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EIGHTH YEAR — FRIDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 14, 1887. — PRICE ONE CENT

THE SOLICITOR'S SUNSET.

THAT'S WHAT THE MAYOR THINKS OF MR. McWILLIAMS' CASE.

The Corporation's Legal Adviser Terribly Arraigned by His Worship—A Lively Scene Before the Court of Enquiry—Secrecy the Cry, but Mac. Calls for the Light of Day—Full Text of the Charges Against Him.

Monday night Mayor Howland handed Assistant City Treasurer Coady a large square package, securely sealed at both ends. Mr. Coady locked the bundle safely in the big city safe, and it did not see the light until yesterday afternoon. That package contained Mayor Howland's charges, reduced to bold writing, against City Solicitor G. W. McWilliams. They are of the most sweeping character.

Yesterday afternoon the special committee appointed by the City Council met to consider the charges. The committee is composed of Ald. Carlyle (St. Thos. chairman), Boustead, Defoe and Rogers. They met at the City Hall. Mr. McWilliams was presented to hear his arraignment by the Chief Magistrate, Mr. Wm. Foster, Q.C., was there, appointed by the Council, to advise the committee in matters of procedure. Before the court opened Mr. Foster walked across the floor muttering: "Wars and rumors of wars." The only spectator besides the reporters was Ald. Macdonald. Mr. Macdonald, for some reason or other, had received a notice to attend the meeting. Before the gathering dispersed he explained his presence by stating that he too had charges to prefer against Mr. McWilliams. He said he would put them in writing and hand them in within three days.

Mr. Coady was clerk of the committee, or more properly speaking, the court. Carefully he broke the seals of the big package which he brought into court, and prod uced sixteen packages of closely-written foolscap. On these were written the charges. With them was a big package of references, newspaper clippings, and letters, all of which were referred to on the margin of the charges.

Then Clerk Coady solemnly began to read the arraignment. It took him three quarters of an hour. At times Mr. McWilliams, who sat on a bench against the wall, arose to explain a point, but the court would not permit it. When Mr. Coady had finished reading a lively discussion followed. The court talked among themselves as to whether the document just read was to be made public or whether it was to be the sole property of the court until Mr. McWilliams had prepared his defence. It was first decided, however, to limit the time for receiving additional charges against the Solicitor to two weeks.

Mr. Foster strongly advised the court not to make the charges public until Mr. McWilliams had prepared his defence. He said it was contrary to court to publish only one side of a case. "I once," he said "made John Ross Robertson pay $300 for publishing a complaint of a bill in chancery without the answer."

Ald. Defoe moved that the members of the committee and Mr. McWilliams only be supplied with copies of the charges. Ald. Boustead was strongly in favor of treating the document with the utmost secrecy until Mr. McWilliams had prepared his defence. "It is a very serious matter," said Mr. Boustead.

Mr. McWilliams, who was taking his conversation all in, jumped up and said: "Gentlemen, there is nothing in this document that the Mayor has not already published against me in newspapers. Give it all the publicity you like!" They are all untrue, and I can answer them without fear when the proper time comes. He then left the room.

This announcement kind of staggered the court. They were not prepared for such a trick. Still Mr. Foster insisted that the document should be kept under seal and only the court and Mr. McWilliams given access to it. He told the court that it had a perfect right to guard its own papers against all outsiders.

Then Ald. Defoe wished to know if the reporters began to edge towards the papers which lay on the table. Clerk Coady covered them with both hands. Chairman Carlyle asked if the reporters were to be given access to the papers. Mr. Foster again interposed. "I think," he said, "that Mr. McWilliams acted foolishly in making the statement he did."

"They are very serious charges," repeated Ald. Boustead. "Why, it almost amounts to the disrobement of a barrister!"

Once more Ald. Carlyle asked if the press were to be given access to the papers. "How do you vote Ald. Boustead and Ald. Rogers?" Neither of them would vote, and they consented to allow the chairman to make the decision.

"The reporters can have it," said the chairman, and he walked away.

The Charges in Detail.

