

**THE SATURDAY GAZETTE,**

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**JOHN A. BOWES,** Editor and Manager.  
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The SATURDAY GAZETTE is the only Saturday paper in the Maritime provinces, devoted exclusively to family and general matters.

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Contributions on all subjects, in which Canadians are interested, will always be welcome. Correspondents will be paid for making their articles as brief as the subject will allow, and are also particularly requested to write on one side of the paper only. The writer's name and address must accompany every communication. Rejected MSS will be returned to the writers.

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Advertisers desiring changes, to ensure insertion of their favors in THE GAZETTE of the current week will be obliged to have their copy at the office of publication by Thursday noon.

**EDITORIAL NOTES.**

FRANK JAMES, the famous and infamous desperado, attributes his success as a highwayman to the fact that he never peated his blood by alcoholic stimulants.

PROFESSOR G. H. PALMER, of Harvard, has inquired into the cost of the students' living, and reports that one-third of the seniors who have written to him spend under seven hundred dollars a year, one-half under one hundred dollars, and three-fourths under twelve hundred dollars.

An English experimenter finds that, contrary to general opinion, a charter of ivy over a house renders the interior entirely free from moisture; the ivy extracts every possible particle of moisture from wood, brick or stone, for its own sustenance, by means of the tiny roots, which work their way into even the hardest stone.

A MEMBER of one of the most illustrious families in Austria, Prince Alfred von Wrede, has started the nerves of the aristocracy by setting up as a greengrocer and fruiterer at Perchtholdsdorf, near Vienna. The Prince, having become ruined, has decided that, in order to make money, a good trade is better than a small government appointment, and he has sensibly decided to attend to his business.

SAYS the Boston Courier: it really is getting to be time for General Neal Dow to discover some new excuse for the failure of prohibition in Maine than the innate wickedness of the Republican party; but, after all, the important fact to be noted is that General Dow acknowledges that, after the most vigorous struggle for its enforcement that it is possible to make, and under conditions as favorable as ever have been known, Prohibition still is a failure.

THE absence of Governor Ames from the banquet of our English fellow-citizens in celebration of the Queen's birthday is generally regarded as pretty small business, says the Boston Gazette. Mr. Ames would have attended this dinner had he been invited when he was a private citizen. Governor Ames does not dare to attend it now because he fears his presence there might cost him votes next year. Governor Ames has made the senseless, silly, inhospitable mistake of his public life.

The annual report of Treasurer Dean of Yassur shows that the young ladies have eaten during the past year, among other things, 84,000 pounds of fresh meats, 8,000 pounds of smoked meats, nearly 5,000 pounds of turkeys, over 4,000 pounds of chickens, nearly 4,000 pounds of fish, 32,000 clams, 141 gallons of oysters, 230 barrels of flour, 14,000 pounds of butter, 85,000 quarts of milk, 25,000 pound of sugar, 30,000 oranges and lemons, 10,000 bananas, over 1,000 bushels of potatoes, and 100,000 buckwheat cakes.

The New York brewers sold about four million barrels of beer in 1886, so that, at the estimated profit of one dollar a barrel, they made four millions of dollars. This divided among the eighty of that neighborhood, gives fifty thousand dollars apiece; but while few made so little, many made a great deal more—one having sold nearly four hundred thousand barrels, and three or four having having made over two hundred thousand barrels or dollars. Many of them live quite grandly, the mansion that one has built fronting the Park being one of the finest homes in the city.

The Russian War Office has just published some interesting details concerning the strength of the Cossack army. The force, on a war footing, numbers 165,300 men of all arms, commanded by 3,744 officers. The great majority of the

troops are of course horsemen. The artillery consists of 236 guns. Russian officers who took a prominent part in the last Oriental war, and who are perfectly well acquainted with the Austrian and German cavalry, have recently stated that they were thoroughly disappointed with the famous Cossacks. Nobody could suppose that they were the direct descendants of the famous warriors of the fifteenth century. They were inferior to the Austrian cavalry, and still more so to the German, while much better than the rest of the Russian horsemen.

A TAUNTON, Mass., lawyer has given an excellent hint to people who are so unfortunate as to be attacked by blackmailers. At his suggestion, a client, who had been selected by a blackmailer as a victim, sent through the post to the latter's address a registered letter for which the woman was obliged to receipt in person. The result was that she was neatly trapped when she put in an appearance to claim the letter, which she supposed contained the money she had demanded. As any man living may be attacked by blackmailers, and as many who are personally innocent of offence are afraid of scandal and weak enough to yield for the sake of avoiding trouble, it is well to have all these protective devices as widely known as possible.

