ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH.—The Anglo-American Company and the Direct United States Company (for they are practically one Company, which are nominally maintained as two, in order to give fees to a double set of Directors) have a capital of £8,200,000, and their assets, on a generous computation, are worth £3,000,000. The difference between the value of assets and the capital is caused by successive issues of bonus Shares, and this has been done with the deliberate intention of creating an erroneous notion respecting the real returns of ocean telegraphy. But this is not all: the same people who are at the head of these two Companies are connected with the Telegraph Construction Company, and excessive prices are paid to this latter Company for the construction of cables. Two excellent cables might be made and laid between Nova Scotia and Ireland for about £1,400,000, say with land lines and plant, the total cost would be £1,500,000. Such a Company, with a tariff of one shilling per word, and using the new invention for duplicating messages, would pay well, and there is no doubt that eventually two such cables will be laid by the Dominion Government, for it is impossible to believe that this Government will for ever agree to the telegraphic communications of its citizens with Europe being charged about three times their proper price, for the benefit of a band of monopolists.—*Exchange.*

THE IRISH LANGUAGE IN IRELAND.—Early in the present century the Irish language was spoken more or less in every country throughout Ireland. It is estimated that one-fourth of the gross population, or about 1,000,000 people, spoke English exclusively, while probably an equal or somewhat greater number knew Irish only. In the intervening period down to the present time a great change has taken place, as is conclusively shown in the censuses of 1861 and 1871. In all Ireland now only about 162,400, or one in thirty-six of the gross population, still know no other tongue than Irish. When Carleton first issued his "Traits and Stories of the Irish Peasantry" his narrative contained a large number of Irish words which, in subsequent editions he found it necessary to remove, as they were no longer understood, and Dr. Hume tells us that even in their modified form, there are hundreds, probably thousands, in Dublin who cannot enjoy Carleton's stories. The existing dialect, which is more or less prevalent over the thirty-two counties, with of course local variations here and there, is the result mainly of the successive English and Scottish immigrations.—*London Saturday Review.*

Baron Grant is a bankrupt worthy this side of the Atlantic. With debts amounting to £882,058, he shows assets of £27,122, including 16s 2d "balance at the bank," but exclusive of his "folly" at Kensington, which it is proposed to demolish and erect in its stead a block of serviceable residences. His unsecured debts amount to £14,643. His liability under the Emma mine judgement comes to about £140,000. His secured debts are £270,704; partially secured, including a mortgage on the Kensington mansion, £423,323. He claims to have settled £35,000 on his wife and that previous to 1867. In examination he said that his profits between 1872 and 1875 were £1,230,548 Doubtless the worthy Baron will yet rise from his ashes and once more figure as a millionaire. If he has exhausted English forbearance, he should come to America. Here he will find ample scope for his particular ability. It would be a pity if such a distinguished ornament should be lost to the noble fraternity of resuscitated insolvents.

Suicides often exhibits great ingenuity in carrying out their object, but that displayed by Frederick Helbig, a German stonemason and contractor at Zanesville, O., has rarely, if ever, been equalled. Last November he made a desperate attempt to take his life by shooting himself in the head, the ball penetrating the eye. Through skillful medical treatment and patient nursing he recovered his vigor, but never his sight, being totally blind thereafter. Being naturally an active man, the life of a blind man had the effect of still more effectively fixing the idea of self-destruction in his mind. When the family arose one morning he was missing. Upon search being instituted, he was found seated on a chair on a cellar with a bedquilt wrapped about his head, in a lifeless condition. He had, with a chair and the quilt in his possession, felt his way to the cellar, there severed the gas pipe, passed one end up his coat sleeve, wrapped himself in the quilt, pressed his face to the sholder opening of the sleeve, crossed his legs, folded his hands, an quietly awaited and easy death.

HONEY SUGAR.—The Bee-Keepers' Association desire to return good for evil. While dishonest men are striving to spoil the honey market by selling imitation honey made of glucose and artificial flavorings, the bee-keepere are anxious to furnish an unquestionable wholesome substitute for the glucose used by cooks, confectioners, and brewers. Accordingly they have offered a prize for the discovery of a method of converting honey into a form of crystalline sugar. California honey already sells for seven cents a pound at wholesale; and whoever will succeed in producing a honey sugar will give a great impetus to an already profitable and rapidly growing industry. It is needless to add that he will also win a prize to which the bee-keepers' offer will be only an earnest.

Talk about the cost of the Pacific railway, why it is a mere flea bite to the colossal schemes of the new French Minister of Public Works, M. de Freycinet, who proposes to expend about £160,000,000 sterling ($800,000,000) on a vast net-work of State railways and hydraulic works. His plans, which have almost all been sanctioned, comprise the maintenance of about 23,500 miles of national railways, not much more than half of which are at present in working order, and five thousand miles of which have yet to be built, and the expenditure of $150,000,000 on new canals and old systems, and about $50,000,000 on the improvement and deepening of ports and harbors.