The charges in detail are as follows:

The committee appointed as a result of the report of the sub-committee of the executive, to whom was entrusted the consideration of the reorganization of the solicitor's staff, have reported, by me, to make specific charges against the solicitor, and I think it only right to myself to say that the resolution calling the illegal clause previous to this, what therefore is the inference? If you will refer to another attempted amendment, section 2 of same draft of 1883, which only in part became law, you will notice in the fourth line the words as "hereinafter excepted," and I have no doubt that the effect of these words, if they had been retained by the House instead of being struck out, would have accomplished his purpose of legalizing past errors. I need scarcely say there would be nothing in the inserting of either of these clauses to arouse suspicion in the minds of the large body of ratepayers interested, as to the object and intention in view. I find also no authority from the Council for the insertion of the clauses referred to.

THE HOLT ERASE.

In this matter it has been clearly proven that the original terms of the lease have been altered in such way that the city's interests have suffered thereby. In support of this Mr. Dalton McCarthy's opinion, while it relieves the solicitor on technical grounds from personal liability to pay the loss, states distinctly in the following terms his opinion of this matter:

It is plain that the application of Mr. Holt to the Committee on Property, for lease of the land in question, was for the purpose of erecting a factory for the manufacture of corn starch and dextrine, and I think it is equally plain that the agreement intended by the corporation was that a lease should be given to him for that purpose and for that purpose alone, and I am inclined to think that the lease ought to have been so drawn as to have evidenced the intention of the parties in this respect, and proper provision, I think, should have been made for the enforcement of the agreement.

THE STREET RAILWAY.

I instance three matters coming before my own knowledge.

1. The solicitor's opinion about the Conductors' By-law, holding that it was illegal and declining to certify to it.

In this case the Council were forced to employ other solicitors, with the result that the court fully maintained the by-law as reasonable, and asserted the Council's full right to pass such a by-law.

2. Up to last year the Street Railway Company only paid taxes on all income of $12,000. This, it was surmised, must be wrong, and after considerable difficulty information was obtained which justified me in believing that they declared a bonus dividend in the shape of debentures.

In discussing the matter with the solicitor he opposed the contention as to their liability, and expressed so strong an opinion that they were not liable, that it was necessary to employ other counsel, with the result that their assessment was increased $32,000. If the action had been taken earlier a very much larger amount of assessment would have been obtained.

3. The resistance of the solicitor to try the case as to the street railway's liability for repairs to their portion of the street.

After definite instructions of the Council, and in spite of being pushed in the matter from time to time, he delayed bringing the case to trial for seventeen months.

After many conversations about it, he was written to on Nov. 6 saying that there could be no possible explanation of delay if it was not proceeded with. I had to call the Council's attention to it in my message of Nov. 21.

In these cases we have incorrect legal views of the matters, the expense of employing other solicitors and most extraordinary and unexplainable delay.

STILL ANOTHER CASE.

Another case which shows neglect or worse in submitting and preparing the bylaws is that of the bylaw arising out of the construction of a livery stable on Charles-street. The bylaw was prepared and approved, and in the interest of the residents was pushed through the Council. It was afterwards resisted by the solicitors of Mr. Kiely and was allowed to go to trial by the solicitor without any effort to report the fact of the bylaw being illegal to the Executive or the Council, to prevent the expense and disgrace of an indefensible suit. The Court found the bylaw ultra vires, because the power to make it lay with the Police Commissioners, and not with the Council, and the City of Toronto paid the costs.

Since I have been in office, difficulties, delays and causes of trouble have been traceable to the solicitor's office.

In a great many of these cases I could scarcely put them into such formal shape as this paper requires.

I give one or two cases in which the facts are sufficiently clear to be plainly traced, and though small in importance they will show the careless character of the conduct of the office. With reference to the removal of Ward's and Simpson's houses on the road allowance of the Island, I append all orders of the Property Committee, No. 34, of Feb. 10, instructing the solicitor to remove these houses. Also a further order of the Property Committee giving Ward permission to remain till July 1, provided he gave an agreement to move his house before that date. This was communicated to the solicitor formally.