EDWIN BOOTH tells a curious story about a dog. Mrs. Booth had a little pet dog which Mr. Booth was in the habit of holding on his knee, and perhaps during a conversation, pinching his ear in a semi-unconscious way. They went to Europe and left the dog at home, and as they were away for some time, when they returned the dog did not seem to remember them. Mr. Booth, indeed, did not seem to be recognized when he came back, and for a week or so the dog went about them in a purely perfunctory way. One day he had the dog on his knee, and in the old unconscious way began pinching his ear. The dog looked up at him for a moment, and then jumped up and licked his hand, and made every possible demonstration of delight. He had not recognized Mr. Booth until that old habit disclosed their familiar relations.

THE SATURDAY GAZETTE has come to issue. It is now ten weeks since the first issue of THE GAZETTE was placed before the reading public of St. John and the Province. Prior to its appearance no attempt, excepting brief announcements in the local press, had been made to herald its appearance, the management preferring that it should work its own way into public favor. This has been done as the weekly receipts from sales, which are constantly increasing show. The GAZETTE occupies a different field from any of the local papers and this field will be widened out with each succeeding number. Arrangements are in progress for special correspondence from the chief towns of the province, as well as from outside places. In a few weeks more at the outside the leading articles will be illustrated with engravings. We intend to begin next week a series of articles on the chief industries of the city and province in which will be shown the progress we are making in various lines of manufactures. Other equally attractive features will be added as time advances, which we have no doubt will be heartily appreciated by our readers both in town and country.

**ST. JOHN AND PORTLAND.**

It will not be very long now before the question of union between St. John and Portland will come permanently before the public for consideration. That it will have many strong supporters and opponents as numerous and as strong is already known. Some years ago the question of union was debated at great length by a gathering of Odd Fellows which included representatives of both city governments. As a matter of course no results followed this debate. None were expected. But next April the citizens of the two cities will be called upon to deposit their ballots for or against the union, and it is highly important the people should thoroughly understand what they are voting upon. Some will support the union for sentimental reasons. Others will oppose it on the same ground. It is not a question in which sentiment should enter at all. The union of St. John and Portland is a practical question and only the practical side should be discussed, and considered. Whether Mr. so and so is likely to lose a fat salary or Mr. Other Fellow likely to obtain an increase in his minor matters. The main question should be and must be, is it to the mutual advantage of these two municipalities to unite? and if so on what basis.

To all intents and purposes St. John is a finished city. Its streets, such as they are, have been built, some at immense cost, because of the jobbery of the time at which they were built. Its sewers are nearly all laid, and its water system com-

pleted. Numerous civic buildings have been erected. Portland is a new city. To be sure it has streets, sewerage and water supply, but a deal of money will yet be required to place them in as good condition as the streets of St. John now are. St. John (including Carleton) has a population of over 26,000; Portland's population is in the neighborhood of 16,000. But even with two-thirds the population of St. John Portland has not one-third its valuation. The city debt of St. John, not including the water debt, is in round numbers, \$1,700,000; that of Portland in the neighborhood of \$250,000, but the percentage of taxation in both cities is now about the same so that there is but little advantage on that score. St. John owns property worth a million and a half of dollars, and has over \$200,000 in its sinking fund to meet its debt as it falls due. The Portland debt sinking fund is in a wretched condition, the amount in hand having grown nothing in the past five or six years. Of property the city owns nothing but Indian town harbor, the police building, the engine houses and school buildings. Briefly summed up St. John has a greater debt than Portland, but its resources are much greater. Portland in some of its departments is more economically managed than St. John, but on the whole the civic business of St. John is better done than that of Portland. If the union of the two cities would unite the good features of both civic governments, and out the bad it would be a decided advantage. But the millennium is not yet at hand.

