A motion was made to rescind the resolution moved by Mr. Wilson regarding the appointment of a committee to investigate the $1200 debenture matter, and to call in the best legal advice.

Messrs. Wilson, Hoyt, Murphy, Pinder Lawson and Calhoun spoke.

It appeared to be the general opinion that it would be time enough to call in outside legal advice when the Board were sued for the amount. It would be better to allow the matter to stand over without appointing a committee, and risk a law suit from the York Agricultural Society of which the members entertained no apprehension. On motion the resolution was rescinded.

Secretary Treasurer in the matter of the occupancy of Mr. Cameron of the building outside the Court House, read document, May 25, 1862, signed by the late W. H. Needham, then Mayor, agreeing to give Mr. Cameron on his delivering his market stall in Market House for the use of troops, a stall free of rent in the building alongside said Market House, during the time the troops may occupy said Market Stall, &c.

It was suggested that Secretary Treasurer make out a proper lease for Mr. Cameron; and finally that the matter had better be left to the building committee.

Mr. Masik moved that Assessors and Collectors of Southampton, receive the same per centage as last year. Carried.

Mr. Close said that the question between the City and County as to the rights of ferry lands was not yet settled, he moved accordingly that the Secretary Treasurer inquire into the matter, and report at next meeting of the Board.

Mr. Hoyt chairman of the committee on Public Accounts, moved that $81.85 be paid to H. B. Rainsford Esq., for certifying to the school lists of the several parishes. Carried.

Mr. Pinder moved the following:—

Resolved, that a pound district be established in the lower part of Southampton, from the parish line on the main river road up said road to Mr. Allens upper line, and in rear of said river road to Grand Brook, so called, around said brook to Nakwicac Stream and down said stream to said river road. Carried.

Council adjourned over until the July session.

NEWS ITEMS.

The total debt of the United States on the 1st February, 1879 was $2,025,896,130.

January 10th was the thirty-ninth anniversary of the establishment of the penny post in England.

In the annual report on the health of the British Navy for the past year two deaths from chewing tobacco are recorded.

Hippophagy is on the increase in Paris. The number of horses sold for food last year was 11,319, being 700 more than in 1877.

A new "Alto Flute," the pitch of which is an octave below that of the ordinary instrument, has just been invented by F. Wallner, of Vienna.

A cricket match on the ice in the Home Park, on the north side of Windsor lake, was recently played by moonlight, each eleven wearing skates.

Every tenth person in a Hungarian town of 20,000 inhabitants has recently been attacked with diphtheria, and 927 have died. The malady also prevails in Vienna.

A new street railway track has been tried successfully in England. The rail is a flat plate regularly pierced with holes into which fit protuberances on the wheels.

Mr. Gladstone has written to the Liberals of Midlothian, accepting the invitation to stand for Parliament, and renewing his charges against the Government.

Ohio politicians are for ever meeting and passing the famous declaration: Resolved, That the saints shall possess the earth. Resolved further, That we are the saints.

While the Roscommon stag hounds were hunting in the neighborhood of Boyle, the stag took to the ice on Bairtown Lake. The ice gave way, and 16 of the splendid hounds were drowned.

Arrangements are about to be made for the modelling of the police at Cyprus on the English system, and it is believed the chief of the department will be a relative of one now holding high authority in Scotland-yard.

The marriage of the Duke of Connaught is arranged to take place at Windsor Castle about the 13th of March, the ceremony originally fixed for February, having been postponed a month in consequence of the death of the Princess Alice.

France spends fifteen and a half times as much on her army as on her schools. Italy twelve times as much, England five and a half times, Germany four and two-fifths times. Austria four times and Switzerland one and one-eight times.

The number of failures officially announced in the United Kingdom during 1878 was 15,057, of which 2641 were in the financial wholesale, and manufacturing branches of trade, and 12,416 in retail trades, professional pursuits, &c.

John Bright recently told some Scotch clergymen that if they were to banish whiskey from their houses, and the consumption of it from their social habits, they would do much to withdraw a leading source of the poverty and suffering which curse Scotland.

The Roman Catholic citizens of Montreal, at a largely-attended meeting in Union Hall decided to tender Mr. Costigan, M. P. for Victoria, N. B., a complimentary dinner at the Windsor Hotel on his passing through Montreal *en route* for Ottawa. He will probably reach Montreal on the 8th inst.

The Geographical Society of Paris has taken the initiatory steps toward forming an emigration society, which will give information to those desiring to emigrate regarding all sections of the civilized world. It will describe the advantage and disadvantages of emigration in detail.

It is an odd notion, that of a deaf and dumb debating society, but they have one in London. At the opening debate of the present session, the question, "Is the Indian Government justified in going to war with Afghanistan?" was discussed in the finger language, and decided in the affirmative by a large majority.

A barber in Paris raised the price of shaving when the Exposition opened. On the day of closing a permanent patron expressed the hope that he would again fall back on the anti-Exposition charges. "I should like to," said the barber, "but since the distribution of the prizes there are so many long faces that I really cannot afford to do so."