The next we hear about the matter is a letter addressed to me on July 23 by Ward and in the solicitor's writing, making excuses for not having removed the house, but would remove it at the end of September. I immediately instructed the solicitor to carry out the instructions of the Property Committee, having informed myself that the excuses were merely evasions, as Ward had rented his house. Neither Ward's nor Simpson's houses have so far been removed.

Another matter where the solicitor has taken on himself authority to delay the instructions of Council is that of the Logan-avenue widening. The Council adopted the report of the Board of Works with regard to this matter and confirmed the agreements recommended by the Assessment Commissioner for purchase without arbitration by mutual consent. The solicitor, of his own motion without power from the Council, has delayed the payment of this money since Aug. 4.

I understand that he takes the ground that he proposes to force some system of registration. This may be well enough, but it does not in any way excuse the delay of two months without any reports to Council of his reasons. He thus injustice to the owners of the land, and delays completion of a contract, the essence of which was the promptness with which it should be carried out.

I merely mention this as a type of the character of the arbitrary interferences which have been usual.

Another matter of neglect of a serious character is not carrying out the instructions of the Board of Health reported to Council with regard to the "London House" (Dorwin-avenue Rink). Oct. 20, 1886. The Board of Health notified the owners to abate the nuisances by that date. On Jan. 11 the solicitor reports that the writ to clear out the house will issue at once. By Mr. Leman's letter herewith you will find that action had not been taken, the excuse being given that the proper persons would not sign the necessary papers. I attach notices from the newspapers showing the fatal result of continued residence in this place.

I need scarcely say that if the solicitor really was prevented by any one's refusal to assist him in the matter it was his business to report it.

THE FERRY MONOPOLY.

I would also instance the glaring case of the ferry bylaw. I enclose a copy of my message to the Council with the particulars of his interference in this matter in the Legislature, and also a copy of the "round robin" which he procured through persons interested in the ferry monopoly. In this he first deceived me with regard to inserting the clauses in the City Bill, and then he attempted to interfere with the regular decision of the Council in an improper and unprofessional manner.

Further he showed his interest in this matter when the chairman of the Property Committee and the sub-committee appointed for the purpose had succeeded in getting Mrs. Mead to name a price for her property on the Island. This property the members of the proposed ferry monopoly had been anxious to purchase, and had endeavored to do so through their solicitor.

The chairman of the Property Committee requested the solicitor to draft an agreement between Mrs. Mead and the city, which he declined to do, stating that it must be done through Mrs. Mead's solicitor, who was also solicitor for the proposed ferry monopoly.

I need scarcely say that the committee did not accept his suggestion, but he declined to draw the agreement at all, they were forced to have it drawn by one of the city clerks, and he, not being a lawyer, drew it out in such form as to leave a further liability to the city, costing them $2500 in addition to the original purchase money. The excuse made by the solicitor was, as reported to me by the chairman of the committee, that it would not have been fair to Mrs. Mead to draw up an agreement for her to sign, but as he was quite at liberty to ask her to refer it to her solicitor before signing the agreement, I can only consider that the fact of his refusal, in the light of what has gone before, is significant.

A DESOLATION AT THE DON.

I have also to instance the matter of delays with regard to the expropriation of land on the Don River. On Feb. 23, 1887, the solicitor wrote me asking me to appoint an arbitrator in this matter, which I did promptly. The solicitor instructed the engineer verbally to have Mr. Sankey obtain the descriptions of the lots to serve the necessary notices of expropriation. Mr. Sankey did so, using his best judgment in the matter, having no other than verbal instructions to guide him. So that in a matter involving an expenditure of over a quarter of a million there was an entire absence of legal supervision.

The notices were served. After they were served it was discovered that there were also leaseholders requiring to be served. A lengthened delay was caused until they could be legally served. Then when the property owners were called to appoint an arbitrator they declined to agree.

In this way the time was consumed until the commencement of the legal vacation, and it being necessary to apply to the courts to appoint an arbitrator for the land owners, a further delay until the present time was caused.

Now, I hold that if the solicitor had been thinking about his business he would have given proper instructions to Mr. Sankey, and would have advised him to get leaseholders as well as landowners served, and would have had details in shape in time for application before the vacation.