The placing of the harbor in commission is a preliminary and necessary step towards the union of the two cities. It would immensely simplify the question and remove the greatest stumbling block. While the harbor remains as it is the present charter, which has long since outlived its usefulness will continue. Times have changed since this charter first saw the light. The old family compact which ran things about as it liked was broken up because it was bad, and in opposition to the best interests of the citizens, but the worst features of the charter, undoubtedly framed in the interests of the family compact still remain, modified, it is true, but still there. To place the city in the position it ought to be in there must be a complete change in the present way of doing the civic business. There are lots of idlers in the city employ, while other men are sadly overworked. Thousands of dollars are wasted every year to pay salaries to useless officials while dollars are spent with a niggardly hand on the streets and for the maintenance of the fire and police departments. A greater combination of extravagance and peanness, than displayed in the management of our local affairs could scarcely be imagined. The blame for this thing rests solely with the people. They will squabble and fight over the doings of the government at Ottawa and talk learnedly about abstract principles while their direct tax—the one they feel most is either creeping slowly up or remaining stationary when it should be rapidly declining. Some day, like in 1879, there will be an awakening of the people, and then will follow a genuine rattling of the dry bones of civic extravagance.

**THE PRESS EXCURSION.**

On Wednesday morning a large number of ladies and gentlemen including representatives of the provincial press started on a tour over the Northern and Western Railway; a new line of railway recently completed by Messrs. Gibson and Snowball. The road runs through a beautiful country. At one end—Marysville, lives the most enterprising and successful business man in the province—millionaire Gibson; at the other end the charming river of Miramichi with its two picturesquely situated towns Chatham and Newcastle. The road is essentially a lumber road. Both promoters are extensive operators in our chief staple. Chatham and Newcastle have numerous mills for the cutting of lumber and Mr. Gibson's mills at the other end are of large capacity. The party will also visit Richibucto—the new summer resort—view its peaceful but beautiful scenery and sleep in the comfortable rooms of Mr. Phair's commodious new hotel The Beaches.

The trip will be a pleasant one. Mr. C. H. Lugin who took a large party of pressmen and others over the New Brunswick Railway last year is also the promoter of this trip. No man in the province is more anxious to see it prosper

than Mr. Lugin, and both trips inaugurated by him had for their main object the diffusion of information regarding the beauties of the province and its resources. His first trip was extremely successful in both particulars, and this one will have a like result. Personally Mr. Lugin is well acquainted with the entire province, its history, resources and attractions, and he has probably written more about New Brunswick with the aim of populating its waste lands than any other living man. His present position as Secretary for Agriculture affords him an excellent opportunity for circulating information among intending settlers, and it is only fair to say that through his representations numerous settlers have already taken up crown lands. It is pleasing to notice that the chief settlements of the province are continually obtaining additions, and while little is heard of it in the city press there is a gradual increase in the number of new settlers every year.

**AROUND AND ABOUT.**

The city has been deluged the past few days with school masters and marmos from all parts of the province. Once every year the Teachers Institute meets to discuss various matters in which school teachers are directly or indirectly interested. Whether any good comes of these meetings I do not know. Last summer the teachers spent a large portion of their time telling the government what a wicked thing had been done in reducing the government grants paid them semi-annually. They told how they had been deprived of a portion of their salary, the smallness of which they commented on and complained about. Such a thing could not possibly affect anything inasmuch as the government showed they were not in a position to continue the liberal grants paid previous to the cut. This year's session promises to be of more permanent value the question of salaries not having been raised. I might here remark by way of parenthesis, that it is the tax payers and not the teachers who ought to grumble, as the returns show that since the government grant has been cut down teachers pay has been (on the average) increased, the difference being made up by direct taxation.

It has long been a theory of mine, and I am happy to say that others who know a great deal more about educational matters hold the same view, that there should be a different and a better classification of teachers than at present. Under the present reading of the law a young man or woman who secures a first-class license after a single term at the Normal School is placed on the same footing with teachers of some years' experience. There is no other trade or profession in the world where such an absurd classification exists, and how it came to be recognized among school teachers I have always been at a loss to understand. The man or woman who has just been graduated from Normal School; no matter how much book-learning he or she may possess is not fit to instruct a school as he or she who has had years of experience. This I think ever one will admit. Besides, how can the fitness of any one to instruct others, be judged during a few months' course at a Normal school when the candidate is only under instruction.

