THE HERALD

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 1887.

The "Patriot's" Majority of Nineteen

THE *Patriot*, discussing the political questions of the day, is nothing unless unjust. In its issue of Friday last, the 3rd inst., our contemporary makes a great flourish of trumpets over the fact that on a division in the House of Commons in *re* the Queen's County, N. B., case, brought about by a motion of Mr. Davies, the Government majority was only nineteen. Were the writer of the article in question actuated by a sense of justice and fair play, he would have explained the circumstances under which the vote was taken, so that the public might judge for themselves as to whether or not it was a fair test of strength of the respective parties in the House of Commons. But such a course would not be in accordance with the tactics invariably pursued by our Grit friends; they prefer to obscure, by ambigious and *ex parte* statements, all public questions, on the principle, no doubt, that a falsehood once started it will take some time for the truth to overtake it.

Now, as regards the vote in question, the following are the facts, as obtained from the most reliable source: The question was an open one, and not by any means one which the members of the Government regarded as affecting themselves; then, again, the vote was taken at a very late hour at night, or rather at an early hour in the morning, when a great many members were absent from the House. The Grits, taking advantage of these facts, sent out their whips and had every one of their number present when the division was called except those who had paired with Government members, and one more. The position of parties was as follows: Pairs—Messrs. Pope and Blake, Sir Charles Tupper and Mr. McKenzie, Denison and Mr. McMillan, of Huron. Grits absent, one—Campbell, of Renfrew. The Conservative members who voted with the Opposition were: Patterson, of Essex; Boyle, Gigault and Dupont. Sixteen Conservative members were absent, most of them; knowing that it was not an important vote, considered that their presence would not be required. These were: Bergeron, Burns, Chapleau, Costigan, Coursol, Labrosse, Kirkpatrick, Joncas, Putnam, Shanley, Clarke, Wallace, McMillan, of Vaudreuil, and Mr. Bell of Addington, besides Mr. Baird, whose case was under consideration, the seat for Digby being vacant on account of the death of Mr. Campbell. From these facts it will readily be seen that there were absent from the House altogether, about twenty-four members, and that of this number, except those who had paired with members on the other side, only one was a supporter of the Opposition. Had those members been present, the presumption is, even with the four Conservative members who supported the motion, the Government's majority would have been nearly forty. But if our contemporary is anxious to *enlighten* the public as to the Government majorities on the different divisions taken in the House of Commons, why does he not give the figures for the votes which had taken place on the very same question two days previously. Mr. Edgar's amendment to Mr. Thompson's motion, that Mr. Dunn be allowed counsel, was negatived by a vote of one hundred and nineteen against forty-three, leaving the Government a majority of seventy-six, Mr. McKenzie, Mr. Paterson of Brant, and other leading Grits, voting with the Administration. After the main motion had been debated all the afternoon, and our Opposition friends had made violent speeches against it, when a division was called for, the vote stood one hundred and fifty-four against two; thus exposing the insincerity of these men who would waste the time of the House speaking against a motion which they dare not oppose by their votes. From these few facts the injustice and untruthfulness of our contemporary must be apparent to the most casual observer.

Baird-King Election Case.

THE Grit members of Parliament, as well as the Opposition press, have of late been making considerable noise over the Queen's County, N. B., election case. In the outset we do not wish to be understood as favoring the idea that Mr. Baird should hold the seat if Mr. King is entitled to it. We simply wish to give the facts of the case as they appear to us, stripped of the verbal frippery with which Mr. King's friends, both in Parliament and through the press, have hedged them round, with a view, no doubt, to prevent the public from scrutinizing too closely their own unfair and unjust tactics regarding the case.

Mr. Weldon, of St. John, brought the question before the House of Commons early during the present session, and moved that the returning officer for Queen's County, at the time of the late election, be summoned before the bar of the House and ordered to amend his return by substituting the name of King for that of Baird. To this motion Hon. Mr. Thompson, Minister of Justice, moved an amendment, which was carried, that the whole matter be referred to the committee on privileges and elections. This committee having looked into the case and examined the reports of committees on questions of a similar nature, which had come before the Imperial Parliament, came to the conclusion that the case was one that could not be settled by Parliament, but should be transferred to the civil courts. A motion was then made that the returning officer be brought to the bar of the House and examined as to his conduct during the election. In the meantime our Opposition friends were loud in their denunciation of returning officer Dunn, and characterized as criminal his actions in the matter. Finally, in obedience to the summons of Parliament, that gentleman appeared at the bar and was examined. It came out during the examination that the returning officer had acted in accordance with legal advice. He was then, on motion, discharged from further attendance on the House. When, a day or two after, the matter was once more brought before Parliament, Mr. Baird, the sitting member, was given an opportunity to make an explanation on his own behalf. He went on to show that during the election campaign all the New Brunswick Government officials in Queen's County used their influence against him, taking advantage of every legal quibble that would operate to his disadvantage. Even the Sheriff took the stump in opposition to him. In addition to this the voters' lists, he said, were illegally made up. In view of all these facts he asked that Mr. Dunn, a man of high character, be appointed returning officer instead of the Sheriff, which request was complied with. When declaration day came, Mr. King's legal agent objected, for technical reasons, to the reception of ballots from sections of the county which had given a majority of votes for him (Mr. Baird.) He then, through his agent, objected to the return of Mr. King on the ground of informality in making his deposit on nomination day, and the question being argued before the returning officer, the latter decided in favor of Mr. Baird, and declared him elected.

