

THE SEAT OF GOVERNMENT.

Amongst the many Governmental matters of which rumor has been doing and bad sending messages about the country, is the policy of Ministers as to the permanent Seat of Government. It was lately announced in Montreal as a settled and admitted fact, that that city is to be the fortunate place. But this story was soon thrown into suspicion by the *Herald's* report of a conversation in which Her Majesty got Mr. Carter to consent to her decision in favor of Ottawa being sustained. And so the advocates of several places are thrown into alternate fever and ague, as the newest rumor displaces another that is itself yet quite fresh.

Now, if our readers will look up excitement for a few moments, and give where we point them, they may become independent of, and superior to, all these stories. We do not pretend to any special knowledge of Cabinet councils, but we can safely place such knowledge as (though not special) is clear and decisive. It is this: the appeal to the Queen was made by the Ministry of Col. Tache, to which the present Ministry with out any professed change of policy quietly succeeded. Both houses of Parliament joined in the reference to Her Majesty, and in a vote of money for carrying into effect her decision. Her judgment then is *law*. It is the completion of the legislative process for selecting a site and supplying the funds. When the present modified *Bill* came in, last August, it spoke of allowing a reconsideration of the question; and it is at this moment just where that declaration placed it. And where is that? Simply that of a law passed, but not yet carried out; and liable to reversal. But that does not mitigate an intention to invite or even connive at that reversal. It says simply, time will be allowed for the tripartite Legislature to make some special arrangement, to choose any metropolitan site. If no repeal of the former consentaneous choice be made, that choice will go into effect. Ministers need not propose anything; but simply to allow any one of the two lower estates of the Legislature to adopt a new decision and get it sanctioned by the other two. If the Legislative Council and the House of Assembly do not agree upon some place other than Ottawa, the Queen's Representative here and his advisers will have nothing before him but to carry out the Act now on record. The ones of proposing some place for which there will be a majority in each branch of Parliament, will thus derive on those who oppose the existing decision. If the Cabinet wish a change they will propose one, and that probably in the Throne speech at the opening of the coming Session. We can say nothing of what they contemplate; but if they violate the Canadian reference to the Queen, and Her Majesty's right of selection, and their own present position of position, we shall be as much surprised as will anybody in Canada. We cannot imagine that the Ministry will invite a reversal of the decision of the *Argus* Referee, but on the contrary, will strive to uphold it.

We have not heard of any Imperial despatch on this subject since the intended course of the Government was announced—the head of the *Argus* has been received by the Secretary of State and Her Majesty with marked honor—it is therefore to be assumed that the present purpose of our Ministers is not disapproved of at home. We have no faith in any rumors as to the plans of Ministers—unless they themselves wish to disturb the present arrangement, there is everything in the position to recommend to them a policy of "let well alone."—*Colonist and Atlas*.

ARRIVAL OF THE KANGAROO, EXCELLENT POTATOE CROP. A TELEGRAPH FOR LONDON. CONSECRATION OF THE COURT OF GREAT ABUNDANCE OF SILK. HUMBOLDT DANGEROUSLY ILL. SWEDISH EJECTS CONCERNING CATHOLICS. RELAXATION OF RIGOR IN INDIA.

The steamship Kangaroo, from Liverpool on the 8th, arrived at 5 o'clock this p. m. Her advice are mainly anticipated by the Pacific at St. John's.

The steamship Karak, from Liverpool on the 4th Dec, arrived at this port on Saturday.

The steamship Ariel, from Southampton on the 30th Nov, arrived yesterday.

The Irish potato crop is the finest since 1860.

A local telegraph on a most extensive scale is projected in London. Messages are proposed to be delivered within the radius of four miles of Charing Cross for four pence per ten words.

At Lyons the speculators who bought up a large portion of the last year's silk crop have been forced by the abundant supply this year to sell at a great loss.

Letters from Naples assert that the King had offered to the Western Powers to re-establish diplomatic relations, and that the English Government had replied that everything would be subordinate to a satisfactory regulation of the armistice.

