter of the Great Western Railway for adoption; also the St Lawrence and Lake Champlain Canal, and the Megantic International Railway.

Mr Dufresne called attention to the unsatisfactory nature of the report respecting the Intercolonial Railway, especially the absence of what had been paid to the contractors.

Some discussion took place, and Mr Walsh promised full returns.

The debate on the Election Bill was then resumed.

Messrs. Fortin and Bellrose spoke in French.

After recess the debate on the Election Bill was continued by Messrs. Fortier, Stirton, Bodwell, Chauveau, Godin, Dumas, Oliver, Rymal, Thompson, (Ontario), and others.

Huron Signal.

GODERICH, MARCH 31, 1870.

The 'Protection' Delegates at Ottawa.

Sir Francis Hincks gave an audience, on 25th inst, to a deputation whose object was to urge on the Finance Minister, the propriety of adopting a policy that would secure the market of the Dominion to native industry. The following gentlemen were present :—

Messrs. H. S. Howland, R. S. Pratt, H. M. McDonald, Joab Scales, S. May Capt. Norris, R. McKinley, R. Lawrie and P. E. W. Moyer, editor of the *Times* from St. Catherines. E. Gurney, John Winer, Jas Watson and John McLean, *People's Journal*, from Hamilton. R. Barber, Streetsville; R McKechnie, Dundas. Mr. C. Hurrell, of Toronto, was also present in the interest of the Goderich salt manufacturers.

After several gentlemen had spoken for the woollen, tobacco, flour and other interests.

Mr. Hurrel explained at some length the difficulties of the salt manufacturers at Goderich in consequence of the unfair competition of the Onondaga Salt Company The Americans had sent in fine dairy salt in barrels with bags in the top, thus getting salt in duty free, while bags alone ought to pay a duty of fifteen per cent. He had detected this trick. The Goderich salt manufacturers simply wanted the market of Ontario secured, and would guarantee the price would not be increased. The supply at Goderich was unlimited, and there could be no monopoly, and if monopoly were attempted the country could be flooded with Liverpool salt.

Sir F. Hincks thought it would make no difference if the duty were imposed on American salt, as the American Company was trying to crush their competitors.

Mr. Hurrell thought it would, and went on to state that a Company was about being started in Manchester England, which would send out over a thousand men to Goderich to manufacture over 2,000 barrels a day if a protective duty was imposed.

Sir F Hincks said he would give their representations a full and careful consideration, but could not be expected to announce in advance of the budget any thing respecting the tariff.

A Reverend Sensationalist.

Rev. Peter Moyer, the whilom editor of a religious paper in Toronto,—which lived just two weeks—but now of the St. Catherines *Times*, has gone and done it at last. Many men commit murder for the sake of a little ill-gotten fame, but Peter—the Rev. Peter—has secured immortality by murdering the *truth*. When it was reported from England by cable that the City of Boston had arrived safely, Peter determined to secure for his readers a first-class sensation. What did he do, then, but come out next morning with a full log of the voyage of the missing ship, from the day she left New York until that on which she touched the shores of England The thing was done with such particularity. First she was involved in a dense fog, in which she broke her rudder, which, of course, rendered it very difficult to head against easterly gales. The sufferings of the passengers and crew were most intense, &c. What, then must the Rev. Peter's feelings have been when a few hours after his paper came out it was ascertained that the news upon which his spiritual log was founded was but a cruel hoax? Of all the outrageous lies ever told by a newspaper we think this caps the climax. It was absolutely brutal. The New York *Herald* ought to engage the Rev. Peter at once.—He'd prove a fortune to brother Bennet.

THE CURRENCY QUESTION.

Anything in the shape of governmental action which affects the circulating medium of a country, affects deeply every class of its population—from the millionaire down to the poor man who counts his funds by pence. It is not, therefore, wonderful that the people of Canada should view with alarm the threatened inundation of millions upon millions of irredeemable currency. Admitting that silver has been a nuisance with us for some few years back, we are now threatened with a *worse* nuisance; namely, the absence of silver and the presence of dingy shinplasters. In times of national trouble many of the countries of both the Old and New World have been compelled to resort to extreme measures for the purpose of keeping afloat financially. Frederick the Great did so during the Seven Years' War, England did it during the Peninsular War, and the United States did it, notably, during the great Civil struggle recently terminated. In all these cases there was an excuse, nay an absolute necessity, for the measures adopted. It was simply a question of life or death—of national existence or national annihilation, and the governments alluded to were *forced* to fall back upon the patriotism of the people to bear them out in applying an extreme remedy to an extreme case. But when, we ask has any country at peace with the world, and "immensely prosperous," as Sir F. Hincks said of Canada the other night, been saddled with what is vulgarly termed a shin plaster currency! An inconvertible paper currency? Has the reader ever enquired into its full meaning? Hear what J. R. McCulloch, one of the ablest writers on Political Economy ever produced by Britain says, in the Encyclopædia Britannica, under the head of "Money":—

