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The Standard,

OR RAILWAY AND COMMERCIAL RECORD.

Evans sumendum est optimum.—Cic.

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LAW RESPECTING NEWSPAPERS

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THE LEGISLATURE.

Our private correspondence from Fredericton describes the speech of the Attorney-General as having been delivered in the most ranting and declamatory style, with so much violent action as almost to induce the belief that "steam" had been got up for the occasion. The excuses of the learned leader of the Government for not resigning the office of Registrar of King's College—and for not having prepared any measures to lay before the Council before the House met—were exactly the same. He had intended to do so, but had not had time! We have heard of a certain nameless place, the pavement of which is said to be composed of "good intentions," not fulfilled!

With respect to the claim of Mr. R. Harding to the vacant seat for the County of Carleton, we are happy to say that the House has done that gentleman justice. The report of the Scrutiny Committee on Saturday last declared Mr. Harding entitled to the seat; and notwithstanding every scheme which the Government could devise to the contrary, Mr. Harding has been sworn in and taken his seat as member for Carleton County. We gave an outline of this case on Thursday last, showing clearly the justice of Mr. Harding's claim.

The speech on Friday last of Mr. James A. Harding, one of the Representatives for this City, was exceedingly clever. Mr. Harding was very severe on the Government for their numerous deviations from those principles which they had laid down and advocated so violently, in the debate on the "no confidence" resolution of October, 1854. But one of the most damaging speeches to the Executive was that of Mr. Wilmot on Saturday last, when he completely exposed the fallacies and trickery of Mr. Tilley's financial statement, and demonstrated beyond all doubt, the inaccuracy of his accounts, exhibiting clearly the utter bankruptcy to which Mr. Tilley and his colleagues had reduced the Province. Nothing could be more convincing.

It is a positive certainty which cannot be contradicted, that at this moment the Province has no money, and no credit at the Bank, to which it already owes more than £40,000. The Executive Council is in the position of a needy prodigal, who has spent all his means, and exhausted his credit! The Attorney-General, quoted in his speech that it would be folly to repeal the Prohibitory Liquor Law, which had only been fifty days in operation. He is of opinion that it should have a fair trial. In order to make up the deficiency of revenue, fees be proposed to tax tea, sugar, coffee, molasses, and British merchandise?—There are no other articles to be taxed but these. The Attorney-General, as has been often alleged, assumes the Liquor Law, and must abide by it.

We believe we can state with certainty, that on the division upon Mr. Gray's motion which will probably take place either tomorrow or Thursday, there will be a majority against the Government. Of this we entertain not the least doubt. As to what may follow afterwards we have no intimation, but we incline to the belief, that a better administration than the present incapable and helpless set of people can be formed without the slightest difficulty, which will give much satisfaction to the country.

We shall quickly see the end of the present Government, whose utter incapacity will be remembered for some time hereafter, in the burthen which will be laid upon the people to provide for their misdeeds.—[New Brunswick.

FROM WASHINGTON.—New York, Feb. 20. The Tribune's Washington correspondent telegraphs:—

"There must be some mistake in the first despatch of the Canada's news, alleging that angry words had passed between Lord Clarendon and Mr. Buchanan on the Central American question. Neither of the parties are likely to resort to such arguments. Besides there has been no important correspondence between the two governments on this subject since the President's Message which would provoke any extreme opinions or actions."

New York, Feb. 20.

A correspondent of the Evening Post writes from Washington:—

"The final treaty which Great Britain has taken upon her construction of the Clayton-Bulwer treaty, has stimulated the Cabinet at Washington to take into serious consideration the means by which it may uphold the construction which through our minister to Great Britain, they have heretofore put forth in vain. I have reason to believe that two plans, neither of them necessarily connected leading to war, now occupy their attention. The first is to annul the treaty—the proposition offered in the Senate by Senator Wilson. The second is to form an alliance, offensive and defensive, with Nicaragua, without abrogating the treaty of 1850."

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE FREEMAN.] ST. ANDREWS AND QUEBEC RAILROAD OFFICE.

ST. ANDREWS, Feb. 20th, 1856.

SIR:—My attention has only just been called to the following assertion in an editorial article of your impression of the 16th instant, viz: that "Our St. Andrews Railway company and the E. & N. A. Railway company, have both failed so miserably to do what they undertook, that we are in fact, for all purposes of private speculation, in a worse condition than if no attempt to build Railroads in the Province had ever been made."

There have been so many misstatements and false reports—in many instances, I am sorry to say, from interested motives—respecting the company I have the honour to serve, that I can readily believe the statement you have given utterance to, regarding the St. Andrews company, has been caused only from a want of correct information respecting its affairs and position; but as such a statement, openly made in a newspaper, if left uncontradicted, may appear to be tacitly acknowledged by the company as true, and is also calculated to do it much injury; I trust to your sense of justice to give insertion to this letter in your next impression.

