

LOCAL MATTERS

Returned.
A. Morrison, Esq., has returned from Philadelphia, where he had been for several days on business connected with one of his ships. He reached home on Tuesday.

Accident.
Mr. Thos. King of Douglasfield had one of his feet very badly cut while cutting firewood a short distance from home on Tuesday last. He was taken to Dr. McDonald of Newcastle, who dressed the wound.

Embargo.
Several car loads of salmon, bass, smelt and mackerel now wait for sale to convey them to the Junction. These are perishable goods, and it is an outrage while the weather is frosty that there is no way of getting them to the market.

Coming Out.
Several young men have come out of the woods, employment them having ceased. At this season lumbering parties begin to haul their lumber to the "landings," which does not require so many hands.

Sale of Seized Lumber.
Seven hundred and forty-three logs which were seized by Mr. Thomas Doonan, Seizing officer, Nelson, are to be sold on the 14th of next month at Carleton Station. The logs were cut on the Crown Lands without license.

Bass.
Overseer Hagan states that the quantity of bass shipped up to date, those taken on the North-west, exceed last year's catch by 100 per cent. Last Tuesday night the second best catch of the season was made. Inspector Venning always contended that protection for the bass was needed, and we see now the wisdom of his contentions.

Fire.
The store of K. F. Burns & Co., in Packetville, Gloucester Co., was burned to the ground last week with all its contents. Two lamps were left burning in the shop and it is supposed that the fire was caused by one of them being upset by cats. This was the only one of Messrs Burns' establishments uninsured. A building adjoining containing 300 bbls. flour was saved with great difficulty.

Spelling.
"T. W. M. R. and M."—The Editor was right and so was "T."—that fish is properly spelt mackerel, though very often, but without any authority, it is spelt mackereel. No dictionary that we have by us, gives the latter spelling. The word comes from the Dutch mackereel, and the French word is maquereau. It is therefore wrong to spell it with an a.

Obituary.
We are sorry to record to day the death of one of our most worthy and highly respected citizens, Mr. Thomas Barden. Deceased came to this country from Wexford, Ireland, when very young, and by his industry and integrity created at once an excellent reputation, and a comfortable livelihood. He leaves a large family, some grown to men and women's estate. Dropsy and affection of the heart carried him off; and his age was 60 years. He was buried today in the Roman Catholic Cemetery, and was followed to the grave by a large number of citizens.

Again Smothered Up.
The Chatham Branch is perpetually getting into trouble. No three days pass over its unlucky head that it does not encounter a mishap of some kind—perhaps a little "scat" of snow, sometimes a puff of wind, and it is averred that it has been known sometimes on striking a bank of fog, to stop suddenly, lacking the power to force through. It is continually up before the blacksmith, but seems to be improved very little thereby. A new source of stoppage now, is the frost,—and it positively refused to move yesterday, the cold day, as our readers will remember. Thursday evening mails did not reach till Friday morning, in a measure due to the Branch, and Friday morning's mail did not reach here till noon. It might be well for our loyal and faithful member, Snowball, to abolish the old steam pot on the train, and attach oxen to it instead. This change would decidedly be in the direction of speed. This is the same Branch that Snowball pointed out, with pride to the Marquis of Lorne as "his property."

Joy Bells.
Joy bells pealed out merrily Thursday evening, and their announcement was that one young couple here had been made happy. The interesting affair reached its happy conclusion in the Kirk, and the principals were Mr. Edward Johnson, son of the late Hon. John M. Johnson, and Miss Jessie Barnett, youngest daughter of the late Dr. James B. Johnstone. The Rev. Mr. Jardine was the officiating clergyman, and Rev. Thos. Johnstone, uncle of the bride assisted. The groomsmen were Jas. P. Mitchell, Esq., of Newcastle, and C. C. Johnstone, Esq., brother of the groom, the bridesmaids Miss Annie Shirreff, and Miss Minnie Muirhead, niece of the bride. Next to see the bride and her attendants look charming for nature and art done much to produce a charming scene. The dresses were grey silk, trimmed with cardinal, and looked very becoming. The Kirk was crowded to see the ceremony, and every eye was turned when the groom entered, followed by the bride leaning on the arm of her attendant, Mr. A. D. Shirreff, these followed the groomsmen and bridesmaids. They looked beautiful and the groom very handsome.