"There is no check over the issues of inconvertible paper. It is legal tender only in the country in which it is issued. Abroad it has no such privilege, and is, consequently, worth nothing. Hence, if it be issued in excess, the surplus cannot, as in the case of gold, be removed or lessened by exportation. It is confined to the country of its birth; and there is nothing to sustain its value but the discretion of the issuers. And all experience shows that no dependence can be placed on a restraint of this sort. Even in England, where all matters connected with money are supposed to be comparatively well understood, the inconvertible paper of the bank was over-issued, so as to be, in 1814, at a discount as compared with gold, of no less than 25 per cent.' And its probable that, but for the destruction of country bank papers, caused by the political events of the period, the over-issue and depreciation of bank-notes would have been carried still further. The fact is, that the power to issue inconvertible paper has never been conceded to any man, or set of men, without being abused, that is, without its being issued in excess. The re-enactment of the restriction Act of 1797, and making it perpetual, would have no influence over the value of paper, provided its quantity were not at the same time increased. But who can doubt that it would be increased? Such a measure would enable the Bank of England to exchange bits of engraved paper, not worth, perhaps, 5s. a quire, for as many, or the value of as many hundreds of thousands of pounds. And is it to be supposed that the directors and proprietors should not avail themselves of such an opportunity to amass wealth and riches. If government enable a private gentleman to exchange a scrap of paper for an estate, will he be deterred from doing so by any considerations about its effect on the value of the currency? In Utopia we might, perhaps, meet with an individual influenced by such scruples; but if we expect to find him in England, we shall most likely be disappointed.

It thus appears to be essential that all notes, how much soever they may differ in other respects, should be payable in specie on demand. But it is not enough to enact a law of this sort. It is indispensable that effective measures should, at the same time, be adopted to ensure its being carried out; that is, to make certain that its provisions shall not be defeated by fraud, mismanagement, or any sort of contingency; but that coins shall always be obtainable at the pleasure of the holders of the notes which circulate in their stead."

True, Hincks does not propose to give any person or bank unlimited power in the issuing of greenbacks, but the pungent article of Mr. McCulloch is applicable to our Government itself, inasmuch as it occupies the position of the Bank of England at the period alluded to. Nay, more, it will be in a still more dangerous position, because it has all power in its own hands, while it exercises a surveillance over our banks.

American silver is to be driven out of the country, at an immense reduction of its value as compared with its price in the States; and what do we get it for—*gold?* Well suppose we *do* get gold. Is not that very gold required to pay our immense indebtedness to English bankers, the large sum borrowed upon the guarantee of the English Government to assist in the construction of the Intercolonial Railway, which is now required to be lodged in the Bank of England, to say nothing of the £300,000 to be paid for the transfer of the Red River country. Can these sums be paid in greenbacks? No! Then, when they are paid in *gold*, if ever, where will our reserve be? We wish, with all our heart, Hincks was still asleep in his Windward Islands!

The Dominion Militia.

From the Official Report, just submitted to Parliament, we gather the following statistics. The militia is divided into two classes—Active and Reserve. By returns up to 31 Dec. 1869, the reserve numbers 612,467 and the active force 43,541, total 656,008. Of the active force, the Province of Quebec supplies 15,066; New Brunswick, 327; Nova Scotia, 4192; and Ontario, 20956. The proportions of the various departments are as follows:—Cavalry 1500 Officers and men; 10 field batteries 750 officers and men, 42 guns and 441 horses; Garrison Artillery 3,558 officers and men; 4 Companies Engineers 232 officers and men; Naval Brigade, Halifax, 231 officers and men; 73 Battalions Rifles and Infantry 37,268 officers and men;

Total 43,541.

Ontario has thus, within a trifle, half of the whole active force of the Dominion. Regarding the Rifles and Infantry, Col. Robertson Ross, Adjutant-General, reports in the following terms.