In conclusion, Mr. Baird said he would resign his seat and appeal to the electors as soon as the lists were revised. In any case he would bow to the decision of the House.

Parliament has concurred in the report of the committee on privileges and elections, and relegated the question to the courts, where it will, no doubt, be decided on its merits.

The Opposition Leadership.

LATE Ottawa advices are to the effect that Mr. Blake has formally and finally resigned the leadership of the Grit party. Our readers will remember that, at the opening of Parliament, he only agreed to act as the nominal leader of the party during the present session, while the actual work of the leadership was to be performed by an advisory board or syndicate. It should not, therefore, cause much surprise that, during the past month or so, our Grit friends in Parliament have been a rather disorganized combination; for, to use a very common expression, what is everybody's business is nobody's business. Each member of this advisory board was, no doubt, ambitious to pose as often as possible as the Leader of the Opposition. Such a condition of affairs was well calculated to engender in the bosom of these gentlemen a spirit of jealousy against one another; the consequence of which must inevitably end in the utter demoralization of the party.

Mr. Blake complains of poor health and assigns this as his reason for resigning the Leadership of the Opposition. His retirement will, no doubt, be severely felt by his party, for he is by far the ablest man in their ranks; he is an excellent speaker, a good lawyer, and a parliamentarian of long experience. When we come to speak of him as a leader, however, we must say that he has not been a success. He seems to have been too much of a stoic; to have been rather strongly inclined to the opinion that *he* was the party and that the lesser lights among his followers were scarcely worthy of being consulted. His cold and unsympathetic nature was not calculated to win and hold the confidence of his co-workers; but as to his ambition, there seems to be no question. 'Tis said his ambition prompted him to use questionable means in order to depose from the leadership that old standard-bearer of the Grit party, Alexander McKenzie, and have himself appointed in his stead. Just prior to the late Dominion elections he, no doubt, imagined the time had arrived when his life-long yearnings should be gratified, and that he was at last about to become the Premier of this great Dominion. But, alas! for human hopes and calculations, the people of this vast country decided otherwise. There can be very little doubt his frequent disappointments have weighed heavily upon him, and that in order to divert his mind from the contemplation of these unpleasant memories, he thinks it better to withdraw for a time from active public life.

Upon whose shoulders his mantle shall fall it is difficult to conjecture. It is quite probable there are in the Grit ranks a number of persons sufficiently ambitious to undertake the task of leadership; but it is not so certain that they possess in any marked degree the qualities requisite for its successful performance. Mr. McKenzie, although said to be much improved in health, is now too old to endure the fatigue and hardships which the position is liable to involve; then there is Sir Richard, the Knight of the double shield, and the *philosophic* Mills, which of these would be the most acceptable to the rank and file of the party it is not easy to say. In any case, they will probably continue the *syndicate* system during this session.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE *Patriot* thinks Mr. Davies' argument, that a candidate for election to the Dominion Parliament, must make his deposit before he can nominate, is sound law. In order that our readers may judge for themselves, we will quote the law on the matter: "No nomination paper shall be valid and acted upon by the Returning Officer unless it be accompanied by the consent in writing of the person therein nominated. Nor unless a sum of two hundred dollars be deposited in the hands of the Returning Officer at the time the nomination paper shall be filed with him." From this it will plainly appear that the deposit is to be made at the time the nomination paper is filed with the Returning Officer and not before. Mr. L. H. Davies and the *Patriot* to the contrary notwithstanding.

THE trial of the cases of the seized American schooners *David J Adams* and *Ella W. Doughty* was resumed in the Vice-Admiralty Court, Halifax, on Friday last, before Chief Justice Macdonald. The Counsel for the Crown are Graham, Q. C., Borden and Sedgewick, Q. C.; and Meagher and Newcombe appeared for the defence. After the examination of Capt. Scott, who had seized the *David J. Adams*, Mr Graham opened his argument for the Crown. He made an able and exhaustive exposition of the case, and quoted many laws and precedents bearing upon it; when the Court adjourned at four o'clock he had not finished speaking. On the opening of the Court on Saturday morning Mr. Graham finished his argument and Mr. Meagher opened for the defence. At last accounts the case was still going on.