After luncheon they drove to Newcastle to take the night express to St. John's, as the train was many hours late, they were delayed till nearly dawn on Tuesday. We wish them happiness.

OUR LOCAL LEGISLATURE IN SESSION.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

[From our Special Correspondent.]

FREDERICTON, Feb. 22.

Ritchie presented a petition from Right Rev. the Bishop, St. John, and others, praying for the passage of the bill relating to the estate of Rev. Jas. Dunphy.

Blair gave notice of motion for a return of all minutes of council and orders made since the first day of March, 1879, relating to the appointment of a committee of Council to further investigate the matters of the Chatham Branch Railway etc, etc., and all information in possession of the Government, as to the state of the road by, and to whom sold, and when and at what price, and as to the proceeding, or legal authority under which the sale took place.

The House went into Committee on a bill relating to elections to the Assembly. Cottrell in the chair.

Hon Mr Landry explained that at present candidates and their agents nullify the virtue of secret balloting. But this bill provided the room in which the poll is to be held is to be cleared of all except the presiding officers and the candidates or their agents, not more than two in number. A man upon leaving home may have his ticket ready and when he goes to the polling place use it without everyone knowing who he votes for.

Gillespie opposed the bill—"too much expense" he said, etc.

FEB. 23.

Moved by Wilis, seconded by Mr. Barbairie that the bills to incorporate the St. John Railway Bridge Company be referred to a special committee.

Hon Mr Wedderburn thought the bill should go before a committee of the whole.

So did Mr Fraser, for they contended that the fuller the discussion where so many interests were involved, and there were so many questions to consider, the better.

And above all, we may add the chief reason why the bill should be so fully discussed, was and is because Thos. E. Jones is one of its originators, because it menaces private and corporate rights, and is a rancorous and vindictive measure, assuming a shape threatening a hundred interests, while aimed at one. Murray Kay is another of its originators, and as deeply implicated as T. E. Jones; and a third is found in Mr Robinson of Canterbury, who has to put the few dollars he got out of the New Brunswick Railway into something, and is glad to put it now as vengeance stock into this new St John River Bridge Company.

Let us hope the House will keenly watch this bill, keep an eye that private rights are not sacrificed, and the right of way given through the peoples very houses to Murray, Kay and T. E. Jones and B. Robinson. Above all, let the House look to defeating the iniquitous bill.—Ed.

Hon Mr Fraser introduced a bill relating to the registration and qualification of Physicians and Surgeons. Copies of the Act had been sent to the members of the medical profession in the Province, and no action would be taken in the matter till their opinion was obtained.

We do not know the text or intent of this bill, but three years ago the Frederick Star contended that some protection should be thrown around the medical profession, some means taken to prevent Drs. with 30-day, or \$20-diplomas from entering the field with physicians and surgeons who have undergone respectable and thorough courses. We are anxious to see the contents of this bill.—Ed.

Mr Gillespie gave notice of enquiry why the Government grant was withheld from the Alnwick Agricultural Society in 1880 and will the Government allowance be given them this year?

On motion of Mr Colter the House went into committee on a bill relating to the nominating and election of county councillors in the county of York. Mr. Colter said the bill is to make similar changes to that passed last year. The bill seeks to make the nomination uniform in all parishes. It provides that the nomination be made 12 days before the election. In York there has been considerable trouble, as in parishes with one polling place it was not known if there would be any opposition till the day of the election.

Mr Woods would like Queen's County to be included in the bill.

