The Weekly Mail.

TORONTO, FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 1876.

NOTICE.

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SPECIAL NOTICE.

Subscribers to the *Weekly Mail*, a paper already affording more reading matter than any other weekly published in Canada, may for the future rely on an extended report of Parliamentary proceedings appearing in our columns. Beautiful new bright type, smaller than that hitherto used for Parliamentary reporting, has been procured, and while the actual difficulty of reading will not be increased, the amount of matter which we are able to provide in this department of the paper will be doubled.

READ.—There is more news and reading matter in the broadsheet of the *Weekly Mail* than in any of the new-fangled weeklies, some of which are printed in a shape purposely intended to mislead the public as to the quantity of their contents.

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THE WEEKLY MAIL.

AN UNPROFITABLE SESSION.

THE Cornwall *Freeholder*, a pronounced Grit sheet, is not very complimentary to its friends in the Dominion Government. Hear it:

"The session of Parliament which closed on Wednesday last appears to have been on the whole an uneventful one. There was a time, which is within the memory of most of us, when the organs of the Party now in power and responsible for the conduct of public business would have stormed with frenzied language at results such as these from a session of Parliament. Now these same organs of public opinion are, some of them, filling the air with praises of their friends, while the Government appears as a whole seem to be in a thankful and satisfied state of mind. On the other hand it has become the part of the Conservative press to sneer at the waste of time and money over what they regard as a wretched schedule of results. Circumstances have in many ways changed since the time of the Conservative regime. The change of place of the Reporter parties from the Treasury Benches to the Opposition side, and vice versa, is probably not the least of the circumstances that have contributed towards accomplishing so great a change in the temper and aspirations of the political organ. The responsibilities of office have a wonderful effect in converting the demagogue."

We would in an opposite manner comment this paragraph to that member of the Government who poured out his troubled soul in his Aurora deliverance, and who then so emphatically asserted that he did not want to belong to a Reform Party which had nothing to patron. The Grit Party has been in power two years and a half; what has it performed? Practical Premier eating his leek to the last bit, though not with due humility. He came into power with the declaration upon his lips that it was part of the settled policy of the Government to utilize the water-stretches along the line of the Pacific railway. He has actually gave out some contracts, and took power to give out others, in the distance between Thunder Bay and Winnipeg, with a view to making what the member for Marquette *once* called an amphibious line, and what subsequently the same member a hermaphrodite line. In the session of 1874, and again in the session of 1875, Dr. TUPPER thundered in opposition against the policy involved in the Government railway schemes. He never lost an opportunity, even in a personal interview, to show the folly of building a half-water half-rail route between Lake Superior and the great grain fields of Manitoba. With the utmost plainness of speech he showed that such a route would remain impassable so long as an all-rail route to American termini would carry immigrants and other passengers into Winnipeg in two days, instead of three or five, which would be wasted in creeping along the hermaphrodite line. Doubtless he spoke with not pleasing to the ears of Ministers. "We have heard that he—"*for*," came scarcely and gruffly across the floor of the House, and Dr. TUPPER did the Premier acknowledge his error. There is not honesty enough in his composition to confess it, though everyone knows that he recognize that all the time Dr. TUPPER was right and he wrong. He waited until the closing days of the session to tell the people of Canada that he had annulled the contract on the Port William and Lac des Milles Lacs section; that new surveys had been made, and that the "approved" line would diverge to the north of Lac des Milles Lacs. There is no reason why it should not be so, seeing that for a reason for this change. The brief discussion which followed the Premier's motion in the House tells the tale.

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We will henceforth have to speak more respectfully of these modern Greeks than of those from whom we inherit our Public virtue evidently still survives in Athens, seeing that the crime of accepting a bribe for appointment to office is there much more surely punished than in Washington. In the company we are now keeping Greeks will have the advantage over the Americans, and our neighbours should really take the matter to heart, and profit by the example which the Greeks have set them.

A PROPOSED PURCHASE OF PALESTINE.