Driven out of their native land by unequal foreign competition, British capitalists are establishing themselves in the United States. A Manchester firm is negotating for the purchase of large mills in Massachusetts, a company of Black country iron masters are erecting extensive iron works at South Pittsburg, Tenn., and a wealthy Liverpool firm is going extensively into the cattle and dead meat export trade at New York. Such a manifestation of the never-say-die spirit is praiseworthy and characteristic of Englishmen, but they are helping to build up the trade of their own country's most persistent rival.

NERVE TUNING.—An Italian claims to have made a valuable discovery. He says he has learned how to tune up the nerves, like the chords of a violin, and bring them into harmony. The nerves lose their tone he thinks, like any musical instrument, and if they all run down alike, it is of little importance, as they will still act together. But when the general harmony is destroyed, by accident or uneven strain, the whole system is disturbed, and health suffers. This difficulty he claims power to rectify, and calls himself "a nerve-tuner."

The number of refrigerator cars now running to and from Chicago is said to be about 600, or double the number employed in 1877. By these cars about 3000 carcasses of beef per week are received at Chicago, or at the rate of 156,000 per year—nearly enough to meet the entire local consumptive demand. The great bulk of the beef thus received comes from Utah, Wyoming, Colorado, Kansas and Nebraska.

The English fire brigades are introducing a novelty which is worthy the attention of our Fire Departments. "Jumping sheets," made of stout canvas, with sixteen loops, or handles, to be held by as many men, are provided to be used alongside of burning buildings to break the fall of persons who cannot be reached by ladders. Trials of these "jumping sheets" have resulted satisfactorily.

In Germany glass appears to have many uses: A glass muff, white and curly; glass hats for ladies, with glass feathers; glass wool, not to be distinguished from the genuine, and quite as warm, being a non-conductor; glass carpets, cuffs, collars, veils, and dresses, are the novelities introduced by Mr. A. Prengel, glass artist and spinner, of Vienna. So says the *Hernhut* German newspaper.

The Agriculturist.

FREDERICTON, N. B., MARCH 29, 1879.

The National Policy.

The National Policy has been in the mouths of the conservatives leaders for years, but it is wonderful what hazy ideas they had of it in their minds. Nothing could exceed the vigor with which they denounced "the fly on the wheel," policy of the McKenzie administration, or the confidence with which they predicted that commercial and manufacturing regeneration and prosperity would flow from the national policy, which they had not even commenced to think out in detail. The national policy now exemplified in the tariff, is not an idea conceived in the mind of statesmen who took in at a broad glance all the varied interests of the country but a sort of patchwork put together to suit the views of parties who were most clamorous and urgent to have their peculiar ideas carried out, and their particular interests attended to.

The Dominion Government in framing their "national policy" have been very ready and willing to listen to outside suggestions, to take advantage of hints, and their organs claim that they are worthy of all praise for having so done, but the country would have been more impressed if they had shown more clearly than they have done, that they had a full and independent knowledge of what course it behoved them to pursue, in order to build up the manufacturing interests of the country, to raise it from its state of depression, and to create commercial activity.

All the salient features of the national policy, according to the testimony of their chief organ, have been suggested by bodies representing various interests of different parts of the Dominion, and good naturedly adopted by the gevrrnment. The Toronto Corn Exchange Association advised that a duty should be placed on flour, wheat, grains of all sorts, provisions, produce, and the government obediently placed duties on all breadstuffs, much to the advantage of farmers and millers of Ontario, but much to the detriment of New Brunswick. The Halifax Chamber of Commerce recommended that in order to encourage the direct importation of raw sugar, from the West Indies, an ad-valorem duty should be placed on on the raw article, and packages free, and that when a bounty was granted on the export of sugar from any country, such sugar when imported into Canada, should be met by a corresponding countervailing duty, and in answer, the government in their policy have practically carried out in the tariff all these suggestions. These sugar duties will work to the advantage of a few large importers, and two or three rich refiners in Halifax, Montreal, and elsewhere, but they will not have the effect of increasing, if they have not that of decreasing, the revenue, and they will certainly raise the price of this necessary article to the people of New Brunswick. The Halifax Chamber of Commerce, and the Cape Breton Board of Trade recommended that the tariff should be so arranged as to protect the coal and iron industries of Nova Scotia, and accordingly the government placed on anthracite and bituminous coal a duty of 50 cents per ton, and on iron $2 per ton. It is doubtful if the 50 cents per ton will secure to those interested in the coal mines in Nova Scotia, the trade with Ontario, and they are urging an additional 25 per cent, but, it is not doubtful, that, the duty will bear hard upon the poor people of New Brunswick, while the $2 a ton on iron will be sore discouragement to its manufacturers. In compliance with the suggestion of the Quebec Board of Trade, the government have adopted the idea, of which portly and jovial Dr. M. Fortin, is the originator, of establishing telegraphic communication with the islands in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, they have resolved to proceed vigorously with the Pacific Railway, and to prevent the undervaluation of goods entered at the Custom Houses by the appointment of efficient and reliable appraisers, in the recommendation of the Ontario Manufacturers and Industrial Association. All the ideas that the government (and their friends,) think their best, that stamp the features of their National Policy, have been pressed upon them by outside interests and influences.