"The infantry consists of 73 battalions of riflemen and infantry, numbering 37,268 officers and men. They are all armed with Snider breech-loading rifles; the accoutrements in their possession are not of the latest or best description, though quite serviceable, and I would recommend that whenever the same can be effected, that accoutrements of a more modern description and better suited for carrying a large supply of ammunition be substituted. There are few of these battalions, without some officers or men, who have previously served in the regular army, and many of them at some time actually in the field. The presence of these men in the ranks is of the utmost importance, and tends to impart a feeling of military strength and steadiness throughout the whole, for there are a very large number of men who have previously served as soldiers, now settled in the Dominion in the rural battalions.—The rural battalions are almost entirely composed of the agricultural population; the bone and sinew of the land, who have a stake in the country, and in very many instances are the proprietors of the land, and it is impossible to see a hardier race or finer material for soldiers. In many instances their physique is most remarkable, and they all seem imbued with a spirit of loyalty and devotion to their Queen and country. And the same aptitude for military service is exhibited by the city battalions, who are composed mainly of intelligent and educated artizans and mechanics. Considering moreover the short period of time allowed for the annual drill, the degree of advancement at which they have arrived is most considerable, and they are all now quite ready to enter a brigade. With regard to the drill and efficiency of these battalions, from the result of my own inspection last summer of as many corps as my other duties would admit of, as well as from the annual reports of the deputy adjutant generals, I am enabled to report that it is in most cases as satisfactory as could possibly be expected, and there are very few of them who are not sufficiently acquainted with battalion drill to fit them for all the practical purposes to take their place alongside of the regular army in the defence of the country.'

When the British War Department has ordered the withdrawal of all British troops from Canada, it is pleasant to know that we have such a contingent as the above 'fit for all practical purposes to take their place alongside (and he might have added face to face with) a regular army.' If, as we do not doubt, the corps in other parts of the country, are nearly equal, in muscle, manliness and efficiency, to our own stalwart Huron boys, they would, in defence of the Dominion, give an invading army, twice their numbers, considerably more than a Roland for their Oliver.

The Red River.

Riel is making the most of the little hour he is permitted to strut in the self-assumed plumes of authority, imprisoning his opponents; suppressing an entire edition of his own newspaper, when any little piece of scheming he does not want the world to know is indiscreetly published; and generally conducting himself as weak-minded, petty tyrants do, when a brief and unexpected lease of dictatorial power has thrown them off their mental balance. The latest news from the Territory is to the effect that he caused a Canadian, of the name of Scott, to be court-martialled and shot in front of Fort Garry, because, forsooth, he had been released on parole and was found armed with Major Boultons' party. We are sorry for the fate of the victim but not sorry that Riel has done a deed which strikes a death-blow at himself. We can imagine the fires that are smouldering in the breasts of British and Canadian settlers. We know Riel is just doing the best he can to raise the blood of the Dominion. Our troops must be in Rupert's land at the earliest possible moment; and we know that the majority of the colonists will eagerly flock around the British flag. What Riel deserves and is working for is "short shrift and a long rope."

Newspaper Brutality.

THE catastrophes occurring to the *City of Boston* and other English steamers, have given rish to the following disgraceful heading in a New York paper. 'Neptune's Grudge—the jolly old salt goes for the Britishers—the Spirits of Old Ocean Uprise Against the Red Rag—Vengeance at Hand—Evre's Victims Howling in the Tempest—Hard Times for the British Fleet—the *City of Boston* given up—Still Another Britisher Missing—the *Samaria* a Week Overdue—Fears for Her Safety.'

The Yanks have no reason to love the British Marine, which is the cause of the above onslaught, no doubt. Fortunate the rejoicing over the loss of the *Samaria* is premature, as she is just telegraphed, arrived. Now, if your readers will scan the following from the N. Y. *World*, they will easily see why some of our kind cousins would like to see a few more British vessels going down—even if thousands of lives were lost in the process:—

"The Liverpool docks are one of the wonders of the commercial world. Their capacity for the accommodation of steam shipping is 1,201,000 tons, and yet so insufficient is this that a new branch dock is to be added to those magnificent structures that now adorn the Mersey. The occasion of this expansion is a mortifying commentary on that vile misgovernment which shuts us off the oceans, race. The Cunard Company is to increase its fleet of twenty steamers by four new vessels of 3,500 tons burden each; the Inman line has lately added two more ships to its former fifteen; the Union line, with six steamers on the station, has two more of 3,000 tons burden each upon the stocks; the National Steam Company is to add four vessels of 4,500 tons each to its present fleet of eight; and the Southern Steamship, a new company, shortly puts on five vessels aggregating 10,000 tons. This sudden swelling of the forty-nine steamers heretofore plying upon a navy of sixty-six—an increase of over 33½ per cent.—is for the trade between Liverpool and the United States alone. There is yet to be taken into account the case of the Montreal Ocean Steamship Company, which, to its seventeen vessels of 46,000 tons burden, is soon to add two steamers more.

And now for South America. The Pacific Steam Navigation Company has had four ships trading to Rio Janeiro, Montevideo, and Valparaiso, but now raises its fleet at one bound to nine. The Brazilian and River Plate line, the Liverpool and Pernambuco, and the Paranà Maranham, new companies, swell the South American fleet to twenty-four large ships, five-sixths of them just on. Then comes the West Indian line, which runs up the total of steam shipping from Liverpool to the New World to very close on to one hundred large ships, built and building.