So far from the company having failed to perform what they undertook to do, the very reverse is the case, and they are now not only prepared, but willing and desirous to go on and finish the work without any further aid or assistance from the Province, if the Government will only abstain from putting impediments in their way by refusing to carry out the laws which the Legislature has passed relating to the undertaking.

A mere counter assertion on my part to the statement you have put forward, would be useless and ineffective; and I will therefore with your permission, prove to you not only that the company have not failed to do what they undertook, but that the stoppage of the works, which we must all so much deplore, can alone be attributed to impediments thrown in its way by the Government.

The company was incorporated with a capital of £200,000; one half of which, it was enacted by the Legislature, should be a guaranteed stock being 6 per cent. interest, and should be subscribed for in England and called class A shares; and the other half designated class B shares, was to be taken up in this Province. To this capital, which was insufficient to complete the road, the Legislature most liberally added, by passing an Act to grant a tract of land on each side of the line to "facilitate" the work. Under these circumstances then, the company commenced its career. The shares, allotted to England were readily appropriated, but great difficulty was experienced in getting rid of those which were to be subscribed for in this Province, and the company therefore petitioned the Legislature to become stockholders in the undertaking, which it consented to do by the Act 14 Vic., to the extent of £50,000 provided that the Province should only be called upon to pay up in Debentures; and in not less than £20,000 at a time, upon like sums having been paid in, ready to be expended, by the company. Of the balance of the capital £30,000 has been subscribed for in this Province, and there is no reason to doubt that as the works progress, and the trade and prosperity of the country thereby become developed, both this sum and the remaining £20,000 will be readily forthcoming.

By the Facility Act granting the land, it is provided in the first section that on the completion of the road the whole tract of land for five miles on each side of the line should be granted unconditionally, and by the second section the Executive are empowered to make grants during the progress of the works in blocks of not less than 10,000 acres upon a like number of pounds having been expended. Some doubt was experienced at the commencement of operations as to what was the real spirit of this Act, because, if all grants were to be withheld till after the completion of the road, it was clear that it could not facilitate its construction, and the opinion of the then Attorney-General—the present Judge Wilmot—was taken as to the true intent and meaning of the Bill, when he gave it as his opinion, that the grants should issue in blocks of 10,000 acres *pari passu* with the expenditure, which would of course place in the hands of the company a means to raise further capital as circumstances might require. This opinion of the then Attorney-General was also confirmed by the highest legal authorities in England, and was further stamped and endorsed as correct, by the late Government having issued grants for 30,000 acres upon proof of the expenditure of the like sum.

With such assurances then, and in the full belief that the Government would redeem the pledge of the Legislature, to continue to issue the grants of land and to pay up by debentures for the stock taken by the Province *pari passu* with themselves, the calls on the

English shares were promptly answered, and the whole of their £100,000 has been paid up and expended in and about the construction of the road; but instead of the Government replying to the calls on them with the like alacrity, there has not been a single occasion of application, whether for Debentures or land, that they have not evinced a decided hostility to the road by the reception given to the requisitions, until at last they positively refused, irrespective of any proof of the justice of the claim, to grant either one or the other to the company.

In carrying out this feeling, the Government have entered into the investigation of matters and things quite foreign to their position; they have, notwithstanding they are represented at the Board by their own specially appointed Directors, whose duty it is to attend to such things, for excuses and pretexts of enquiry and delay, evinced themselves of, and condescended to notice matters of dispute between the contractors and the company, which had it not been for such interference, and the delays in making the grants proved to be due, might perhaps never have occurred, and most certainly would at any rate have been easily settled. They have destroyed the confidence of a considerable body of English capitalists in the good faith of the Colony, and they have given rise to just cause of complaint against the company itself, in having taken and expended the money of its English shareholders, without protecting their interests, and taking care that their reasonable expectations should be realized.

Within the compass of a letter, it is of course impossible for me to enter as minutely into details as I could wish, as I should exceed the limits which you will probably be ready to grant me; but, that the above is a true exposition of facts, it is impossible to deny, and I can assure you, that the more deeply details are gone into, the more it will found how deeply and severely this company has been wronged by the Government, though most liberally and generously aided and encouraged by the Legislature.