Mr McManus said he had a bill before the House touching the same subject. The law regarding the election of councillors should be changed in many respects. The bill might be referred to a committee and a general bill drafted to cover the whole ground.

Mr Butler thought what was good for York and Queens was good for the whole Province. The time would come when the House would only have to deal with these bills every two years. Nova Scotia had adopted biennial elections in the municipalities, and he had always advocated the plan.

Mr Davidson thought it would be sufficient to extend the present law of elections in parishes where there is more than one polling place to all parishes.

Mr Hutcheson moved, seconded by Mr. Ryan, for a statement of the expenses attending the visit of the agricultural delegates.

Hon Mr Wedderburn—the information will be furnished and the House asked to make an appropriation to meet the expenditure.

The discussion of the Blair resolutions came up and the following

HON. MR. WEDDERBURN'S SPEECH.

Hon Mr Wedderburn congratulated the House on the fair and moderate way in which the leader of the Opposition treated the resolution. He thought that members would acquit the leader of the Government with ever treating any person or party in the House in a sneering or contemptuous way. The leader of the Opposition made it a charge against the Government that they made no reply to the charges made against them in the debates on the Address. The Attorney General answered the leader of the Opposition point by point. The Surveyor General in a most conclusive manner answered the gentleman who preferred charges against him and his department. When the gentleman from Sunbury moved his want of confidence resolution the government felt that they were in a position to answer the charges by keeping silent when the only charge was that they were lawyers. Their friends, however, defended the government and the vote was such a one as acquitted the Government of any charges against them.

Regarding the resolution all must be struck with the fact that the difference in principle between the Government and the Opposition is infinitesimally small. Some of the sections are planks on which the Government has been floating along for years and for which it hopes to float for some years longer. Would any Government ask the Governor to place in the Speech in 1879, a reference to a great organic change when they had no policy of their own in the measure and were not committed to the abolition of the Legislative Council? The leader of the Government, and every member of the Government, stated that they were in favor of abolishing the Legislative Council.

The leader of the Opposition on that occasion admitted that the Government had bound themselves to the abolition, but he was opposed to the Government's mode of proceeding. If he remembered rightly a gentleman who was a member of the Opposition, and controls an important journal opposed the abolition of the Council at that time. The doctrines of the leaders of the Government is the doctrine of the leaders of the Opposition, and the Government have gained the advocacy in this matter of the Opposition. The Government thought the better course was to ask the Legislative Council to consider the matter and to appoint a committee. He had stated that if there was anything to be gained the House would sit three weeks longer, but the Legislative Council refused to have anything further to do with the discussion. That session the Legislative Council put the fair constitutional construction on the paragraph from the Speech that the Government were in favor of the abolition of the Council. The House might have remained in session for six weeks and no conference would have been given. When hon gentleman would have honorably represented their constituents, if they desire a seat in the Legislative Council, it is the duty of the Government to give consideration to the wishes of any such representative. He absolved any man from any secrets between himself and the Government and he defied any man on the floors of the House to say he had a commission or promise of a commission for a seat in the Legislative Council. During the time he had occupied a seat in the Government no such proceeding had taken place. The Province has other items of income than subsidies and Crown Lands. We have an income of \$150,000 per annum fixed by Legislative enactment to the British North America Act and in addition to that a very large income in what is called the Tilley Act. A few years ago the amount for great roads and bye-roads was increased and the amount for education is increased. How can the preamble state that the amounts for these services have to be increased? This Government is bringing the expenditure within the scope of the income. The expenditure was reduced \$50,000 for the first year and \$30,000 the next year. He hoped that when some matters are settled the old balance could be wiped out and the Province start with a clean sheet. When the British North America Act was passed the subsidy to the Province was made payable in advance. It will be perceived that the advance was not really an advance upon an advance even. There was nothing in it out of the ordinary course. It is well that the advance should be asked for rather than that the department should be starved when the expense is being brought within the income. Several years back he advocated and introduced a bill for the abolition of the Legislative Council. Educational matters were eliciting the most serious consideration of the Government. He had sometimes thought that it would be better if the Government were responsible for all school matters, and in saying this he did not wish to detract from the ability of Dr Jack and the present Superintendent. The Government were giving their best attention to see if the changes in the law had given satisfaction or not, and what changes were called for. He said it was the duty of the Government to take up the question, root and branch and discuss it, and make changes if they were necessary. He assumed the responsibility of the educational department and said if the Government could consistently reduce the expenditure, it was their duty to do so. As the Government were not prepared to accept the preamble in the resolution he moved in amendment to strike out all after the word "whereas" in the first preamble and substitute the following preambles and resolution:—