The result of these delays, one arbitrator informs me, has been that the people have consulted together and have raised their demands so seriously as to the value of land that it will probably cost the city $50,000 more than it would have done if we had had the advantage of a thoughtful and attentive solicitor to exercise only ordinary care and prescience in his business. I attach the solicitor's letter containing statements as to the delay, dated Aug. 1.

THE COST OF ARBITRATION.

I also desire to draw attention to the extravagant cost of arbitrations. The expenses saddled on the city in the way of costs are, I am certain, very much greater than they would be if we had a solicitor who was fighting loyally for the city.

Take the opening of Macpherson-avenue. The total value of the land expropriated was $3267. The following amounts were allowed for law expenses of the different persons interested in this land: Nightingale $425, another owner was allowed $315 costs, in which the land expropriated was only of the value of $150. Again another owner was allowed $315 costs, the land in this case also only of the value of $150. In addition the whole of the arbitrators' fees are charged to the city, amounting to $501, making the total expense $1572 to buy $6200 worth of land.

I may add a further matter of very serious importance, and well known to every member of the Council, is the condition of the solicitor's office. I do not make the explanation more definite, as it is not necessary in the case of members of the Council.

I may say that I have not only resistance in my own duty to complain of, but that very much of the work I would like to do I cannot accomplish unless I look for outside legal assistance. I can get no prompt practical work from the solicitor. He does not refuse it, but he delays and dawdles over it until it is almost useless.

I instance the case of my endeavor to get the Northern Railway Company's improper retention of the city's lands before the courts. Last year I had an interview with Hon. Mr. Pardee, in which I submitted to him my view that the patent for these lands which had been retained by the Ontario Government might be properly submitted to the decision of the Court of Chancery as to whom the lands be issued to. Mr. Pardee saw the reason of this, and I asked the solicitor to follow it up. He dawdled over it until the session was almost on, when he saw Mr. Pardee and he consented, provided Mr. Mowat would be satisfied and would indicate the way in which it could be submitted to the court.

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I think I have done my duty in this matter—a very hard one for me to do—but I am quite certain that any effort which the Council or myself may make towards a thorough administrative reform in the carrying out of the affairs of the city will be practically of little or no avail without a thoroughly loyal solicitor, and an efficiently equipped solicitor's office.

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As the matter rests in your hands, the responsibility for his retention in office must rest entirely on your shoulders.

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It is Thought the Affair Will Lead to a Political Crisis in France.

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CANADA'S COMMISSIONER.

SIR CHARLES TUPPER CHOSEN TO REPRESENT THE DOMINION.

The Appointment Made at the Request of Sir John A. Macdonald—The Knight of Cumberland Declines to Say Anything Regarding His Intentions.

OTTAWA, Oct. 13.—A meeting of Council was held this afternoon at which all the members of the Cabinet were present, with the exception of Sir Hector Langevin, who is still confined to his house by illness, and Hon. Mr. Foster, who was out of town. As was generally expected would be the case at the first full meeting of Council, the question of the Canadian representative on the Fisheries Commission was settled, it being decided that the advocacy of Canada's interests should be entrusted to Sir Charles Tupper, Minister of Finance.

Although there has been a general idea that Sir John A. Macdonald, who so successfully represented Canada on the joint high commission of 1871 which led to the Washington Treaty, would again be the representative of Canada, still the slight feeling of disappointment which might at first be experienced in learning that the veteran Chieftain prefers not to again undertake so arduous a task, will be dissipated on the announcement that the representation of Canadian interests has been entrusted to the able hands of Sir Charles Tupper.

No man in Canada has given more earnest and thoughtful consideration to the whole question of the relations between Canada and the United States than his Sir Charles. In his position as High Commissioner he has been intimately connected from their initiation with the negotiations which have led to the appointment of the present commission. Indeed, the present arrangement may be said to have originated with his visit to Washington last May, and no one is more thoroughly acquainted with all the bearing of the fisheries cases, as well as the commercial question which might arise out of or become incidental to its settlement.

Canadian interests will be perfectly safe in his hands, and there will be a general feeling that, with the exception, perhaps, of Sir John, a more thoroughly satisfactory representative in every respect could not be found.

