

## Telegraphic News. Provincial Legislature.

(Special Despatch to STANDARD.)

Fredericton, Feb. 29.

The bill to incorporate the Hillsboro Branch Railway Co. was read a third time and passed.

Mr. Davidson introduced a bill to provide more effectually for the repair of roads and bridges in Northumberland.

Mr. Johnson introduced a bill to facilitate the construction of the Kent railway.

The House in committee agreed to a bill to incorporate the Kent Driving Park association.

Also a bill to amend an Act to provide for the establishment of a public Slaughter House for the city of St. John.

Also a bill relating to "engrossment" of the acts of the legislature. It provides that acts of the legislature shall be engrossed on paper instead of on parchment. There will be a saving effected of \$800 in the engrossment of the Consolidated Acts of the Province alone, by this bill.

The Surveyor General laid before the House a return of all lumber seized for trespass on Crown Land in the counties Gloucester, Crowston and Northumberland in the years 1873 and 1874.

On motion of Mr. Cotterell, the House went into committee upon a bill to amend an act to incorporate certain districts in the Parish of St. Stephens. The first section of the bill which makes a provision to change the percentage on the poll tax was lost on a division, after which progress was reported and leave asked to sit again.

The House went into committee for the further consideration of the bill to consolidate the Public Statutes.

Mr. Covert asked why they could not be brought into force before November.

The Atty. Gen. replied they could not be printed and distributed before that time, and as they relate to the entire body of the law, it was advisable they should not come into force until they were published.

In the Assembly on the 25th inst., the Attorney General explained what was meant by

### INCOME TAX.

He said the law meant "the amount a man derived from his occupation, less the amount which in respect to that employment is deducted from him. The income is the net amount, not the gross amount of his earnings. It does not mean the amount less the living expenses of the man; that would be a very variable rule, because a man may be a bachelor or a man with a small family, or a large family, or one man may have an income of \$1000 and spend that amount, while another, with an income of \$400, might spend in living but \$300. He would then be taxed on \$100 while the man with an income of \$1000 would be exempt from taxation.

By adopting that scheme you would introduce confusion at once. Last year when the question of \$200 exemption was before the House it was thought that, inasmuch as the poll tax was increased from one-eighth to one-sixth, it was not unreasonable to allow the poorer class of people a deduction of \$200 in respect to income. But when it was introduced there was a feeling that a great change was being made in the income tax, and that the owners of accumulated wealth might dislike any such exemption. It was struck out because the House thought it best to make some stand in favor of the owners of accumulated wealth. Now, with a years experience, hon. members could speak more intelligently, and they could say whether it was advisable to leave the law as it is, or adopt the proposed amendment. A great many people lose sight of the fact, that the amount now assessed on \$400 is about the same as was formerly assessed on \$80.

**RUSSIAN CREDIT.**—There are rumours afloat that Russia is about to contract a new loan; and, therefore, we would say to British capitalists, *cave*. A few years since national indebtedness of Russia was almost nil, but, having once enjoyed the pleasure of spending at her own caprice the money of others, she having borrowed once borrowed again, and got so addicted to the pastime that within the space of little more than twenty years her debt has increased to the extent of 251 per cent. It will be seen that in this respect she has been imitating Turkey, and by-and-by we shall have, as in respect to that Power so in respect to Russia, to ask what has become of all this money, and to hold our hand until we receive a satisfactory answer. On an average Russia draws about £15,000,000 per annum out of the London and Paris markets for the construction of railways. We have seen the palaces which line the shores of the Golden Horn, but where are those Russian railways? To quote Mr. Puff's tragedy:—

"The Spanish fleet you cannot see,  
Because 'tis not in sight!"

and it is pretty much the same case with respect to the Russian railways. In other words, the money has not been expended on the objects for which it has been borrowed, but has rather been squandered after a fashion which those who lent would have been the last to approve had they been apprised of how it was to be applied. The Sultan's cruises have been architecture and gallantry. The Czar's have been military display.

**VOLUNTEERS.**—No person under 5ft. 6in. in height or less than 32in. round the chest will in future be enrolled in artillery volunteer corps, and no person under 5ft. 3in. in height or less than 32in. round the chest will be enrolled in other volunteer corps, except in the cases of lads under 17 years of age who are admitted for the purpose of being trained as trumpeters.