THE Department of Agriculture at Ottawa has issued a neat pamphlet giving an account of Canada's position at the Indian and Colonial Exhibition at London during the year 1886. It contains many extracts from English and Colonial papers, all high in praise of Canada. We subjoin the following from the Sydney, New South Wales, *Herald*:

"Proceeding toward the Albert Hall, the Dominion of Canada is reached. Canada occupies a vast space, the court being fully a quarter of a mile long. A superb trophy of agricultural implements and produce will doubtless attract great attention. It is beautifully designed, and some of the products thereupon are equal to any that can be shown in the world. Products of fishing and hunting are shown in every form, from the costliest sealskin, obtained by the trappers of the frozen regions of the Far North, down to the common cod liver oil of commerce. Manufactures are shown very extensively, and it is evident to me that in the friendly gathering of the children of the Empire the great Dominion will assume a part commensurate with the vastness of her territory and the vigorous character of her people."

THE most exciting debate of the present session of the Dominion Parliament took place on Wednesday, the 1st inst., on the Queen's County, N. B., election case. The Grits, no doubt, felt chagrined that Parliament would not allow them to do that which the House had decided was beyond their jurisdiction. Sir Richard Cartwright lost his temper and indulged in language which was decidedly unparliamentary, and being called to order by the Speaker refused to withdraw, until prevailed upon by some of his own party. Mr. Mitchell, the third party, flew into a passion, and for a time it looked as if he were going to wreak vengeance on some body. He was severely called to task by Mr. Desjardine. A scene then ensued. Mr. Speaker had his hands full; but manifested great firmness and compelled the withdrawal of all unparliamentary language. Finally order was restored and the question on Hon. Mr. Thompson's amendment put and carried.

IN March last the Department of Agriculture published a pamphlet entitled "Horse Breeding in Canada." Its contents are a letter from Colonels Ravenhill and Phillips, and an address by Colonel Ravenhill to "Horse Breeders." From the letter of the Colonels we make the following short extract:

"Many of the horses of Canada are very good, and if a co-operating market could be introduced, buyers from Europe, giving good prices for good animals, would assemble, and the breeders would get higher prices.

"6. We think it right you should be informed that during our visit to the Dominion, which occupied 167 days, we travelled 14,755 miles, we examined 7,674 horses, of which we registered, to look at a second time, 1,025, with the result that we were only able to purchase for the Government 83 horses.

"7. The prices of the whole of these were very reasonable and moderate, and it was no question of money in the majority of cases which prevented our purchasing in larger numbers"

From the address of Colonel Ravenhill we subjoin the following, relative to trotting horses:

"Speedy-cutting arises from faulty conformation of the fore-legs, and also from a peculiar kind of high action in front. It is the act of striking one fore-leg just below the knee with the inner-quarter of the other fore-foot, a most acutely painful and dangerous thing, for which a horse should be at once rejected."

Dominion Parliament.

After routine on Monday, May 30th, Mr. Dunn, returning officer for Queen's County, N. B., was conducted to the bar of the House by the Sergeant-at-Arms. Mr. Weldon, of St. John, asked him a question relative to his duties as returning officer during the late Dominion Election. Mr. Dunn entered a protest against the Parliamentary proceedings as illegal, and asked permission to be represented by counsel. Hon. Mr. Thompson thereupon moved that counsel be allowed Mr. Dunn in any question of law that may arise. Mr. Weldon objected to this, as did Messrs. Mills, Mitchell and Davies. These gentlemen maintained that the returning officer was here in the capacity of a witness, and that his business was, therefore, to answer questions.

Sir John McDonald said the practice in the British Parliament had always been to allow a person, in such a case as this, to appear by counsel; he considered the attempt, on the part of the Opposition, to deprive Mr. Dunn of a like privilege, as most unfair and unmanly.

Hon. Mr. Chapleau pointed out that, for some days past, hon. gentlemen opposite had characterized Mr. Dunn as a criminal, and had threatened him with punishment. The right of the accused to appear by counsel would not be denied in any court in the land; it would, therefore, ill become Parliament to refuse him a like privilege.

After some further discussion Mr. Edgar moved in amendment that Dunn be first examined, and after he had answered the questions asked him, he should then be allowed counsel to argue the question of his responsibility to the House.

Sir John McDonald said this would be the same as trying a prisoner and condemning him, and then offering him the privilege of counsel preliminary to the passing of sentence.

After some further discussion a division was taken on Mr. Edgar's amendment, which resulted as follows: For the amendment 43; against the amendment 119; Government majority 76. Several Opposition members voted with the Government. The first to do so was Mr. McKenzie, who, as he stood up, was received with loud cheers by the Government members. His example was followed by Paterson, of Brant, Flynn, Skinner, and about a dozen others. The main motion being called for, Mitchell and some others wished it declared carried on the same division; but some members demanded a vote. At this juncture the Opposition exhibited the ridiculousness of their position. Mills, who was leading in the absence of Mr. Blake, escaped behind the Speaker's chair, and several others went out before the vote was taken. The main motion being then put was carried almost unanimously, only two (Opposition members), voting in the negative. Thus the Opposition gave away their whole case, and proved their insincerity in opposing Hon. Mr. Thompson's motion by nearly all voting in favor of what they had spent all the afternoon denouncing.