If it was not meant to grant the facilities accorded the Representatives of the people, it was a sin and a shame to allow the English money to be expended on the faith of those facilities; and now that it is expended, to pretend that it has not been spent in compliance with the terms of the Acts, is mere quibble and prevarication. Yet notwithstanding all this, the company are ready and willing to go on with the works without asking for any thing more than the fulfilment of the promised facilities, and a trifling extension of time to which they are fairly entitled from the delays which have arisen from the cesses I have shown. Even during the last session the English shareholders evinced their readiness to take the road with all its liabilities, and a Bill was brought in for that purpose but lost by a majority of one. They are still ready and anxious to accept the responsibility, and Bills for these purposes will accordingly be brought into the House during the present session, and it is very much to be hoped that no obstacles will be raised to their passing which would ensure the successful commencement of work and completion of the road.

Apologizing for the length of this letter, which I have in vain endeavoured to shorten, I am, Sir, your very obedt. Servt.,
JULIUS THOMPSON, Manager.

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY.

February 26th.

House occupied with usual routine business until a few minutes before 12 o'clock, when the debate on the want of confidence motion was resumed.

Mr. Ryan made a short speech in support of the Government. He contrasted the condition of the Province with that of Canada and Nova Scotia, and advocated Railways.

Mr. Gilbert spoke briefly—condemning the Government for several of their appointments, and declaring his intention of voting for Mr. Gray's amendment.

Mr. Cutler addressed the House for nearly an hour previous to half-past one o'clock, and when the House adjourned for dinner, he said he would finish in the afternoon, at which time he again took the floor and spoke for upwards of three hours. He reviewed the system of Provincial politics for several years back, and declared that the present Government had violated principle in several of their acts and appointments. He did not, however announce that he would vote for a want of confidence in them, nor did he state which way he would vote upon Mr. Gray's amendment when it was put.

Hon. Mr. Johnson is expected to resume the debate in the morning. The time for receiving petitions has been extended to Saturday. The debate is expected to be brought to a close tomorrow, although many are of opinion that it will be continued till Thursday. House adjourned a few minutes after five.

"ANNEXATION"—The New York Herald of the 12th says—

"Mr. Seward thinks we shall have just cause for war should John Bull, upon twelve months notice, refuse to evacuate Honduras, the Bay Islands, the Mosquito Coast, and the Mosquito Protectorate. Moreover, as among the first results of a war would be the acquisition of the powerful anti-slavery provinces of Canada, Nova Scotia, &c. Mr. Seward is willing to risk the consequences."

No Mr. Seward—Canada and Nova Scotia, nor any other of the Provinces, will ever annex themselves to a Republic whose catechism is tarnished with the blighting curse of slavery; the Provinces are in point of fact more free than their neighbors "over the line," and perhaps would give the United States a warm exception, should they attempt to annex them.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SCOTCH PARISH SCHOOLS.—By this memorable law it was, in the Scotch phrase, statute and ordained that every parish in the realm should provide a commodious school-house, and should pay a moderate stipend to a school-master. The effect could not be immediately felt. But, before one generation had passed away, it began to be evident that the common people of Scotland were superior in intelligence to the common people of any other country in Europe. To whatever land the Scotchman might betake himself in America or India, in trade or in war, the advantage which he derived from his early training raised him above his competitors. If he was taken into a warehouse as a porter, he soon became a foreman. If he enlisted in the army he soon became a sergeant. Scotland, meanwhile, in spite of the barrenness of her climate, made such progress in agriculture, in manufactures, in commerce, in letters, in science, in all that constitutes civilization, as the Old World had never since equalled, and as even the New World has scarcely since surpassed.

THE MISSING STEAMER PACIFIC.—The Journal of Commerce thinks it probable that Capt. Eldridge of the Pacific has put back to Ireland, in consequence of the obstruction by ice and heavy westerly gales. The Atlantic was driven to this expedient four or five years ago, having become disabled when two thirds across the ocean on her voyage to New York. It was thought safer for her to make twice the distance returning, than to complete her voyage in this direction. The great strength of the Pacific is much in her favor against the danger of having her hull cut up with ice as to imperil her safety.

TRUTH STRANGER THAN FICTION.

Last winter a gentleman in New York, connected with the Mission Sunday School of Dr. Alexander's Church, found a ragged little girl selling candy and apples in the Park on Sunday morning. On questioning her he found that she came over from England, that her father and mother had died on the passage, and she was then living with an old woman who forced her to sell in the Park on Sunday. The kind-hearted gentleman at first made a compromise with the old woman by giving her fifty cents every Sunday to permit the child to attend Sabbath school, and afterwards put the law in force and took the girl from the old woman's control. She was then sent to an asylum, and thence to a farm house.—The lady to whom she was bound was so struck with the girl that she questioned her closely as to her history. The fact elicited induced her to write to England, and she soon received the joyful intelligence that the child's grandparents were both living in Sallinger, Kent County, England. The family were substantial farmers, and forth with sent funds to bring the lost one home. She went accordingly in the next steamer, and is now living once more in comfort and affluence at the old homestead. A narrative, giving the whole story, has just been issued by the American Sunday School Union, under the title of "the Candy Girl."