Liverpool does not stop here. There is the African Royal; the Bombay and Bengal; the Calcutta *via* the Cape; the Indian *via* Suez, or rather several lines already operating on this route; and the various Mediterranean lines, aggregating from eighty to one hundred more steamships, most of them of the largest class. With this fleet of near two hundred magnificent ocean steamers, no wonder that Liverpool needs to enlarge her docks. It is not recorded that New York is troubled in this way. She is 'protected' out of the reach of any such contingency."

Our New Propeller.

The fine new Propeller being built here by Messrs. Tolsman and Dean, is, we are glad to see, ready for launching to-morrow, were the ice out of the river. She will, undoubtedly, be ready for the Northern trade as soon as navigation opens. We wish her every success.

THE WEATHER is jolly just now in town Rain only falls at intervals and there is not more than a foot of 'slush' and mud on the streets. We sincerely trust the exceedingly blue look-out will not tempt any rash individual to commit suicide. The Barometer indicates "change." In town it is sloppy, slushy, snowy, rainy, sleety, sunshiny—everything by turns but nothing long. Sneezing is up to par, talking through the "doze" the vernacular in vogue, catarrh is trump, and business out of sight below zero. Down the line there was two feet of snow at Seaforth and three at Stratford on Monday. Oh, for a Canadian Mark Tapley! For further particulars see the poem elsewhere.

DEPARTURE.—Mr. Arthur Hamilton has left our town, to start business in London. While sorry to lose one who, in both private and commercial life, was always obliging, gentlemanly and honorable, we trust he will have much success in his new sphere of enterprise.

CLEAR THE SIDEWALKS!—The Street Inspector would do good service to unfortunate pedestrians, in this sloppy weather, if he would jerk up a few of the householders who are forgetting to obey the Town By-Law, and leaving the sidewalks opposite their houses almost impassable.

NEW BAKING POWDER.—The "Snow Flake," for sale by Robinson and Yates, is highly recommended by all who have used the preparation: Give it a trial.

PAY-UP! We are preparing a list of "hard cases" whose accounts we intend to advertise in the *Signal* and put into Court for collection. Those who do not wish to be included in that category and whose "old scores," many of them due for eight years, are still unsettled, will please 'come down with the dust' before 1st April and save themselves further trouble.

TOMATOES.—Let the millions of lovers of this popular fruit beware how they use it. Dr. Dio Lewis of New York, who is an authority on every subject from ladies' waists to beef steaks, says 'tomatoes are bad when eaten in any quantity. They injure the gums, cause the teeth to fall out, induce piles, and so on.' We don't believe a word of it. Good ripe tomatoes are considered, by people who use them largely, to be a most grateful and wholesome article of food. If the Dr's countrymen and *women* would chew less tobacco (the men, in this case,) eat less sweet stuff, pies, and such like abominations and *more* good beef-steak, tomatoes, and plain food generally, they would have sounder teeth and stomachs.

Sons of Temperance No. 120.

At the meeting of the Division, on Friday evening (25th inst.,) the following officers were elected for the ensuing quarter:—P. W. P., Geo. Cox; W. P., Rev. C. Fletcher; W. A., Jas Young; F. S., J. T. Garrow; Trea., John Barnes; R. S., F. Bisset; A. R. S., Andrew Thompson, Jr.; Chaplain, Rev. Mr. Ferguson; C., George Swanson; A. C., Thos Bates; I. S., Isaac Somers; O. S., —— Black. The clear proceeds of the lecture by the Rev. D. Inglis amounted to $18.70. The Division is in a prosperous condition, receiving weekly additions to its membership which now numbers over 70. The business of the order (initiations excepted) is now transacted on the first meeting in every month, and the other meetings are devoted to essays, debates, and other exercises calculated for intellectual recreation and moral improvement; one meeting, in every month, of which due notice is given, being an open meeting under the name of "Penny Readings," to which the public are earnestly invited to give their countenance and support. The next open meeting is on Friday, 8th April, for which an interesting programme is now being prepared.

The London *Free Press* wants to know why a governmental promise to pay, in the shape of small shinplasters, not as is good as a paper dollar. The reason is obvious to most people. We need only refer to the sad state of things caused by the immense issues of shinplasters on the other side of the line. There is this difference between the two cases, however: the Americans were *forced* into their scheme by the necessities of a great war, while we have no such excuse to offer.

The Toronto *Telegraph* says in reference to John Sandfield's Chancery manipulations:—"In England, they would no more think of making a lawyer a Prime Minister than they would think of placing a rat-catcher in that position."