In the past twenty-three years more than 17,000 pieces of ordnance have been constructed in the Krupp works at Essen, and sixteen guns only have burst, while of these by far the greater number were destroyed during trials to test their power of resistence and when loaded with charges heavier than they were designed to fire.

It is interesting to hear that Lord Beaconsfield, according to the laws of hereditary longevity, has still many years of life to look forward to. His father lived to be eighty-two, and his grandfather, Benjamin Disraeli, to be eighty-six. His mother was only seventy-one when she died, but his father's grandmother, Mrs. Seybroot, lived to the age of ninety.

Owing to the depression in agriculture, the Earl of Beaconsfield has paid the school and church rates of the tenants on his estate at Hughenden, Bucks, for three years, the sum being equivalent to 10 per cent. on the half-year's rent. Sir Harry Varney of Claydon Park, Winslow, Buckinghamshire, has just returned to his tenants 10 per cent, of their rents owing to the recent bad seasons.

A movement is now on foot in Berlin for building a church to be called "Church of Thanks," in grateful memory of the Emperor William's happy escape from two assassins hands. A voluntary subscription is being made, and the amount subscribed up to the present time is about 78,000 marks—that is nearly £3,900. The church is expected to cost £15,000 or more.

Emma Young, a daughter of Brigham Young, used to appear on the stage in Salt Lake Theatre during her father's life. After his death she came eastward to find employment as an actress, and was engaged for the Folly Theatre, in this city but the enterprise failed, and she got no pay. Lately she went off with a variety show, which collapsed in Halifax, leaving most of the performers without money enough to get out of town. Miss Young paid their fares to Boston.

THE AFRICAN WAR.—The English troops will probably have some tough fighting at the Cape before they subdue the Zulus, led by Cetevayo. No potentate in Africa takes greater pride in his military array than the Zulu King. It is as much a hobby with him as it is with some Indian princes to maintain a large army in as efficient a condition as circumstances render possible. Since his accession to the throne the rudiments of drill have been introduced into the Zulu host, and the greater number of his troops carry arms of precision. Lord Chelmsford, the present Commander-in-Chief at the Cape, has just published a pamphlet which gives the numerical strength of the Zulu army as a little over 40,000 men, without including seven regiments of veterans. Following the German plan, Cetevayo passes the whole male population of his kingdom through the ranks. Enlistment commences at fourteen or fifteen years of age, and it would appear that the men, once enrolled, belong permanently to the army, for it is stated that no soldier is allowed to marry until he is forty years old, being more than twenty years from the date of enlistment. The regular troops are divided into thirty-three regiments, excluding the seven veteran battalions, eighteen regiments being composed of married soldiers and fifteen of bachelors. At present Lord Chelmsford has no more than 14,000 men under his command, a large portion of whom are, unfortunately, native levies. Nevertheless, British pluck and skill will no doubt conquer as of yore.

SEVERE WINTERS.—The *Pall Mall Gazette* says:—An enumeration of all the severe winters in Europe during the last ten centuries, made by the late M. Arago, and printed in the *Paris Advertizer* of 1835, is of interest at the present season. In 806 the Rhone was frozen over; the cold was from 18 to 20 centigrade deg. below zero. In 1133 the Po was frozen from Cremono to the sea; in 1234 loaded wagons crossed the Adriatic in front of Venice; in 1305 all the rivers in France were frozen over; in 1324 it was possible to travel from Denmark to Lubeck and Dantzic on the ice. In 1334 all the rivers of Province and Italy were frozen; at Paris the frost lasted two months and twenty days. In 1468 it was necessary to break up the wine in Flanders with hatchets, in order to serve it out to the soldiers. In 1544 the the same became requisite in France. In 1594 the sea was frozen from Marseilles to Venice. In 1657 the Seine was entirely frozen over. In 1767 the Seine was frozen for thirty-five successive days. In 1709 the Adriatic and the Mediterranean from Marseilles to Genoa were frozen. In 1717 shops were established on the Thames, and finally, the Seine was entirely frozen over in 1742, 1744, 1766, 1788, and 1829.

The amount of counterfeit coin in circulation in the United States is said to be $2,000,000, besides the great number of genuine pieces made fradulent by the removal of part of the metal. Wholly spurious coins are almost always lighter than the good ones, but an exception, described by the *Scientific American*, is a $5 piece made of gold and silver, and really costing the counterfeit or $3.40 each. Various ingenious modes are used in stealing gold from coins. The most common is "sweating," which is done by using the coin as the anode in an electro-plating bath, the gold being abstracted from it and deposited on another surface. As much as two dollars' worth of gold can be taken in that way from a double eagle, without making a difference that is readily detected except by weight. A less scientific plan is to file the smooth parts of the surface, and reburnish the spots. The most extensive fraud is "splitting." The operator saws the coin through neatly, gouges out the centre until only a thin shell is left, substitutes a base metal, and joins the parts again. The ring of the coin is destroyed and the weight lessened. Sometimes holes are bored into the edge, and plugs of lead put in.