Mr. Dunn's counsel, J. N. Lyons, of Halifax, and Mr. Ferguson, of Ottawa, then appeared at the bar of the House and argued till recess in support of the contention that Dunn, being liable for a penalty for misdemeanor for wrongful action as returning officer, should not be compelled by parliament to answer questions which might criminate himself.

After recess the argument was continued by Dunn's counsel. They contended that parliament had divested itself of jurisdiction in this by handing it over to the courts, and also that Dunn had already been sufficiently punished, and he should therefore be discharged without further penalties.

Hon. Mr. Thompson argued that parliament had not divested itself, by the election law, of power to deal with its own officers. As to the propriety of the proceedings the House could better decide after the examination commenced.

The objections of Mr. Dunn's counsel were not entertained by the House, so the examination commenced, Mr. Weldon, of St. John, through Mr. Speaker, being the questioner. Mr. Dunn's frank and manly bearing during the whole proceedings; his direct replies to the different questions put to him, and his lucid explanations made a favorable impression on the House. Even those who had thought his proceedings were illegal were led to believe he had acted in good faith.

The examination being finished, Mr. Landry, of Kent, N. B., moved that Mr. Dunn be discharged from further attendance on the House.

The motion was carried, and Mr. Dunn was released about half-prst eleven o'clock.

Neither Mr. Blake nor Sir Richard Cartwright were in their places during the examination of Mr. Dunn, nor during the divisions on the different motions, although they were in the building. It was a most disappointing affair to the Opposition, as the fact was established beyond the possibility of a doubt that no attempt at concealment had been made. The Minister of Justice won fresh laurels for himself by the manner in which he pressed for full answers to all questions, and spoke against all technical objections. Indeed the case ended in a complete collapse, so far as the Opposition were concerned.

Ater routine on Tuesday, May 31st, Mr. Moffatt, the newly-elected member for Restigouche, was introduced to the House by Sir John McDonald and Mr. Burns, and took his seat.

Mr. Weldon, of St. John, once more brought up the Queen's County, N. B., case, and having commented on Dunn's evidence of the day before, and recapitulating the alleged facts in the case, and gone over the whole matter for the third time, moved that the report of the select committee on this case be not concurred in.

Mr. Speaker said it was open to Mr. Baird to make any explanations he desired, after which he would have to retire.

Mr. Baird rose to speak, but Sir John McDonald said that as time had not been given to study even the wording of the resolution, he thought it better that the motion should stand as a notice, and be taken up to-morrow as the first order of the day. This was agreed to, and the debate adjourned.

Several Bills were then introduced and advanced a stage.

Mr. Mills called attention to a telegram sent by the Secretary of State to the revising officer of Queen's County, P. E. Island, requesting him not to continue the revision, as a Bill would be introduced dealing with the subject of this year's electoral lists. He, as well as Mr. Blake, thought it was not proper to interfere before the Bill had been passed.

Sir John said he would not be dragged into a discussion prematurely; so the matter dropped.

The House then went into committee of supply, and after passing a number of items adjourned at 10 o'clock.

After a number of questions had been asked and answered on Wednesday, the 1st inst., Mr. Weldon's motion regarding the Queen's County election case was taken up. The same formalities as on the previous day were gone through, the Speaker informing Mr. Baird, the sitting member, that he had the right to make any explanation, after which he would withdraw.

Mr. Baird then took the floor and spoke for an hour and a half. He gave a detailed account of the circumstances under which Mr. Dunn had been appointed returning officer; showed his reasons for holding the seat, and dilated upon the opprobrium which had been heaped upon himself by the Grit press, and the injustice of such action. He made a good speech, impressed the House very favorably, and handled his opponents with such vigor as to elicit frequent bursts of applause. He said all the officials of the county had been arrayed against him, even the sheriff, who was a Grit, taking the stump on behalf of his (Mr. Baird's) opponent. He said the lists had been most shamefully prepared by bitter partizans, and that they were illegal inasmuch as the returning officer had appointed as deputy revising officer for some portions of the county a man who was not a barrister of five years standing. Under these circumstances he (Baird) had recommended a young man of high character to act as returning officer instead of the sheriff. He found that his opponents were taking advantage of any legal quibble in other counties to contest the election of Conservatives, and acting on the advice of his lawyers he took advantage of what he considered a strong legal point in his favor. His opponents, he said, had shown a strange indisposition to bring this case before the legal tribunals. He said he was prepared to waive the lapse of time and try it out in the courts, and he was prepared to hand in his resignation as soon as the lists were made legal. In conclusion he said he would bow to the decision of the House, whatever it might be.

Mr. Baird created a very favorable impression on those present, and cleared away, with much force, the cobwebs with which the Opposition had hedged in the subject.

Hon. Mr Thompson said Mr. Weldon's motion disregarded the report of the committee. He argued with much force and clearness that the best course to adopt was to follow the recommendation of the committee, and closed by moving an amendment to that effect.

To this Mr. L. H. Davies moved an amendment that Mr. Dunn, the returning officer, be ordered forthwith to attend at the bar of the House to amend his writ by substituting the name of King for that of Baird.

