

GRAPHIC.

DEATHS—THE SESSION—DENIES RYANS IN THE COUN—RYANS UNTRUTH—ESS—&c. &c.

Frederickton, March 5. The death of Mr. Covert was a great loss to the Opposition and when they look at the death...

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hours upon a subject without more information than is necessary to drive home the points he desires to make.

Biggars personal appearance is as peculiar as his mental characteristics. He is little over five feet in height, hump backed and stout—with strongly marked and expressive features, betokening the audacity, energy, swiftness and recklessness of the man.

Like Parnell he is a total abstainer and venerable him also in avoiding the attractions of society and remaining in a state of single blessedness.

He is one of the wealthiest men connected with the movement, and has not spared his means in promoting the cause.

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LOCAL MATTERS.

Last week a man named John Vickers belonging to the Northwest, and working in the employ of Thomas Brown, who is a lumberer at Hutchison on the Bonanza, was badly hurt by the limb of a falling tree and had to come home.

A gentleman from Bartibogue says that the recent hail storm made sad havoc among the young pine and orchard trees in that place, breaking the limbs of the former and literally destroying the latter.

Two Horses Killed, etc. A team belonging to Mr. J. McDonald with a sled load of logs attached, fell over the landing at the brow on Tabunatic the other day, and were both killed. Mr. J. McDonald's son was driving the team, and he also fell over, and had his leg broken.

Bank Notes. We are pleased to hear that our esteemed friend, Mr. W. Hudson Matthews, who lately left the branch bank here, has made a still better change than we stated some time ago in the STAR.

He has not been stated in Brockville but in the Montreal Bank at Toronto. We wish Mr. Matthews every success; and are indebted to him for late Toronto papers.

Something about Frasers. The Frasers seem to be a lucky as well as a talented sort of people. For example: there is one Fraser a portfolio bearer in the Newfoundland Government, there was a Fraser in the late Nova Scotia Government, there is a Fraser at the head of the New Brunswick Government—the noblest Roman of them all—and there is still another Fraser in the Ontario Government. What other family can beat this?

St. Patrick's Society. The regular monthly and quarterly meeting of this Society will be held in St. Patrick's Hall, Chatham, on Monday evening next 7th inst., at 7 p. m. A full attendance of the members is requested. Irishmen generally, who wish to join the society are respectfully invited to do so. An effort will be made to restore the society to its former condition. Steps will be taken at this meeting to properly celebrate the annual festival of the Society—St. Patrick's day.

Building Notes. Mr. Manuel Fernandez has nearly completed a two story residence opposite Middle Island, for Mr. Andrew McIntosh. The house is 22x32 with large ell. It is built on the late William Grey's farm which was purchased by Mr. McIntosh some time ago. Mr. McIntosh will move into it early in June.

Two new buildings at Black Brook owned by Wm. Kelley of Napan and Mr. Dally, respectively, have been nearly completed, and will probably be occupied by their respective owners the coming summer.

Mr. James Desmond has put the Winn building in two story form, which will when painted present an imposing appearance.

Mr. J. McDonald is building a fine residence in town for Mr. Perley of Rock Heads. The building is 22x34 two story high with large ell.

Mr. Francis Martin's new residence on cor. of Cunard and Church Streets, is nearly finished outside.

The office of Guy, Bevan & Co. at Black Brook, is to be thoroughly fitted up and improved for the transaction of business the coming summer.

The Alnwick J. P.'s. We have had a letter from "Ratpayer of Alnwick" on hand for some time past, but there is no use in prolonging a discussion which can do no further good. We do not know what the morals of the Alnwick Justices are, but we do know that the morals of some J. P.'s are most scandalous, that they not alone are content to let others break the very laws they are appointed to see enforced, but actually offend themselves.