Sitting Bull is as inconstant as the aurora of the western skies. He no longer defies the United States troops or threatens to commit a raid on the frontier outposts from his camp within Canadian territory, but he and his bands sue for peace with the Republic and asked to be allowed to return to their reservations. The Americans generally view them, however, as a gang of tramps who must work for their victuals, and the desire to revenge the death of Custer has not yet wholly left the breasts of military men. The New York *Times* thinks it necessary to utter a word of warning. It points out the dangers of a general Indian war, and declares that should conditions be purposely imposed on Sitting Bull, which he cannot accept, the country will rue the act. Canada will certainly speed this parting guest, whom it never welcomed. The Sioux chief has been a source of trouble and danger to Manitoba and our North-West ever since he crossed the lines two years ago. His bands openly violated the buffalo ordinance and threatened the peace of the prairies. His withdrawl to the United States would render our Indian policy less complex and difficult.

THE 72ND HIGHLANDERS AT THE BATTLE PEIWAR KOTAL.—General Roberts, in an official despatch describing the Peiwar victory, thus speaks of the 72nd Highlanders:—"The Goorkhas and 72nd Highlanders continued to advance rapidly up the steep side of the Kotal, and captured three stockades in quick succession, the enemy defending them in a very obstinate manner, and being mostly killed by the bayonet as our men jumped over the barricade. The mountain battery was of the greatest assistance during this advance, and the guns were fought in the most determined manner well up in the advanced line. Their gallant commander, Captain Kelso, was shot through the head while bringing the guns into action just beyond the first stockade. I brought up the remainder of the 72nd as soon as the firing commenced, and I cannot praise too highly the gallant conduct of this splendid regiment and the brilliant style in which the men were led by Lieut. Colonel Brownlow and other officers of the corps."

The present is the severest winter they have had in California for a long time, and it has increased the mortality, chiefly among persons of middle and advanced age, fully twenty per cent. At the same time, when their weather is compared with Eastern winters, it becomes difficult to understand why they should find it so trying. For about two months, with occasional rain, they have had a white frost every morning, but as soon as the sun was fairly up that has disappeared. A beautiful sky was overhead, there was only just wind enough to give motion to the atmosphere, and when the sun was up doors and windows could be left wide open, to let in sunlight, air, and the odor of flowers. At night, however, grate fires were pleasant, and extra blankets serviceable. The increase in mortality is attributed to the lack of precaution of old residents, who are not accustomed to find heavy clothing necessary.

AFGHAN WAR.—A despatch (Feb. 3rd.) from Khilat-i-Ghilzel says supplies there are obtained with great difficulty, and that the arrangement of commissariat is deplorable. Cavalry and artillery men and horses are suffering. The people of the country are inclined to be insolvent. All natives suspected of bearing arms in Candahar have been searched, concealment of arms being punished. Four elephants and 108 bullocks died from starvation. Forward movements to Ghirisk and Khilat-i-Ghilzal are attributed at Candahar to the scarcity of forage. Camels there are dying daily in great numbers. The supply of food arrived too late to save them from the effects of previous starvation. The troops are in good health and spirits, but are beginning to weary of the monotony and hardships of the campaign.

Chicago may yet be called the Telephone City, to such an extent have its people availed themselves of the far-speaker. Dr. E. Hale tells the *Tribune* how he diagnosed a case where he was called (through the the telephone of the District Telegraph Company), by a distant patient whose baby was ill—presumably with croup. He asked the temperature of its body, symptons, breathing and cough, got them to hold the child near the instrument till he heard the cough and cry which indicated croup, prescribed the simple temporary remedies, had the telegraph office place in communication with a druggist, who was instructed to prepare a prescription, and in a few minutes the druggist had called a messenger and sent him with the medicine, and the doctor and the druggist returned to their beds.

The Agriculturist.

FREDERICTON, N.B., FEBRUARY, 8 1879.

Economy, &c.

A wave of economy is passing over the Dominion. The pinch of hard times has had the effect of presenting the subject of retrenchment to many minds. They are very solicitous to economise the public money, and are happy that they can find in the numerous class of public officials, scapegoats.

The Toronto *Mail* has been devoting a series of articles to the extravagant cost of government in the Dominion, with its General Parliament and its Local Houses. It objects strongly to the large indemnity allowed to the members of the Ontario Legislature, and grudges the existence of the Local Legislature itself. These articles in the *Mail* are supposed to have a purpose, and to indicate a move, for putting an end to what one journal calls "our miserable division into Provinces." Sir John A. McDonald, it is hinted, finding he cannot make much of the National Policy, in the way of making the tariffs stringently protective, yet available for purposes of revenue, is preparing to surprise the people of the Dominion by proposing a National Policy which will substitute a Legislative union for the present confederation. Possibly such a policy may find favor in Ontario, but a great change must have come over the French Province of Quebec since confederation, if the Canadian *Spectator* is correct in saying that many, if not most of the more intelligent of the French Canadians in the Province of Quebec have got tired of the existing state of things and would gladly have a larger, a more reasonable, and a less costly political life.