The Finance Minister listened to the suggestions of the Lumberer's Association that met in Ottawa some time before the meeting of Parliament and he takes credit to himself for having relieved the Lumberers by reducing the duties (very slightly), on the commonest black tea, and molasess. But the lumberers will scarcely feel that medieum of relief, when they find that on the one hundred and one articles they and their employees use and consume, coal, bacon and ham, coarse cottons, flour, cornmeal, and other breadstuffs, nails, implements, &c., heavy duties are placed.

The National Policy has been framed to meet the views of some interest in Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, even in Manitoba, the Northwest and British Columbia, but what will it do for New Brunswick, except raise to the people the price of all the articles they consume! It will pay about $100,000 more into the revenue and get nothing in return.

The Dominion Government having shown that while vaunting and flaunting their National Policy before the people of the Dominion, they had no clear idea how it should be constituted in order to carry out their declared object, and it having been shown that they have framed their tariff, not from their own knowledge of what will be for the general interest of the whole Dominion, it is a fair inference to conclude that they really do not know what effects it will produce. They may imagine and predict great things but that is very different from seeing clearly ahead from the vantage ground of knowledge.

Annual Assessment.

The Mayor in his speech, returning thanks for his re-election, held out no prospect of diminution of taxation but hinted at the probability of an increase. The increase has come, though it is not very large; but the taxation on the city grows by a process of slow and sure accretion. The Assessment Committee have made up the assessment for the year, which, we understand amounts to about, or a little within, $34,000. Last year the total assessment was $32,560. There will be an increase of expenditure for schools, the Trustees ask for $1,500 additional which makes the assessment for this service $13,500. There will be an increase of $500 for Roads and Streets, making the amount $2,500. There is no increase or diminution in the provision for the Fire Department which stands at $2,000, but there will be some paring down in the other departments; $1,000 will be set apart for the "St. John Fire Relief."

These statements are approximate only to the fact but the citizens will not have long to wait before knowing absolutely what the amount of the increase in the assessment is, and the manner of its distribution, as the City Council meets next Tuesday, evening 1st of April, All Fools Day.

The House.

In no local House has there been more speaking and debating talent than in the present Assembly. Mr. King, who, when he took hold of a subject fastened on it with a tenacious grip, and who slow to move and hard to heat, worked himself into a state of passionate force, is missed. But several of the men of his time, are still in the House, and in the front rank. Mr. Fraser who does not belong to the rank of political orators inspires confidence by his calm and quiet delivery, and his evident wish to deal fairly with all matters under discussion, and with the opinion and feelings of his opponents. Mr. Willis on the contrary is cast in the mould of the orator. His fluency of utterance is great and he often says things worth saying, but his facility rather weakens his power of convincing his auditors. He is essenially good natured, and there is a latent smile in the bitterest things he utters. His right-hand man Mr. Covert is blunt, he often blurts out stinging remarks, and is capable of striking a heavy blow occasionally, wit in him lies like the fire in the flint, he requires to be hard struck before it flashes out of him. Mr. Wedderburn is a born orator, and he appears sedulously to have cultivated his native talent. His powers are rhetorical rather than logical, and his bent is towards sarcasm. He has command of choice language at will and has a most tuneable voice to give it utterance. He is clear in his statements and is given to amplification rather than condensation. He is better as a set speaker than a debator, but probably he will develop in the latter direction, now, that he is in a position exposed to question and attack.

Mr. Elder is a most effective speaker, he is nerther passionate or rhetorical, but he is logical, with great power of language, full of facts and with ability to use them, accustomed to state his thoughts with precision, he is listened to with respect, and his opinions carry weight in debate. His rank as a legislative speaker and debater will not be finally determined until he has the opportunity of filling the seat his friend Mr. Wedderburn now occupies. Neither is Mr. Stevenson passionate or rhetorical, nor is he "a free lance," in debate, ready at any moment to dart into the pray, but his mind is soundly logical he is painstaking, and when he masters a case, deals with a subject with which he is familiar, he speaks well. Mr. Adams is a very different sort of man, it may be doubtful if he can bring down his mind to a long continued strain of attention to a subject, but he is very good at a sudden dash of attack, and there is a good deal of audacity in his composition. Mr. Crawford not often rises to make a speech. He is not a speaker from the necessity of utterance but rather from the necessity of his position or case. Rapid in utterance, he acquits himself well when he does speak. Mr. Marshall is clever and sharp, and he would not think that he showed any great cleverness and sharpness if he was staunch and stubborn in standing by his principles or statements. He has always a purpose in hand, but the ostensible purpose is not always with him the real purpose. There is an element of furtive humor always playing about them, and it is not easy to know when he is serious.