A Berlin telegraph says:—Baron Humboldt was dangerously ill.

It is stated that the Regent of Sweden intends to propose the obligation of the Edicts of Gustavus Vasa against convicts to Catholicism, in consequence of the harm manner in which these laws have been lately administered.

LATEST PER KANGAROO.

The Times publishes a proclamation issued by Lord Clyde, on recommending the campaign in Oude, announcing that where there is no resistance no plundering will be allowed, but where even a single shot is fired houses will be burned and villages plundered.

The funds were dull and heavy yesterday, owing to the fact that operations for a rise recently entered into by weak speculators.

There was renewed ease in the discount market, the minimum being 2 1/4 %.

ARRIVAL OF THE ASIA. BRITISH PILLBUSTERISM. REDUCTION OF INTEREST BY THE BANK.

A NEW TELEGRAPH CABLE UNDER GOVERNMENT GUARANTEE. THE FRENCH "AFRICAN EMIGRATION" SCHEME STILL APPROVED.

SADDY HOOK, Dec. 27.

The Anna from Liverpool on Saturday the 11th, passed this point on her way to New York.

Her advice are two days later than those by the Pacific at St. John's, N.F.

BRADSTUFFS.—The Liverpool Bradstuff market was dull and prices nominal.

PROVISIONS.—The Liverpool Provision market was dull.

LONDON MONEY MARKET.—Consols for account were quoted at 97 1/2 to 97 3/4. The books for money were shut.

Bolton in the Bank of England had increased £145,000.

The reduction of the rate of interest to 2 1/2 per cent is confirmed.

Numerous arrests had been made near Cork of parties connected with filibustering invasions from America.

It was already expected that Government will guarantee a new capital of £200,000 to the Atlantic Telegraph Company, and that a contract to lay a new cable will be made.

It is said that the French Commission re-

commended a continuance of the African emigration scheme.

The Calcutta, China and Australian mails were telegraphed, but the news is unimportant.

SECOND DESPATCH.

R. Spence & Co. quote flour very dull, quotations nominal. Wheat very dull at 27s; yellow 27s a 28s; white 30s a 31s 6d. Potatoes. Lard dull at 54s. Asbes were in good demand and slightly lower—pots 28s a 29s; pearls 31s 6d a 32s. Sugar steady. Coffee quiet. Rice dull. Baring Bros. quote Bradstuffs dull. Sugar quiet. Coffee steady. Tea was tending upwards.

St. Louis, Dec. 26.

The 22nd overland mail, with San Francisco dates to the 25th ult., arrived last night, bringing one through passenger and several from way stations.

Six companies of the 6th Infantry, under Colonel Hoffman, have been assigned for service in the Mohave country. Two companies with the regimental head-quarters, Lieutenant Colonel Andrews commanding, at Los Presidos; and one company each to Humboldt Bay and San Diego.

The San Francisco *Herald* reports the seizure of the steamer Hermann, by the United States Marshal, on claim against her by New York parties.

VERA CRUZ NEWS.

The steamer Tennessee arrived to-day, bringing Vera Cruz dates to the 22nd. The news is unexciting.

The Progress speaks in high terms of President Buchanan's Message, and thinks the position it takes with regard to Mexico will induce the European powers to recede from their present attitude. It also anticipates that the Liberator will reap some advantage from the tone assumed at Washington, and consequently that there will be no necessity for establishing the military posts in Chihuahua and Sonora, as suggested in the Message.

General Marquez had been defeated near Guadalupe by Degollados.

The Archbishop had refused to advance any more money to the Zuluaga faction.

A new Government, under the form of a triumvirate had been proposed at the Capital. The last was owned in France and in Spain. Spanish was resolute in fighting at Santiago.

The United States sloop of war Carataga is also there.

Another United States sloop of war, supposed to be the St. Louis, was seen off Vera Cruz.

It is stated that \$120,000 in silver had been in the vault of Mr. Forsyth's house in the city of Mexico.