The Canadian *Spectator* does not venture to speak for the Maritime Provinces, but we make bold to say that these Provinces severally are not now prepared to give up their local independence, and merge themselves under one general government. No one can answer what may happen, but we are not rash in saying that if Sir John adopts legislative union, as his National Policy, it will be much more unpopular in New Brunswick than a National Policy which would protect a comparatively small class of manufacturers at the expense of the great body of consumers. The economising spirit of the times has taken hold of some minds in this Province. The St. John *Globe* purposes to save money by holding only one session of the Legislature every two years, and, at any rate, by reducing the indemnity of members to the old rate of $4 a day. Any measures, such as the abolishment of the Legislative Council, or limiting the frequency of the local sessions, would have the effect of diminishing the importance of the local House in the eyes of the people, and would be steps to their abolishment, and it is not in human nature for members to reduce their pay; they would submit to it if it was imposed upon them, but it is too much to expect that they would deliberately vote for a diminution.

The Common Council of St. John were on Tuesday night last in a fit of economy, and abolished some offices, threatened to lay hands on the salaries of the portly Police Magistrate and his clerk, and did cut down the salaries of chairman of Water Commissioners, Inspector of streets, sergeants, clerks, chief engineer, store keepers, teamsters, janitors, &c., but they manfully stood by their own allowance of $100 a peice, and refused to be sacrificed to their own sense of economy, which was so patriotically displayed at other's expense. In our own City Council, Alderman Gunter tried the economy move at the expense of the Chief Assessor and assistant Assessors, but was resisted by Alderman Beek and other members who very rightly held that it was the poorest kind of economy to cut down the salaries of officers to the lowest figures.

The U. S. Cattle Disease.

The alarm among the cattle dealers in Upper Canada, in consequence of the slaughtering of a large drove of cattle shipped by a Toronto firm, greatly subsided on advices being received that every shipment of cattle from Canada would be judged on its own merits. Dealers, in order to prevent hasty condemnation of their cattle by government, at once retained the services of experienced veterinary surgeons to keep them in check. But latest advices are not so re-assuring. There is no doubt that pleuro pneumonia of a bad type is raging among the cattle in different parts, especially in the East of the United States, and as long as it does, cattle dealers in Canada will feel the ill effects. Though the Dominion Government have passed an order prohibiting the importation of cattle from the United States into Canada for three months, there is a danger in England that cattle from the United States and Canada will be placed in the same category as American, and suffer under the same prohibition. The late advices, Feb. 5, from Liverpool, states that the Privy Council have ordered the withdrawal of permission to land cattle at Liverpool Docks after March 1st, unless provision is made for their slaughter on the quay. It may be that this order is directed against cattle from the United States, but unless a special exemption is made, it must be understood as including Canadian live stock. Many of the farmers, stock raisers in England, will probably use all their influence to prevent the landing and sale of live animals in England, and make the most of the outbreak of disease among the United States cattle. What they would like to see would be the entire prohibition of the importation of live stock. If the order of the Privy Council is made permanent, and to apply to Canada as well as the United States, a sore blow and discouragement will be given to a trade that promised great things, and that would have, if prosperous, been a great incentive to the farmers of the Dominion to turn their best attention to the raising of first class stock. If the importation of live stock were prohibited, they could still export dead meats, but it is a much more profitable business to export live bodies than the dead carcases.

FIRE.—About half past five on Sunday morning an alarm was given, fire having been discovered in a shed on George Street, belonging to Mr. Jennings, and adjoining Mr. Marsh's outbuildings and Mr. Grieves' barn. It was some little time before, and and with a little difficulty, owing to the softness of the roads that, the "Alexandra" was brought to the St. John St. tank, but in the meantime the people in the neighbourhood with pails of water and snow had done something to keep down the flames. The "Alexandra" and No. 4 worked well, and with great exertions the fire was prevented extending to the main building, and the damage was confined to the destruction of the Jennings' shed, the Police Magistrate's outbuildings, and to the scorching of the Grieves' barn. The fire was caused, it is said, by a barrel of ashes having been carelessly left close to the wall of the shed. The losses are partially covered by insurance.

The Hard Times.

These are dreadful hard times, all the papers and everybody you meet say so. The journals in fact, are, in part, very dismal reading from the way that hard times—as shown in reports of failures, of closed mills and factories, of operatives out of work and starving, of charitable appeals for the poor, and in editorials dwelling in a gloomy manner on the prevailing and unlightening commercial depression are dwelt on. From casual observation the evidences that the times are bad are not so very evident. The stir in the streets is about the same, and looking at things externally, people enjoy themselves much according to their usual wont. Different people have different guages for hard times; it is hard times for the lumberer, when deals are selling at the present quotations; it is hard times for the merchants, when their stores are not crowded daily, and they are not turning money hand over fist; to some the least check to the flow of prosperity is the beginning of hard times; some if they only make ends meet, complain that the times are awful, while others think if they can accomplish that feat, that they are very, good at least not bad. Anything less than prosperity, abounding ease and luxury are bad times with some. A state just above present care with a moderate flow of business sufficient for all necessaries, and a few luxuries, is good times with others. Probably these who speak loudest about the bad times feel them the least. The cry of hard times may be very convenient to some who have it perpetually in their mouth, as it may be made the excuse for not meeting a monetary engagement, of not paying a pressed bill, of not contributing to some pressing charitable work.