Of all the gentlemen of the long robe in the House, perhaps none import so much legal ability, or rather none view matters so strictly from a legal standpoint, none act in their places as members of the legislature when discussing the affairs of the country, so like counsel, who see very keenly one side of the question, arguing pro on con in a case, as Mr. Hannington and Mr. Landry for Westmorland. Both are earnest and energetic, fluent, ingenious in argument, and sometimes redundant, particularly the first named gentleman. The lawyer is also strong in Mr. Davidson, he is not so flowing and decisive in speech, but more closely critical than the last named gentleman. He balances opposite arguments, and his discision is sometimes a surprise.

If some gentlemen who used to enliven the proceedings of the House, will never again sit as members, new members have come in who will make their marks. None have the dash and audacity of the late of Mr. G. L. Hatheway; none have the power of invective and the passion to use it of Mr. Gough, and all the better Mr. Ritchie takes a very keen and clear view of a question, and makes statements, and advances arguments with practiced ease. Mr. Black in speaking gives the impression that he is an able man, of good and independent judgement in affairs, of strong convictions—not prejudices—and not easily to be roused to a heat of passion. When he takes hold of a subject, he takes a firm grip. Mr. Hill is a good and sensible speaker, with a dash of quiet humour, and appears to take an alert interest in the business of the House. Mr. Linnott speaks with great fluency, and verve, especially on questions in which he takes a warm interest.

Mr. Blair, from the prominent post in which, he, a new member has been placed by his party as leader of the opposition, has much attention concentrated upon him. He is in the difficult and trying position of one from whom great things are expected; but he is not a man to allow any sense of failure to weaken his confidence in himself. There is no doubt that he is a strong man, and able and copious speaker and debater. He, also, is a lawyer, and shows unmistakeable signs of his training. He can make out a very strong case against the other side of the House, bring arguments to bear that tell for the time and seems possessed with the conviction of the justice of his cause and speaks with somewhat rasping heat and indignation of the iniquities (political) of his "friends in the government." His arguments warmth and indignation smack of the court below. He can lead a charge and is confident in his strength to bear down his foe, but he does not seem to possess the fine tact that would enable him to time and order the manner of his attack for the advantage of those who follow him.

Mr. Sayre also is a lawyer, and a new member, and made a good first appearance as mover of the Address. He has already shown that he believes in acting out economy and not merely in speaking about it. He does not soar rhetorically, but he has the command of good plain language, and can place his views before the House, clearly and well. We must stop, now, with the Mover of the Address, though our subject is not exhausted. But the roll of names we have given, bears out the statement with which we commenced this article.

FIRE.—About four o'clock this morning, the house on the property, "Acacia Grove," owned by Miss Gregory, took fire from the outside from a barrel of ashes in the shed. In consequence of the distance of the house from town, no alarm could be given in time to be of avail, though the flames burned slowly. All the moveables and furniture were saved, but, before the hand fire-engine from town arrived, the house and shed were past saving and were totally destroyed. They were insured for $1200 in the Commercial Union.

The walking fever has reached this city, and a match is on the tapis between two well-known athletes.

Military Concert.

On Thursday evening the Grand Military Concert under the patronage of the Deputy Adjutant General and Mrs. Maunsell, took place in the City Hall. The stage was decorated in a style befitting the occasion, stacks of rifles with fixed bayonets were placed at the sides, and flags and the royal standard were artistically disposed at the back. The audience numbering over four hundred assembled in the best disposition to be pleased with the entertainment, that the excellent programme promised them. The Band of the 71st Battalion was assisted by seven lady and three gentlemen amateurs. An overture walzer, gavotte and galop were played in excellent style by the Band. The vocal part of the entertainment commenced with a pleasing quartette, "Moonlight on the Lake," by Mrs. Cameron, and Messrs. Wilson, Anslow, and Graeveli, and the concert closed with another quartette, "Soldier's Farewell" by the same performers, with the exception of Miss Myshrall, in place of Mr. Anslow, which was one of the finest peices of the evening, contralto, tenors, and bass chiming well in unison, and rendering the plaintive flow of the air with good effect. The reception which Miss Fanny Richards received showed how great a favorite this rising vocalist is with a Fredericton audience, and both the songs set down for her on the programme "When the tide comes in," and the "Maid of Dundee," were enthusiastically encored. Her voice is rich and of high reach, and she excels in rendering arch sentiment in song. Miss Wetmore made her first appearance in public, and produced a most favorable impression. Her voice is sweet and cultured, and at the close of her solo, "Wishes" she received a most gratifying encore. Miss Clara Fisher played a brilliant solo, Lohengin," and Mrs. Tibbits and Miss Myshrall a stirring duett, "Les Trumpetors de la Guerre" on the Pianoforte. "The Englishman was given with fine effect, by Mr. Wilson, who afterwards gave "Where are the friends of my youth." Mr. Graeveli's "Sleep Well," sung as a serenade, in deep rich tones, would produce a most soothing effect, but sung before an audience, it provoked a hearty encore, when he gave *con amore* "Der Dutcher's Faderland." What can be said of Mr. Anslow's "Charge of the Light Brigade," except that it was not his fault that Mr. Blockley set the Laureate's noble and spitited "Charge of the Light Brigade" to an inappropriate and spiritless air. His medley which he sang as an encore, was much enjoyed. A notice of this most successful concert would be incomplete without a word of praise for Miss Helen Richards who took the useful role of accompanist.