The Boston Courier, lays down the statutes of love as applicable to leap year, in the following decision:—

St. Valentine's Day.—The Rights of Bachelors in Leap Year, Defined.—The approaching fourteenth of February brings with it this privilege, to wit: that, according to the laws of etiquette—as expounded by the learned Roman Consul before whose Court the matter was tried in 270—no bachelor can, under those laws, (this being leap year) send a "rib" a "love-missel" a "reminder" to any lady until he shall have first received an "overture" from one or more of the fair sex.

Unless, then, by revolution and the overthrow of old and established customs,—customs as dear as liberty and as sacred as love itself—the overthrow of all the unwritten laws, matured by age, and sanctioned by our fathers, and for which Bishop Valentine

was martyred sixteen centuries ago—no gentleman can take the first step in love this year. Such is the law.

A NOVEL INCIDENT.—An occurrence of rather unusual nature, and startling without, recently took place on the Great Western Railroad, near London (Canada West.) A lady, whose husband was a snake fancier, being on a visit with friends at some distance from home, was so fortunate (?) as to discover a large and beautiful specimen of the rattlesnake. The thought at once occurred to her that it would make a most acceptable present to her lord; so with a woman's promptness she proceeded to carry the project into execution. His snakeship, being chilled with cold, was apparently lifeless, and manifested no objection to being comfortably enveloped in the warm folds of a shawl and placed in a carpet bag. On entering the cars to return home, the lady suspended the bag, as foretold on one of the hooks appointed for that purpose. Now it proved the snake was not dead, but sleeping, and the warm air of the cars soon restored him to life and activity, and by dint of wriggling, and working, and gnawing, he released himself from the meshes by which he was surrounded, and protruding his head and a large portion of his body, leisurely took a survey of surrounding objects. It was not until the monster's fangs came in proximity to the head of its captor, that the lady noticed his escape and her danger. "Did she scream and faint?" is on tip of the reader's tongue. No; nothing of the kind. Ere these words had discovered her predicament could master courage to come to her rescue, she had raised the window, and seizing the reptile by the neck, hurried it from the car—thus atoning by her presence of mind for the reprehensible though thoughtless act of carrying a venomous serpent, imperfectly secured, into a crowded car, an experiment which she will not be likely to attempt a second time.

Whilst the Rev. Mr. Berland was celebrating Divine Service at the Wesleyan Chapel, Elm street, Toronto, on Sabbath last, a thief entered the vestry and carried off the reverend gentleman's coat and muffler which were suspended from the wall.—[Quebec Chronicle.

The St. Sylvester Murder.—The trial of Kelly and others, for the murder of Corrigan, has now lasted eight days, and during that time 23 witnesses have been examined, and three re-examined, on the part of the Crown. On Saturday the testimony of Paquet, the Magistrate at St. Sylvester, was heard at great length,—this witness being kept in the box for more than five hours. Just before the Court adjourned complaint was made by the prisoners' Council of an editorial article in the Quebec Gazette of Saturday, and it was stated that the matter would be brought up in proper form at the opening of the Court this morning.—[Id.

To Keep Fresh Meat in Season.—Put the meat into a stone jar, and cover it with sour milk. By changing the milk once or twice, it will keep a week or more.—Before cooking, wash the milk from the meat and lay it in a little soda water a few minutes. It will make it very tender.

STOP THAT BOY!—Stop that Boy!—cigar in his mouth, a swagger in his walk, impudence in his face, a care for nothingness in his manner.

In Philadelphia there is an establishment for the manufacture of paper bags, for druggists, grocers, bakers, confectioners, and other dealers, with machinery driven by steam. It produces 60,000 bags of various kinds per day, and consumes nearly a ton and a half of paper per week.

The Louisville (Ky.) Courier estimates that the cold weather has ruined half a million dollars worth of potatoes in that city.

Twins and Triplets.—A few days since the wife of Rev. Hercules James, of this city, gave birth to two children at one time, and since then the wife of Rev. George Bushnell, also of this city, has given birth to THREE children, all at one time.—[Worcester Spy.

Skating vs. Running.—A match against time came off on the morning of the 17th, on the Duchess's Pond, Stapleton, over a distance of 300 yards, determined by two flags, placed one hundred yards apart, the skater and runner to pass round the flags twice.—The skater accomplished his task in a graceful and masterly style in 42 seconds; the runner on the land taking 49 seconds; thus losing by seven seconds.—[Bristol Mercury.

Marriage resembles a pair of shears, said Sydney Smith so joined, that they cannot be separated often; moving in opposite directions yet always punishing any one who comes between them.