CINCINNATI, Dec. 27.

The steamer Metropolis, from Pat burg bound to New Orleans, went ashore yesterday a. m. during a heavy fog some 30 miles below this city, immediately broke in two, and is now a complete wreck. No lives lost. The Metropolis had a cargo of 500 tons produce and foreign manufactures. The boat was owned by Fittsburg and valued at \$26,000. Insured for \$14,000. Whole loss estimated at \$200,000.

The *Herald* Washington correspondence states that great anxiety exists in Augusta and its vicinity concerning the African brought there by the Wanderer. The negroes are kept secreted near the city, but unpopular are the movements to revive the slave trade that only one of the negroes has been sold as yet, and he was bought by a colored barber in Augusta.

The Tribune correspondence states that there has recently been free interchange of views among many leading Republican Senators and Representatives. They came unanimously to the opinion that parties and politics are to ship-d in this Congress that policy will be effected this session concerning a Pacific Railroad or a modification of the tariff.

FURTHER BY THE ASIA.

Numerous political speeches by prominent politicians, including Gibbon and Bright, on reform, were made at the great demonstration at Manchester.

Fifteen young men occupying respectable positions, were arrested near Cork, charged with being members of a Society, having for its object, invasion of Ireland by American filibusters.

Pressure is being brought on the Government to secure the guarantee of 4 1/2 per cent on a half million sterling new capital for the Atlantic Telegraph. Memorials from all parts of the country are being sent to the Government to be accepted, and the Government would accede, and the Government would accede, and the Government would accede.

The French negro emigration vessels are reported to have been overhauled by British cruisers on the African coast, and compelled to discharge negroes, although their shipment was perfectly regular.

The Spanish expedition against Mexico is to be on a larger scale than is supposed.

The Calcutta mail of Nov. 9th had reached Suez. News unimportant.

CHINA.

Hong Kong, Oct. 29, 1858.

Lord Elgin's negotiations at Shanghai are satisfactory.

The Emperor of Japan is reported dead. Canton is quiet.

The resumed Australian mail, from Melbourne Oct. 15th, reached Suez with £150,000.

The gold trade quiet. Large shipments of gold to England.

New York, Dec. 28.

(Tribune's Washington Correspondence.)

Despatches have been received here by prominent filibusters, stating that the steamer Susan has returned from the coast of Nicaragua without having effected a landing of her emigrants, and that she is now off the shore of Texas near the mouth of the river Colorado.

Despatches have been received at the navy department from Commodore Lavelle, of the Washah, dated Beyrout, Nov. 2nd, but they add nothing new to what is already known concerning his investigation of the outrages on American citizens at Jaffa.

The Committee had transmitted all the documents in the case to our minister at Constantinople and think there will be no delay in obtaining justice.

The Washah would cruise along the coast of Syria, Palestine and Egypt.

The Macedonian was lying at Smyrna, but had been ordered by the Commodore to the coast.

LATEST MARKETS PER ASIA.

LIVERPOOL, Saturday noon.—Cotton quiet, sales to day will probably reach 6,000 bales. Bradstuffs and Provisions perfectly stagnant.

LONDON, 11 a. m.—Consols for account 97 1/2 to 97 3/4 and for money. The books are shut.

THE SMUGGLER AFRICANS.

The United States officers caught one young wild African at Icky Island last week, and brought him here on Saturday. The negro has since been mutilated, and the officials are engaged in searching for him,

while scores have been transported by railroad and steamers throughout the South.

The United States Marshal has been requested to resign, but refused to do so. He will probably be generally thought blameless.

FRESH DISTURBANCES IN KANSAS, WITH LOSS OF SEVERAL LIVES.

St. Louis, Dec. 27.

The Jefferson City *Examiner* learns from a reliable source that Fort Scott, Kansas, on the night of the 15th instant was attacked by Capt. Montgomery at the head of 200 men, and the town taken. When the Examiner's informant escaped, five or six persons had been killed by them. The object of the attack, it was presumed, was to rescue one of Captain Montgomery's men who was confined there under an indictment for murder. It is feared that the town will be entirely destroyed.