SUCCESSFUL.—We are very happy to hear that our old foreman Alick Simmons has arrived safely in San Francisco, and got to work at his trade, at handsome wages.

Sandfield has Spoken.

We are glad to be able to cease wondering where John S. has taken himself to. He has spoken at last. Not however as a veteran debater, and wise statesman might be expected to do. All he is now equal to is only a little fretful, waspish, old mannish abuse of Mr. Blake, who is making himself wholesomely felt, as a thorn in the side of Sandfield and his colleagues. Mr. Blake still lives, notwithstanding, and will live and be honored and trusted when the turn-coats and tricksters, who now occupy the ministerial benches, are politically dead, buried and forgotten.

OBITUARY.—The death of Mrs. Trainer, which is announced elsewhere, is an event which has created a feeling of the most profound sympathy amongst our citizens for the bereaved husband and motherless children she left behind her. The fact that a family of ten children—two of them twins only a few days old—have been deprived of that care which a mother alone can bestow is sufficient to fill every feeling heart with sorrow and commiseration. She was a good wife, a faithful mother and an exemplary Christian.

"COLLARS AND BREECHES."—The London *Free Press* comes out boldly in a column article in defence of the high shirt collars of Sandfield and the white satin breeches of the Lieut-Governor. The article opens with shirt-collars and ends, very appropriately, with *drivel*. After such a grand onslaught upon the reform ranks the *Free Press* should get another column or so of Government pap.

Miss Dix, after a tour of the Southern asylums and prisons, decides that snuff-dipping is the predominating cause of insanity among Southern woman.

TOWN COUNCIL.

The Council met on Friday evening (25th inst). Present: Mayor Hays, in the chair, Councillors Clifford, Howell, McKay, Gardiner, Detlor, Sinclair, Gibbons, Smith and Passmore. Minutes of last meeting approved. A Report of the Finance Committee was read, recommending that the accounts of F. A Robertson, J. B. Gordon and Horace Horton, for expenses incurred in reference to Harbor of Refuge Petitions, be paid. Moved by Mr Passmore sec by Mr Gardiner that the Report be adopted and the accounts paid accordingly. Moved by Mr Sinclair sec. by Mr Clifford, that the Council has not information regarding the accounts to justify them in passing them at present; that the matter be referred to next meeting of Council; and that the Clerk notify the parties, and Ex-Mayor Crabb who arranged with them, to appear at that meeting and give explanations. On a vote, Mr Sinclair's amendment was carried. Proposals were read from the Mechanics Institute and the Sons of Temperance offering to give to the Town the Grammar School lot, another lot on Nelson St. and cash to the extent of at least $600. provided the Corporation would build a Town-Hall reserving in it a room for the sole use of the Mechanics' Institute and another room for the use of the Temperance bodies. A.M. Ross Esq. addressed the Board in favor of the proposal—explaining that the offer to the Town in property and cash was at least $1600—urging the propriety and necessity of erecting a Town-hall that would be creditable to the Corporation—showing that in doing so they would save the rent of the present hall, that the Revenue from a lecture or concert hall would more than pay the interest of the money necessary to be expended beyond the gift from these bodies, while the Room would have good accomodations for their own meetings and a centrical office for their clerk. Mr. Gibbons thought the offer a liberal one, liker $2000 than $1600, and was in favor of entertaining the proposal. He moved, sec. by Mr Smith, that the proposition be received. Carried. Mr Sinclair thought the offer a very liberal one, and though there seemed to be a few difficulties in the way, they might all disappear on closer inspection. He moved, sec. by Mr Smith, that the following Committee be appointed to confer with the offerers and report, viz: Mayor Hays, Messrs Gibbons, Detlor, Clifford and Sinclair—Carried. A Report from the Street Inspector was read and referred to the Road and Bridge Committee A circular from the Eye and Ear Dispensary, Toronto, enclosing the Regulations of the same, was received and filed. A Communication was read from the Commissioner of Public Works requesting to know the number of immigrants who could find employment in Goderich; Mayor Hays, Messrs Gardiner, Passmore McKay and Howell were appointed a Committee to report. Account of W. Kay Esq, $5 10, expenses to London to meet Mr Mc Dougall on the Harbor question, was ordered to be paid. Account of Mr Wade, $2.00 for engrossing papers re Blind asylum was ordered to be paid. The assessors' rolls returned showed an increase of over $21,000 in the Assessment for the current year. The clerk was instructed to notify J. B Gordon Esq, that, unless the Northern Gravel Road Co. reduced their arrears to $600.00 on the basis of the statement of the Town Auditors, before the 20th April next, peremptory proceedings would be instituted immediately thereafter. Mr Clifford called the attention of the Council to the rather unsatisfactory state of the Fire Department, and thought the Council should appoint a Chief Engineer at once and pay him for his services. Mr Gibbons suggested that this office should be added to the duties of the Street Inspector and that he should receive such an addition to his salary as would enable him to place his whole time at the disposal of the Board. Mr Sinclair thought it would be better, in the meantime, to have a thorough investigation of the Fire Department, and moved, sec. by Mr Detlor, that the Fire Committee be requested to furnish a report on the subject. Carried. It was agreed, on the recommendation of Mr Gibbons, to add the Street Inspector to the Committee. W. G. Smith Esq. didn't like to hear people talking slightingly of our fire-engines. When one of them was in Saginaw it outsquirted all their Yankee engines (applause) Adjourned to the last Friday in April.