**THE CALICO BALL.**—At Fredericton last Wednesday night is represented as a pleasant gathering, if we except the extreme cold. One who was present writes—"Ladies danced with their shawls and overshoes on" the building was so excessively cold, notwithstanding there were six stoves kept as hot as they could be made. All passed off pleasantly and between \$400 and 500 were realized.

Fredericton Notes.

The long talked of "Calico Ball" came off last Wednesday evening in the Exhibition Building and in many ways was a success, but as it was impossible to heat the building on account of the intense cold, many suffered in consequence and some even attempted to dance in their overcoats. The supper was a failure, though there was an abundance of eatables, as no one could be induced to attack frozen turkey, etc., but hot coffee was served through the evening. The proceeds amounted to between \$400 and \$500.

The curling match on Thursday between the Fredericton and St. John clubs resulted in a victory for the latter by a large majority. The day was the coldest this winter and the wind blew a gale, but heedless of frozen ears, noses, &c., the "hardy Scots" withstood it.

Two fires occurred here last week. The first originated in a barn belonging to the Waverly Hotel on Regent St., and soon spread to a storeroom adjoining, but did not go any further although at one time it threatened destruction to the whole block. There were no losses to speak of, most of the goods having been removed. Another fire broke out in a house on King St., in rear of the Barker house, and before it was extinguished the house was completely gutted.

The Skating Carnival held in the Rink on Monday night was a success. There were probably between fifty and sixty persons, including a fair proportion of ladies, on the ice, and a large number of spectators. Some of the costumes were splendid and prizes were awarded to those wearing the best representation of character.

The Legislative Session is moving along slowly. Charlotte members are to be seen daily at their posts, and attending to the interests of their constituents.

A. H. GILLMER, Esq., M. P., will accept thanks for Public Documents. What a splendid harvest the publishers in Ontario must reap from the piles voluminous Reports, printed.

The following is a brief synopsis of the state of the public accounts of Canada for 1875.

Receipts on account of consolidated fund for 1874, \$24,205,092.54. Receipts for 1875—\$24,648,715.03.

The total loans for 1874 were \$14,103,599, against \$23,559,525 for 1875.

Customs receipts for 1874 were \$14,000,000, against 15,000,000 in 1875.

In round numbers, aggregate receipts from open account amounted to \$3,498,377, against \$1,237,772 in 1874.

The total receipts were \$52,036,617, against \$39,330,791.

Expenditures for 1874 and 1875 were—1874, \$23,316,206; for 1875, \$23,713,071.

The net debt of the Dominion to end of fiscal year was 116,000,000, against \$108,000,000 of the previous year.

Expenditures on open account, \$11,100,245, against \$9,253,087 for 1874. Of this expenditure the net debt at close of the fiscal year 1875 was about \$75,000,000.

### Parliament of Canada.

Ottawa, Feb. 25.

After a considerable amount of business had been disposed of, Hon. Mr. Cartwright commenced his budget speech by observing that he would be bold were he to deny that a great distress was present in the country, but the position was less dangerous than it was two or three years ago, when there was over-confidence on the part of business men on account of the rapid progress made by the country.

He proceeded to review the financial state of the country, saying that the total revenue for the year ending 30th June, 1875, was \$24,648,715 expenditure, \$23,713,071; balance, \$935,644. In comparison, during year 30th June, 1874, \$189,251,928; present year, \$78,866,979; decrease, \$11,464,949. One million due to increase in exportation of bullion, three and a half to decrease in exportation of produce not of Canada. Total decrease in the value of trade is \$19,250,460. [There is evidently some blundering in this paragraph. We give the figures as we get them.]

Having pointed out several cases explanatory of deficits, Mr. Cartwright thought the general result for the year eminently satisfactory. In spite of the heavy charges made to account he might be able to show a balance of nearly one million, though much of the revenues belong to the year was anticipated in the preceding year. Contrasting the controllable expenditure of 1874 with 1875 showed a balance of \$472,923 in favor of the latter. There was a serious diminution in the total receipts of the first seven months of the present year, the total revenue to February 10th amounting to \$12,870,785 against similar receipts to corresponding period last year of \$14,676,121, being a difference of two millions in favor of last year. But the receipts of the first seven months of last year were unusually large. He read a statement showing that there had been very little actual decrease in the exports of

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the country, and that the decrease was only in one single article, sawn lumber.

