

The Evening Telegram.

ST. JOHN'S, JANUARY 10, 1888.

THE WAY THE MONEY GOES.

What Premier Thorburn's Pickings Amount To.

\$8,783.35 POCKETED LAST YEAR.

It is understood that Premier Thorburn has made up his mind to be absent from the colony during the approaching session of the Legislature. His friends say that private business matters call him hence, while his political opponents contend that he is afraid to face the tornado that will certainly be raised, when the House meets, over the profligacy of the Government during the past year.

Others, again, express their surprise at such a decision on the part of the Premier under existing circumstances. They argue that, as leader of the Government, he should be in his place in the Assembly at the opening of the session. These, who for the most part are mere casual observers, seem to be under the impression that, of necessity, everything is sure to go wrong without the directing hand of "the party leader."

How little do some people understand the "true inwardness" of the present Administration! The fact never occurs to them that Sir Robert Thorburn (Heaven be merciful to the man as well as to the title!) is merely a Premier in name; that his awkward presence and indiscreet tongue cause almost as much trouble to his friends as the comments and criticisms of their political opponents.

Obviously, then, as far as the interests of the party are concerned, it is better that Premier Thorburn should be away. And, as regards his own interests—which at present solely influence his actions—he is not unmindful of the advantage to his firm, as supplying merchants, of being out of the country at a time when dealers and others will be expecting advances to tide them over the "dull and destitute" months of February, March and April. Yes, Mr. Thorburn believes that, in his absence, a "prudential course" will be pursued here by those left in charge of the firm's business—he knows that it would be easy for them to say, "The boss is absent, and we have orders to give no credit till his return."

Touching the Premier's interests in politics—which, it is needless to say, are very large,—of course, he feels assured that these will be carefully looked after by his lieutenants, Messrs. Goodridge and McNeilly. And here we would remark that it greatly amuses us sometimes to notice the Mercury's "tributes" to Sir Robert's "self-denying labors and patriotism." The reverend editor of that paper has told us over and over again that Premier Thorburn has sacrificed much by entering into politics, and that he gets nothing out of the same save "hard knocks from the relentless TELEGRAM." Poor, innocent, ingenious Robert! What a pity it is that he must endure so much at the hands of an ungrateful adopted country! Just look at the amount this martyr to patriotism—this Cincinnatus of the Amalgamation—really suffers in the cause of poor old Terra Nova. From the Financial Secretary's detailed statement, on account of "relief works," we get the following figures relative to the value of orders that went into W. Grieve & Co.'s hands last year. Of course there are other large sums which we, being in opposition, cannot get hold of:—

DILDO ROAD.	
In connection with work on this road.....	\$3,255.32
HOLYROOD AND WITLESS BAY ROADS.	
In connection with work on this road.....	234.56
Road expenditure in Foggo.....	289.40
Road expenditure, Finlay.....	2,718.74
Relief, St. Barbe.....	476.73
Relief, Bonavista.....	1,123.00
Total.....	\$8,783.35

There, reader! What do you think of that for a "patriotic showing?" Surely you are now prepared to hand over to Sir Robert the chrome for "self-sacrifice in the public service." EIGHT THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-THREE DOLLARS AND THIRTY-FIVE CENTS! Only think of it, people of Newfoundland! Here we have a Premier posing as a self-sacrificing patriot, and at the same time scooping out of the public treasury and scooping into his own coffers the enormous sum of \$8,783.35 in the way of sops for the use of his name as nominal leader of a party who, at their election in 1885, pledged themselves to reforms in every branch of the public service. Unfortunately Executive, to select such a subject for knight-hood! Unfortunately country, to be governed by such an imprudent and reckless Executive!

Oh, Sir Robert, Sir Robert! we are all—your own countrymen included—thoroughly ashamed of you. Be advised before it is too late, and turn at once from the error of your ways. Nemesis is on your track. Scuttle out of politics before she overtakes you, and once

more devote your whole attention to honorable business pursuits. You were never intended by nature to successfully play the part of a politician, nor to grace the drawing-room, or any other room, as a courtier. You have neither the brains nor the means to shine at the council board or in court. Go back to your counting room, and learn to practice economy. By so doing you may be able, some day, to occupy the position of an independent merchant in the community. This, however, ought to be the height of your ambition. Men of little natural ability generally miss the mark altogether by aiming too high. Bear this in mind and govern yourself accordingly.