A Talk With Sir Charles.

Your correspondent had a short interview with him this evening, after his appointment was announced, when he following conversation took place:

"Do you feel at liberty, Sir Charles, to give me any idea of the scope of the commission?"

"Well, not very much, for I may say that the full terms of the commission are not yet quite definitely agreed to. The general line of the subject is clearly defined, but there are some matters of detail which are still the subject of negotiation between the two Governments, and which might beneficially varied. Of course, you understand that in the responsible position I have been called on to fill I have necessarily to be guarded in my expressions so as not to create any false impressions."

"But can you tell me what the general outline of the subject is?"

"I could scarcely do that without entering into details, which it would not be well for me to discuss in view of the position I am to hold on the commission. I can only say that the commission is the result of an interview I had with Mr. Bayard, in which we talked over the whole question of the fisheries and the advisability of a settlement of the difficulties which have led to the present state of affairs. I may say that I have not only resistance in my own duty to complain of, but that very much of the work I would like to do I cannot accomplish unless I look for outside legal assistance. I can get no prompt practical work from the solicitor. He does not refuse it, but he delays and dawdles over it until it is almost useless.

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NOT SETTLED YET.

An Excited Meeting of Those Interested in the Ontario Investment.

LONDON, Oct. 13.—The London Board of Trade rooms were again crowded to the doors this morning and afternoon when the shareholders of the Ontario Investment Association held their second meeting. The shareholders' committee and the directors reported in favor of liquidating.

W. R. Meredith explained that Mr. Sorley and his clients were still obdurate and insisted either on payment or transfer.

Geo. C. Gibbons moved for liquidation, saying that Mr. Sorley and the English capitalists would have to wait a reasonable time for payment.

W. P. R. Street moved for transfer, holding it would be dishonest to realize the profits on moneys obtained by fraud. Mr. Street's motion carried.

Several vacancies on the Board of Directors were filled. Those elected are: Thomas Long, W. J. McIntosh, Allen Pasfitt and J. H. Flack.

The following disclosures were made: Mr. Long of Toronto, who has paid in $40,000, said that in event of following the suggestions of the English boudholders there would not be one cent left for the stockholders out of the assets.

Mr. T. G. Blackstock confirmed the statement made by Mr. Long.

One of the auditors pointed out a list of stockholders who had paid into the association $20,000 in all, and on the strength of those payments have borrowed $239,000.

The vote on the motion for the transfer of the assets was carried on a division of 14,301 for and 10,837 against.

George C. Gibbons said, and Auditor Jewell confirmed the remark, that out of all the votes in favor of transference 10,837 were put in by stockholders who have borrowed more money on their stock than has been paid in.

M. D. Fraser and Thomas Long said they would not submit to the decision of the meeting in the face of so many bogus votes. Others declared they would not submit and several protests were entered against the proceeding. Indeed, the present arrangement may be said to have originated with his visit to Washington last May, and no one is more thoroughly acquainted with all the bearing of the fisheries cases, as well as the commercial question which might arise out of or become incidental to its settlement.

Canadian interests will be perfectly safe in his hands, and there will be a general feeling that, with the exception, perhaps, of Sir John, a more thoroughly satisfactory representative in every respect could not be found.

A Talk With Sir Charles.

Your correspondent had a short interview with him this evening, after his appointment was announced, when he following conversation took place:

"Do you feel at liberty, Sir Charles, to give me any idea of the scope of the commission?"

"Well, not very much, for I may say that the full terms of the commission are not yet quite definitely agreed to. The general line of the subject is clearly defined, but there are some matters of detail which are still the subject of negotiation between the two Governments, and which might beneficially varied. Of course, you understand that in the responsible position I have been called on to fill I have necessarily to be guarded in my expressions so as not to create any false impressions."

"But can you tell me what the general outline of the subject is?"

"I could scarcely do that without entering into details, which it would not be well for me to discuss in view of the position I am to hold on the commission. I can only say that the commission is the result of an interview I had with Mr. Bayard, in which we talked over the whole question of the fisheries and the advisability of a settlement of the difficulties which have led to the present state of affairs. I may say that I have not only resistance in my own duty to complain of, but that very much of the work I would like to do I cannot accomplish unless I look for outside legal assistance. I can get no prompt practical work from the solicitor. He does not refuse it, but he delays and dawdles over it until it is almost useless.

