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The Standard.

OR RAILWAY AND COMMERCIAL RECORD.

Evans sumendum est optimum. —Cic.

No 12] SAINT ANDREWS, N. B., WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 1856. [Vol. 23

Provincial Parliament.

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY.

TUESDAY, MARCH 11.

No business transacted in the morning.
Friday next was set apart to go into consideration of Supplies for the public service.
Hon. Mr. Tilley laid before the House a statement of the Finances of the Province, with accounts of expenses for the past year, and returns, &c.

There was a discussion among members respecting the expenses of the old and new Government.

At half past three o'clock the Attorney-General's Railway Report was laid before the House, accompanied with other documents.

The Hon. Attorney General moved for leave to bring in the following Bills, which were read a first time:—

"A Bill relative to the European and North American Railway."

"A Bill to levy an impost for Railway purposes."

"A Bill to authorise the construction of railways in this Province."

"A Bill to provide funds for the construction of Railways in this Province."

MARCH 12.

The Several Railway Bills received a second reading this morning; the bill relating to extension of Charlotte Street in St. John's, was presented and gave rise to a long discussion on question of suspending rule for the purpose; the St. John's members warmly supported the suspension of the rule, others strongly opposed it—bill finally received by bare majority.

Bill to extend Gaol limits in County of Northumberland involving principle of abolition of imprisonment for debt was postponed for 3 months; during the discussion which took place on the bill, several members expressed themselves in favour of the principle involved.

Additional Railway correspondence was laid before the House in the afternoon. No time fixed for consideration of the Railway Bills—it is not expected they will be taken up before next week.

House again went into consideration of the bill to continue Act to incorporate the Divisions of Sons of Temperance; the speeches made were more directly in relation to the Prohibitory Law than to question under consideration.

An article in the "Temperance Telegraph" of recent date was made subject of animadversions by Messrs Boyd, Street, Smith, and Brown—three former spoke in opposition, and the latter in favor of the bill; speeches were also made in defence of the bill by the Solicitor General and Mr. Tibbitts.

MARCH 13.

There was another discussion in the House this morning in reference to the rule for receiving bills of a local nature—the bill provides for the amendment of the charter of the City of Fredericton and the decision of the resolution in the suspension of the Rules. A bill to amend the act relating to highways introduced by Mr. McLellan, was postponed for three months.

There was a discussion similar to that which took place yesterday on a bill relating to the extension of the Gaol limits for the County of Carleton, bill also postponed three months.

The bill to continue the incorporation of the Sons of Temperance was again taken up, Mr. Stevens in the chair; the bill was opposed by McPhelim, Allen, Gray, J. A. Harding, Waters, and End—supported by the Speaker, McLellan, Connell, McAdam, and Tilley; Mr. Allen moved its postponement for three months, lost by a vote of 14 to 22; Mr. End moved that the charter extend only to 1859, also lost; the bill was read a second time by section, and adopted, the charter to extend to 1863.

MEANNESS EXTRAORDINARY.—Some years ago while Captain Ward was sailing a craft on the upper lakes, a man fell overboard, in the evening. The fact was immediately discovered, and the captain promptly threw a number of loose articles into the lake for the drowning man to seize upon. Among these happened to be a bunch of shingles, from a lot which the imperiled gentleman was having transported on the boat. When the vessel was turned about it was found that this bunch had floated within reach of the man, and that he had sustained himself upon it.

He was taken on board, and without expressing any gratitude for his deliverance, he told the captain with considerable agitation, that he should expect pay for his shingles that had been thrown overboard! Capt. Ward replied that he was sorry—that if he had known the shingles were his he would not have done it!

This is a true story, and when any body can beat it he shall have our hat, and if he

desires it a written acknowledgement of our unqualified belief in the doctrine of total depravity.—*Detroit Tribune.*

Communications.

[FOR THE STANDARD.]

MR. EDITOR,—I observe by your last number that "a Rate Payer" is still troubled with that disease "cacochres scribendi," or in plain words "an itch for writing," which almost always accompanies an interfering, meddling and discontented spirit. The old song does not hold good in this case, as his "skillets" has missed fire—and his unwarranted efforts to cast blame upon a respectable and estimable young man (the Secretary to the Commissioners) for doing his duty, shows the animus which actuates him. It is very evident my random shot has hit the mark, for he observed, he has been more particular in his orthography &c., but at the same time is as full of venom and misrepresentation as before. He calls the attention of the Rate Payers to the "facts and figures" which he says I dare not approach. Let the public be my judge—not "a Rate Payer." Have I not proved that his mis-called "facts" are gross mis-statements, and his "figures" mere conjecture? Again he accuses me of "despising in abuse &c." Indeed! If the exposure of such fastidiously attacks upon peaceable citizens in decent language be abuse—I plead guilty; but I have yet to learn that truth, expressed in moderate language is abuse. I should like to know what do such epithets as "Know Nothingism &c." in his last letter meant! he has not "jumped the set-out of the bag," by his sing at a party in the neighboring Republic, with which the peaceable inhabitants of this place have no sympathy; it is easy to see where the shoe pinches.