The Ontario Election.

The Ontario local elections will take place in June, and already the great Toronto organs, the *Mail* and *Globe* are preparing for the fray and getting ready their campaign sheets. The contest will be very hot and sharp, and the lie direct will be given and retorted. In Ontario local and Dominion politics are much mixed up together, and during the elections the Dominion Government as well as the Mowatt administration will be on their trial. The result of the of the elections will prove, if the Mowatt administration is sustained or defeated, whether the tide of popular favor which flowed last year so strongly in favor of Sir John and his National Policy is still at its height, or shows signs of backward flow. The chief charge against the present government, or liberal Mowatt government besides the general one of do-nothingism, is its extravagance and excessive expenditures, and a feeling has been raised in the Province against the necessity and utility of the existence of the local body. Sir John Macdonald is known to entertain a strong opinion in favor of a Legislative Union, and his organ, the *Mail*, has long been covertly arguing in favor of the abolisment of the local legislature. During the coming campaign it will probably show its hand in support of such a measure. If, by the defeat of Mowatt and the return of the conservative party to power in accord with the policy of Sir John an expression of opinion is given in favor of the abolishment, it will mark the beginning of a period of great political agitation which will run through all the provinces. The coming local Ontario elections promises to be very exciting and may have far reaching consequencies.

Tax on Type.

One of the iniquities of the tariff is the tax on type and printing material which it is proposd to impose (or rather which imposes until the government are constrained to lighten it,) a duty of 20 per cent. Under the old tariff the duty of type was 5 per cent. This impost will bear with undue weight on all newspaper and job printers in the Dominion, on whom it will place a discouraging burden. In all the Dominion there is only one foundry, and that, in Montreal, and under the protection of this duty, its owners will be enabled to place exorbitant prices on their type, and defy the competition of outside manufacturers and importers. Where is the justice where is the policy, it may well be asked, in imposing a tax which is virtually one on the means of diffusing, by cheap newspapers and books, knowledge among the masses, for the benefit of one small establishment. Founders for the manufacture of type, cannot be established for years, and in the meantime printers of the Dominion must be subjected to this 20 per cent impost. The Finance Minister will acknowledge that the press has great influence, has it not influence enough to compell him to take off this burdensome duty.

MRS. SCOTT-SIDDONS.—This celebrated lady will be in Fredericton, April 19th, to give an evening of Dramatic Exercises in costume. This will give our people a good opportunity of hearing this extraordinary artist. No doubt a full house will greet her appearance on the stage.

Robert Templeton, watchmaker and jeweller of Ayr, Scotland, has bequeathed his whole estate of about $50,000 to rebuild the old bridge of that town, popular known as the "Auld Bridge of Ayr," and rendered famous by Burns' poems.

The hopes that, after the death of Shere Ali, the negociations for peace with Yokoob Khan, his son and successor, would end successfully, and further bloodshed be everted, have, according to a Calcutta despatch of the 28th, been disappointed. According to that despatch the Viceroy of India, had been informed on Wednesday that all negociations had failed, and an advance on Cabool had been ordered.

Private advices state that that the situation of the half-breeds in the vicinity of Wood Mountain and the Cypress Hills is becoming more and more precarious on account of the increasing scarcity of buffalo. There are 115 half-breed families at Wood Mountain, and 150 at Cypress Hills, whom the difficulty of obtaining supplies compels to cross the lines to hunt, where they are exposed to the depredations of the Crown, no less than 160 horses having been stolen from them by the latter. Very few buffalo robes will be obtained this winter. Sitting Bull is camped close to the line in order that he may be able to hunt on the other side The Government, at the instance of the Indians, have ordered the half-breeds to winter at Milk River, which is a reserve of the Assiniboines'. The latter are strongly opposed to this step, and only about forty families of the half-breeds have been permitted to winter on their reserve. The action of the Indians has been a source of much hardship to the half-breeds who have had to winter there.

The 21st January.

Late English papers are full of accounts of the awful day in South Africa. Like General Braddock, after the disastrous battle of Monongahela (during the French and English war that resulted in the conquest of Canada), Lord Chelmsford seems to have been stupified by the terrible defeat of Isandhlwana. Braddock, who was mortally wounded, when dying was heard to mutter, "who would have thought it," and to Lord Chelmsford "the misfortune" of the 22nd January was "almost incomprehensible." The only point of parallelism between Monongahela and Isandhlwana, is the contempt that Braddock, who marched (not without remonstrance, however), into a murderous ambush, and Chelmsford entertained for the foes whom they were called on to encounter.