The writer travelling through Kings County three years ago, was obliged to put up at a country inn that had no license to sell liquors. There was a gathering there that night, and among the number were two magistrates. They bought and paid for the liquor unlawfully sold, and on enquiry if this monstrous conduct was exceptional, the writer was informed "O all the squires about here do that." And worse than this, the writer was informed in the morning that one of the number got intoxicated through being, and was bested nearly to death by two or three bottles, the magistrates looking on. Coming from a country where every Tom, Dick and Harry cannot be made a magistrate, whose position implies respectability, good standing, intelligence, good moral conduct, and generally some acquaintance with the law, the writer was shocked; set down, wrote the facts to the St. John Telegraph, which paper refused to publish them because the man in whose house the fandango was held, was a "prominent gentleman," and agent for the Telegraph. It is the same, the writer has reason to believe, in other countries too, and perhaps it would be too much to expect that all the J. P.'s in Alnwick are above the reproach common to the order of squirehood; though we know that some of the Alnwick justices are gentlemen of unquestionable integrity, and a credit to the commission they hold. We do not wish to keep the Alnwick discussion above ground any longer—so far as it has gone, it may have done some good, has done at least no harm; but to continue it further can do no good, and we decline correspondence at hand now, and close our columns against further reference to the matter.

SHIPPEAN NOTES.

Alexander Boyd, Esq., and Adolphe Ache, Esq., have been appointed to take the census in this parish, much to the sorrow of our Grit friends.

The people around St. Senion river are still fishing smelts with bag nets, and there seems to be no one to stop them. They are catching some bass, also in bag nets. If this is allowed to go on long the bass will soon be destroyed.

The people are hauling brush and stone etc., to finish the Government works here, and that will help some of them along as a goodly number of them are pretty badly off for provisions.

Mr. Geo. Young has the contract for building the light house on Poksnoedie, (Lower Caraquee).

Miller & Gatain are down here making 100,000 cans for their factory at Cape Bateau. Samuel Bishop of Bathurst, is also putting his new factory in working order, and bye and bye there will be no more lobsterers!

Government makes the mistake for taking lobstermen much shorter than what it is at present, and put a license on the traps.

Yourself, A. SUBSCRIBER.

NOTES FROM THE CAPITAL.

Night sessions of the Local Legislatures on Monday evening. The series of dances held in the Masonic Hall for the last three months were brought to a very pleasant close last Monday evening with a social and a supper. A very large number were in attendance, in spite of the storm, and the supper supplied by Mr. J. Parks which was excellent was served in good style in the Masonic Temple.

The concert and lecture in the Temperance Hall on Monday evening in aid of the Church of England Temperance Society Building funds was very poorly attended. The programme was not very well rendered.

The ball at the Barker House was a perfect success. The invitations were given on Monday, thus allowing the ladies very little time to prepare for the entertainment, but nevertheless the house was crowded, and if it had not been for the excellent arrangements of Mr. Orr, the affair would have been a failure.

The case of Diffin vs. Dow, which was not finished at the last nisi prius sittings of the Supreme Court, was taken up yesterday, but on account of the illness of Judge Duff has been again adjourned until the 22nd of this month.

At the second meeting of the City Council, last evening, Alderman Farrell spoke well, and now the acknowledged orator of the board.

Mr. John Wedall has purchased the stock in trade of the late Thos. Logan, and will carry on business at the old stand.

CELESTES. The Weights and Measures Tariff. Twice already in the STAR have we called the attention of the authorities, if there be any, to the violations of the laws providing for the use of standard weights and measures, in Chatham and elsewhere. What we said on these occasions, has had no more effect than the baying of a dog has on the moon. The same irregularity goes on, and we suppose in the interests of the public it develops upon us to state the case again. The law fixes a certain measure as the standard, and prescribes that, commanding its use under certain penalties. It does the same with respect to weights. But in this town it is not the exception to the rule, but the rule itself, to have the old measure and the new measure in the same store, and the old weights and the new weights. This the shopkeeper has to do to protect his business: for if he sell a gallon of molasses in the standard measure, and charge 45 cents for it, another dealer will sell it in the unlawful measure, which being smaller, he can do for 40 cents or a little over. The purchaser does not enquire into the difference between the measures, he only knows he "got molasses from one man for 40 cents, but another dealer charged him 45 cents," so says he, "I will go to the extortioner no more." Consequently if a man ask for a gallon of molasses or a gallon of oil, now in Chatham, the shopkeeper asks the "Old measure or new measure?" These violations go on every day, and every hour, and it would not be very difficult for the authorities to find a few cases. Perhaps there is no officer for Miramichi we have never heard of him being here, if there is, at any rate. In that case, suppose the Government appointed one.