THERE was a piece of news in the cable despatches the other day, of which we may certainly say that it is "important, if true." We are informed from London that "the *Jewish Chronicle* says that "Turkey is considering the proposition of a Jewish bondholders, in conjunction "with some of other denominations, to "exchange their bonds for land in Syria. We can scarcely imagine the cable despatch sent saying that this had appeared in print, if it had not, or yet that the journal named would make such a statement except on good authority. The heavy financial embarrassment of the Turkish Government is, again, the obvious reason why the statement must specially challenge public attention at the present time. Within the last few weeks startling revelations have been made of the desperate straits to which the Sultan's financial providers have been driven. One million dollars was wrung from the Turkish bondholders by bringing about the appointment of four Archbishops, being, in fact, what the law calls simony. The reason assigned for this transaction is as follows: On the overthrow of the Bulgaris Ministry, the late Opposition sought to punish those who had ridden roughshod over the rights of their fellow Deputies. The Public Prosecutor of the Court of Appeals in Athens, a friend of the present First Minister, petitioned the House to inquire into the conduct of the Minister of Justice and the Minister for Ecclesiastical Affairs with regard to the appointment of four Archbishops, setting forth the grounds of the belief that the Ministers had been corrupt. A committee of five members was forthwith appointed to investigate the truth of the allegations, and to act as prosecutors in the event of the defendants being committed for trial. Witnesses were examined before the Committee, and the ex-Ministers were arrested on the 13th of November last.

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"that he supposed the idea and the object of the Canadian Government were to have the boats from the Upper Lakes to bring cargo from Canada through the canals and down the Hudson to New York. This, he said, was prevented by reason of the above-mentioned provision of the law with regard to the first port of entry, and because neither the Welland nor the St. Lawrence canals could be unload at such places in any of the Lake Ontario Collection District in the United States as the Secretary of the Treasury may designate, provided he is satisfied that similar privileges are extended to United States vessels in Canadian waters. What reply the authorities at Washington will make to the despatch containing this intimation remains to be seen.

It thus becomes evident that it was an utter mistake to shift the responsibility for the non-fulfilment of the obligation of the Treaty of Washington from Washington to Albany. It is a matter which rests altogether with the Federal authorities; and it is not even able to them that they should interpose a doubtful Federal enactment to neutralize the provisions of a Treaty to which they were a principal. If they desire to be honest they have been shown a way in which honest treatment of the Canadian people can be, if we can see, the violation of statute law; but if they may still say that the statute law does not enable them to carry out the provisions of the Treaty it is within their power, as it is their duty, to see that the law is so amended as to give full effect to the Treaty. Should they refuse to do this, the course of our Government will be plain. Every Canadian must feel that there is too much force in the remark made a few days ago by the Premier in the House of Commons, that it is scarcely possible to be fair working of any Treaty with the United States Government.

THE WATER STRETCHES ABANDONED.

AN Administration which steps from blunder to blunder is averse to having its many sins painted in bright colours. It only requires to remember this fact to understand why Mr. MACKENZIE's organ and Dr. TUPPER in season and out of season. We owe it to the member for Cumberland that by a vigorous and persistent exposure of the iniquities of Mr. MACKENZIE's railway patch-work, portions of the scheme which emanated from the Premier's brain as the perfection of practical wisdom have been rejected. Under ordinary circumstances an indebtedness of this character would produce something like thankfulness, if not gratitude. We are not surprised, however, that the Premier does not feel thankful or grateful. He is nothing if not practical. And when the utter impracticableness—the absolute insanity—of some of his undertakings is exposed, he can not but wonder, perhaps, that, instead of speaking kindly of those who have been the means of leading him to abandon them, he should still have his organs to assume an offensive attitude.

It is, however, as to the "magnificent scheme" referred to in the head of this practical Premier eating his leek to the last bit, though not with due humility. He came into power with the declaration upon his lips that it was part of the settled policy of the Government to utilize the water-stretches along the line of the Pacific railway. He actually gave out some contracts, and took power to give out others, in the distance between Thunder Bay and Winnipeg, with a view to making what the member for Marquette *once* called an amphibious line, and what subsequently the same member a hermaphrodite line. In the session of 1874, and again in the session of 1875, Dr. TUPPER thundered in opposition against the policy involved in the Government railway schemes. He never lost an opportunity, even in a personal interview, to show the folly of building a half-water half-rail route between Lake Superior and the great grain fields of Manitoba. With the utmost plainness of speech he showed that such a route would remain impassable so long as an all-rail route to American termini would carry immigrants and other passengers into Winnipeg in two days, instead of three or five, which would be wasted in creeping along the hermaphrodite line. Doubtless he spoke with not pleasing to the ears of Ministers. "We have heard that he—"*for*," came scarcely and gruffly across the floor of the House, and Dr. TUPPER did the Premier acknowledge his error. There is not honesty enough in his composition to confess it, though everyone knows that he recognize that all the time Dr. TUPPER was right and he wrong. He waited until the closing days of the session to tell the people of Canada that he had annulled the contract on the Port William and Lac des Milles Lacs section; that new surveys had been made, and that the "approved" line would diverge to the north of Lac des Milles Lacs. There is no reason why it should not be so, seeing that for a reason for this change. The brief discussion which followed the Premier's motion in the House tells the tale.

