

The Local Legislature.

On Thursday afternoon the opening of the Local Legislature took place, and the usual cheap pageantry was sadly marred by the advent of the wildest blizzard the city has experienced since the year 1882. There was however a large gathering on the occasion.

The speech from the throne as read by the Lieutenant-Governor, commenced with congratulations on the abundant crop of 1887, then followed more congratulations on the increase in immigration. The disallowed railway and other acts were next referred to in a strong provincial rights tone, concluding with the information that the Queen in Council had been petitioned for relief from the uncalled for exercise of the Governor-General's veto power. A paragraph announcing a deficiency in revenue came next, and one foreshadowing a policy of rigid economy concluded the speech.

The following is a list of the bills the Government intend to lay before the House during the session, after which the Legislature adjourned until to-day (Monday) at three o'clock p. m.:

Bill to provide for the construction of railway from Winnipeg to West Lynne.

Bill to provide for the expropriation of lands for public uses.

Bill for vesting the right of way of the Red River Valley railway in Her Majesty.

Bill for the confirmation and redemption of the provincial bonds issued under the Treasury Act.

Bill to provide the raising by way of loan of certain sums of money for the construction of public works and for public service, and

Bills to amend "The Queen's Bench Act, 1885," "The Administration of Justice Act, 1885," "The Petition of Right Act," "The County Court Act," "The Liquor License Act," "The Municipal Act," "The Building Society Act," and "The Asylum Act."

Defective Brick Work.

In seventy-five cases in one hundred where fires occur from "unknown causes," writes an architect to the *Insurance World*, it can be traced to defective brick work. Ordinarily an architect specifies that the brick work shall be well slushed, and that the flues shall be well pargeted or plastered on the inside. This is a great error, as no flues should be plastered on the inside; and no walls having flues in them should be slushed, as the term is generally understood. The flues should in all cases be built smooth on the inside, and all the joints should be filled full of mortar, the vertical joints as well as bed joints. The lining of the flue, or the four inches surrounding the flue, should always be kept in advance of the brick work, and the brick adjoining the lining and the second and third brick, and so on, should be shoved in soft mortar up against each other; this will fill all the vertical joints from bottom to top as laid. The slushing that is ordinarily put in from the top only goes down into the joint about one-half inch, thus leaving an opening the entire length of the wall, and in some cases an opening which a mouse could crawl through. As it is only a question of time when all the plastering that can be put on the inside

of a flue will fall off, it will leave these vertical joints between the bricks open into the flue, and as the joists cross through these joints in the brick work, fire is liable to take place ten or twenty feet away from the flue.

Farming in Kansas.

A current item which has appeared in nearly all the newspapers of Kansas is to the effect that not more than one-half of the dairy products consumed by that state are produced within its borders. Following close upon this statement the singular fact is noted that Kansas, which annually raises millions of bushels of corn, consumes thousands of cans of that cereal which is put up in Maine—a state which does not produce one bushel of corn where Kansas raises 5,000. This shows a condition of affairs in that state for which there is absolutely no apology. Carrying coals to Newcastle would be a thoroughly logical proceeding compared with the importation of butter, cheese and corn into a state which ranks among the first in its grazing facilities and its splendid agricultural resources. The fault lies with the people, and it must be speedily corrected if Kansas expects to make the best of her great possibilities. The failure of the farmers of that state to properly utilize the opportunities which the soil and climate offer for diversified husbandry is one of those perplexing enigmas which seem to defy solution. Almost all of the smaller channels of profit seem to be neglected in the zeal for extensive farming which seems to possess the tillers of the soil. The result is that vast sums of money annually go out of the state for commodities which Kansas should produce in the greatest abundance, and prosperity is hindered by this perversion of economic principles.

With the enormous immigration that is pouring into that state, the day is rapidly approaching when a largely increased division of land is inevitable, and the plan of small farming will become a necessity. Agricultural producers will then be constrained to learn the lesson which they have hitherto failed to master, and it is the part of wisdom to anticipate that day by timely action.

There is no reason why Kansas, with her vast herds of cattle and her almost limitless pasturage, should not only supply her own people with butter and cheese, but export large quantities of both every year, and if the measure of enterprise in that state were commensurate with the natural advantages, there would be a sufficient quantity of fruits and vegetables annually canned to meet the home demand, and bring in from outside markets a handsome revenue.—*Kansas City Star*.

Rough on Rubber Manufacturers.

The *New York Sun* has taken up the fight against poor rubbers and lectures the manufacturers in the following style:

This is an appropriate time to speak up to the men who make rubber overshoes for the American nation. Gentlemen, a word with you!

There is a tremendous responsibility upon you which you do not seem to appreciate. your relations with your fellow citizens are

something more than merely commercial. The health and lives of millions of men, women and children depend directly upon the honesty of the products which you manufacture and sell. Shoddy, rotten overshoes, mean wet feet, fever and congestion, acute rheumatism, pneumonia and death.

Yet it is a fact that it is now well nigh impossible to procure for love or money in the open market a pair of sound, substantial, honest, staying rubber overshoes. The entire manufactured product is cheap and nasty.

The sham things that you put out from your factories tumble to pieces as soon as they go on to the feet which they ought to protect. They are made for sale, not for use. They yield to the weather like wet pasteboard. The treacherous humbugs crack and yawn and split open, and every crevice, big or little, is large enough for 'soath to creep in.

It is not the fault of the retail shoe dealers that they do not supply their customers with honest goods. They can't get them. It is to their interest to sell satisfactory overshoes, but the factories don't produce them now. Every retail dealer in boots and shoes knows that this is true. Any candid retailer will say so. A worthy but profane shoe shop man in Hartford put the case rather forcibly a few days ago. "They make only two grades of rubber overshoes now," he said, "the bad and the d—d bad. It is very difficult to get the first kind."

This is no joke. It is a serious matter. It is a matter of life or death to thousands.—*Leather Gazette*.

Alaska.

The climate in the southeastern sections, along the coast, near the influences of the Japan current, is temperate, and is greatly superior to that of those sections of the continent on the Atlantic coast in the same latitudes. On one-half of the coast of Alaska the thermometer seldom falls below zero.

The population is estimated at 35,000 whites, creoles and natives, and is, as a general rule, provident, self-supporting, well-behaved and law-abiding.

The industries consist of the fur trade, mining, canning of fish, and the sawing of lumber by a few mills for domestic purposes. The manufacture of lumber, whenever the laws permit, will become an important source of wealth.

With the same advantages of civil government which are enjoyed by the citizens of other Territories, the people of Alaska would soon enter upon an era of prosperity which would justify the expectations of its most sanguine friends. In its present condition the laws can not be successfully enforced and administered. The only court is located at Sitka, and is separated by water, at long distances, from every other part of its jurisdiction. Criminals readily and frequently avoid arrest by taking refuge in the seclusion of remote parts of the Territory where there are no means to pursue them, and consequently escape trial and punishment. All of these evils should be remedied by appropriate special legislation.

Alaska is the gate of the North Pacific, and in the not distant future will become one of our most valuable possessions.—*Secretary of the Interior*.