Black Brook Notes. The lot from Middle Island to Black Brook is literally lined with shanties, hardly any of the shermen having taken them up yet.

Mr. Robert Crawford of Chatham, went down on Wednesday, and numbered the pews of the R.C. Chapel. There are thirty pews in this little chapel, all of which have been leased for three months. Father Morrissey, of Bartibogue, is the pastor, and comes every second Sunday to Black Brook. The tabernacle, which was purchased in Montreal, was put up some time ago, and is a nice piece of workmanship.

Mr. F. P. Loggie has returned from Poksnoedie. Messrs. A. & E. H. Loggie, besides doing a large business in the dry goods and grocery line, have done a large sum in shipping business. The firm has by courtesy and attention to business ranked themselves among the leading firms on the Miramichi.

The roads from Chatham to Black Brook are in a scandalous state. Teams loaded are compelled to unyoke to get past each other, the roads being left to the mercy of the weather.

Lumbering in Trande. There has been, or will have been by spring, nearly 3,000,000 feet of logs on Trande this winter. It is principally for B. & J. Messers and will be saved at the Trande mills, and thence conveyed to Chatham in woodboats. Mr. J. A. McDonald has now put 3,000,000 feet on the South Branch of Trande, has 18 teams and 90 men in, and works for Stewart.

DEATH OF MR. J. S. COVERT.

We learn the following particulars from Frederickton respecting the death of Mr. J. S. Covert:— The House is in mourning this morning, and all hearts are sad. John S. Covert, of the Bonanza, died at the Queen Hotel at 10 o'clock Thursday morning of heart disease. He made a powerful speech on Mr. Blair's resignation yesterday afternoon, in which he spoke with unusual force and vigor, but he complained of a severe pain in the region of the heart, both while speaking and afterwards. While at tea, he was taken suddenly very ill and was not in the House during the evening session till he was brought when the vote was about to be taken, at which time he was much better. Although suffering, he said but little about it. After adjournment he seawarded quite freely with the members of the House before returning to the hotel. Later several members were in company with him at the hotel, and although pale, he was not complaining, but talked as lively as ever. How he spent the night will never be known, but he was somewhat better when Mr. Gillespie called in to see him before going to breakfast. Mr. Gillespie was gone but a few minutes when Mr. Covert awoke, he found Mr. Covert lying on the floor of his room partly dressed, face downwards. Mr. Covert was gone. Mr. Covert was still a slight flutter in the region of the heart, but he was gone. Mr. Covert died at the political hall having finished one of his ablest speeches only a few hours before.

When the House met this morning, after a few bills had been read, a message was sent to the Speaker advising him of the fact.

After a momentary pause, with trembling lips and deep emotion in every word the Speaker said: "It is my painful duty to announce to this House the sudden death of an honorable member of this House." Another pause, in which a moment's suspense seemed to pass, and the Speaker mentioned the name of the honorable member for Sunbury. The House was paralyzed for a moment, and all gathered around the Speaker's chair to learn the sad particulars.

Both Houses have adjourned in consequence of the sad news, and all committees have been postponed. No inquest was held. The remains will be taken to his home at Margerville in a few days. A. A. Sterling, Esq., his brother-in-law, has gone down to Empark, the place of his birth.

PARNELL AND THE GOVERNMENT. Mr. O'Kelly, who is in Paris with Mr. Parnell, on Sunday wrote a long letter to Archbishop McCabe defending the course taken by himself and Mr. Parnell in the recent negotiations with the Parisian press, and protesting against the letters of men like Bellingham and Mr. Parnell nor myself sought the alliance of any party in France. We have appealed to French publicists of all parties and all shades of opinion.

Mr. Parnell and Mr. O'Kelly had a long interview with the Cardinal Archbishop of Paris, at the Episcopate Palace, on Monday morning. They were received with great courtesy. The Archbishop appeared to take a lively interest in the state of Ireland. He earnestly counselled moderation, and deprecated any departure from legal agitation. Mr. Parnell seemed satisfied with the result of the interview.

Mr. Parnell says he intends to devote next week to visiting the prominent Paris journalists whom he was unable to see when he was last over. He will return to London in time to take part in the first discussion on the Land Bill.