WHEREAS The subsidies receiveable from the Dominion Government and the revenues derived from the Crown Lands are the chief items of Provincial income, and the efficient maintenance of the educational, agricultural and great roads and bridges by road services of the country will continue to make increasing demands upon the treasury, it is necessary that every class of expenditure capable of reduction (having

due regard to the efficiency of the public service) should be reduced, and such constitutional and other changes as our altered circumstances since the Union of the Provinces may demand, and which would tend to diminish the expense of legislation and administration, and

Resolved That such measures of reform as may be called for, from time to time in the public interest and as would secure a reduction of the cost of Government, Legislative and Departmental machinery and would diminish the expenses of legislation and administration having a due regard to the efficiency of the public service and which it is the province and duty of an Executive Government to initiate, would be entitled to and would receive the sanction and support of this House.

Mr Morton seconded the amendment.

Ritchie of course had to make a speech, but unfortunately for himself, every time he rises he becomes a target for all honest and straightforward public men.

Mr Lynot described Ritchie as a fair type of the "artful dodger." Mr Lynot's speech was full of good points. He objected to the statement that the Province was low financially; the debt was under \$1,000,000, while the annual income was nearly \$700,000. He did not approve of tinkering with the constitution, and was not in favor of abolishing the Upper House. He began to enumerate at length the several duties of the Government, when Gillespie chimed in "and also making magistrates." Mr Lynots prompt retort was "and unmaking magistrates too," which brought down the House at Gillespie's expense.

Ryan stood up like a man with a sin to commit. He said he had to contradict the statement of the Provincial Secretary that members of the House had not been offered seats in the Upper House. Three members of the Government had offered him a seat in the Legislative Council, provided he would support the Government. He had refused.

P G Ryan has been offered a seat in the Legislative Council, but he has refused.

Considering that rumour fixes Mr Morton as the next Solicitor General, and considering how Mr Sayre would like that position, it is perhaps not much to be wondered at that he opposed Hon Mr. Wedderburns amendment, and supported the J W Lawrence resolution. He said however the opposition did not initiate the reforms asked in Blair's resolution. That it was an "old thing," and that he did not look upon it by any means as a "want of confidence" motion. That doctrine seems like the man who saw a comrade deliberately cut the throat of a sleeping man, and declare he did "not look on it as murder." Of course what you call a thing is one thing, what it is, sometimes is quite another thing. However, Mr Sayre ought to have held out—no man knows "the change the times may bring."—Ed.

Hon Mr Landry followed in a lengthy and particularly able speech. He made a logical and justifiable defence of his reasons for joining the Government, and in this must have satisfied the House of the morality and the reasonableness of his position, and then pointed to the management in his office since he took charge. The statement of his office management was particularly creditable to the Hon gentleman. After he had finished this portion of his speech, he turned round, and as the strong handed trainer armed with a whip, lashes a worthless member of the pack, proceeded to administer a castigation to Robert J Ritchie which made that little politician fairly squirm in his seat. He rose several times to complain of the smarts, but Hon Mr Landry lashed him all the same without deigning to notice his whimperings, or to feel compassion for his complainings.—Ed.