Finally, in the words of Benjamin Franklin—"Let honesty and industry be thy constant companions, and spend one penny less than thy clear gains: then shall thy hide-bound pocket soon begin to thrive, and will never again cry with the empty belly-ache; neither will creditors insult thee, nor want oppress, nor hunger bite, nor nakedness freeze thee. The whole hemisphere will shine brighter, and pleasure spring up in every corner of thy heart. Now, therefore, embrace these rules and be happy. Banish the bleak winds of sorrow from thy mind, and live independent. Then shalt thou be a man, and not suffer the pain of feeling little when the sons of fortune walk at thy right hand; for independence, whether with little or much, is good fortune and places thee on even ground with the proudest of the golden fleece. Oh, then, be wise, and let industry walk with thee in the morning, and attend thee until thou reachest the evening hour of rest. Let honesty be as the breath of thy soul, and never forget to have a penny, when all thy expenses are enumerated and paid: then shalt thou reach the point of happiness, and independence shall be thy shield and buckler, thy helmet and crown; and shall thy soul walk upright as well as thy body, nor stoop to the silken wretch because he hath riches, nor pocket abuse because the hand which offers it wears a ring set with diamonds."

THEY WANT WORK, NOT PAUPER RELIEF.

A CROWD of men stood about the Court House this morning and showed by their demeanor that they were there in connection with some public business. One of them approached a reporter of the TELEGRAM, when the following conversation ensued:—

"I hope you'll give us the powerful aid of the people's paper in the business that brings us to town," said the spokesman.

"With pleasure; what is the trouble?"

"We want work that will get us the necessities of life. The most of the people in our harbor are very hungry."

"What harbor are you from?"

"Petty harbor."

"The summer fishery was a failure, but the good sport of Fall fishing and the Banks,—did not the Petty Harbor people get any benefit from them?"

"There were only three fishermen from our place on the Banks; our neighbors in Bay of Bulls did well with that fishery; as for the good Fall fishing, there was no great quantity of fish got out of it at our place; there was more cry than wool in the catches of fish talked about at that time. The last season's fishery was a bad failure with us and almost every one dependent upon it are in the worst kind of a way."

"Did you see Scott, your representative in the Assembly, on this occasion?"

"We saw him, but did not speak to him about it."

"Did you see Morris?"

"Yes, we saw him: he said he'd come up to the Colonial Building with us in a few hours."

"Did you see Callahan?"

"We saw Mr. Callahan, but said nothing to him."

"What work is there in your settlement that you might go on with?"

"There's Third Pond bridge and Third Pond road; the bridge was commenced, but is not half finished. The road runs toward Bay of Bulls road, three miles through the country, and if finished would open up good land on each side for settlement. It's on these two pieces of work that we hope to get employment."

This statement of the wishes of the people of Petty Harbor touching a mode that will enable them to keep the wolf from the door and tide them over the winter is very reasonable, showing as it does a return for expenditure of the road funds; and it is to be hoped that Messrs. Scott, Callahan and Morris will look upon the application of the poor fishermen of Petty Harbor, and redress the hardship which the preceding interview shows to exist.

THAT CARPET QUESTION.

A CITY correspondent writes us as follows: "That carpet question reminds me of a remark I heard a person make a few days ago, before you referred to the subject. He observed: 'Mr. Dick Holden says they are not going to have any carpet on the Assembly Room next session; but are going to have the floor painted in squares as a chess-board.' He thinks there will be a lively play, but doesn't care about betting on sides yet."

AS OTHERS SEE US.

A Travelling Commissioner's Views of the Situation.

FRENCH VERSUS BRITISH FISHERMEN.

(Concluded.)

ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND, Oct., 1887.