Times are no doubt very hard in Fredericton; nobody has as much money as he would like, but there are not, it is to be hoped many who have not sufficient to eat, who feel the pinch of hunger or cold. Life with only a sufficiency to eat, is too dismal an affair for any one to contemplate with equanimity, the probability that there may be many who have not even that. But looking at things from the outside, there are no visible signs of hard times here. The sun we all know, shines on the just and unjust alike, and it is as brilliant in bad and as in good times. Who for instance could imagine that the times were hard here, who saw the crowds watching, the livelong day, the curlers at their sport, and heard the merry shouts as good hits were made, and players gave way to their exuberant glee at a good score for their side. It will be said that many in the crowd would not have been there if they had anything else better to do, but the fact that they are able to spend whole forenoons and afternoons on the ice, shows that they do not feel very keenly, if they feel them at all, the pressure of the hard times.

France.

It would really seem as is the French people had got beyond barricades and revolutions in the conducting of their political affairs, and have entered on constitutional grooves. They may, in the future, supply fewer sensational passages for the historian, but if they keep in the prosaic course of law and common sense, they will be happier, as a people. There is at present, every appearance that the Republic will stand the test of time. The three possible aspirants to the throne—the Bourbon-Legitimist, Count de Chambord, the Orleanist, Count de Paris, and the Bonapartist, Prince Imperial—mutually weaken each other; no one of them singly, has a party at his back, strong enough to enable him to take advantage of a time of political trouble to seize the sceptre; and it may be supposed, the paitres at their back are too jealous of each other, to combine, in common hatred of Republicanism, to support either of the pretenders to kingly or imperial power. There can be no doubt that the French are becoming more and more Republican in sentiment, the dwellers in large cities and towns have long been haters of monarchy and privelege, and the peasantry, as they are, under the modern influences of railways, telegraph and the press, becoming more practical and sharp, and less under the dominion of old manners and customs, and traditions, have lost faith in the old idols—Napoleon, and military glory. The greatest danger ahead for France is the fear that her Republicanism may assume an ultra-democratic-socialistic character; that the majority of the "have nots," or "have littles," will so firmly gain the upper hand, that they will, by suppression and confiscation, attempt to reduce the minority to their own level. The safety and happiness of France will depend on the firmness, tact, and good sense of the moderate republicans; they are the middle party who stand between the pretenders or aspirants to the throne on the one hand, and the extreme communistic party on the other, between civil war and revolution.

Since last week some changes have occurred in the aspect of affairs in France. It was then thought that M. Dufaure, the head of the cabinet would not resign, but he took that step and the President Grevey selected M. Waddington in his place. The present Waddington ministry is, saving M. Dufaure and Teisserere du Bort retired, identical with the former one, and is composed as follows, Minister of Foreign Affairs and President of the Council, William H. Waddington; Interior, Edward de Marcere; Finance, Jean Baptiste Leon Say; Commerce and Agriculture, Deputy Lepere; Justice, Senator le Rayer; Public Work, Charles de Freycinet, Fine Arts and Public Instructions, Jules Ferry; War, General Greslay; Marine, Vice Admiral Pothuan; Public Worship M. Bardoux.

The Plague in Russia.

If the account given of the origin of the plague now raging East of the Volga is correct, the war with Turkey has left a dreadful legacy to Russia. A Cossack returning from Asia Minor to his native village in Astrachan, gave a shawl to his "ladylove." The girl sickened and died soon after wearing it, and four members of her family succumbed to the infection two days after. The epidemic spread in the village, but it was allowed to gain in violence, and to become a destroying plague before the Government took measures to endeavour to arrest it. Then a cordon was drawn around the infected villages; but it seems impossible to restrain the insidious advance of the plague when once it has gathered strength, for it spreads in the course of the ordinary commercial intercourse between different parts of the Empire, it lurks in the goods transported to the different seaports, in the clothing of the sailors, and is wafted abroad. The people in Western Russia are in state of great alarm, and are endeavouring to cut off all communications with the plague stricken districts in Astrachan, and orders have been issued from St. Petersburg, giving the Government of Astracham, and other Governments extraordinary powers to burn villages where necessary, to remove the inhabitants, and to enforce a rigid quarantine. It was said that the plague had reached a village near Moscow, though the Governor General of that city, last Monday contradicted the report; but the German Ambassador at St. Petersburg, notified his Government the same day that the plague was spreading rapidly, and had passed the limits, where according to official accounts, the last cases were reported. Most of the European Governments have taken measures to repel the fell visitant. An imperial decree was issued in Berlin on Monday, establishing strict passport regulations between Russia and Germany after the 10th of January. Every traveller before entering Germany will be required to prove that he has not been in a suspected or infected district within twenty days, and must submit to have all clothes and baggage disinfected. A somewhat similar decree has been issued in Vienna; the French Government have ordered precautionary measures to be taken at Marseilles and other places, and the Government of Italy have adopted the same course at their ports. At all the seaports of Great Britain, to which Russian vessels sail, quarantine will be established. It will be fearful if the plague spreads from the ports on the Black Sea, and seizes on the Russian armies in Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia; in comparison with this, war would be welcome. The plague which is said to be indentical with the "black death," the scourge of the Middle Ages, is very swift and fatal in places where filth abounds, and where there is no drainage or attention given to personal cleanliness, but it can be successfully combatted where sanitary rules are observed.