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GRIEVANCES OF LAKE ERIE FISHERMEN.

A CORRESPONDENT writes us from Leamington, County of Essex, detailing certain grievances of Canadian fishermen along the north shore of Lake Erie. To understand them it is necessary to be informed of various peculiarities of lake and river fishing at and near the junction of the Detroit river with Lake Erie, as set forth by the writer of the letter herein. In the Detroit River, Colchester and the Rond Eau the lake bottom is so thickly strewn with logs and snags that there is no fishing to be done except with pound nets. But the swift current of the Detroit river does not allow these obstacles to accumulate there, and fishing is done with the seines, and small trout are the game; a difference which is greatly against those fishermen whose lot it is to labour among snags and logs. The fishing season is limited by law, and what the fishermen consider heavy license fees have to be paid by the proprietors of several of the lake fishermen, paying $30 for the season. All that the fishermen have is invested in the business, and, after having been all winter idle, they spend but mending nets and such like, it is a heavy grievance to them if in the spring anything turns up to prevent their getting the best of the season. An order from the Department of Marine and Fisheries to the effect that "no fishing will be done" "for, catch, kill, buy, sell or have in possession" any pickerel or maskinonge between the 15th of April and the fifteenth of May, any bass between the fifteenth day of May and the fifteenth day of June, any whitefish between the tenth day of November and the 1st of December, or any fresh water herring between the fifteenth of October and the first of December."

A principal grievance with the fishermen is, that no man can "set a pound" or seine in any place without getting what they call a license *bonus of fish*. At one period of the year the net should catch no bass, and at another time no herring; but unfortunately the law does not allow the departmental regulations, and so congregate several kinds together, when, according to law, they should be careful to keep themselves in their separate and respective ranks. If, when caught out of season, they are not thrown overboard in the lake, they return to the water in a crippled or dying condition, and future fishing prospects are little or none the better for it. But on Lake Erie, if in the lake in the "land of liberty," a different state of matter prevails. There the shore is literally lined with "traps" and nets, frequently ten or twelve of them in one string. The American Government imposes no license upon its citizens for fishing, and, besides, allows them to fish at all times and seasons without let or hindrance. And so, while our side of the lake is by the Dominion Government made a carefully preserved breeding place for fish, the far greater part of the benefit goes to our neighbours. We annoy and impoverish our own fishermen, in order that fish may breed for the benefit, not of ourselves, but of citizens of the United States. The present arrangement suits well enough a few fishermen on both sides of the Detroit river, but to the lake fishermen, more than ten times their number, as our correspondent says, it is a heavy grievance.

On the Canadian side of the lake, and in the neighbourhood mentioned, the fishermen are in some doubt that spring by reason of the severity upon them of the departmental negotiations. They see, meaningly, their neighbours just over the water fishing away, and hauling grand and profitable hauls, while they dare not move a net, and while their families have to suffer. The fish know nothing about the boundary line, and cross the lake as they please, with this result, that on the American side they are caught, while on the Canadian side they are not. Our correspondent says that during the warm weather, when the fish are known to congregate in large shoals, they are scarcely fit to eat, while they are at their best for food at the time when the law prohibits their being caught. He says that orders have been received that all nets must be taken out, not to be put in the ponds again before June 15th. So it comes to this, no fishing for pickerel from April 15th to May 15th, no fishing for bass from May 15th to June 15th; which means *two months of no fishing at all*. The first month you dare not throw your net, for fear of catching pickerel; the second month you dare not throw it for fear of catching bass. And all this time we are dwelling fish for the use of our neighbours, who fish at all times and seasons without let or hindrance. And so, while our side of the lake is by the Dominion Government made a carefully preserved breeding place for fish, the far greater part of the benefit goes to our neighbours. We annoy and impoverish our own fishermen, in order that fish may breed, not for our benefit, not of ourselves, but of citizens of the United States. The present arrangement suits well enough a few fishermen on both sides of the Detroit river, but to the lake fishermen, more than ten times their number, as our correspondent says, it is a heavy grievance.