There appears to be no mystery regarding the causes of the "misfortune" of 22nd January. Lord Chelmsford is much blamed for leaving the camp at Isandhlwana and proceeding on a reconnoitering expedition with a large force, when it was evident that the Zulus were swarming in front of him. If he had had a sufficient force of light cavalry to act as scouting parties and bring him intelligence, he would not have ventured to have marched "upon Matyana's stronghold." In his position he ought to have acted on the defensive, and waited the attack of Cetewayo, who was confident in his superior numbers.

Cetewayo had a clear design in his head His scouts, no doubt, brought him intelligence that a portion of the British force was pushing forward from the camp. He disposed of a few of his regiments in such a way as to draw on Lord Chelmsford, and gave them orders not to fight but slowly to retreat, then he hurled the body of his troops on the camp. Had the camp been properly fortified, had the waggons been parked, drawn up after the Boer fashion, in a hollow square, the British force would have successfully repelled the attack though the Zulus were as ten to one. But nothing was done to fortify the camp; the small and gallant band was not kept on the defensive, but a portion of it on the right and left was pushed forward to attack the advancing foe. Onward swept the Zulus in a line extending two miles, the centre advancing more slowly than the wings, which completely outflanked the British, and swiftly encircled them and cut off their retreat. Contemning the Martini-Henry dealing swift death, over hetacombs of their slain brethern, the Zulus rushed, literally overwhelming by their numbers, the few hundreds of the 1st 24th and the Native Contingent closing in upon them and butchering them with their tell assagas. An account says:—

"A scene of utter confusion now seems to have occurred, horse and foot, black and white, Zulu and English, all in a struggling mass, making gradually through the camp towards the road where the Zulu right already closed the way of escape. What happened during that half-hour, even those who lived to tell can remember but little of. Every man who had a horse attempted to escape towards the river; those who had none died where they stood, but even to mounted men escape was all but impossible. The country was rugged, broken, and covered with boulders and waterwashes—a country, in fact, over which the active Zulus would run as fast if not faster than horses. In front was the Buffalo, which had to be crossed where no ford was, and where many a brave man who had so far made his escape succumbed. Many were drowned, many were assaigaed, a few shot, and so the pursuit went on even into Natal. Not a few died after the colonial side had been gained, for many lost their horses and arms in the river, even when they succeeded in crossing in person."

That the British could have held their camp at Isandhlwana, if it had been even rudely fortified, the incident at Rorke's Drift; that took place the same day, where 80 men behind a rude barricade of maize bags, and without artillery, repelled for ten mortal hours, the attack of 3,000 Zulus, and survived (with a loss of 13 killed and 9 wounded) to receive the thanks of Lord Chelmsford for so gallantly defending their position, and saving Natal from invasion, is cited as proof. The memorable 22nd of January was full of horrors and strange incidents, but through that day of disaster British valour shone as conspicuously as in the brightest day of its triumph.

TEMPERANCE MEETING.—To-morrow (Sunday) evening a Temperance Meeting, under the auspices of York Division, No. 2, S. of T., will be held in the City Hall, when Major Welch, who has acquired great reputation as a temperance orator, and whose speaking last Monday evening, created much interest, will deliver an address. There will be a collection made at the door, and the chair will be taken at eight o'clock.

MASONIC.—A meeting of the members of Solomon's and St. Andrew's Lodges, at which a full attendance is requested, is summoned for Wednesday evening, 2nd of April. We understand that it is proposed to amalgamate the two lodges, and at the meeting the election of the Master Warden and other officers of the new combined Lodge will take place.

SOME POTATOES.—Since the opening of the potatoe trade, George Hatt & Son's have shipped about 3,000 barrels of potatoes, the produce of York County, to the United States.

A meeting of the "Silsby" Engine Company will take place on Wednesday evening next, 2nd April, for the election of officers and other important business.

The robins have made their appearance.

North Carolina has about one dog to every three sheep, and 28,000 of the latter were destroyed last year by the canines.

Queen Victoria, it is rumored, has expressed a strong wish to see Canada, and the Prince of Wales is encouraging her to visit both that country and the United States.

The altar in the Rome Catholic cathedral on Fifth Avenue, New York, will cost over $250,000, and workmen have already begun upon it. The cathedral will be open for worship May 25th.

A man at S. Bend, Ind., buried his wife in nice style, but after the crowd had dispersed from the grave he sold the silver handles of the coffin back to the undertaker at reduced rates.

The foolish man folideth his hands and saith: "There is no trade; why should I advertise?" But the wise man is not so. He whoopeth it up in the newspapers, and verily he draweth customers from afar off.—*Ex.*

Contracts for locomotives and cars are now made at lower figures than ever before. Engines of a pattern that five years ago sold at $15,000 are now furnished at $9000, and $12,000 engines at $7500. Box cars which then brought $800 readily are built for $450, even on small contracts.

The site occupied by the buildings of the Sydney International Exhibition commands a full view of the splendid harbour, and is contiguous to the new Government Offices and the Botanical Gardens. The works, which have been designed on a scale of great magnificence, are progressing rapidly towards completion, and over 600 men are busily engaged upon them. Lady Robinson has laid the foundation stone of the central dome, in the presence of the Governor, the Premier, and a large and enthusiastic assemblage. It is understood that everything will be ready for the opening of the exhibition on September 1st.