Professor Weldon of Albert said, no doubt the House would be willing to listen to ten minutes of sober argument after the intoxicating declamation of Mr. Davies. He showed that in the British House of Commons since 1868 the right to expel a member, except for personal disability, had not been exercised, the courts having settled all other cases. The only question they had here to deal with was the one of jurisdiction. He thought the House had not the power to take up this question of a complicated character after authority to deal with it had been delegated to the courts of law. During Mr Weldon's speech he proved himself a close reasoner, a ready debater and a parliamentary authority.

The debate was continued at considerable length by members of both sides of the House. Mr. Desjardines took Mr. Peter Mitchell severely to task for language which he considered insulting to the House.

Sir Richard Cartwright lost his temper and said the proceedings were indecent.

Mr. Speaker ruled that this word must be withdrawn. This Sir Richard refused to do. Quite a considerable uproar here ensued, during which several opposition members tried to speak but were not allowed. Finally, on Mr. Laurier's advice, Mr. Cartwright withdrew his words.

Sir Donald Smith said the exhibition of passion by the Opposition was the best proof that the case should be withdrawn from the House and submitted to the courts where it could be calmly reviewed. After some more lively spatting the House divided on Mr. Thompson's motion which was carried by a respectable majority. Twenty members were absent, two conservatives and several nationalists voted with the Opposition. The House then adjourned.

During Thursday nothing of an unusual character took place in the House. On Sir Charles Tupper's motion to go into committee of supply, Mr. Amyot took occasion to attrack Sir Adolph Caron on account of some alleged greivance in connection with the 90th battalion of which he (Mr. Amyot) is Col. This evoked a discussion of a semi-military nature, whies occupied the House for the greater part of the afternoon. Finally the Speaker left the chair and the committee proceeded to discuss the estimates.

The most important portion of this days proceedings to the people of this Province is the fact that $20,000 additional annual subsidy were, on motion of Sir Charles Tupper, voted to Prince Edward Island. The House continued in committee till a late hour.

On Friday the 3rd after routine the House went into committee of supply, without the Opposition party moving any resolution. The items relating to the militia were discussed. Tupper (Picton), on the item granting a sum to the rifle association, pressed the minister of railways to grant free passes to Maritime Province riflemen attending Ottawa annually. The minister said he gave low rates, but could not give free passes, as riflemen from Manitoba and Ontario had to pay their way. Considerable discussion took place over the militia items, the usual airing of views of colonels, majors and captains being given.

During the evening session, militia matters were still to the fore. Every member put in a plea for new drill sheds or extension of old ones or something of the sort. Kenny appealed to the minister of militia on behalf of Halifax, Shakespeare in behalf of all other drill sheds between the two points. Mills spoke of the old fort in Annapolis. Weldon (Albert) gave a charming description of Fort Chamberlain and intimated that Jones when minister of militia, had sold the splendid old French canon of that historical spot to foundry men to be worked up into stoves. Brown asked if it was the same man who had said he would haul down the flag, whereat Jones got made and charged Brown with being a flunkey. Thus with pathetic appeals for new sheds and pathetic references to old cannon, the military men of the House contrived to enliven the discussion of the solemn figures of the estimates.

On railway items a discussion arose about the Intercolonial railway freight rates. Jones objected to charges on coal being lower than those on other articles.

Mr Kenny said the coal rates on the Intercolonial were about the same as on the Pennsylvania coal roads. He hoped the road would carry flour at a sufficiently low rate to prevent it going by way of Boston.

Sir Charles Tupper showed that during the Administration of Mackenzie, the deficit of working the railway was $1,750,000, while during the last seven years the deficit was only $240,000, showing that the Opposition, in attempting to prove that the Intercolonial was carrying freight at the expense of the general public, were absurd and dishonest.

Model School.

The annual public examination of the pupils attending the above named school took place on Friday last. This school is in charge of Mr. John McSwain, his assistant being Miss Scott. About 75 pupils, in all, attended during the past year. The examinations were conducted by Mr. McSwain, D. Montgomery, Esq., Superintendent of Education, Professor Anderson and Edward Roche, Esq., Legislative Librarian.

The prompt and intelligent answers given by the pupils, to the different questions asked, reflects the highest credit on the teachers in charge, and proves that their efforts have been appreciated by their pupils. The only prize awarded, was given by S. F. Hodgson, Esq., of the P. E Island Railway, and was won by Charles McLean, by common consent of the pupils. After the examination, the following programme was admirably carried out:

Song.....The Shaking of the Hand
Reading.....By Sam Anderson
Song.....The Harp that Once Through Tara's Hall
Recitation.....Fred Beer
Reading.....Mary Jost
Song.....Don't Fly Your Kite Too High
Recitation.....Laura Maxfield
Song.....A Boy's Best Friend is His Mother

The pupils were addressed by D. Montgomery, Esq., Professor Anderson and Edward Roche Esq., all of whom spoke in the highest terms of the manner in which the school is conducted. A pleasing feature of the exercises was the presentation to Mr. McSwain of a handsome inkstand by the pupils, and a silver napkin ring by two pupils, Henry and Samuel Anderson. Following is the *Honor List.*

ADVANCED DEPARTMENT—FIRST DIVISION.
Arithmetic and Grammar—Charles McLean.
Geography—Trevor Waller.
History—Samuel Anderson.
Drawing—Henry Anderson.