The hon. gentleman proceeded to say that the distress in commercial quarters was largely attributable to the depreciation in value in the lumber trade.

Having stated several items on which increased amounts would be required, among others the Supreme Court and the mounted police; he said they had effected a decrease of \$27,253 on the civil government; on the Dominion police, \$10,000; on penitentiaries and statistics \$115,080; on immigration and quarantine, \$1,927,602; on militia, \$295,848; on lighthouses and coast services, \$146,750; boundary surveys, \$100,000, is dropped temporarily; on Dominion lands, \$170,000; to carry on the public works of the Dominion, reductions to the amount of \$3,247,000, being a decrease in the estimates of \$3,500,000. [Some of these figures must be a million or so out of the way.]

He had taken an opportunity when money was cheap in the London market to negotiate a loan of \$1,500,000, which would be employed partly to pay off debts and obligations of the country and partly in improvements on the St. Lawrence Canal and other public works, and the payment of sums to Prince Edward Island.

He expected to receive during the ensuing year, in Customs \$135,000,000, from excise \$25,000,000, Stamps \$250,000, Post Office \$11,000,000, Public Works \$1,700,000, miscellaneous sources \$1,200,000; total receipts \$23,250,000, against an estimated expenditure of something less than that amount.

### The Recent Snow Blockade.

The first train over the Ogilvieburg road from West of Upper Bartlett, N. H., from Tuesday the 15th until Friday the 18th, arrived here at 11:30 p. m. on the last named day, under charge of Conductor Hartsorn, leaving about twenty-five Burlington Vt., merchants who started on the morning in question to pass a few days in Portland, and become acquainted with our business community.

The storms of the previous week, that commenced on Friday, the 11th inst., and continued with a slight interruption, until Tuesday, were the most singular and severe that have been known in the White Mountains for thirty-five years. That of Friday last delayed the train to St. Johnsbury from this city fourteen hours—as we stated at the time from the fact that the hail was coarse and ran down the side of the mountain like shot stopping the train by accumulating about the engine as high as the boiler so that it could not stir either way, until two locomotives, and men with shovels, were procured from North Conway who managed to extricate the train from his embarrassing situation.

Monday, however, a tremendous storm of snow and sleet began, followed by rain, which completely covered and iced the rails, so that it was almost impossible to draw a light train up grade. The train from St. Johnsbury for Johnson, Monday night, went only part way to Danville, before it had to return for another engine. The mixed train from Lauenburg Tuesday morning, could not get up the grade in Concord, and backed down to its starting place, where it waited for the eastward bound train from St. Johnsbury. That morning the excursion party of some thirty business and prominent men from Burlington, started for this city. They reached St. Johnsbury on time and with the help of two locomotives the train went through to the Connecticut river, reaching Fabyan's on time. Here they dined and waited for the train from Portland. Dinner was eaten, but no train came. There being no telegraph through the mountains, nothing could be heard from it. Towards night a snow-drove up to the Crawford in a sleigh, and from his report, it was evident no train could get through the notch that night. So the Burlington delegation settled down at the Fabyan, determined to make a virtue of necessity.

**COLLISION WITH A SWORDFISH.**—Brig "P. M. Finkler," of Boston, Capt. Charles Barnard, sailed from Rio Janeiro, Dec. 5, for Richmond, Va., with a cargo of 3600 bags coffee. Nothing unusual occurred till the morning of Dec. 28, when the pumps were tried and it was found that she had sprung a leak and had 11 inches of water in the well. From this time until her arrival at Richmond (37 days) she continued to leak at the rate of 5 inches per hour. 1144 cargo was discharged in fine order, only 15 bags in the ground tier being slightly stained. After being discharged the leak still continued, and as there was no facilities at Richmond to take her out she was towed to Norfolk and put upon the railway, when it was found that she had been struck by a swordfish on her starboard bow, about 5 feet below copper line, breaking off the sword with the copper and leaving 7 inches of it in the plank and timber, splitting the plank badly each side of the sword, which, but for the pressure of the felt under the metal, would have been a very serious leak, and if it had gone between the timbers might have sunk the vessel. While on the ways the vessel was visited by hundreds of people to see the wound.

Hitherto candidates for the British Parliament have vied with each other in conveying the "free and independent voter" at their own expense to the polls. This time-honored usage must now be abandoned, since a member has been unseated for simply promising to pay on

election day the railway fare of his supporters. Many voters will doubtless grumble at this rigid reading of the Bribery act, but the public interests cannot fail to benefit by the decision.