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GRABBING TOO MUCH.

IF books intended to convey moral instruction to aspiring youth the advice to "aim high" is frequently repeated in various forms. The advice is in the main good, no doubt; and there is a strong smack of worldly wisdom in the old Scotch proverb, "*try for a silk gown and you may get a shoe on*;" the world honours most those who aim highest and succeed—the conferring of reputation upon the individual, making the world none the poorer. It is not so, however, when it is simply a matter of the exchange of money's worth in one form for money's worth in another form. Indeed, they who aim too high may find that they have overshot the mark altogether, and have hit nothing. There is such a thing as grabbing for too much, and in Ottawa, unless we are much mistaken, and a blunder of this kind is now charged upon several leading American railway companies by the New York *World*.

It has been the public expectation that there would this season be a considerable reduction in railway fares, in view of the vast multitudes that would visit the Centennial Exhibition at Philadelphia. The railway companies, it appears, have been in council together on the matter, and have decided that the reduction is to be 25 per cent. of regular rates, for all points west of Chicago, and 20 per cent. on all this concession, which has been praised in some quarters, is wholly inadequate to the occasion, and amounts to a job for the railways depending on Southern and Western traffic. The people, so our correspondent says, are not in a mere liberal concession than this. "There is," says the Philadelphia correspondent, "a large number of strangers, of rich and third, and fourth-rate merchants and storekeepers and professional men in cities and towns, thrifty folks in the villages, farmers, planters, and others whose means are too limited to be trifled with. Then there are large numbers of poor people and intelligent citizens even poorer than these, who have been denying themselves luxuries for a year or two in anticipation of greatly their finest tastes and give their children something to remember, by a visit here. No doubt the greater part of these will renounce the pleasure of coming at all when they ascertain the railroad rates that will soon be promulgated." And the *World* gives it as his opinion that nothing short of fifty per cent. reduction, or one-half, will meet the general demand.

We are inclined to think that this is a wise estimate of probabilities, and that the railway companies would not only have pleased the public, but promoted their own interests had they with boldness and liberality combined, taken the resolve to have the Centennial year giving return tickets for the regular fare one way. Such a decision on their part would have been hailed by the thousands of thousand visitors whom the meagre reduction of twenty-five cents off the dollar will not induce to take the trip. There is a feeling about the idea of going a journey for just half the usual cost that would "take" wonderfully with "the million," and would have brought them out. But, it will be asked, could the companies afford it? We think that men full of energy and enterprise at half rates would pay better than carrying grain at present full rates from Chicago. It is the companies' business that pays, if you can only get the cars full. Nobody would blame the companies if, while reducing fares to just one half, they were to announce that they would start unless full, or nearly so, of passengers for the through journey. The Author of "Ten Years in Congress" says that these three years past from unprumunerative freight carrying, and sometimes from carrying no freight at all, the roads in this seems to us that it would be their wisdom to seize the golden opportunity which the Centennial year offers them, of making some of the best investments for them they ever made in any six months before.

THE COLONIAL OFFICE LIST.

THE different branches of English public service each have their own annual record, full of interest not only to those whose names are therein enrolled, but to a great number besides, who, for some reason or other, are concerned either generally or specially in the peculiar subject of which they treat. If the readers of the Colonial Office List, which has now reached its fifteenth year of publication, are less numerous than those who scan the pages of some other official periodicals, they are yet sufficiently numerous to make it worthwhile the information purporting to be supplied by it should be decorous and trustworthy. It may be said that it is a matter of very little importance whether it is published to the world at large this JOHN SMITH or WILLIAM ROBINSON hold a particular office at a particular salary, the general public probably care nothing about either of them. But those who refer to the pages of such a periodical as this may fairly expect to find therein a reasonable amount of accuracy, which, if they miss, the Colonial Secretary whose official personal name appears at the head of the list, and the Colonial Office whose official personality is represented by the Queen's Bench Office, will be the parties who will have to bear the blame. The compiler of the Colonial Office List is necessarily dependent on some other Department of the Colony for the information of which he is in need; and it is not too much for him to expect that it should be supplied to him readily and accurately. Might we venture to suggest that this is one piece of work in which a Lieut.-Governor would generally give satisfaction, with but little risk of interference from a Ministry jealous of its privilege of restricting his communications with the public, and the duty of signing his name to whatever documents they may please to submit to him?