SECOND DIVISION.
Arithmetic and Grammar—Fred Hodgson.
Geography—Willie Poole.

THIRD DIVISION.
Arithmetic—Mary Jost.
Grammar and History—Fred Beer.

PRIMARY DEPARTMENT.
Class IV, Reading and Spelling—Willie Parsons.
Arithmetic—Harry Winchester.
Class III, Reading, Spelling and Arithmetic—Willie Small.
Writing—Marion McKay.
Class II, Reading and Spelling—Clifford Beer.
Arithmetic—Lillie Dollar.
Class I, Reading, Spelling and Arithmetic—George Waughn.

General News.

PANIC IN A CHURCH.

A terrible panic occurred in the Catholic Cathedral at Chaihuahs, Mexico, on the 1st inst., caused by a falling candle setting fire. At the sight of the smoke the crowd became frantic, and the usual scenes of terror stricken, struggling humanity followed. Several children were killed, and quite a number of women severely injured. The scene at the main entrance of the church was pitiful, women and children lying and crying with pain, while the doctors were doing their utmost to resuscitate the sufferers. The official report of the number of killed is not yet obtamable.

FISHING SCHOONER MISSING.

Gloucester advices of the 1st inst, contain the following: The schooner *Jamestown* sailed from this port March 21 on a codfishing voyage to the Western Banks. Since that time she has not been heard from, and it is thought she was lost in the gale of April 26. Her owners to-day gave her up as lost. She carried a crew of twelve men as follows: George Curtis, master, a native of Maine, who leaves a widow and family in Salem, Johnson Robinson, cook, who leaves a widow in East Boston; George W. Hartford, who belonged in Georgetown, Me., and who leaves a widow and two children in this city; George McLeod and Alexander McLeod, brothers, and John Mathison, belonging in St. Anns; Thomas Daly and Morris Argyle, and Bradford Deavean and George Melanson of Plympton, N. S., all single. Daniel Welsh leaves a widow in this city. All had followed fishing from this port several seasons and constituted one of the finest crews which ever sailed from here. The schooner was a fine vessel, built in 1876 and of 66 tons. She was owned by George Steele and was insured in the Gloucester fishing insurance company for $4215 on vessel and outfits.

A DESPERADO'S DARING.

Antoginish telegrams of Saturday last to the *Halifax Herald* contained the following: Steele, the bank robber made a bold attempt to escape to-day. This afternoon he broke his shackles with a spike, which he drew out of the wall by twisting a blanket around it. He then stripped himself of his clothes greased the grating of his cell with some of his food, and got out into the hallway, opening at right angles from the main hallway of the jail. This hallway is enclosed by a door, which was locked. Opening off it is an empty cell, into which he passed, and when his keeper entered, about five o'clock and was passing into Steele's cell, Steele rushed out of that door, pulling it after him, and then made for a desk where his revolvers were kept. Fortunately they were not there, and before he could make his escape further, young Joscelyn grappled him and held him until assistance came. Had the revolvers been in their usual place, another tragedy would undoubtedly occur and Steele's escape would probably be effected. It appears that after escaping from his cell, he tried to induce McDonald, another prisoner, to ask Mrs. Joscelyn for a drink of water, but McDonald refused. Had McDonald done so, Steele's way would be clear, as there was nobody around at the time but the women.

POISONING TRAGEDY.

Late Vienna advices report a fearful tragedy in Galicia. In a little village with an unpronounceable name lived a happy family, consisting of an old man called Dakof, his wife, Maruncka, and two sons, Josef and Peter. Some time ago Josef was married, and in due course his wife presented him with two children. The extraordinary fondness of old Dakof for his grandchildren awakened the jealousy of Maruncka, who, after watching her husband, came to the conclusion that he was carrying on an intrigue with his daughter-in-law. Meanwhile Peter Dakof, the unmarried son, had grown suspicious that his brother was trying to cheat him out of his inheritance. Jealousy soon turned to hate, and, after talking matters over, mother and son resolved on vengeance. The next Sunday they asked Josef's wife and children to dinner and set a hearty meal before them, with a toothsome cake to crown the feast. Nobody touched the cake that day, however, which was lucky, for it was poisoned. The Sunday following Marunckа renewed the experiment on a more elaborate scale. This time she made two similar cakes—one poisoned, the other harmless—and to induce the victims to eat she herself took a piece of one cake. A few hours later she expired, having eaten of the wrong cake. Peter Dakof now tried his hand and succeeded better than his mother. One day he contrived to put some poison into the soup of his sister-in-law and her children. The children both died in convulsions, but their mother, having taken very little soup, recovered after a terrible illness. The murderer, happily, did not escape. Having been arrested on suspicion, he was tried and condemned to death. His appeal against this sentence has just been rejected, and Peter will shortly be handed over to the hangman.