The case for the bill is a strong one. "I would rather," said Sir Ambrose Shea to me, "introduce a bill pensioning off every bait-fisherman of Fortune Bay, and sending every man jack of them loafing about the island for the rest of his life, than see any failure to enforce this Act." Besides striking a heavy blow, however, at French competition, there are two other reasons for it. First, to prevent the total destruction of bait-fish themselves. Enormous quantities of these are flung overboard every year, as soon as the market is glutted. The moment the French fleet arrives every fisherman in Fortune Bay shoots his nets and scurries over to St. Pierre. This was the result in April, 1886; on the 19th herrings fetched 10*l.* a barrel; on the 20th 6*l.*; on the 21st 3*l.*; on the 22nd a few barrels were sold at a franc to half a franc; on the 23rd there was no sale at all, and on the 24th sixty boat-loads were thrown overboard, and many more every day for some time. The herrings are caught on the chance of selling them; if not sold they are flung overboard, and the fisherman has only lost his labor. Now this will soon result in their total destruction, whilst the Bait Bill will prevent it. Again, it is alleged that the entire population of the neighborhood of Fortune Bay gets its supplies smuggled back from St. Pierre, and there are certainly far more extensive and flourishing merchants' houses there than are needed to supply the little French islands. This, too, it is said the Bait Bill will prevent.

On the other hand, the case against the bill is hardly less strong. To begin with, all legislation stepping in between people who desire to sell and people who desire to buy a commodity, harmless in itself, is detestable in its essence. Then £60,000 a year has been spent by the French fleet for bait around Fortune Bay (the French Consul is my authority for the statement), and the Government proposes to deprive the district suddenly of this income without compensation. A bill to provide compensation, introduced by Mr. Bond, the member for Fortune Bay, was supported by one-seventh of the Legislature, but the Government opposed and defeated it. Now what is to become of these people? Sir Ambrose Shea's philanthropy will fill no empty stomachs, and up to the present nobody at Fortune Bay has received or needed a cent of able-bodied pauper relief. It is not long, either, since Sir Ambrose held a different view, for in 1885 he went to Washington as a delegate from the Chamber of Commerce, and offered for the paltry consideration of free imports of fish and fish-oil to allow the Americans all bait-buying and fishing privileges. The people in the locality itself are in the extreme alarm. "You cannot too strongly represent," wrote a schoolmaster there to Mr. Bond, "the cruel injustice dealt out by this bill. The framers of it could not have foreseen the misery they will entail upon their fellow-creatures, nor have heard in imagination the children crying in vain for food." A J.P. and superintendent of the Herring Fishery Protection Service writes: "One steamer will not be sufficient to keep the people in order. I believe it is a mistake to suppose that the bill will prevent the French from getting bait. I believe they will get sufficient or nearly so on their own shores." This is the most serious argument of all. Will the bill be effective? Many people, including the French Consul himself, declare that it will not. Finally, the power to license arbitrarily for the sale of bait-fish places a large amount of patronage in the hands of the Government, over which there is no public control whatever, and if the Government issue licenses (as Mr. Justice Pinsent practically promised the grand jury of Bay St. George that they would do) to sell bait to people who have never been accustomed to depend upon the sale of it, while depriving of the right those whose sole and unquestioned support it has been for many years, that surely would be an injustice so monstrous as almost to justify armed resistance.

These facts are common property in the island, and I therefore quote no particular authority for them; the conclusion to be drawn from them is a matter for individual judgment. In conclusion, I have only to give the French view of the matter, as I have learned it from the French Consul, M. Riballier des Isles. I found him very calm upon the subject, and disposed to think that perhaps, all was for the best. "These fishermen," he said, "are defenceless and weak, and that is their strength, and they know it. I am very glad as a Frenchman, that this arrangement did not go into effect. Now, by compelling us to go to Bay St. George to take our own bait, they are compelling us to take possession again of the shores we had practically abandoned. We