Let me recommend a "Rate Payer" to follow the advice of Appelles—"ne autor ultra crepidam" and attend to his own duties and not meddle with village politics. He yawns the ratepayers of the "manifest injustice about to be practised on them by the Commissioners of the Poor, or a portion of them" and states that "Messrs. Bradley and Lochary were not consulted upon the notice." Now here again is a wilful perversion of the truth, as I know from authority which cannot be successfully contradicted—that a resolution authorizing the publication of that advertisement he has chosen to condemn, was brought forward at a full meeting of the Commissioners—moved by Mr. Qdell, and seconded by Mr. Bradley and carried unanimously.

The Commissioners of the Poor, I feel bound to assert are not actuated by party or secular feelings; they appear anxious to conduct the business entrusted to them, with the strictest economy and fairness, and will I trust continue to do so—despite the efforts of a "Rate Payer" to stamp them with partiality and "fanaticism."

The annual meeting of the Rate Payers for the election of Town and Parish Officers is advertised for the 1st proximo. The people will then see whether "a Rate Payer" or your humble servant is correct; and I hesitate not to assert, that a very large majority, will by their votes, elect the present worthy Commissioners of the Poor, whose praiseworthy efforts for the public good, this would be dictator, is desirous of misrepresenting. Of course I do not include in the above the two persons, who he states intend to resign.

Apologizing for having trespassed so much on your columns—and trusting my friends will gird on their armour, and that their watchword will be "no surrender."

I remain,

The Public's Servant,

ANOTHER RATE PAYER.

MARCH 15, 1856.

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE.

It is worthy of inquiry, whether the law or custom in respect to the status of Justices of the Peace in this Province, is not in need of amendment. That Magistrates who are allowed and required to adjudicate on the liberty and property of their fellow-men should be responsible men, will be generally admitted, and yet we are not aware that either in appointing them or displacing them the Executive is bound by any law or custom. In England, we believe, the Justices must be possessed of real estate of the value of one hundred pounds per annum, and in this Province it has been the practice to drop from the Commission those who went through the Bankrupt Court. Now, however, that there is no Bankrupt law, some new rule would seem to be desirable.

Our attention has been called to this subject more particularly from having observed that in a trial under the Liquor Law, in Woodstock lately, it was reported that the presiding Justice admitted that he himself was on the limits for non-payment of a debt; and from having heard that several of the Justices lately appointed are either virtually

Bankrupts or men without any visible property.

We would suggest that a law should be made, or a rule adopted that no person should be appointed a Magistrate who was not possessed of real estate and of such an amount of personal property as would secure his responsibility, and that any Justice failing to pay his debts and allowing a judgment to be recorded against him should thereby be disqualified from acting as a Magistrate and have his name struck from the Commission.—*Courier.*

INSTINCT OF THE ELEPHANT.

The elephant, unwieldy and uncouth as he seems, presents some remarkable features of character, combining the fidelity of the dog, the endurance of the camel, and the docility of the horse, with singular sagacity, prudence and courage.—There are many affecting incidents of his fidelity on record. It is related of one of the soldiers of Pyrrhus, King of Epirus, that when, fighting in the territory of Argos, he fell wounded from his elephant, he rushed furiously among the combatants till he found his master, raised him gently from the ground, and placing him on his back, carried him back to the town.

A similar anecdote is given of King Perus, who, in an engagement with Alexander the Great, meeting with a similar casualty, his faithful elephant is said to have kept the enemy at bay till he had replaced the monarch on his back with his trunk, although the poor animal in this heroic defence was severely wounded. An oriental traveller furnishes some amusing incidents respecting the docility and sagaciousness of this monstrous creature. In his journeys, he says, if he wished to stop to admire a beautiful prospect, the animal remained immovable until his sketch was finished; if he wished for mangoes growing out of his reach, this faithful servant selected the most fruitful branch, and, breaking it off with his trunk for him, accepting very thankfully of any part for himself, respectfully and politely acknowledging the compliment by raising his trunk three times above his head, in the manner of Oriental obsequies. Decile as he is, this noble quadruped seems conscious of his superiority over the rest of the brute creation: a proof of this may be seen in the following circumstance related by another Eastern tourist. Some young camels were travelling with the British army in India, when, having occasion to cross the Jumna in a boat, and the driver, being unable to urge them forward, the elephant was appealed to effect the task. The animal immediately assumed a furious appearance, trumpeted with his proboscis, shook his ears, roared, struck the ground right and left, and blew the dust in clouds toward them. The camels, in their fear of the elephant, forgot their dread of the boat, and they pushed into it in the greatest hurry, when the elephant resumed his composure, and deliberately returned to his post. The celebrated "Jackie" says, "It seems as evident to me that some animals do, in certain instances, reason, as that they have sense."