A despatch from Kansas City says that the Harrieville Democrat of the 25th inst. states, that on last Monday a band of thieves and assassins from Kansas territory entered Vernon County, and killed David Carter and stole a lot of cattle, 20 horses and 11 negroes. About the same time Captain Brown and Montgomery entered Missouri, on the little Eagle River, and stole a negro woman, and took Mr. Lurie prisoner, conveying the latter into the territory, but releasing him on the following day.

An express has been sent to Governor Stuart, of Mo., for assistance to protect life and property.

NEWSBY EMPIRE CITY.

New York, Dec. 29.

The steamship Empire City arrived last night with Havana dates of the 27th. Senator Douglas and some passengers.

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The Tehuantepec Company is said to have purchased the steamers America and Canada, lately intended to go to Paraguay for the purpose of putting them on the route between New Orleans and Matanzas, and establishing a weekly California mail.

New Orleans, Dec. 28.

A suspicious looking schooner, supposed to have had on board a party of filibusters, went to sea yesterday. The United States revenue cutter fired a shot and the schooner kept in shape water and then escaped.

It is reported that a schooner Hatch is collecting a large force, and has chartered a steamer to prevent filibustering expeditions to Nicaragua.

The steamship Philadelphia, from Havana on the 25th inst., is below. Her news is interesting.

The new Spanish officers have made overtures to the French Government to intervene in revolutionary movements contemplated by the inhabitants of Cuba. General Coucha was not consulted in the matter. There was good reason to believe that there was a revolution in progress on foot among the people of Cuba.

It is reported on the authority of U. S. General Belesan that strong efforts are making by the Spanish authorities of Cuba, to induce France to interfere and prevent the success of the revolutionary movement, which is expected will soon break out.

A large number of Americans are now in Cuba to aid the movement, and are confident of success if France does not interfere.

A Cuban gentleman just from the island says that the people and part of the army are for the revolution, but fear the intervention of the European powers.

NEW YORK, DEC. 29.

The steamship Illinois arrived this morning, from Aspinwall on the 20th, with the California mails of the 6th inst., and \$1,450,000 in treasure.

California news is mainly anticipated.

Sir George Osceley sailed from Panama on the 8th, for Central America, on the war-ship Vixen.

Valparaiso dates are to Nov. 16th; Callao to the 20th.

An immense fire had occurred at Valparaiso, damage \$3,000,000; insurance \$1,726,000. The fire originated in the Union Club rooms and burnt the entire range of buildings from the passage eastwards to the Plaza del Orden to the Quadrada de San Juan de Dios. Some firemen lost their lives, and a number of persons were seriously injured.

Tide unusually dull.

The Legislature passed an act for the general indemnification to all parties, and a full pardon to all persons except Seis Somers.

The American ships Lizzie Thompson and Georgiana are being fitted as transports of six and two guns to carry troops of Ecuador. The Peruvian Government are said to be willing to get out of the war. The Ecuadorians are eager for the fray.

A proposition has been brought before Congress to sell guano at the Chichas Islands at \$30 per ton delivered alongside the ship, to say purchasers. Bill reported favorably and will likely pass.

General Echague has issued a circular from Bolivar assuring his friends of aid to President Lizaso towards carrying out the revolutionary movements against the Castilla Government.

Ecuador is still blockaded, the only vessels allowed to enter being the mail steamers.

No fighting has yet occurred, but Ecuador was rapidly raising an army.

The steamer John L. Stephens, with advices from New York by telegraph, and New Orleans of the 13th, arrived at San Francisco on the 12th.

The ships Eli Whitney, with 185 passengers, and Norton, with 500 passengers, from Australia, had arrived at Victoria.

California interior papers state that Colonel Fremont had ejected the Major Mining Company from his property in Mariposa County. The statement from New Orleans was incorrect.