River Improvements. The dredging of the Horse Shoe has done a great deal of benefit to the navigation of our river. As we pointed out lately another season's work of the dredge will complete this valuable work. But there are other matters connected with our river that require attention. Most of the vessels arriving here from England, France, etc., come in ballast. This ballast generally consists of sand, gravel or rubbish. It is discharged at ballast wharves at various points on the river. It is important that these wharves should be properly constructed so that none of the ballast may be carried into the channel.

We learn, however, that in many places, the wharves consist of a few logs placed haphazardly in the river, without any protection on the sides, and consequently most of the sand and rubbish is carried away by the tide, and deposited in the channel. We understand that the channel opposite Douglastown is rapidly becoming shoaler, and that in a short time heavy vessels loading at Newcastle will have to come to Chatham to complete their cargoes. The constant accumulation of this sand and rubbish in the tide way must necessarily affect the river fisheries. During last season also, we have been told, quantities of slabs and edgings were constantly set adrift from some of the mills, and could be seen floating along the river, and "disturbing" and other rubbish were dumped into the river with impunity. We can hardly credit this, because we have a number of officials whose duty it is to prevent this. We call their attention to this matter, however, and trust that next season our river interests will be properly guarded. Those interests are too important to be trifled with, and if the present officials are not competent to perform their duties, let them give way to others who are competent.

STAR BRIEFS.

The ice is covered with six or eight inches of slush, and makes hauling most impossible.

The lumbermen are becoming anxious when they see the "thaw" setting in so early. For it is plain if the snow is in great part melted before the streams are open, the flow of water will not be so high, and there will be a good deal of "hauling up."

Mr. Zab Everett the ex-candidate for the Frederickton Mayorality has gone on his way to the Fiji Islands to look after his "fortune." Mr. Everett ought to be careful of himself. The Fiji Islanders sometimes kill and eat strangers.

OUR LEGAL LEGISLATURE IN SESSION.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY. FREDERICTON, Feb. 26. MR. McLELLAN'S SPEECH.

Mr. McLellan said when the resolutions were moved he thought there was something in them worthy of attention and probably did yet. He was not prepared to say he believed in the abolition of the Legislative Council, but wanted to hear argument on the subject. He had heard rumors that would lead him to suppose the country cried out for the change, but as his constituents had not called upon him to vote for the abolition he did not feel like voting for the resolutions which would commit him to doing so. He had heard many insinuations regarding independent members from those who would only be too glad to have them on their side, and was glad to hear his colleague say they were all independent members in the House. He had heard no arguments adduced against the Legislative Council except that of expense. If the only objection that is enough. If it is not good it is not wanted even if it requires nothing to maintain it. The statement of the honorable member for St. John, that the country's interests were to be first considered, was not in accord with his remarks when he said he would first consider the interests of R. J. Ritchie. No doubt he said it only for fun; but he had acted as though he wished it to be believed he had never said so. He (Ritchie) should give other members credit for acting sincerely, as he gave him credit for doing so. (McLellan) considered the Government introduced the question of the abolition of the Legislative Council, and had satisfactorily explained their course regarding it, and he believed they were sincere. A member from Westmorland said he never had rigid ideas of economy. If he had when he had the patronage of the country he would, no doubt, have advised the Government not to do certain things they paid him for and which the public accounts show. If hon. members did not believe the Government sincere why did they vote for them on the want of confidence motion? The Government had always treated his country fairly, and he felt they were trying to administer the affairs of the country in a proper way. He considered himself as independent as he ever was. After the explanation made by the Attorney General any fair minded man must say the public money was not squandered, but was expended justly. Regarding the expense in the Executive and the Legislature, which was referred to, this must have been known three years ago, and why was it not brought up then? He wanted the country to understand that while he would go for reforms he would not vote for a measure which he did not feel was perfectly proper. He would vote for the amendment, for it would give time for the question to be debated before the House. The accounts had been fully explained and he had never listened to such a clear explanation as that made by the leader of the Government. It was the clearest statement made on the floors of the House since he had a seat. He was willing to go for reducing the sessional allowance one-half, and this would pay for the Legislative Council if it was found advisable not to abolish it. He did not wish to charge any one with being insincere, and he wanted the House to give him the credit of being partially sincere. He did not like the way the debates had been kept up, consisting chiefly in the members charging one another with changing sides. These things had all been explained, and were matters of the past, and the time of the House should not be taken up in rehashing them.