can get all the bait we want—squid in July on the banks themselves; caplin in June off our own islands, and herring in Bay St. George for the spring fishing from April 18. We shall be a little delayed by the ice in the latter place, it is true, but 'first fish' is merely a matter of pride, and a few days make no difference. The real grievance is the bounty—we get on all right with the people on shore, and if there is any smuggling, why, it is the English who do it. 'Concurrent fishing' is impossible; not the whole of our combined fleet would prevent fishermen from quarrelling when they are fishing side by side. As for the French shore, that does not belong to Newfoundland. It is a servitude that has been left to Newfoundland by Great Britain—it is a concession to the French Government by Great Britain. What have we to do with Newfoundland, or Newfoundland with us? I always think that the French Government is wrong to allow Newfoundland to have any voice in the matter. So long as this lasts there will always be refusals, for Newfoundland has everything to gain by refusing—she can hold on to what does not belong to her, and all the risk and trouble of defending her is upon other shoulders than her own. But they will find it no easy task enforcing their Bait Bill against their own people during the fogs of Fortune Bay."

Such is the situation till the new year arrives. My own impression, if I should add it, is that the enforcement of the Bait Bill will prove impracticable, and that after various attempts it will be abandoned, about the time that Sir William Whiteway succeeds Sir Robert Thorburn as Premier. Then an amicable arrangement will be arrived at with the French on the basis of measures of preservation for the bait fish; an export duty per barrel upon them will prevent wanton destruction, and smuggling may be killed off naturally by compelling the French to come and fetch the bait in their own boats. In return the French will again allow their claims to the shore to lapse.

Then, when Confederation with the Dominion has come, and there are plenty of reasons to believe it is coming as well as to hope so, when a progressive policy has opened up the interior and planted thriving colonies on some of its rich agricultural lands, the fishery will be on a sounder basis and only one of the resources of the colony, and the half-way island between Liverpool and New York will enter upon its long deferred days of prosperity and common content, and England will appreciate at last her oldest bit of conquest and discovery, even if she does not go far in pride as to ask, with old Captain Richard Whitbourne, in 1623, "What can the world yield to the sustentation of man that is not gotten here?" *Newcastle Daily Leader.*

[FOR THE EVENING TELEGRAM.]

LAST NIGHT'S MEETING IN OLD TEMPERANCE HALL.

Large Gathering of the Laboring Classes

ENTHUSIASTIC PROHIBITION SPEECHES.

The question of a prohibitory liquor law for this colony was brought before the audience last night in the old Temperance Hall with forcible argument and on "fair and square issues." At the appointed hour for opening the meeting, when the seating capacity of the hall was pretty well filled, H. J. Woods, Esq., took possession of the chair and gave a most brilliant address—an address that may be described, without using anything like hyperbolic expression, as clear, argumentative and convincing. Mr. Woods conducted the meeting all through with a gracefulness and ability very rarely, I think, excelled in this town. One of the strongest inducements that Mr. Woods brought against the liquor traffic was its interference with, and invasion of, the rights and privileges of those who are engaged in a different kind of business. On this ground alone it was clearly and forcibly argued that we are fully justified in claiming and demanding legal protection, or, in other words, a prohibitory law.

Mr. H. Y. Mott next gave his face to the audience, and also followed in a logical strain. Mr. Mott has always been eminent in temperance work, and has fairly merited all the panegyrics that have been bestowed upon him. On the present occasion his remarks were both suitable and reasonable. It is sometimes wrongly judged, from the enthusiasm of temperance workers, that they are actuated by personal and selfish motives. Mr. Mott showed that such cynical conclusions were out of harmony with facts, and that temperance work—the work of the various temperance societies—is altogether of a disinterested a self-sacrificing character.

The Rev. Mr. Boyd came next before the audience, and his soul-stirring speech was attended with applause throughout. He felt it to be his duty, as a Christian minister, knowing the havoc and ruin the accursed traffic is accomplishing in the land, never to relax his efforts until the reign of rum shall give place to the reign of peace, happiness and prosperity.

A. Kean, Esq., M.H.A., was next called to the front and greeted with prolonged applause.

He was always an earnest temperance advocate and would now give his support to a prohibitory law, even if he should thereby lose his seat in the Legislature. Mr. Kean gave a good, earnest, practical speech, and he deserves well of the temperance public for the noble stand he has taken on the question now so prominently before the public mind. Good sterling politicians are the men the country requires, not only to make it sober and happy, but prosperous and independent as well.