Joe McDonald, an ex policeman, and John Leary, a constable, have been killed by thieves whom they were attempting to arrest at Coahuila. The latter case one of the thieves was captured and hung summarily by the citizens generally.

A number of dwellings and stores at Texas Springs were burnt on the 17th ult.

The people of San Jose have memorialized the Government to permit the working of the Altamira quicksilver mine.

A severe gale with San Francisco on the 2nd Dec. Several vessels were slightly injured.

The Bulletin says that John Nugent, special United States agent at Victoria, has returned to San Francisco en route for Washington. Before leaving Victoria he published an address to the Americans, inviting the Government and the British authorities, causing much indignation there.

THE CROWN LANDS—SQUATTERS AND SETTLERS.

Since Mr. Cauchos abandoned the Commission of Crown Lands, nothing has been done towards disposing of the difficulties which a lax and indefinite administration of the department has fostered in several of the newest townships in the West. Time only adds to the complications which attend them. Whether the "settlement duties" will be enforced; still remains undetermined; and the squatters, taking advantage of the favor that has been shown to them in high places are all the time becoming more insolent and

unmanageable. Private correspondence and published narratives constantly afford examples in which bands of squatters have driven off the actual purchasers of lots; asserting the supremacy of the squatters' rights by threats and actual force. The township of Howick appears to be infested with ruffians of this description, who manage matters nearly as they please. Mr. W. G. Walker, a substantial and enterprising settler, a Justice of the Peace, and if we mistake not, a post master, supplies a statement which we are very fairly entitled to regard as a picture of the state of society in that unfortunate section of Mr. Commissioner Vanhook's dominion.

"Another outrage has been committed here, since my last, on a man named Philip McIntosh, from the county of Lanark. This man purchased lots 10 and 11 in the 7th concession, sold his old homestead, and when he came here with his wife and five children, and commenced to build upon his land, a mob of squatters gathered with threats, and piling trees upon his logs cut for a house, forced him to go off the land. Thus the man is left destitute of a home by these Howick scoundrels. As I deal with the names of the mob, I will give the names of the names of the mob, in order to show the Government that those who pretend to be 'poor and hardworking settlers' are a set of men who are fit for any sort of outrage.—John Carter, Henry Bell, Richard Carter, Moses, John Henry, and Robert Grier.—Henderson, Cooley, A. Crawford, Wm. Gilchrist, George Gough, and a number of others.—These parties, with axes and threats, very plainly told Mr. McIntosh that his life would be taken if he persisted to build upon his land. Mr. McIntosh has memorialized the Governor upon the subject, and awaits the result. This man is a Presbyterian. The above named squatters came to this Township in the summer of 1857, and settled upon land, and when the time came for purchasing they were not able to buy their land, and defied the Government to sell it. Shortly afterwards they found the land they claimed was sold to the first applicant; they then borrowed the money and made application, and got one hundred acres allowed them by right of pre-emption. These parties now come forward and state that they attended the sale, offered their money, and were refused. False! I was in the township and know to the contrary. Every person who attended the sale at the proper time, got what they wanted for themselves and their families. Mr. McIntosh purchased from the Crown, and paid \$1,000 for his land. The Government has received three payments with the interest. I cannot think that the Crown Land Commissioner will recommend any of these sales to be cancelled, as he has recognized a deal of the sale by receiving these payments, and as the money for some years; and how is he now to justify cancelling these sales? If he does, there is an end to confidence in purchasing from the Government."

"And his outrage!" In this case a Presbyterian from Lanark is the victim. In the last we read of, a Roman Catholic, who had removed his family from the county of Elgin, was the sufferer; his house having been pulled down, and himself hunted out of the place. The Howick scoundrels are perpetrating in the name of "squatter sovereignty." The lazy fellows who have taken possession of lots, raised their shanties upon them, and hold them with a view to selling their respective "claims," are the people who thus govern by club law. They are organized, and bid defiance to justice. They are bent upon making money without labour; and I pity these who, like poor McIntosh, find themselves surrounded by such neighbors.