Local Legislature.

MONDAY, March 24.

On Mr. Ritchie moving the suspension of the rule to introduce a Bill "to incorporate the Disciples of the Christ Society in St. John," a point of order was raised by Mr. Willis, and after some discussion the matter was referr to the Committee on Standing Rules.

The Bill relating to Ferries was referred to a committee, viz: Messrs. Crawford, Butler, Ritchie, Covert and Davidson.

Progress was reported on a Bill, committed by the Attorney Aeneral, to erect part of the Parish of Canterbury, York County, into a new Parish; it provides that the new parish shall have two representatives in the County Council. The inhabitants thereof are favorable to the division, but the Municipal Councillors generally seem to be adverse to it.

Mr. Barbarie committed Bill "for the protection of certain birds and animals." Messrs. Willis, Barbarie, Davidson, Blair, Johnson, Fraser and Hill took part in the discussion. The question arose of postponing it until the Chief Game Commissioner was heard from, but the majority of the members were in favor of voting on the bill as it was, without waiting for any outside "fellows" opinion. Bill passed with certain amendments.

Bill to consolidate and amend certain Acts relating to the St. John Protestant Orphan Asylum, committed by Mr. Marshall, who read the report of the Committee to whom it was referred, recommending it with some amendments to the favorable consideration of the House, was passed.

Provincial Secretary submitted, pursuant to notice of motions, detailed statements regarding the receipts and expenditures, assets, liabilities, outstanding loans and advances up to 27th February, 1879, and a number of other financial particulars.

Mr. Lynott recommitted Bill "to establish liens in certain cases," Mr. Hutchison in the chair. A long discussion followed in which Messrs. Lynott, Ritchie, Wedderburn, McManus and Cotterel spoke in support, and Messrs. Black, Davidson, Hannington and Landry in opposition.

The mover was pleased with the way in which the Bill had been received and thought that all objections to it could be successfully met. The subject had been before the country for 25 years. After the establisment of Responsible Government the people had expected a lien bill. A lien bill had been before the Legislature but it had always received the gobye. He maintained that with the Dominion Government in holding liens for Custom duties and the Local Government in holding liens on logs, completely endorsed the principle of the bill. He argued long and earnestly in the principle of lien, and on the justice and necessity of protecting the labouring man who put his blood and his muscle, which were all his capital into the work and made it valuable and the man who supplied the material. On the testimony of Holy Writ he who sought to deprive the laborer of his wages was put on the footing of a murderer. Many outrageous cases of injustice to the poor man would never have occurred had there been a lien law on the Statute Book. He was willing to accept any reasonable amendment to his bill (which he said contained the cream of the Ontario and Maine Bills), and mentioned one in relation to lumber which he had adopted, on suggestion, that no liens should be allowed on logs below $10 or above $40. He closed by saying that the universal feeling in the county was in favor of a lien bill. Let the Legislature pass this bill and give it a fair trial. The interests of the poor man ought to be protected, the cry of the poor man was not cant trap, he was the representative of poor man. His constituents saw how favorably the lien law worked in the neighbouring State and they desired the like protection.

Mr. Cotterel, from his own experience, described the successful working of the lien law in Maine. The opponents of the bill grounded their objections to it, chiefly on the arguments that it would not benefit the labouring man who now had all the protection in the attachment and garnishee laws he required, and who was not compelled to trust any man a dollar for his labor, but it would tell against the men of enterprise and capital who were the real sufferers in this time of depression, and tend to cramp all enterprise, or limit it to temporary undertakings. In illustration, many cases were given in which a lien law would work disastrously. It would most certainly increase litigation and perhaps would not be objected to by lawyers on that account.

Mr. Black made a very able speech in opposition, and Messrs. Hannington and Landry went over much the same ground as on the occasion when the bill was up the first time for discussion. It is singular that the strength of the opposition to this measure comes from Westmoreland. Finally progress was reported, and a motion was passed, ordering the bill with the other lien bills before the House to be printed.

TUESDAY, March 25.

Mr. Colter gave notice of inquiry whether it was the intention of the Government to introduce a bill at the present session to authorise the issue of debentures for the erection of new Legislative Buildings.

Bill committed by Mr. Covert to make valid certain deeds of the Rector, &c., of Christ Church, Maugerville, to Elizabeth J. Bailey, agreed to.

Bill committed by Mr. Colter to regulate, (to make uniform) the assessment of islands on the River St. John, agreed to.

Bill committed by Hon. Mr. Wedderburn, to further amend the law relating to levying and assessing rates and taxes in St. John, providing for an additional assessment of $20,000 on the eastern side of the harbour, agreed to with certain amendments.

Bill re-committed by Hon. Mr. Fraser, to erect part of the parish of Canterbury into a separate parish, agreed to.