I instance the case of my endeavor to get the Northern Railway Company's improper retention of the city's lands before the courts. Last year I had an interview with Hon. Mr. Pardee, in which I submitted to him my view that the patent for these lands which had been retained by the Ontario Government might be properly submitted to the decision of the Court of Chancery as to whom the lands be issued to. Mr. Pardee saw the reason of this, and I asked the solicitor to follow it up. He dawdled over it until the session was almost on then he saw Mr. Pardee and he consented, provided Mr. Mowat would be satisfied and would indicate the way in which it could be submitted to the court.

I saw Mr. Mowat myself promptly about the matter and he stated that he would look into it at once, if a short statement of the facts were submitted to him. I asked the solicitor to do this immediately, and it has not been done, yet this was about July 1.

I object to the continued logrolling and lobbying in the Legislature, which is neither advisable nor necessary.

A DISLOYAL SOLICITOR.

I think I have done my duty in this matter—a very hard one for me to do—but I am quite certain that any effort which the Council or myself may make towards a thorough administrative reform in the carrying out of the affairs of the city will be practically of little or no avail without a thoroughly loyal solicitor, and an efficiently equipped solicitor's office.

The city, in my opinion, has lost more in what has been left undone in not carrying out promptly and to a prompt conclusion the matters in hand than from any mistakes or legal blunders made, serious as they are.

As the matter rests in your hands, the responsibility for his retention in office must rest entirely on your shoulders.

Respectfully submitted,
W. H. HOWLAND, Mayor.

THE INSANE ASYLUM FIRE.

Seven Inmates of the Institution Were Burned to Death.

CLEVELAND, Oct. 13.—People have been flocking in crowds to the Northern Ohio Insane Asylum to-day anxious to obtain news of friends among the patients. One more charred body was taken from the chapel, increasing the list of dead to 7. Three bodies have not positively been identified, but beyond a doubt the remains are those of Miss Rice, an employe; Miss Ida Allen, a patient from Wayne County and Mrs. Kimberly, a patient from Columbiana County. The injured are doing as well as can be expected and all may recover. Three escaped patients were captured this morning and only two are now unaccounted for.

A STRUGGLE FOR LIFE.

A Midnight Prowler Murderously Assails Five Women.

FOND DU LAC, Wis., Oct. 13.—A burglar entered the residence of Mrs. Wm. Koehne and her four daughters, in the suburbs, early this morning. He made a criminal assault on one of the women, but was unsuccessful. He then attacked the five women with a club, nearly killing all of them. The walls and floor of the house are spattered with blood and everything indicates that a terrible struggle was made by the female victims. The assailant secured $3 and escaped, after first threatening his mangled victims with immediate death if they made an outcry.

The Pacific Express Robbery.

CHICAGO, Oct. 13.—Regarding the Pacific express robbery it was stated yesterday by the Pinkerton agency that Messenger J. B. Owens stole $26,000, which he took to St. Louis and buried near the outskirts of the city. Twenty-three thousand dollars of the money has been recovered, and no doubt the balance will be found. The company will probably not prosecute Owens.

George Francis to be Suppressed.

CHICAGO, Oct. 13.—The Mayor to-day directed the Police Department to summarily suppress George Francis Train and to not permit him to speak again. If he makes any further demonstration he is to be placed in lockup and kept there until he can be legally adjudged insane and committed to a lunatic asylum.

Hi! Hi! Stop that car! and the portly old gentleman who is helped on out of breath and temper in wardly vows that late breakfast and indigestion shall be avoided by buying a Grand Duchess Cooking Range at Wheeler & Rain's.

The Cashier Cleaned Up Out.

STAFFORD SPRINGS, Conn., Oct. 13.—Excitement over the downfall of the Stafford Springs National Bank continues to run very high. The deficit is now placed at $150,000.

Earthquakes in South America.