**London, Feb. 28.**  
It is reported that Don Carlos crossed the frontier into France on Saturday night and issued a manifesto announcing the relinquishment of the struggle in order to promote the happiness of Spain. Generals Compo-e and Rivera have united their forces and are marching in the direction of Velate in pursuit of the demoralized rebel army. Eighty thousand Carlists at Tolosa submitted to Alfonso.

Austria has ordered the Herzegovinian refugees to return home within a month or be forcibly expelled.

A Vienna despatch reports that the floods destroyed seventy houses in Pesth. The Polish residents in Prussia are preparing for a public demonstration against the prohibition of their language in schools and Courts.

**New York, Feb. 28.**  
The cotton steamer Mary Felle was burned at Vicksburg, Miss., yesterday. Loss will be upward of \$150,000.

The impeachment Committee of the Louisiana House of Representatives reported on Saturday in favor of Governor Kellogg's impeachment.

A terrific hurricane passed over St. Charles, Mo., yesterday afternoon, and swept everything before it.

Gold 114 to 114.

As the result of a Ministerial caucus in Ottawa the Government resolved to stand by Mr. Huntington. The offensive speech complained of was delivered by Mr. Huntington in his private capacity, and not as a member of the Government. It was perhaps unwise at such a time, and under such circumstances, that he should give utterance to such sentiments, whatever degree of truth there may be in them. But the Government cannot be justly held accountable for every private utterance of its members; and therefore, whilst disavowing responsibility for the speech, they wisely shield its author. It is difficult to see what else they could do. Too much has been made of the affair; and those who anticipated a Ministerial crisis are disappointed.

**DEATH OF DR. BURNS OF CORSTORPHINE.**—One of the oldest and most esteemed Scottish divines died at his residence in Edinburgh on the morning of the 3th inst. The Rev. George Burns, D.D., was born on the 12th of October, 1790. He studied at the University of Edinburgh, was licensed by the Presbytery of Linlithgow in 1812, and was ordained by the Presbytery of Aberdeen in 1816, with a view to the ministry of the Presbyterian Church of St. John, New Brunswick, in which he labored for fifteen years as a faithful preacher of the Gospel, and an equally faithful pastor of the flock committed to his charge. Previous to his departure for St. John, the University of D.D. In 1831 he returned to Scotland and ministered at Tweedsmuir until the Disruption when he became minister of the Free Church of Corstorphine, where he continued to labor with his wonted fidelity, until failing health compelled him to resign into the hands of his colleague almost the entire charge of the congregation, although even after his practical retirement from his charge he took delight in giving occasional assistance at a communion, up to, and sometimes beyond his strength. He was diligent as an author, and not a few of his works enjoyed a great and deserving popularity.

**PRESENTATION TO A WELL-KNOWN SCOTTISH PASTOR.**—The members of Augustine Congregational Church, Edinburgh, anxious to give tangible expression to their feelings of respect and esteem for their pastor, the Rev. Dr. Wm. Lindsay Alexander, have resolved on presenting him with a handsome testimonial. The gift will take the shape of a splendid timepiece, which has already been selected, with mantelpiece ornaments to match. The cost of the timepiece will be about £60; and after that outlay has been met there will remain of subscriptions the sum of fully £1500 for presentation to the Rev. Doctor.

**NEWS FROM BATHURST.**—A telegram to the *Globe*, of the 24th Feb., says—"S. R. Thomson, Q. C., of St. John, was married this morning at Metapessia, to Miss Josie McDonnell, daughter of J. R. McDonnell, C. E. Rev. Mr. Mr. Smith, resident priest, was the officiating clergyman."

**QUICK TRIP.**—The schr. "Ualume," Thos. Ryan, master, owned by Frank Locke, Esq., Lockport, made the trip from Lockport to Lakeside, thence to Guelph, discharging cargo of fish, loaded salt at St. Martin and back to Lockport, making the round trip in the short space of 34 days, it being the quickest on record.—*Yarmouth Herald*.

### DEED.

At Milltown, St. Stephen, on the 22d Feb. Mr. David Johnson, aged 20, second son of the late Mr. James Johnson, of Boonbec. The deceased was a young man of promise, and respected by all who knew him. He leaves a mother and relatives and a large circle of friends to lament his early death.