Progress was reported on bill (Mr. Colter) to amend Chapter 4, Consolidated Statutes relating to elections in the General Assembly so far as relates to County of York, providing that the Warden shall revise non-resident list instead of Sheriff.

Progress was reported on bill (Mr. Ritchie) to amend Chapter 100, Consolidated Statutes, as far as relates to mines and minerals.

In the afternoon a long discussion arose over the Bill re-committed by Mr. Sayre, to legalise the assessment made by Hon. A. E. Botsford and other Commissioners on property owners in Germantown Lake District. This is a matter that has been very long in dispute, it was brought under the consideration of the Legislature in 1873. There is a case now pending in the Supreme Court, between the parties concerned. The history of the case, a long and involved one, was very fully gone into by Mr. Hannington. Mr. Sayre, Mr. Black, Mr. Turner, who resists payment of assessment and who has refused to recognise the decision of the Commissioners, doing so on the ground that the assessment they made was unjust to himself and illegal. On the other hand it is contended that Mr. Turner's objections were merely technical and that his contention erroneous. Mr. Hannington, Mr. Fraser, Mr. Laundry spoke in opposition, and Messrs. Davidson, Black, Sayre, in favor of the Bill. Progress was reported.

Mr. Hutchison introduced a Bill relating to the constitution of the Legislative Council, providing for the prospective reduction of the number of its members to ten.

WEDNESDAY, March 26.

A Bill, committed by Mr. Hutchison, to vest the appointment of Northumberland Alms House Commissioners in the Municipal Council of that County, was thrown out.

Notice of inquiry was given by Mr. Elder whether it was the intention of the Government to hold the next Provincial Exhibition not later than two years from the time of the holding of last Exhibition, and whether it is intended that the next Exhibition shall be held in St. John, also whether government will make a small grant in aid of teachers of great age and in indigent circumstances.

The Germantown Lake Bill was recommitted, and after further full discussion in which Messrs. Ritchie, Barbarie, Blair, Morton, White, Fraser spoke in support and Messrs. Hannington against the Bill was agreed to 21 to 11, without amendment. Mr. Gillespie received answers from Prov. Sec. to his questions regarding the Kent Northern, the Dalhousie Branch, and the Miramichi Branch railways, and the revival of the subsidy act of 1871. The government are prepared to enter into a contract with the Kent Northern Railway Company on receiving satisfactory assurances of their ability to construct the line. The Government have given no assurance to any persons interested in the Dalhousie Branch, that a subsidy will be given them under Act of 1874, the Government decline to answer questions whether in event of assurance being given them of the ability of Dalhousie Branch Railway to construct road, of the ability of the Western Railway Company to construct the Miramichi Valley Line, it is their intention to subsidise them. The government have under consideration the continuing of the Railway Facility Act of 1874.

Mr. Marshall committed a bill to incorporate the St. John Club. Such institutions are common in all cities in Great Britain, the United States and in Canada, and there was nothing in the bill except the giving to the gentlemen incorporating themselves the necessary powers to establish the Club. After several sections were passed, to some of which the mover made amendments, progress was reported.

The order of the day—that supply be granted to Her Majesty—was then taken up. The Speaker in the chair.

The Provincial Secretary in moving the resolution made very elaborate statements comparing the financial condition of the Dominion and of Ontario and New Brunswick with that of New Brunswick, and of the financial condition of New Brunswick in the past and present, of its liabilities and its assets, of its receipts in 1878, and expenditure compared with the estimates, dealing in a very rapid manner with a bewildering amount of figures in the course of his exposition, and growing warm and eloquent in recounting the history of an unjust claim made on the Government of New Brunswick by the Government of the Dominion, closing after speaking fully two hours and a half without exhausting his matter. At six o'clock he moved the adjournment of the debate until Thursday at 3. We can only give a few of the salient points of his exposition.

The Provincial Secretary commenced by saying that he had the honor of submitting in certain papers and returns that so full and clear a statement of the financial condition of the Province, except that it was the custom, it was hardly necessary to take up the time of the house by a further exposition. He spoke of the extraordinary depression of business that had prevailed all over the world, that it was beyond doubt that the depression that had been borne by the United States and the Dominion must have been felt in New Brunswick. He referred to what had taken place in the Dominion Parliament three or four days ago, when the Finance Minister made his budget speech, and announced a large scheme of additional taxation, quoting a passage from Mr. Tilley's speech, stating the amount of the deficits and of additional revenue that would be required to be raised by increased customs and excise duties

The Secretary then gave figures showing the excess of expenditures in the Dominion for the last four years, which gave a total of $4,148,700. He also showed that since 1874, the Ontario Government had deficits amounting to $2,241,100, and gave figures to prove that for the last four years in Nova Scotia the expenditures had greatly exceeded the receipts, leaving large yearly deficits, the deficit in 1874 amounting to $148,000. Nova Scotia had large outstanding debts. He was happy that he could say with confidence that while deficits had taken place in the Dominion and other Provinces of the Dominion, no such thing had taken place in the Province of New Brunswick.

He would not enter into a discussion whether the present Government had existed for years or wh