Late despatches report that the St. Petersburg *Journal* bitterly denounces Germany and Austria for the precautions they have taken against the plague, which it declares are inspired by hostility to Russia, and by a desire to ruin Russian trade.

Another Canadian Bishop has died, another Canadian Bishop will soon have to be consecrated. On Monday morning last the Right Reverend Neil Bethune, D. D. L. L. D., Bishop of Torontó, passed away. He was in his 79th year having been born in August, 1800 in Montreal. In 1866 Dr. Bethune was appointed (as a sort of compromise after a wearying conflict of parties,) coadjutor of old Bishop Strachan, and on the death, the following year, of the venerable pioneer Bishop of Canada, became Bishop of Toronto. He was cast in a very different mould from his predecessor. Bishop Strachan was a man of action, a born administrator, a man of decided views, and indomitable will (we can all easily imagine what sort of an ecclesiastic the old Bishop was) while Dr. Bethune was the type of an English parson, a scholar and a gentleman, no great theologian, but a very good sermon writer, and very courteous and genial accessible in his manners. The Toronto *Mail* thus pictures them. "The sturdy little figure of the hard grained Aberdeen man with his keen eye, trotting swiftly along our streets with hat tilted back on his head, stick under arm, and subdued whistle, has vanished down the dark road. The thin, almost ascetic, refined and mild old gentleman, who succeeded him has faded away into the shadowy land, which yet is probably more real than this." Dr. Bethune was a High Churchman, and the twelve years of his episcopate were a good deal ruffled by breezes, ecclesiastical and he was not the man to rule the storms. The synod will meet in about three weeks, to choose his successor. The Bishop will be elected by a free vote of both orders, clergy and laity, and the *Mail* "wishes them well through their responsible task," a phrase that seems to insinuate (that as in the case when Dr. Bethune was appointed coadjutor to Bishop Stratchan,) there will be a wearying conflict of parties before the election is made. But why should not the clergy and laity meet, like the apostles and disciples, all with one consent?

Farmer's Provincial League.

The third annual meeting of the Provincial Farmer's League was held in the Hall of the Queen's Central Agricultural Society, Hampstead, Queen's County, on Wednesday and Thursday. Harmon Humphrey, Esq., of Sussex, vice-President, in the absence of the President, Samuel Sharp, Esq., was called to the chair. Delegates from various local societies and county Leagues in King's, Queen's, Sunbury, Westmorland, York, St. John were admitted members, and some took part in the discussions. S. L. Peters was re-elected Secretary. Excellent papers on "Agriculture" were read by Mr. Howard Trueman. Discussions took place on a variety of topics, the raising of cattle, the exportation of live stock, and of poultry, butter and eggs, to England, farm economies, &c. Some of the farmers had great faith in the capability of some parts of the Province to produce fine sugar beet crops. Some spoke coldly of beet culture, and said that farmers had better turn their attention to raising turnips. The one argument, that there was no factory established, was made to do duty. But the sooner farmers are convinced that the cultivation of the beet must preceed the establishment of the factory, and that cultivation of beets would be profitable, without reference to sugar, and preferable to turnips and mangles, the better for themselves. A resolution, the preamble of which contained an expression of ignorance on the part of the farmers of the League, of sugar from beet business, was passed, asking the members of the Association to experiment during the coming season, in raising the sugar beet, and to report the result at the next meeting of the association. It seems to us that this was rather a cold conclusion to come to after all that has been successfully done in the way of making sugar from beets.

A great part of the time of the meeting was taken up in discussing matters of constitution. The weak part in such leagues is the disproportionate time given to mending the mere machinery of the organization. The chief object of the League should be the intelligent discussion of practical subjects, such as will advance agriculture, but those things though certainly not neglected, are made subsidiary to matters of form. A resolution was carried changing the name of the Provincial Farmers' League, to Farmers' Provincial Association. The old question occurs what's in a name? There is often a great deal in a name, but what is the occult meaning of this nominal change? Will it make the league more popular with the farmers of New Brunswick, will it bind them more closely together, make them feel more strongly their responsibility as cultivators of the soil, and make them more determined to advance the interest of their time honored pursuit? By dropping the old name, do the members mean to let fall into oblivion all their grudge against the government for abolishing the old Provincial Board of Agricultural, and to start afresh on a career of usefulness? We hope that there is some good purpose, whatever it may be, in the change of name.