PANAMA, Oct. 13.—A slight earthquake shock was felt in Valparaiso on Aug. 29. On Aug. 21 a sharp earthquake shock was felt at Rancagua.

Jenny Lind Dying.

LONDON, Oct. 13.—Jenny Lind Goldschmidt is reported to be dying.

UNITED STATES NEWS.

From 2500 to 3000 miners are on strike in Southern Indiana, and there is a coal famine.

The report that Boriben, the filibuster, had been killed near Matanzas has been officially confirmed.

The steamer Newport, from Aspinwall, with the remains of the late Gen. Kilpatrick has arrived at New York.

The Boston and Maine Railway freight depot at Newmarket was burned Wednesday night; loss $35,000 to $50,000.

Kent Evans and James Erven were torn to shreds by the explosion of a boiler near Jackson, O., on Wednesday.

An official statement from Tampa says there were only three new cases of fever in the last twenty-four hours and no deaths.

The schooner Thos. Tarrs, which sailed from Gloucester, Mass., Aug. 19 with a crew of fourteen men, on a fishing voyage, is given up for lost with all on board.

Waterbury is threatened over a series of cowardly anonymous letters threatening duels all growing out of the game of poker. The parties concerned belong to the first families.

Maurice M. Hawkins, a Harvard sophomore, has been expelled from the college for theft. He was caught in the act of stealing $21 from the clothes of another student.

At Chicago yesterday fire destroyed the building occupied by a planing mill and furniture factory occupied by Allan & Bartlett, John Balkwill and John F. Arnot; loss $88,000.

The striking miners and coal laborers at Hazleton, Pa., have not received the assistance that was promised them by the Knights of Labor, and the probability is that the strike will soon collapse.

Don't Forget.

—That the leading housefurnishing and stove emporium in Toronto is at 179 Yonge-street. Everything you want, anything you want, and at prices you want "to buy at."

THE GERMAN SYNDICATE.

IT CANNOT GET THE INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY AT PRESENT.

Mr. Chapleau Denies The Globe Statement That He Favors Commercial Union—The Metis in the Northwest Will Ask to be Indemnified for Rebellion Losses.

OTTAWA, Oct. 13.—Hon. Mr. Chapleau stated in conversation to-day that shortly before he left England some representative of the syndicate, on whose behalf Mr. Kamper had some negotiation with the Government here during last session on the subject of purchasing the Intercolonial, establishing smelting works, etc., had an interview with Sir Charles Tupper and Hon. Mr. Bowell and submitted certain new proposals. The syndicate made an offer with regard to establishing smelting works in Nova Scotia and developing the resources of the province by means of the railway, which it is understood will be submitted for the consideration of the Government. With reference to the purchase of the Intercolonial the capitalists were informed that the Government would not consider the offer for the purchase of that road until after the completion of the Short Line Railway.

Mr. Chapleau on Commercial Union.

Hon. Mr. Chapleau contradicts the statement made by The Globe that he is in favor of commercial union, and denies that his speech at Montreal on Monday will bear any such construction. He said in conversation to-day that the inference drawn by The Globe from his reference to the subject was entirely erroneous, as any one reading his speech could at once see. He distinctly condemned the idea of commercial union as delusive, unpatriotic and, in fact, impossible. He had not, as The Globe said, declared in favor of "unlimited reciprocity," but had simply expressed the hope that a measure of reciprocity in natural products, such as the products of our mines, forests and fisheries, might result from the proposed conference on the fishery question. "Between such reciprocity and commercial union," said Mr. Chapleau, "there is, as The Globe is well aware, a vast difference."

The Half-Breeds to Ask Indemnity.

The Government has received advices that a meeting of the half-breeds at Batoche was held a few weeks ago at which various questions came up. It was decided to circulate a petition to be presented to Parliament next session asking indemnity for losses sustained by the half-breeds during the rebellion. The Metis in this case are following the example pursued by the rebels in Lower Canada in 1837.

Valuable Documents.

During his recent visit to Paris Mr. Marmette, the Assistant Dominion Archivist, analysed over 160 volumes in the office of the French Minister of Marine, covering the period from 1742 to 1763. These historical records will be lodged in the Dominion archives.

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