The Spring is Coming.

Now is coming the Spring time of year,
The Winter has been both long and severe.
The Winter was so long
Kommoney could lie hard,
But the snow will soon be gone
And the people are very glad.

On the 18th of October
In the evening it did snow,
The farmers looked so sober
When the Wintery winds did blow
Some people were saying, the root crops was not sound,
But the snow, it soon covered them, it left them in the ground

Now that is all that I am going to say,
I think we will have weather
Till some time in May.
This 23rd of March looks very bright
And I think the farmers hents are getting very light.

The avove poem possesses the merit of undoubted originality. It forcibly reminds us that there may be in a statement more truth than poetry. Friend Banatyne must look out for his laurels.—Ed. *Signal*.

GODERICH, 25th March, 1870.

To the Editor of the Signal.

SIR,—I saw in your last week's issue an article on Early Closing, in which the writer comments on the unreasonable hours kept by some of our merchants.—He says there are two in particulars. Now, Mr Editor, I do not pretend to know both of the parties referred to, but it is certainly an easy matter to tell who one of them is. If you go round about half an hour or an hour after the rest are all closed, you are sure to see that shop open, you will then know to whom I refer. I do not know whether it is the disposition of the man, thinking that perhaps he may gain a few pence by keeping open so much longer than the rest, or whether it is from *habit*. But, I certainly can not see why he should keep open any longer than the rest. I don't think, Mr. Editor, that there is a man in Goderich so mean or so avaricious but would be quite as willing to close at 7 as at 9, provided the rest would do the same. It is all humbug keeping open so late; because it stands to reason that there would be just as much business done, for people would either have to come earlier or wait till the next day to make their purchases which would be just as well for them and far better for the shopkeepers by giving them and their clerks a chance to enjoy their evenings, either in recreation or by attending meetings, lectures, socials, &c., which they can not do at present. And I think if 2 or 3 young men were to go round that they would have no difficulty in getting names. It is most preposterous to suppose that a young man who stands behind a counter or in an office in a close shop during warm weather, day after day from 7 in the morning till 8½ and 9 o'clock at night, can sustain his health. If he wishes to have sound health he must take exercise in the open air—and if not in the evening, when? I sincerely hope that the merchants of this place will read this, understand it and act accordingly.

A SUBSCRIBER.

Rise and Progress of the Great Huron Tract.

BY JOSEPH WILLIAMSON.