L. O. A. LECTURE COURSE.—On Wednesday evening Wm. Wilson, Esq., will deliver the fourth lecture of the L. O. A. Course in the Orange Hall, on "what the Revolution of 1690 secured for the Anglo Saxon Race." This great and difficult subject will afford the able lecturer fine scope to display his historical research, acumen, and impartiality.

City Council.

The new City Council met for the first time on Tuesday evening the Mayor in the chair, the full Board present, and all the seats outside the railing well filled. Some visited the Council Room to see how the Aldermen looked, and probably expected that the newly elected Board would do something extraordinary. But it was a very quiet meeting. Alderman Gunter tried to arouse the Board to a sense of the deplorable financial condition of the city, and seemed quite ready to enter into an altercation, but members did not take so gloomy a view of the city's monetary state as the representative of St. Ann's Ward, and declined to be led into any discussion. Ald. Beek said so far from Fredericton being in a deplorable state, financially, that there was no city in the Dominion (we think he said) that had, in proportion to its size and population, so small a debt as Fredericton.

The following standing committees were appointed:—

Roads—I. W. Simmons, Gunter, Burchill, Smith and Babbitt.

Fire—Moore, Richey, G. H. Simmons, Beek and Vandine.

Market—Smith, G. H Simmons and Vandine.

Wharf—Gunter, Burchill and I. W. Simmons.

Assessment and Appeal—Babbitt, Gunter and Beek.

Assignment — Mayor, Moore, Smith and Burchill.

Schools—Mayor, Moore, Richey and Geo. H. Simmons.

Contingencies— Gunter, Vandine and Smith.

Police—Burchill, Beek and Babbitt.

City Hall—G. H. Simmons, Smith and Vandine.

Legislative—Mayor, Beek and Babbitt.

Lamps—Gunter, Burchill and Babbitt.

Revisors—Gunter, Moore, Babbitt, Beek and Vandine.

Fire Wards — Moore, Richey, Geo. H. Simmons, Beek and Vandine.

Alms House—Beek, Gunter, Burchill, I. W. Simmons and Babbitt.

Quarter salaries were paid, also the officers for holding civic elections. The balance sheet of the City Treasurer was read. Ald. Beek, in replying to Ald. Gunter's adverse remarks, on the state of the City finances, referring to the sheet, said that the city was in a better condition this year than it was the last, and he hoped that if the expenditure was kept down it would be in a better condition next year than it is this. Whether it is possible or not to pare down the expenditure in some departments, taxation for school purposes will have to be increased.

There was some disscussion over the question of the salaries of the Chief and Assistant Assessors. Mr. Gunter contended, that the Council, as the custodians of the City's finances were bound to get work done for the City at as cheap a rate as possible and moved resolutions to fix the salarie of Chief Assessora at $150 and $50 each for the two Assistants, which were thrown out. Finally the resolution fixing salaries at $250 and $75, respectively, were passed, by casting vote, and T. L. Simmons was appointed Chief and James Farrell and John Hodge Assistant Assessors.

Mr. Moore read and presented the report of the Chief Engineer, which gave details of the defects found in the "Sils by," and the particulars of the bill of the Silsby Manufacturing Company for the articles necessary to repair them, &c., the report was adopted and referred to Fire Committee to report at next meeting.

Mr. Moore also read a memorandum from Chief Engineer asking Council to define the duties of the City Teamster. A committee was appointed to take the matter into consideration.—Ald. Moore, Vandine and Smith.

One of the old Fredericton hand-engines (No. 1) was purchased by the Parish of St. Mary's and assessment made in order to meet the expense, but the ratepayers refused to pay the tax, and have left themselves open to a suit by the city. On the Mayor's asking the Council, if they desired to take proceedings. Ald. Gunter, magnanimously or sarcastically said, as the City Treasury was full of funds they could afford to let this matter stand. This little speech seemed to give the worthy Alderman infinite relief.

The petition of Thomas Morris, praying the Council appoint him keeper of the Alms House, was read. The petitioner gave reasons for making a change in the keepership of that institution, which was gravely listened to by the Board, and a resolution was passed to place it on the file.

A petition from S. H. Gill, who complained that he has been unjustly deprived of the lease of St. Mary's ferry, which has been given to A. S. Crawford, praying the Council for license to run a ferryboat between St. Mary's and the city, was read.

Mr. Gunter moved that a special committee be appointed to take the petition into consideration, which was carried.

Mr. G. H. Simmons presented a bill for six cords of wood—$14.17—which amount had been advanced to him as Chairman of the Hall Committee.

Mr. Gunter endeavoured to commit the Council to resolution, that no money should be paid out of the Treasury by City Treasurer without the order of Council, but the sense of the Board was that there were always circumstances arising when it was necessary to make advances, and the Council could not bind themselves to such a hard and fast rule.