MORE EARTHQUAKES.

A heavy earthquake shock was felt in the city of Mexico and throughout the surrounding valley a few days ago. The day before had been extremely warm; in fact, the weather for the previous four days had been extraordinarily warm for that region, which generally enjoys a very mild degree of temperature, even in summer. Late on Saturday afternoon there were several whirlwinds in the valley and in the city, carrying clouds of dust and fine gravel high in the air. Old citizens, with the memory of previous earthquakes in mind, predicted a shock there, and now they are regarded as prophets. At exactly ten minutes to three o'clock there was felt, not only in the city, but in the suburban towns, a violent shaking of the earth, or sort of lifting motion, which lasted five seconds. Next there came, prefaced by a low roar, as from the bowels of the earth, and accompanied by a stiff breeze, a violent oscillation of the earth from east to west, which awoke nearly everyone, lasting as it did thirty-nine seconds. Houses swayed as if they were ships at sea, and persons arising from their beds were in many cases thrown with force to the floor. Bells were rung in hotels, and everywhere doors were forced open. Then came still another oscillation of much violence proceeding from north to south. During this shock crockery was thrown down and pictures demolished in several houses. A scene of the wildest confusion followed. Thousands of persons dressed themselves and did not go to bed again. Reports received on Sunday do not show any fatalities as a result of the earthquake. At the school of mines the seismic instrument showed that a heavy shock had taken place. These instruments are self-registering, and proved that the shock was a severe one. The weather is still warm, and another shock is predicted.

SAD DROWNING ACCIDENT.

A terrible drowning accident occurred in the river above Nun's Island near Montreal, a few days ago, by which five men lost their lives, and, but for the watchfulness of the River Police, another would in all probability have succumbed to the effects of exhaustion and exposure. River Police Officer Cunningham, who with Constable Grandchamp effected the rescue of the survivor, tells the following story: He said that he and the officer above named were on the wharf of the R. & O. N. company at 6 o'clock in the morning awaiting the arrival of the Quebec steamer, when his attention was attracted to an object floating in the current, which he at first took to be a log. As it approached nearer the officer discovered that it was a swamped boat, within which appeared to be hanging a man over the stern. The officers at once ran to Joe Vincent's boat house and put off in a skiff, immediately followed by one of Joe's men in a large boat. On approaching the sunken one the man in it was seen to lift his arm, and as he was caught by officer Cunningham, he whispered: "Six all gone! All gone!" The man was in the last stage of exhaustion and was half kneeling, half-lying in the water, while he clutched the end of the boat with one hand, the officer finding it difficult to loosen his grasp. In the bottom of the boat, which was an ordinary flat-bottomed affair, with the head under the low seat was the corpse of an old man who had evidently drowned where he lay. There was also in the boat a bottle of liquor, which had not been opened. The living and the dead were quickly rowed ashore and at once taken to the Water Police Station. Then restoratives were applied to the survivor, who appeared to be half demented, and the only information that could be gleaned from him was that his name was Wilfred Montreuil, living in rear of 80 Canning street. He was at once sent to his home while the dead body of his companion was removed to the morgue.

The particulars of the accident so far as learned seem to be as follows:—On the previous Saturday evening young Montreuill, who is not twenty years of age, after bringing home his wages went to make some purchases on Notre Dame Street. He met several of his fellow employees in Messrs. Pillow & Hersey's rolling mills; they asked him to accompany them on a fishing excursion on the river. He agreed to go and the following party started in a scow, owned by Celestin Viseau, so as to be ready for an early start in the morning, viz:—Celestin Viseau, his son Charles Viseau, residing at 232½ Manufacture's street, Point St. Charles; Joseph Robidoux, corner of Notre Dame and Chatham streets; Philias Venser and Alfred L'Heureux, residences unknown; and Wilfred Montreuil. The party rowed to the upper end of Nun's Island, and at daylight began to fish. Not being successful, at about four o'clock they started to row up to a small island at the foot of the Rapids. When nearing this place the boat got into some small rapids between it and the mainland and was washed against some rocks, at once partly upsetting and filling with water. Four of the party jumped out to try and float it leaving the elder Viseau in the boat. They succeeded in floating it, but the current was so strong that they were rapidly carried down the river, not being again able to get on board and having to hold on to the sides of the submerged boat. The morning was cold, and one by one they became exausted and sank to rise no more. The only other circumstance that Montreuil remembers before being rescued by the police is the elder Viseau bidding him good-bye and then rolling over in the bottom of the boat.

Officer Cunningham, who rescued Montreuil, says that the young man was almost dead when found and could not have lived much longer. The families of the unfortunate victims were notified of their sad fate, as was also Coroner Jones, who held an inquest on the remains of Celestin Viseau.