This certainly derives something like corroboration from the following statement of facts:—

At the siege of Burport, in 1805, the British army, with its countless hosts of followers and attendants, and thousands of cattle, had been for a long time before the city, when, on the approach of the hot season, the supply of water generally failed. On this occasion, two drivers, each with his elephant—one large and strong, the other small and weak—were at the well together. The smaller animal was provided with a bucket, which he carried at the end of his trunk; but the other elephant not being furnished with this useful appendage, seized the bucket, and easily wrested it away from his less powerful fellow. The latter was so sensible of his inferiority openly to resent the insult, though he evidently felt it; but the keepers began to contend and abuse each other. At length the injured brute, watching the opportunity when the other was standing with his side to the well, retired backward a few paces very quietly, and rushing forward with all his might, he drove the adversary into the well. It may be supposed great consternation among the company was the result; and some fourteen hours' assiduous and ingenious labor was required to restore the ponderous animal from his novel, tho' not too pleasant—because cool situation.

If a helpless living creature, or a wounded person lie in his way, the elephant will protect and succor him. An incident is recorded in the history of the siege of Seringapatam, to this effect:—

"I have seen," says the officer referred to, "the wife of a Mahout gave an infant in charge of an elephant, while she went about some business, and have been much amused in observing the sagacity and care of the unwieldy nurse. The child, which, like most children, did not like to lie still in one position, would as soon as left to itself, begin

crawling about; in which exercise it would probably get among the legs of the animal or entangled in the branches of the trees on which he was feeding, when the elephant would in the most tender manner, disengage his charge, either by lifting it out of the way with his trunk, or by removing the impediments to its free progress. If the little creature should happen to stray away too far, its mammoth guardian would lift it back as gently as possible to the spot whence it had started."

NOVA SCOTIA.—Resignation by the Hon. James M. Leed of his Seat as Executive Councillor.

In the Assembly, on the 4th inst., Mr. McKegney, at the desire of the Hon. Mr. Leed, begged to lay on the table of the House a letter from that gentleman detailing the resignation of the office of Executive Councillor, on the 20th Feb'y. He complained that he had been offered the office of Financial Secretary, which had been afterwards given to Mr. Chipman—that the removal of the offices of Comptroller of Customs and Registrar of Shipping, from Sydney to the North Bar, had taken place in his absence from the Province, and his recommendation of a petition on the subject had not been heeded; that he was not consulted as to an appointment in the County whose representative he was, as he should have been, as a Member of the Government; and his retirement was therefore forced on him, as his presence in the Government was no longer advantageous to the public nor honorable to himself.

Hon. Attorney General (Young) would not say a word on the letter at the present moment—nor until the whole particulars were before the House.

Mr. Tupper objected to delay—this matter ought to be embraced in the present discussion.

Hon. Attorney General said that there shall be no unnecessary delay.

NOVEL MODE OF ROBBERY.—The Philadelphia Ledger says, the severity of the weather has taxed the ingenuity of rogues at Camden, N. Y., who have trained dogs to enter enclosures, kill a chicken, goose or turkey, and bring it out on the highway, where their masters were waiting to receive the plunder. Three dogs have been captured, well trained for this species of robbery, which have been doing a profitable business for their masters, at the expense of the farmers.

A return has just been printed of the wrecks and casualties on or near the coast of the United Kingdom, in 1855. The result is deplorable. The total number of wrecks and casualties were, 1141, of 176,544 tons. Of the vessels, 963 were British, 11 colonial, and 116 foreign; of which number were totally wrecked 273; stranded and recovered 246; stranded (but whether totally or partially lost not reported) 167; totally lost in collision 55; seriously damaged in collision 178; slightly damaged in collision 14; leaky and foundered 49; leaky and put back to discharge and repair 47; destroyed by fire 14; found "derelict" 19; dismantled and otherwise damaged 49; abandoned 20.

AN INCH OF RAIN ON THE ATLANTIC.