The Council then adjourned.

Curling.

There was another grand Curling contest here on Wednesday and Thursday last. This time the St. Andrew's Club of St. John arrayed themselves against the victorious Frederictonians. The St. Andrew's players arrived on Wednesday by the noon train, and received a great welcome. Play commenced at 2 P. M.; the ice was in the glibbest state, and the weather was magnificent. Mellick's and Snider's, (St. Audrew's) rinks were pitted against the rinks of Allen and Loggie, Fredericton. Archibald Rowan, Esq., acted as umpire throughout the contest. The match was closely contested and splendid play was made on both sides. At the close Fredericton was ahead by one score. On Thursday morning, Gregory's and White's—St. Andrews—rinks played against those of Street and Greives—Fredericton. Up to twelve o'clock, the Frederictonians kept their vantage ground; then the fortune of the game took a turn against the Street rink. The St. Andrews men "ca'd canny," and came out, at the finish, victors by 13 points The St. Andrews players left on Thursday afternoon, and were driven, jubilant, in the "Great Eastern," four-in-hand, to the railway station

At a regular meeting of Golden Rule Lodge, No. 44, I. O. G. T., held on Tuesday evening, 4th inst., the following officers were installed into office:—

W. Reid, W. C. T; W. D. Smith, W. V. T; Dr. McAlpine, W. Sec.; Miss A. Murray, W. Treas.; T. Davis, Fin. Sec.; Miss A. Smith, W. Chap.; Miss E. Maire, R. H. S.; Miss H. Maire, L. H. S.; Jas. White, W. M.; Miss McKeown, D. M.; H. Dunlop, I. G.; A. Pond, O. G.; F. J. McCausland, P. M. C. T.

Sheriff, and Miss Temple leave this city on Monday for Ottawa, in order to be present at the opening of the Dominion Parliament.

Goldwin Smith on Prohibition.

Prohibition is being discussed in Ontario. Among the latest contributors to the literature of the subject is the famous quondam Oxford Professor Goldwin Smith, who is now, under the heading of a "Byestander," contributing a series of papers on the topics of the hour, to the *Canadian Monthly*. The opinions of such a writer are at least worth reading. He says:—

The results of the recent attempts to apply the Dunkin Act, seem to indicate that the Prohibitionists should pause and reflect before they continue the agitation. This may be said without prejudice to a full recognition of the goodness of their aim, of the magnitude of the evil against which they contend and of the value of the crusades as a proof of the existence of moral enthusiasm among the people. Unless the movement succeeds, it will do harm in more ways than one. It will deaden and suspend voluntary effort by the delusive hope of the State interference. It will drive the publicans to league together in self-defence, and weld them into a compact political body, exerting an influence which is sure to be noxious as well as powerful, over elections and general legislation. Victuallers' Association is one of the most dangerous of those which are on the throat of the British liberty.

Voluntary efforts and voluntary associations—the old-fashioned Teetotalism, and the Band of Hope—have done much good. The Band of Hope especially are allowed in England to have been very effective, both in guarding the young and in training up missionaries for the cause. But it may be doubted whether any good has been done or is likely to be done by prohibitive legislation. In the United States prohibition is not the cause but the effect and the sign of temperance; the Anglo American as a race are very temperate people: opinion among them is strongly against drink, and it probably gains little or no additional force from the laws, which on the other hand somewhat loosen public morality by leading to evasion.

We came back always to the same thing. Sumptuary legislation cannot be enforced in a free community. The Czar Peter might have compelled his subjects to give up brandy as he compelled them to cut off their beards. He needed no aid from public sentiment to give effect to his ukase. But in a free community your law without public sentiment is a dead letter. Prohibitionists may be ready to call upon the Government for vigorous measures, but not one in ten of them would himself help the police in interfering with the private habits of his neighbours. Mere self indulgence, however injurious to the man himself, is no evidence against the State, and people in general cannot be induced to treat it as if it were. Some persons hold tobacco to be "slow poison;" others hold meat to be the same, as, if used in the excessive quantities in which some people use it, undoubtedly it is. Suppose the anti-tobacconists or the vegetarians to be anywhere in a majority, will it be their duty to close by law the shops of the tobacconists and butchers? If we want to change the diet or the habit of freemen, we must do it by argument and example. The end will not be so quickly attained as it would be by the ukase of the despot, but the work will be the more genuine, more lasting, and more truly moral.

Of course anything may be done for the salvation of the State. If drink were proved to be a plague among us, which only exceptional legislation could say, everybody would consent to exceptional legislation. Perhaps strong measures may be necessary in England, where the licensed victuallers constitute a gigantic propaganda of evil, pushing its malignant influence, with the overwhelming force of vast capital, and widely ramifying connections, into every corner of the land, so that two or three cottages cannot be built near each other without at once bringing down the pest upon them. But in Canada all cool-headed observers say that the evil is declining, and that the habits of the present generation are better than those of the last. That there is an increase of moral sensibility on the subject, the exist