We see the Government to settle the land question justly, quickly, and with a firm hand. These outrages would soon come to an end. The removal of the Howick scoundrels to a place of banishment, and the application of purpose which characterized Mr. Scottie, and equally characterized his successor contribute largely to the aggravation of the evil. The squatters are emboldened in their lawlessness by the inattention and infirmity of the Government; and the existing state of affairs in Howick bears testimony to the consequences. If any of our readers covet an acquaintance with "border ruffianism," they now have an opportunity of being gratified without incurring the cost of a journey to Kansas. Thanks to Ministerial incapacity, they may enjoy a miniature Kansas without leaving Western Canada.—*Globe*.

An application will be made to Parliament for an Act of Incorporation, and in the meantime preparations are making for carrying on the works vigorously the coming year.

The capital of the Company will be £50,000, in £1 shares, one fourth paid up on subscription, the original subscribers expressing their confidence in the undertaking by taking 25,000 shares.

We understand that the Stock-books will be opened in a few days, and as numerous applications for shares have been already received, we have no doubt the balance of the stock will be taken up at once.

In the Spring Smelting Works will be erected on the spot, and the large amount of ore now ready reduced to metal, and brought into the market.

INQUEST.

At Carleton Place, on Monday the third instant, an inquest was held, before William Wilson, Esq., Coroner, at the dwelling house of Mr. John Graham, on view of the body of John Neelin, aged five years, son of Mr. William Neelin, of this village.

After a protracted and searching investigation, Mr. John Graham, Foreman of the Jury, rendered the following verdict:—

United Counties of Wm. the Jurors em. Lausack & Reuben, banded to enquire to wit:—

Sovereign Lady the Queen, touching the death of John Neelin of Carleton Place, in the Township of Beckwith, in the County of Lanark, one of said United Counties, on our oath present that the said John Neelin came to his death, on Saturday, the first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty one, by a slight, crowded with boys and young men, passing over his body. The horses attached to said sleigh being evidently frightened by the yelling and shouting of a crowd of boys and young men playing at foot ball on the streets of said village. From the evidence adduced we are of opinion that no blame can be attributed to the teamster.

And the Jurors aforesaid consider playing at foot-ball on the public highway to be a great nuisance and fraught with great danger, and earnestly recommend the Magistrates of Beckwith to take, immediately, steps to prohibit, in future, such a reprehensible practice from being carried on in this village.

The Postmaster General of the United States proposes to Congress to raise the rate of postage in that country from three to five cents.

CHANCING IT.

Mankind are desperate gamblers. Not only at the faro table and in the licensed saloon, where vice spreads its most winning blandishments, but in private life, amid the domestic circle, and even in the sick bed of friends, and the health and life of those dear to them, multitudes seem desirous to test how close a game may be played with death, and how near the brink of the fatal precipice they can venture without toppling over. Strange that it should be so, yet daily observation confirms the assertion. And some after a few narrow escapes and near approaches to the silent land, become so emboldened, in their own cases and others, that Death might well say in reference to them, as he is reported to have said in "The land of cakes":—

"The 'fools' had out their fingers laughing. An' pook my hips."

So numerous are the illustrations of this phase of character, in every community, that our readers will have no difficulty in recognizing them, especially when we indicate a type or two of the most prominent.

And first we may premise that there is no subject upon which, even people intelligent in other respects, are so prone to err and be deceived as in regard to that sickness and health. People who would scorn to interest themselves in a trial of chances where men's lives were at stake, are yet continually foused to tamper with what concerns their dearest hopes, and where, upon their promptitude or diffidence, either life or death may be dependent.

Those who thus play games of chance with death may be divided into two classes:—they who neglect all means of recovery, and those who ignorantly undertake to prescribe for themselves and their children.