We have been struck with that passage of Lieut. Maury's "Physical Geography of the Sea," in which he computes the effect of a single inch of rain falling upon the Atlantic Ocean. The Atlantic includes an area of twenty-five millions of square miles.—Suppose an inch of rain to fall upon only one fifth of this vast expanse. "It would weigh," says our author, "three hundred and sixty thousand millions of tons; and the salt which, as water, it held in solution in the sea, and which, when that water was taken up as vapor, was left behind to disturb equilibrium, weighed sixteen millions more tons, or nearly twice as much as all the ships in the world could carry at a cargo each.—It might fall in a day; but occupy what time it might in falling, this rain is calculated to exert so much force—which is inconceivably great—in disturbing the equilibrium of the ocean, if all the water discharged by the Mississippi during the year were taken up in one mighty measure, and cast into the ocean at one effort, it would not make a greater disturbance in the equilibrium of the sea than would the fall of rain, supposed. And yet, so gentle are the operations of nature, that movements so vast are unperceived."—*Scientific American.*

A barrister observed to a learned brother in court, that the wearing of whiskers is unprofessional.

"Right," responded his friend; "a lawyer cannot be too barefaced."

LIQUOR LAW.—The Attorney-General pronounces the liquor law an expensive failure, fruitful only in expense to the State, and in the increase of criminal business.—[*Boston Post.*]

LAW RESPECTING NEWSPAPERS.

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DEATH OF BRAHAM, THE VOCALIST.—The Baltic brings us intelligence that Sir John Braham, the greatest of English singers, is dead. The event took place on Sunday, February 17, at his late residence near London. He died unexpectedly, a full of years and honors. He was the son of a German Jew, and was born in Leman street, London, in 1772. Both his parents died when he was very young. He was consigned to the care of his relatives. In 1794 he became a pupil of Leoni, and in 1797 made his first appearance before the public in Palmer's Theatre, Wellclose square, London. He soon became a favorite, and continued so ever afterwards. The immense fortune which his genius once gained, was lost by unfortunate speculation; but his declining years were passed in comfort, secured to him by his daughter, Lady Walsgrave.

A London paper, in noticing this event, has these comments:—"It was John Braham who, beyond any other man, excited in this country a knowledge and love of the musical art; but the unbounded popularity which he so long enjoyed was derived not so much from the Italian opera, as from the fact that he expressed, in his songs, the national feelings of his time."

A Western pedagogue in "teaching the young mind how to shoot," found it very difficult to impress the letter G, upon the memory of an archer of four years. He finally asked the young hopeful, by way of illustration:—

"What does your father say to the haggis when he wants them to start?"

He! pittingling 2,401 exclaimed the youthful prodigy, his countenance lit up with animation. The teacher has since adopted a different manner of illustrating his subject.

"I rise for information," said one of the dullest of the members of the American Legislature—"I am very glad to hear it," said one who was leaving over the bar, "for no man wants it more than yourself." Another member rose to speak on the bill to abolish capital punishment, and commenced by saying, "Mr. Speaker, the generality of mankind in general." "You had better stop," said one who was near enough to pull him by the coat tail, "you had better stop, you are coming out of the same hole you went in at."

LONG SERMONS.—Very long sermons, especially in dog days, are rarely delivered now by our clergymen. In old days, a short sermon would have disappointed a congregation sadly. Brown, an English humorist of William the III's reign says: "In the late civil war, Stephen Marshal split his text into twenty four parts." Upon this one of his congregation immediately ran out of the Church. Why what's the matter? says a neighbor. Only going for my night-gown and slippers, for I find we must take up our quarters here to night.

THE LAZIEST YET.—The last case of indolence is that related by an exchange, of a man named John Hole, who was as lazy, that in writing his name, he simply used the letter J, and then punched a hole through the paper!

The first railroad in California is in progress of construction, and eighteen miles of track had been laid at the date of the last mail steamer's departure from San Francisco. The road is called the Sacramento Valley.

A COLORED D. D.—A colored man, on Staten Island, who pretends to have discovered a cure for hydrophobia, sports D. D. to his name. Upon being asked why he added these letters, he said, "Kase dat's right—dat's my name in full—Sam Poplar D. D., Dog Doctor."

A father wishing to dissuade his daughter from all thoughts of matrimony, quoted the words:—"She who marries does well; but she who does not, does better." The daughter meekly replied:—"Father, I am content to do well; let these do better, who can."

Gen. Houston, it is stated, is not eligible to the Presidency, from the fact that he has not resided in the United States for fourteen years, as is required by the Constitution.

WEST INDIES.—The Barbados Globe of the 24th January announces the arrival of the new Governor, Mr. Hincks, Royal Admiral Fanshawe, and the new commander of the forces. Mr. Hincks was received by the Hon. Francis Goding and Edward Parker, Esq., of the committee of the Legislature. His Excellency was received with loud huzzas by the concourse of persons that had gathered around, and preceded at once to the Government House.

In Trinidad a series of successful forgeries, to the extent of several thousand dollars, had been committed on the Branch Colonial Bank.