The city of St. John pays its teachers good salaries. As a class, male and female, they are as well paid as any of the professions, and better a great deal than the trades. This being the case those who pay have a right to expect that the service rendered will be adequate to the compensation. It is not saying too much that in several cases it is not. There are teachers in the city schools who receive salaries altogether too high, and others whose pay is much smaller than it should be. No matter how much care is taken an incompetent person will some times get an appointment, and once such people get a hold they are likely to retain it. The reason for this is that it is always easier to appoint than to dismiss. But there is no earthly reason that these incompetent ones should be on the same pay-footing with those who are able to do their work. I think it nothing but fair that when a young teacher, entirely without actual school experience is appointed on the staff, he or she should receive a nominal salary for the first year. The work of the novice's school during this period should be frequently and carefully examined by the superintendent, and at the close of the year the candidate should pass an examination in scholarship and

school management besides. Should the result of this be satisfactory then another provisional appointment should be made for a second term, when the examination should be even more rigid and strict—the success of the teacher's work for the two years to be a strong factor in obtaining for her a permanent appointment on the staff. And the examinations should not stop at this point. School teachers should be a progressive class fully up on all the geographical changes of the world, well posted on current events and able to instruct the children in what is going on in the world around them as the Latin Grammar. In other words, scholarship which is now the only real test, and important, though it may be, it should be coupled with others equally so. In my opinion, if some such plan as I have outlined were adopted our school system would be greatly improved and a much better class of instruction than we have at present insured.

One great difficulty with the teaching profession is that too few of the young men and women who obtain their livelihood through it are teachers because they love the work. The are simply school teachers until something else turns up. Few, very few begin teaching school with the intention of continuing it until laid on the shelf. The young ladies in the profession hope some day to get married and the young men to become country doctors or lawyers. This is certainly a serious drawback notwithstanding that, to judge from the majority, the brightest lights of the teaching profession do not go to law. But I will leave this subject to some one better able to cope with it than I am. There is a crying need of better instructed teachers as well as better qualified lawyers than we have at present, but just how the vacuum is to be filled I do not know.

I would like to say a word or two to the Common Council respecting some of the older members of the city police force. There are now two men on the city force who have seen considerably over thirty years of active service—night and day—and who are still taking their rounds the same as they did when they first donned the uniform, buckled on the old cutlasses and stowed away in their belts the old fashioned horse-pistols the policemen formerly carried. Surely it is time these two men, I don't mind stating that I refer to Sergeants Hipwell and Watson, were given tasks a little lighter than they now have. So far as I know or can learn both have been as efficient members of the force as any I ever had or ever will have, and this alone should count largely in their favor. Sergeant Dobson had not been as long as these men when he was relieved from night duty and given a day job on the Market Square. When he resigned, this post and the Intercolonial Station were given to young and active men. Every one knows that these posts are mere sinecures and could be as well filled by the old men as they can by the younger ones. This is a matter the chairman of the police committee and the chief should consider. Both men I refer to have been longer on the force than the chief himself, and in my humble opinion they ought to be relieved of night duty before the winter again sets in. Thirty years active service in all weathers for seven days in the week is a long tour of duty and such continuous, faithful and good services as these men have rendered the city should not be longer overlooked.

About three years ago a grain car from the West was run into the then new Intercolonial train shed. When the doors of the car were opened half a dozen English sparrows flew out and into the rafters of the building. They commenced building nests in their new quarters and in a comparatively short time their number began to increase with amazing rapidity. This increase has gone steadily onward until there seemed to be upwards of a thousand of these little pests about the station buildings and they are gradually spreading themselves around town. Some one has suggested poisoning them, but this seems a rather peculiar way of getting rid of a nuisance. Besides how can the birds be poisoned without danger to life in other forms? How to get rid of the sparrows is a problem it will be difficult to solve. Several cities in the United States are wrestling with this problem at the present time.

**The Long Lived Men.**

According to Hufeland, the man who is destined to long life is of the middle size, and somewhat thickly set. His complexion is not too florid, his head not too big; his shoulders are round rather than flat; his neck is not too long. His hands are large, his feet rather thick and long; his legs firm and round. He has a broad and arched chest, and the faculty of retaining his breath for a long time. As to his habits, the joys of the table are to him of importance; they tune his mind to serenity. He eats slowly, and has not too much thirst. If he ever gives way to anger, he experiences no more than a useful glow of warmth. He is fond of employment and of calm meditation and agreeable speculation. He is an optimist, a friend to nature and domestic felicity; has no desire for riches or honor, and banishes all thought of to-morrow.

# THE Saturday Gazette

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