There are many who from want and destitution are forced into the first category, but there are many more who belong of their own choice to the second. And the list of fatalities attending it will be found much greater than that of the former. Were it possible to ascertain by statistics the number of children annually carried off by the injudicious use of warm medicines alone, the result would be astounding. From the dawn of infancy until advanced byhood the desperate game is being actively played, and as the chances are in favor of death, he was full many a prize.

If, in cases of sickness, slight or severe, people would remember the homely maxims that "an ounce of preventive is worth a pound of cure," and that "a stitch in time saves nine," and call in, at an early period, competent and intelligent medical aid, instead of blindly and foolishly venturing to play a game of chance with death, there would be fewer lives forfeited, and less sorrow and bereavement.

We have ventured thus to express what to us has long been obvious, believing that the crime we point out is one of which the public are notoriously guilty, and that we but do our duty in thus pointing it out. "A hint to the wise is profit," for which some of our readers will yet thank us, if we have assisted in inducing them to act upon it.

THE LEAD MINE.

We learn from the Montreal "Advertiser," that the proprietors of the Ramsay Lead Mine, of which he gave a description lately, have determined to form a Company to work it, in preference to selling it to foreign capitalists.

An application will be made to Parliament for an Act of Incorporation, and in the meantime preparations are making for carrying on the works vigorously the coming year.

The capital of the Company will be £50,000, in £1 shares, one fourth paid up on subscription, the original subscribers expressing their confidence in the undertaking by taking 25,000 shares.

We understand that the Stock-books will be opened in a few days, and as numerous applications for shares have been already received, we have no doubt the balance of the stock will be taken up at once.

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THE HERALD.

CARLETON PLACE.

Thursday, January 6, 1859.

RESIGNATION OF MR. SCOTTIE.

The Hon. Mr. Scottie has retired from the ministry and tendered his resignation of his seat in the Cabinet. The immediate cause of this step is not yet fully announced, and may not, perhaps, be understood, until parliament meets. In the meantime, speculation is rife as to his probable reason for taking such a course and the effects it will produce on the future shuffling of cards in the political game.

Some of our contemporaries, not very friendly to the men at present in power, assert that Mr. Scottie had become alive to the danger of, any longer, remaining in the sinking ship, and attempts to effect his escape. That a sense of the humiliation and defeat of the ministerial position and the unwillingness or inability of the government to mature a policy embracing leading questions, in view of the approaching parliament, induced him to resign. Another paper, an apologist for or organ of the present ministry asserts that the whole trouble arose out of the Seat of Government question, on which it is confidently stated that Mr. Scottie dissents from the policy of the Premier and his colleagues. The majority of the Council resolved that they would abide by the previous action of the Legislature, and the decision of the arbitrator chosen by it, viz: Her Majesty the Queen. In other words, that they would, like honest men, uphold the award made by their Sovereign at their own solicitation. Mr. Scottie thinking this a wrong policy, and conceiving that Canada should be left to her own sole action in this matter, has declined to be a party to carry out the policy of his colleagues on this one question! The same paper asserts that he agrees with them on every other point, and parts with his colleagues on the most friendly terms. Whether this be the true explanation or not, we think, matters little to the public and the country at large; as the contending policy of the present ministry, will not, probably, command the respect and confidence of the country, for any length of time.

COMMERCIAL REVIEW.

There is a great quantity of Furs annually offered to our Country Merchants, and the article being one of considerable demand, and subject to fluctuation from changes of fashion and from the sale of the European Markets, we propose occasionally to give quotations and prospects of the principal items of that trade.

Furs are at all seasons of the year readily saleable here, as there is a large business done here for the supply of this Country and for exportation to the British and Continental Markets.

Mink have been in great demand, but are now dull, and prices lower. They are worth 10s to 15s, the latter price only given for very prime skins. The demand is languid, and prices may still recede.

Musk Rats are in good demand at 7 1/2 to 9d. The price for really fine spring Rats will probably be a little over these quotations. Bears, 10s to 40s. No. 1. Military Bear would fetch the latter price, but they are rare. Red Fox, 2s 6d to 7s; always in demand.