Latest Telegrams.

HAMBURG, June 2.—A great fire broke out at nine o'clock last night in the strand. The harbor quays were speedily destroyed. The flames communicated to and destroyed two British vessels. The mast and rigging of many vessels lying at the docks were burned. The damage will be immense, reaching it is estimated, several million marks.

SACKVILLE, June 2.—A sad accident occurred yesterday about three miles from Port Elgin. A young man named Taylor went under a saw mill to make some repairs, and was found shortly after in the river with his head cut open. It is supposed he slipped and fell against the saw. He was the sole support of a widowed mother.

PARIS, June 2.—The clearing away of the debris on the site of the Opera Comique is concluded. The official number of bodies found is seventy, of which fifty have been identified.

CHICAGO, June 2.—A special match between Hanlan and Gaudaur has been arranged for July 23rd on Lake Calumet for $1000 a side, with option of increasing it to $2 500 and 60 and 40 per cent gate receipts. Hanlan says he will row Beach in Australia on November 26, whether he wins or loses the match with Gaudaur.

CALCUTTA, June 2.—There is now little doubt that a steamer with 750 lives on board was lost in the recent cyclone as was reported a few days ago.

ALBANY, N. Y., June 2.—A special from Malone says ex-Vice-President Wm. A. Wheeler is dying.

LONDON, June 3.—The German steamer *Oder* was wrecked on Socotra Island, Indian Ocean. The passengers and most of the crew were saved.

GENEVA, June 3.—A landslip has occurred on Spitzin Mountain. Many houses were destroyed, killing ten and seriously wounding many more persons.

LONDON, June 3.—Mr. Gladstone has started for Wales, where he will deliver a series of addresses in favor of Home Rule for Ireland.

HALIFAX, June 3.—At Port Hood yesterday Judge Townshend passed the sentence of death upon McDonald for the murder of a young fellow named McLellan at Lake Ainsle. The murder was committed during a drunken row. McDonald will be hanged July 19th.

LONDON, June 3.—The race under the auspices of the Thames Yacht Club yesterday was won by the *Thistle* which beat the *Irex* by 2 minutes 22 seconds.

OTTAWA, June 3.—Blake has resigned the leadership in a letter to the senior chrirman of the opposition caucus.

BIRMINGHAM, June 3.—Two freight trains collided yesterday near Colera, on the Louisville and Nashville road, killing the engineer and firemen of one engine and a tramp.

PITTSBURG, Pa., June 3.—The failure of yesterday's conference between operators and strikers to agree upon a settlement of the coke lockouts, is regarded as fatal to all hopes of ending the strike; there are 13,000 men out, and they are likely to remain out all summer.

SAN FRANCISCO, June 3.—A sharp earthquake swept over the greater portion of Northern California and Western Nevada between two and three this afternoon cracking houses and shaking down plastering and doing other damage. The hot springs near Carson City, Nevada, are reported dried up.

MILAG, June 4.—Three surveyors have been stabbed to death by members of an anarchist league at Valguarnara, called the Holy Land League. Other persons have been warned to expect death.

NEW YORK, June 4.—The Cunard steamer *Umbria* arrived at 11 a. m., making her passage from Queenstown to Fire Island in five days, 23 hours and 40 minutes. The quickest on record. His Eminence Cardinal Gibbons was a passanger.

MONTREAL, June 4.—Mrs. Francis Trudeau, an elderly lady, was attempting to cross a track when she was struck by a train and killed.

LONDON, June 5.—Lawrence Donovan, the American bridge jumper, today jumped from the London Bridge into the Thames, merely in honor of the Queen's Jubilee. He intends to jump of the Clifton suspension bridge at Bristol, the highest bridge in England.

DUBLIN, June 5.—Michael Davitt, addressing a nationalist meeting, urged the people to offer the utmost resistance to evictions. He declared it the duty of the manhood of the country to assemble and rebuild the houses that have been destroyed. He announced his intention of holding a meeting next Sunday of 30,000 or 40,000 men, for the purpose of rebuilding.

LONDON, June 5.—On Saturday the *Thistle* was beaten by the *Genesta* and *Irex* in the Thames Yacht Club race. The *Thistle* was leading by a quarter of an hour, when she ran into a calm. The other yachts kept the breeze and went ahead.

DES MOINES, IOWA, June 5.—News has been received at the Mansion that Rev. Dr. Ried, who left last winter to become a missionary in Central Africa has been killed and eaten by cannibals.

HALIFAX, June 5.—The Allan liner *Caspian*, from Baltimore for Liverpool, had a very narrow escape from being wrecked off Sambro, as she was approaching Halifax harbor in a fog yesterday morning. She struck heavily on what the captain says was a submerged wreck, but what everybody else believes was a rock, and that the rock is the southwest breaker near where the *Daniel Steinmann* met her fate. The *Caspian* struck again a second and a third time, but with less violence than the first—one hour later she was making water rapidly, and by the time she reached her dock, her whole forehold was filled with water.

Local and Special News.

The