Mr. Elders speech on the Blair resolution was an excellent one. We think if Mr. Elders were in the Commons he would not be inferior to Blake on the side of the Opposition. He seems to be improving every year. We are not over fond of Mr. Elders, the man, but we rather admire Mr. Elders the orator. We hope to meet him in the Commons some day, and measure swords with him.

Heard him on the Blair-Lawrence resolutions. Are the resolutions before the House in the nature of a motion or want of confidence? If so, has anything occurred since the last vote was disposed of to cause the House to give a different decision? and does the amendment give a broad enough platform for carrying out any reforms necessary? The first question must be answered in the affirmative, and the amendment was sufficient to enable the Government to effect any reform consistent with the best interests of the country. Part of the resolution is a want of confidence and part of it is a motion of confidence. It is a proposition that the House is asked to affirm. The close of the preamble asserts that a more practical and economic management of educational affairs than at present would be well for the country. If this were carried the Government must go to the country or a new Government would have to be formed.

He administers a well deserved rebuke to the Opposition in this fashion:— Would it not be as reasonable to denounce the Opposition for not initiating the present programme three years ago as to denounce the Government for not

carrying it out? On one occasion in the British Parliament, Lord Beaconsfield then Mr. Disraeli, was confronted with a charge of inconsistency of having acted differently on a former occasion. He merely said: "Mr. Speaker, a great many things have happened since then." But a great many things had not happened since confidence in the Government was confirmed by the House.

He referred to the Ryan charge and said this about it:— It was alleged that the Government offered an hon. member a seat in the Legislative Council which they denied. The least that can be said in the matter is that the House is entitled to give the Scotch verdict, "not proven." He thought the member for Gloucester would have been wiser not to have accepted the abolition extended by the Provincial Secretary.

This is what he said of the Government resolution of reform, which two or three stupid newspapers have described as vague, weak and misleading.

There is rather an advantage on behalf of a general proposition of reform than a specific one, if there is confidence in the party that promotes it, because it is natural for persons out of power to take a more radical view of the political situation than those entrusted with the charge of affairs. Such specific enunciation is often found embarrassing, and when persons get power by a platform inconvenient to carry out in detail they usually find means to avoid doing so.

And of the Attorney General's speech he says:— He spoke the sentiments of the majority of the House when he said that seldom had they heard a more plain, direct address backed up by the public records, which must have convinced most of the House that the Government had not misapplied the public moneys and that there was no serious charge arising out of the administration of the funds.

He was warm in his references to education, and said naught against the present features of the system, though the columns of his paper are half filled every day with correspondence censuring the "new-fangled forms" of the law. He thought our progress was onward and upward, and said something in favor of natural science in schools. Here are his words:—

Thos Carlyle complained he had not obtained that knowledge of nature he should have. Would it be wrong for the children to know the geology and history of the country, the ingredients of the soil, the principles of ventilation, the ordinary elements of physics and mechanics; and these subjects need not be learned from text books.

No one says it would, and a school with a few such excellent elements absent, would be like an acre of the Sahara. There is such a possibility, however, as overdoing anything, and we are now having just a little too much of a good thing.

Thus he contrasted the Government and the Opposition:— There were many gentlemen on both sides of the House capable of conducting the business of the country, but taking into account the experience of the Government and of its leader, slow in promoting, but sure in carrying out, these were the best able to do so.

Thus he appealed to what people may have thought Mr. Sayre possessed, viz, principle, but which belief was a mere superstition:— He put it to the member for Kent whether, having heard the arguments, and having voted for the Government before he would do so now.

To this of course Mr. Sayre said nothing. He has a peculiar knack of silence when he is in a tight place. When the Municipal accounts of Kent began to give off a tainted odor, and indicated something rotten in Denmark, and Mr. Sayre was the man who knew all about these accounts, the same Mr. Sayre answered no man's questions, and has held his peace ever since. But the world talks—and no wonder—Ed. STAR.