OTTER.—Very fine Canadian rules high, but inferior is dull and neglected; we may quote them at \$5 to \$6 for really prime. Beaver is low and neglected; 60c. to 80c. per 15. may be regarded as about the price. In this and all other skins sold by weight, great care should be taken to select a skin that adheres to the pelt, as the cleaner the pelt, the higher the value, the quality of the fur being equal.

Marties, 5s to 7s 6d. Fisher, 10s to 15s, and 20s for very extra skins.

In purchasing skins, Merchants must bear in mind that condition, size, color, and season, are most important points to be looked to, otherwise, loss and disappointment must ensue.

The Fur trade this year has been a healthy one in comparison with last. Most of our goods have been disposed of at a fair profit, and to satisfy our customers. The stocks remaining are high, probably in some cases too high to meet the requirements of the winter trade, which commences this about 1st February.

Montreal manufacturers have obtained a wide spread celebrity within the past few years, more especially in the finer divisions, many of which are sent to the United States and Britain. During the last 10 years the manufacture of fur goods has been completely changed. Instead of exporting the raw material to England, to be there manufactured by English operatives and brought back to Canada, they are now taken from the raw state, dressed, colored and manufactured in this country in a style better adapted to its wants, and at much lower prices, thus effecting a saving to the consumer and imparting a direct benefit to the Province in the profitable employment of a large number of mechanics and operatives.

With respect to raw skins, the price has advanced since this fall, and will likely maintain their present rates, with the exception of Mink, which will materially decline after the 1st of January.

JOHN DOUGALL, Commission Merchant.

Montreal, Dec. 29, 1858.

The annual Ice Bridge has been formed some distance below Montreal, and as soon as it connects with the railways opposite the city a great increase of business may be expected. Flour is in good demand, especially for the higher grades, which were to a considerable extent bought up a fortnight ago, and are held for an advance. Good brands may, therefore, be said to be scarce, and there are few or no arrivals of Flour from the interior. We quote good No. 1 \$5, Fancy \$5.25, and Extras \$6.

The feeling on the part of Flour holders is very firm. They think that the whole quantity of good Wheat on this Continent will not more than supply the demand without reckoning any exportation to Europe. The high prices for good Flour in the Western markets, and the small quantity coming forward seem to corroborate this view.

Asbes are arriving sparingly, there being a general impression that the winter rates of freight by rail are very high. This is a mistake. The Grand Trunk has purposely made its tariff for Asbes lower than last winter, in order to encourage manufacturers to send forward all the time. The rates, per 100 lbs. gross, from the following points are as under, and they seem to us moderate:—

London, 40c.; Stratford, 35c.; Guelph, 33c.; Toronto, 25c.; Belleville, 22c.; Prescot, 14c.

The demand for Asbes is regulated, as we have frequently said, by the prospects in England, which at present are depressed, and the price remains as low as last season, viz: \$5.50 to \$5.60 for Pots, and \$5.40 for Tubs, 112 lbs.

There is a stagnation in the demand for Pork here, notwithstanding a rally in the West which has brought prices in Detroit and Chicago up again to nearly the highest point. The price for Hogs in cars is just about the same as present, so far as we can see, in Montreal, Toronto, London and Detroit, namely, \$5.50 to \$5.60, according to quality, and at these rates there is no demand here worth speaking of. Poultry continues at \$6 to \$7 for Geese, and \$7 to \$9 for Turkeys and Fowls per 100 lbs.

Securities are, generally speaking, dull, though money is abundant for business purposes.

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MONTREAL CATTLE MARKET—WEEK ENDING DEC. 28.

Cattle, Ex. \$7 to \$8; first quality \$4 to \$4.50; second and third, \$4 to \$4.50; Milk Cows, \$2.50 to \$3.50 each; Shorn, \$2 to \$3 each; Lambs, \$2 to \$3; Hogs, \$3 to \$4 Hider, \$4