MANUFACTURE OF COCOA.—We will pay Messrs. James Epps & Co., of the Homœopathic Chemists, 48 Threadneedle-street, and 112 Bond and Cheapside, London.—See article in Cassell's *Household Guide*.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

BY ALLAN STEAMER.

From Liverpool, April 6th.

THE MEDITATOR OFFICIAL PAPERS.

The Mistletoe papers have been published. Among them is a letter from the Secretary to the Admiralty announcing the decision that the case of the Meditator is not a proper one for an official inquiry. Their lordships hold that Captain Welch is responsible, and consider, in accordance with the finding of the Court, that the course steered by the Alberta should have been such that she could not have been brought into collision with the Mistletoe through any alteration of course made by the latter. They do not, however, think, therefore, acquit Staff-Captain Welch from blame in not having exhibited sufficient care and caution in the use of his sailing vessel (a sculler), and he is to be reprimanded accordingly. The Lords of Admiralty have offered Mr. Heywood, the owner of the Mistletoe, £3,000, and this he accepts, considering the compensation, as owing to the letter which contained the offer, he says, "it closes the story of a very painful event, and the Mistletoe will never be in." Mr. Hiscock, whose son was broken in collision, has been granted £500 compensation, and Mrs. Stokes, widow of one of the crew who was drowned, has received £200 and Mrs. Hughes, the widow, £400. The Lords of the Admiralty have informed Admiral George Elliott, the Prince of Wales's Equerry, and chief of Prince Leiningen's attention is "frequently and unremitably taken up by attendance on the Queen during the time which fall most properly under this title. Any worn-out hack reader of sensational literature, a victim of sensation novels, or Mr. Charles Coldstream is of natural phenomena and social entertainment, and convinced that when Barrer is "in the vein" he is accountable for "There's nothing in it," may find a compelled, if not a healthy stimulant in the paper. For if the characteristics of mirror-glycerine and solidified gun cotton are not to be found in the imaginations to affect the nerves, he may, at least, find "much more attractive" in the explosive salts of nitrogen, and the fulminates of silver, gold, platinum, and mercury. The mere fact that the preparation of these fearful agents of destruction has ceased to be a mystery of the chemist's laboratory, and has become one of the established branches of "British manufactures," is sufficiently curious.

DON CARLOS IN LONDON.

On April 1st Don Carlos held a reception at Downing Street, when he was visited by about a hundred gentlemen, English and foreign, Protestant as well as Catholic, including several Roman. The "Pretender" himself somewhat *pire* in London, and said he was very well pleased rather too formal for him. He has not at all intention of going to Austria, and he does not intend to be in Spain for some time to come. In fact, says a London correspondent, he evidently feels what any sensitive man would feel, that the Spanish people, who naturally might be expected to feel in his circumstances, while his position is so doubtful. He addressed a few words in Spanish or French. The latter language seemed to be more expected. Some of the ladies tried, he is very shaky, and in English still more so. The London correspondent of Glasgow Herald says that "Don Carlos, I understand, has taken so much affection for life amongst those who advocate Home Rule, which is the Spanish form of Home Rule, that he proposes to live in England. Captain Nolan, whose agent has just left St. Sebastian, and who is known to Carlist tenants, might perhaps offer him the vacant post. On the other hand, the presence of so rich a noble noble in Home Rule Ireland in princely state in Ireland ought to do some good to the country, and, if it enthusiastic Monarchy, at least of the Spanish type. We may live to see trouble come of this apparently simple proposal."

A SURPRISE LETTER.

Professor Huxley has had an agreeable surprise. Opening his letters he found in one a cheque for a hundred pounds, sent by Mr. Thomasson, of Bolton, on behalf of his lately deceased father. Huxley did not know the donor's name, but Thomasson had greatly admired him.

DEATH OF MR. HOME, THE SPIRITUALIST.

Mr. Home, the well-known spiritualist, Douglas Home, the well-known spiritualist, Latterly he had resided at Venice, and was there engaged in work on spiritualistic and psychological research. Mr. Home was born in 1833, near Edinburgh. He was brought up by his uncle, Mr. Home, who, it is understood to have been extensively connected with the Hudson's Bay Company. In 1856 he was taken by his uncle to America, where he was shortly afterwards, in Connecticut, he first began to exhibit his peculiar powers. He was a sickly boy, and was, from his boyhood, subjected to spiritualistic influences. Mr. Home was