EXTRACTS FROM MR. ELDERS SPEECH. Mr. Elders speech on the Blair resolution was an excellent one. We think if Mr. Elders were in the Commons he would not be inferior to Blake on the side of the Opposition. He seems to be improving every year. We are not over fond of Mr. Elders, the man, but we rather admire Mr. Elders the orator. We hope to meet him in the Commons some day, and measure swords with him.

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The Legislative Council, at the first session, passed a resolution which said committees would not confer with a committee of the House. It amused him to think, looking at these facts that members should say the Government were not sincere.

Mr. Kenny referred to the operation of the school law, pointing out there was friction in its working.

SAYRE'S SPEECH. This contribution to legislative literature is hardly worth reproducing except for the purpose of showing the instability of human nature, and the kind of politicians Kent sends to the Legislature. Said Mr. Sayre:—

He did not look upon this as a want of confidence motion, but he never stated that if it was he would vote against the resolution.

Of course he didn't, and never does say what he will do till he sees what is to be made in the transaction. The fact of the business is this. Sayre thought in the first of the session he was going to get the Solicitor Generalship, and then made up his mind to support the Government; but when he found that Mr. Morton was the Government's choice, he joined the Lawrence-Kearney Blair party.

We fear there is very little in the way of provincial spoils for Mr. Sayre. Speaking in a semi-official way we can hold out no material inducement to him to join the Government side, and as a friend of the Government, we recommend him to stay with White, and Killam, and Ritchie, and Fred Thompson, in the Opposition, and should the above faction ever succeed in forming a Government—and no doubt they will pretty soon now—we can hold out no inducements to Sayre amongst them. All the spoil and plunder will have to go to Killam, that is his price, all the little oil and grease of headquarters will go to Ritchie, and Blair, and White, and White will look after the rest.—Ed. STAR.

March 4. Mr. Kenny was granted leave of absence until Tuesday next.

Mr. White introduced a bill to amend chapter 99 of the consolidated statutes, so far as relates to the qualification of electors.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Wedderburn, seconded by Hon. Mr. Parnell, it was resolved that the House do on Monday next at 2.30 o'clock resolve itself into a committee to consider that subject he granted Her Majesty.

Hon. Mr. Wedderburn gave notice of resolution that in the 10th rule of the rules and regulations the words "Opening of the Afternoon Session" be struck out, and the words "Twelve o'clock noon each day" be inserted in lieu thereof.

Mr. McLellan gave notice of motion that the papers relating to the arrangement entered into between Thomas Potts and the Executive Government relating to immigration, be referred to a special committee.

Dr. Yell, from the committee on standing rules, recommended the suspension of the rules to introduce a bill relating to the town of Woodstock.

Hon. Mr. Marshall, seconded by Hon. Mr. Landry, gave notice of motion to suspend the rules for the purpose of introducing a bill to incorporate the Franco-American Credit Foncier Company.

Hon. Mr. Wedderburn submitted the petition of R. N. Knight, J. Alfred Clarke and 409 others, inhabitants of Carleton, praying that a bill to incorporate the St. John Bridge and Railway Extension Company might not pass, which was read from the table and ordered to be referred to the committee on the bill relating to the St. John Bridge and Railway Extension Company.

In the House this p.m. the Attorney General in a most feeling speech in which he referred to Mr. Covert's right standing as a political man and a friend, seconded by Mr. Blair, that through respect to his memory the members of the House wear crepe on their arms for ten days from Monday next. Mr. Blair in fitting terms referred to his political connection with the deceased and how his sound judgment and the weight of his thorough political convictions would be missed in the councils of his party. Mr. Elders followed in a speech full of pathos and most appropriate references to the deceased.

THE ESTIMATES.

(Special to STAR.) FROM, Mar. 4, 1881.

The estimates for the current year were brought down this morning and are as follows:— Administration of Justice, \$1,460. Agriculture, \$10,518.19. Assayer and Laboratory, \$500. Blind Asylum, Halifax, \$360. Contingencies, \$10,000. Dead and Dumb Asylum, Halifax, \$1,500.

Debates of House of Assembly, \$850. Education, \$176,500. Exhibition in St. John, for year 1880. Balance of Accounts, \$1,993.62. Judges Chambers, St. John, \$300. Legislative Librarian, \$500. Legislative Council, \$1,