We don't know but we trust we are safely over the dangerous track of individual character. We breathe freely and will write cheerfully, and try to add one proof more, that fact is stranger than fiction. Be patient friends and readers we are wearied working as Tail-Sawyer for the last few days. We have just got up to Mr. Helmer's splendid hotel, and had a view of his spacious farm. There we raise our Ebenezer and will stop all night. Old Nigger Tom is tormenting cat gut in the sitting room, there are a lot of fine Dutch and Scotch girls and lasses about to have a dance. We are bound to go in, and forget that we were handling green-slabs, in the more congenial (to us) exercise of the Scotch reel or the German waltz. Good night! You may think that we've been napping, and you are right in so doing, if that be your opinion. What wonder after dancing all night with three nationalities—in their different fashions and customs; for the Irish double-cut-out jig prevailed to an alarming extent, as it was first on the floor, and last off it. Now for Stratford. There is little that is note worthy until we arrive at Mr. Sebastian Fryfogles, three miles west of Helmer's, and nine east of Stratford. Mr. Fryfogle then, as afterwards, for years, sold whiskey; for that was all you could then get on the road and not always that, as it had to be carried from Waterloo or Galt, over bad roads by ox teams. We gave Mr Fry a call and partook of his hospitality which was extended to weary travellers, with a liberality worthy of a genuine Pennsylvanian; he conversed with us freely about his first settling there—when Mr. Sebaugh was his nearest neighbour, westward, and in the Hamilton direction, none nearer than Waterloo; he had then a large clearing, and stock equivalent to its dimensions. Every appearance of domestic comfort and content, his family numerous, and boys and girls young and old all smoked and chewed tobacco; they all wrought together, chopped logged and did every other work on the farm. We asked Mr. Fry if it was the custom of his country, for children of both sexes to smoke—he replied, vell no, but you see when I moved into the bush, I knew the poor things would have no playmates for years but themselves, so I just bought a cask of tobacco and a box of pipes for them to amuse themselves with, so they would not be hooking the old woman's and mine pipe, or learning to steal our tobacco. Then when the civilities of the house were got over we must see his beautiful springs and playing fountain in the barn yard, the water spouting up through a wooden pipe, and falling into a large trough for watering cattle. It was very often the means of refreshing the weary traveller, both as a cooling bath, and slaking the thirst of foot sore pedestrians. Mr Fryfogle then gave us another and better piece of information, (to the effect) that his girl Polly (not over sixteen) could butt any man in the two townships then, as they were all green hands,—and she could lift a barrel of whiskey by the chime and drink out of the bung-hole. We must now bid adieu for the present to this hospitable family—we will return after a few weeks, when we will have more time to make an examination. The land looks to be very good so as far as Bell's corners, now called Shakespeare We must say a few words about David Bell as he has been an important man in his neighbourhood. He possessed largely that "pith of sense and pride of worth" so justly celebrated by Burns. When he arrived at Helmer's tavern with twelve in family he had but one shilling sterling, a penny a head to begin the world on anew in the wilds of Huron. Mr Helmer gave him all he wanted on his responsibility as he did, and has since done to many more who are now wealthier than he. From Bell's corners to Squire Thomson's near the little lakes, there is an immense black ash swamp; it was all taken up by Highlanders who after a few years moved back on better land, as they could not subsist on such crops as fifty bushels of bull frogs to the acre; they struggled out a miserable existence for a few years going off in summers to Dunsfries and Waterloo or Wilmot to earn what barely kept them alive in the winter, many of these then wretchedly poor have now hundreds of dollars in the kist.' Squire Thomson of the lakes is the personification of the fine old English Gentleman of the olden time. His family grew up fine young gentlemen, his daughters accomplished, artistic and beautiful. He marries all who make application in the proper form, and saves the parties from going to Waterloo to old Scollick.

BENMILLER.

LECTURE. On The Advantages of Education, by Mr. S. Walker, Teacher.

No doubt you have all personally considered; no doubt you have all personally experienced, that of all the blessings which it has pleased Providence to allow us to cultivate, there is not one which breathes a purer fragrance, or bears a heavenier aspect than education. It is a companion which no misfortune can depress, no clime destroy, no enemy alienate, no despotism enslave: at home a friend abroad an introduction, in solitude a solace in society an ornament; it chastens vice, it guides virtue, and gives at once a grace and government to genius. Without it, what is man? A splendid slave, a reasoning savage, vacillating between the dignity of an intelligence derived from God, and the degradation of passions participated with brutes, and in the accident of their alternate ascendancy shuddering at the terrors of an hereafter, or embracing the horrid hope of annihilation. What a this wondrous world of his residence? A mighty mass, and all without a plan; a dark and desolate and dreary screen, without wealth of ornament or order, but light up within it the torch of knowledge, and how wondrous the transition! The seasons change, the atmosphere breathes, the landscape lives, earth unfolds its fruits, ocean rolls on in its magnificence, the heavens display their constellated canopy, and the grand animated spectacle of nature rises revealed before him, its variation regulated, and its mysteries resolved! The phenomena which bewilder, the prejudices which debase the superstitions which enslave, vanish before education. Like the holy symbol which blazed upon the cloud before the hesitating Constantine, if man follow but its precepts purely, it will not only lead him to the victories of this world, but open the very portals of omnipotence for his admission. Cast your eye over the monumental map of ancient grandeur, once studded with the stars of empire and the splendors of philosophy. What erected the little state of Athens into a powerful commonwealth, placing in her hand the sceptre of legislation, and wreathing round her brow the imperishable chaplet of literary fame? what extended Rome, the haunt of banditti into universal empire? What animated Sparta with that high, unbending, adamantine courage, which conquered nature herself, and has fixed her in the sight of future ages a model of public virtue, and a proverb of national independence? What but those wise public institutions which strengthened their minds with early application, informed their infancy with the principles of action, and sent them into the world, too vigilant to be deceived by its calms, and vigorous to be shaken by its whirlwinds.

REMARKS—Mr. Walker has handed us the above lecture, which he delivered at Benmiller by the request of the School Trustees. It was the occasion of the disturbance which was chronicled in last *Weekly Signal*.