Hon. Mr. Rogerson "opened fire" on the meeting with his usual earnestness and enthusiasm. It is very noticeable that Mr. Rogerson's effort is always commensurate with his manifested zeal. He is, on almost all occasions, present at public temperance meetings, and I think the enemy will never pass him without receiving a stunning broadside while he has a "shot in the locker."

While rapt by the sublime strains of music, vocal and instrumental, I could judge, from the simultaneous motion of Brother Bowden's head, which just overtopped the organ, that he was "at his post" and doing good service as usual. Brother Bowden's services, at many of our public temperance meetings, are exceedingly valuable and highly appreciated.

At the close of the meeting, Dr. J. S. Tait was nominated to take charge of the programme for next Monday night. Let us have another "turn out" and an enthusiastic time.

PROHIBITION.

St. John's, Jan. 10, 1888.

THE ROARIN' GAME.

We publish to-day the Curlers' programme for the coming winter, and trust that the season will be one of great success to a game which is manly and healthful in every respect. The committee of the rink have reduced the curlers' ticket to \$3 for the season, and we expect to see many persons availing themselves of this reasonable offer for a winter's amusement. Alexander Taylor, Esq., has made a present of a valuable gold medal to the clubs, and that, together with the "Queen's Jubilee medal," will prove another powerful incentive to, if possible, increase the enthusiasm of the jolly curlers. On Friday the mighty men of Spoutland will try to uphold their honor in defiance of "All-Comers," and assert their supremacy in their national game.

THE MEETING LAST NIGHT.

The meeting of ratepayers, held in Home Industries Hall, last night, was fairly well attended. There seemed to be but one opinion amongst those present, and that was that the time is now come for the inhabitants of this town to take its affairs into their own hands, control its assessments and expenditures and no longer have taxation without representation. The result of the meeting was the appointment of a committee (with power to add to their number) to draw up resolutions embodying the principles of an incorporation bill to be submitted to another general meeting for its approval before being presented to the House of Assembly next session.

LOCAL VARIETIES.

MEMBERS of the Academia are reminded of their debate to-night at 8 o'clock.

THE "Lilian," Captain Mealey, in sail from Cadiz, arrived to Messrs. Job this afternoon, and is the only entry since yesterday.

THE Allan steamer *Nova Scotiana*, hence to Liverpool to-morrow week (the 18th), will be the last ocean steamer direct to Britain this season.

THE mail steamer *Assyrian*, bound here from Liverpool, was a day late in sailing and is not expected to leave here till Friday next.

CAPTAIN JOHN DUNN, who was in charge of the three-master *Lottie* to Boston, broke his leg accidentally in that city and had to be left behind for surgical treatment. The schooner was navigated here by the mate, Daniel Scanlan, an intelligent, practical young seaman of this city.

THE announcement that Professor Bennett's magnificent string band would perform at the Social Party on to-morrow evening in the Star of the S-A Hall, was hailed with delight by the lovers of the terpsichorean art, who look forward to the gathering as the grand event of the season.

DIED.

Yesterday, in the 88th year of her age, Julia McCarthy. Funeral to-morrow, at half-past 3 o'clock, from her late residence, Tank lane; friends are invited to attend without further notice.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

CLEARED.

3—Devon, White, Figuiera, Balne, Johnston & Co—2800 qtls fish.

LOADING.

30—Crystal Stream, Europe, Balne, Johnston & Co. Spinaway, Europe, J. Murray.
 1—Stella, Europe, J. & W. Stewart.
 1—Little Vixen, Europe, P. & L. Tessier.
 4—Royal Home, West Indies, Job, Bros. & Co.
 7—Dora, Brazil, Job, Bros. & Co.
 9—Saubeam, Brazil, P. & L. Tessier.
 Aurora, Brazil, P. & L. Tessier.
 Dunure, Brazil, P. & L. Tessier.