Killam whose day of fattening on bridge spoils has passed away, even as Wm. M Kelly's glory has passed, favored Blair's resolution, because under the Blair government he would either have a seat in the executive, or a few old fashioned bridges to build. He is becoming desperate for public plunder. The House ought to throw the Government out, to give Killam a chance to get in and gorge himself.—Ed.

Black who expects to be Chief Commissioner under the new regime, and who is a fair sample of the debating school politician, favored Blair's stolen resolution.—Ed.

Hon Mr Hannington said Blair had advised himself and Landry to enter the Government, and now on a want of confidence motion goes back on them. He lashed Black, and defended his own and the Government's course. His speech was like Mr Hannington's speeches always are, logical, powerful and convincing.—Ed.

AFFAIRS AT FREDERICTON.

We have not room for our special despatch, but from it we learn that the debate has been adjourned till Monday. We venture to predict what the vote will be:

FOR THE GOVERNMENT.

Kenny, McManus, Johnson, Davidson, Adams, Lewis, Turner, Hannington, Landry, Mort, Butler, Woods, Hill, Lynot, Perley, Elder, McLellan, Wedderburn, Marshall, Finlay, Colter, Lightner, Theriault, Beveridge. 24.

AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT.—Barbarie, Ryan, Sayre, H. Hutchinson, Gillespie, Killam, Black, Vail, Cotler, Covert, Willis, Ritchie, Blair, Thompson, White. 15.

—Mr Thomas Casey of Nelson, smashed the shafts of his sleigh in Chatham on Wednesday, while taking a drive after having been married.

PROVINCIAL NEWS.

NOVA SCOTIA'S POLITICIANS.

The Nova Scotia *Plain Dealer* is now publishing a series of interesting and elegantly written articles on "Howes contemporaries." It compares the Howes and the Uniackes, and the Howes and the Uniackes, and the Howes and the Uniackes, etc., with the local politicians of the present time in the Nova Scotia Legislature, and the comparison of a How or a Uniacke to a living politician seems from its painting as the bubbling shallow stream to the majestic river, flowing smooth and deep to the continual measures of its own rich harmony. These old time men it says "were not, like Henry wolves, howling for the 'bread and butter' emolument of office. Their ambition was not to aggrandize and enrich themselves, but to mould and improve the institutions of the country." Forty years ago it says, men of energy and superb mental proportions sat on the seats of the legislature. "If there was surging commotion, on the stormy sea of debate in our provincial parliament, there were grandeur and sublimity in the billowy upheavals of conflicting discussions."

The *Plain Dealer* is a little severe on the present politicians, and ought not to forget that great occasions often beget great men; that many a great and noble mind is hedged in by narrow limits, and bound down to mean and petty questions. Put Beaconsfield in the Nova Scotia Legislature now, and to what advantage would he seem? On what question could he exhibit the greatness of his mind, and his superiority as a statesman? The grain elevator at Halifax is now one of the mightiest themes in the sister province, but what field does it afford in its discussion for a display of statesmanship? None. When Howe lived and when Uniacke's grand questions came up worthy the abilities of a Pitt or a Burke, and any abilities in Nova Scotia's public men, then came to the front. Men who today might only take second place, then took first place, because only a few were educated, and those who were towered like Titans above the masses. Now "the meanest boor that breaks the clod" is in some sort a stump orator, a newspaper writer, or a municipal politician, —and a critic of all public men.

In New Brunswick it was and is the same. Wilnot and Fisher find a place in our histories, as political giants, but Wilnot was superficial enough, while Fisher has always been overrated, was not superior to several members in the Local Legislature today, men whose names no future historian of Canada will bother to write. They have nothing to do but wrangle over little provincial questions, their duties are merely on the scale of the large Municipal Council; they move as it were in a nut-shell.