VESSEL PURCHASED.—We understand Mr. James Smaill has purchased for the firm of messrs James Crombie & Co., whose agent he is, a schooner, wire-rigged, of the carrying capacity of 75000 feet of lumber. Captam Marlton is to sail her and she will run between Sarnia and Chatham and northern ports.

The tea used in San Francisco, which is claimed to be the best in the world, outside of the place of production, is generally put up in paper packages, caddies, small boxes and cans.

Inland Revenue of the Dominion.

We are in receipt, from the department, of the Blue Book presented to both Houses of Parliament.

The following is a statement of the amount of Inland Revenue collected for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1869:—

From Spirits and Beer	$1,783,718 00
" Malt	237,813 51
" Tobacco, Cigars & Snuff	550,908 41
" Bonded Manufactures	8,719 17
" Petroleum	104,078 06
" Bill Stamps	145,707 17
" Raw Leaf Tobacco	11,065 00
Total	$2,821,509 34

True Stories about Dogs.

I.

A king Charles Spaniel belonging to a family and docile. Every evening he would fetch his towel and brush, and stand patiently to be washed, combed, and brushed by his mistress. Generally he was accustomed to take his meals with the family, but if his mistress were going to dine from home, she used to say to him: 'Prince, you must go and dine at the rectory, to-day.' The dog would set off for the rectory—a long, crooked, and puzzling road—and reach there in time for dinner. There he would wait until he had taken his supper, and return home as he came.

II.

There was once an honest Londoner, who by misfortune became very poor But in his poverty he never neglected his dog. He would share every crust with him, and often he would go hungry himself and buy a penny bone for his patient friend. At last an accident made the good man perfectly blind. Then his faithful dog took care of him, leading him safely through the crowded London streets. He was always attentive to his master, and when any kind passer-by threw him down a piece of money, he would take it up in his mouth and put it into the blind man's hand. The dog was so clever in finding these pennies when they rolled out of sight or were buried in the mud, that a great many persons threw down a penny just for the fun of seeing him find it. In this manner he really supported his dear old helpless master.

III.

Once a Scotch shepherd was tending his sheep on the Grampian hills. His faithful dog and his little boy three years old were with him. The little fellow could not climb the steep hill, so his father left him on the plain, gathering flowers and berries, while he went high up on the jagged rocks to overlook his flocks. Suddenly a very heavy fog came up. The shepherd hastened to seek his child, but the mist was so thick he could not find him. In vain he called and whistled: neither the child nor dog made any answer. The poor man got lost also, and at last, after wandering for hours, he found himself near his own home. The neighbors listened to his story and eagerly went with him in search of the child. Day after day they scoured the country in every direction, but the poor little fellow could not be found. Then the distracted father began to ask questions about the dog Where was he? Had he been home at all while they were out on their hopeless search? Yes, he had run in the house two or three times a day, just to get his regular allowance of cake, and after taking a little bite he had run away with it in his mouth. This he had been doing for several days, but the poor, heart-broken mother had been in too much trouble to mention it. As soon as the shepherd heard this, he waited for the dog to come. The faithful fellow came at last, slowly and painfully, as if he had hardly strength to walk; but he would not eat more than a little piece of his cake, and again went off bearing it in his mouth. The father followed him. At last he came to a fall of water a short distance from where the child was lost, and from this place he began to go down a hill that was so steep and full of rocks that the strong man could not get down without great difficulty. Once down, the dog turned and went into a cave hidden in the bushes. With a beating heart, the father hastened to the spot, and, looking in, he saw his little son sitting there eating heartily of the cake, while the dog stood by barking with joy. How the little fellow got down there, no one ever knew; but he was found alive and well. The dog, who had never left him night and day, except to run home to get him a cake, had saved him from starving. We may believe that the noble animal was well fed and nursed that night, and that grateful prayers were sent to heaven from the shepherd's cottage.

Distance from Fort William to Winnipeg.

In the general report of the Hon Minister of Public Works for the year ending the 30th June, 1869, we find the following table of distances by land and water from the head of Lake Superior to the town of Winnipeg:—

	Land Carriage. Miles.	Chains.	Navigable Water Miles.	Chains.
From the depot of Thunder Bay to Shebandowan Lake	40			
Shebandowan and Kashabowkanak Lakes			25	
Height of Land Portage		80		25
Loches Mille Lace		15		25
Bad Portage				54
Bard Lake		21		
Bruel Portage				12
Windigomegon Lakelets	2			15
French Portage				27
Kawgawishi Lake	2		13	
Deux Rivieres Portage				17
Sturgeon Lake and River	5			10
Iskwi Portage			11	
Nequaquon Lake				46
Nequaquon Portage			10	
Nemeiskan Lake				120
Bare Portage				
Rain Lake			137	41
Fort Francis Portage				
Rainy River and Lake of Woods				