Yet there may be greatness among them, for—

"Full many a gem of purest ray serene,
The dark unfathomed caves of ocean bear,
Full many a flower is born to blush unseen,
And waste its sweetness on the desert air."

No,—the *Plain Dealer* ought to turn to Ottawa, and looking in a field which gives scope for statesmanship, from those it finds there belonging to Nova Scotia pick men to compare with Howe and Uniacke and the rest. Doing this it will find that Nova Scotia has as great a statesman now as she has ever had,—and that statesman is *Sir Charles Tupper*.

THE "CHRONICLE."

The Halifax *Chronicle* looks fifty years ahead and reads the story then of Halifax. It predicts that Halifax will have passed away, that its largest streets will have turned into green alleyways, and its public squares into bowling greens. It does not supply the picture in full, however. Going down to the cemetery and outside the fence, when that day comes, you will find a hideous looking tombstone and on it these words:—

Here lies a colporteur of his city and country. He wore the guise of a friend for 20 years, but under the mask he was a traitor. He was hanged for treason, after a thorough whom he had deluded (tried for hours to get him out of prison and lynch him—and his types were carried away and thrown into the harbor, and his wretched building burnt.

"Let his fate be a warning to all men."

P. S. The same fate overtook the Editor of the *St. John Globe* the year following."

BASS MURDER.

Parties handling freight at Weldford station, the other day, let some of the stuff handled, smelt boxes, fall; and when the fish fell out about the ground lo! it was discovered the supposed smelt were young bass. It is a crying shame that any fisherman would steal and ship such fish as these. It is killing the goose that lays the golden egg.

MARRIED.

At St Andrew's Church, Chatham, on Thursday evening, 24th inst. by the Rev. Dr. Jardine, assisted by the Rev. T. G. Johnstone (uncle of the bride) Edward, third son of the late H. M. Johnstone, to Jessie B., maid daughter of the late James B. Johnson, M. D., all of Chatham.

THE IRISH TROUBLE.

To the Editor of the Star:—

Sir,—In my former letters I have shown the true state of Irish affairs. The Irish members in the House of Commons have done their duty faithfully to Ireland. Parnell has earned his title to be classed with the greatest patriots of history. The question of justice to Ireland has been brought promptly before the eyes of the world, and it is only a question of time, when another instalment of justice will be made to that long suffering country. Laudlordism in Ireland is doomed.

Now it is the duty of all Irishmen to aid in the great movement that is going on. The issue of the state trials in Ireland has proved that the "Land League" is perfectly legal. We know that during the past year it has done immense good. Great as the number of evictions in Ireland were last year, if it were not for the Land League they would have increased ten fold. It has saved the lives of thousands of Irishmen, it has given food to their families, it has kept the iron gripe of the landlords from their throats. It has made the name of a landlord a by word and a reproach amongst the nations; it has educated public opinion, and made the case of the Irish tenants known to the world. All this it has done and more, and Irishmen everywhere should aid and encourage it with sympathy and support. Branches of the League have been organized in the principal cities and towns throughout the United States and Canada. These branches do a great deal of good. They bring into line all true Irishmen and enable them to aid their countrymen at home in their great constitutional struggle for freedom. In our own province we see the Irishmen of St. John have established a branch of the Land League. Why are the Irishmen of Miramichi inactive? Is there no Irishman amongst us, with spirit enough to inaugurate a movement in favor of our suffering countrymen? Where is the St. Patrick's Society? I would suggest that a public meeting be called on the next meeting night of that Society which will be on Monday, March 7th, and all patriotic Irishmen invited to attend, and a branch of the Land League formed. If this be done I have no doubt but that the movement will be successful.

Yours, etc.,

A. PARNELLITE.

Improvements of the Horse Shoe Bar, etc.

Last season the work done at the Horse shoe bar at the mouth of harbor by the Government steam dredge *St Lawrence* was of great importance. Vessels drawing as much as 21 feet 6 inches went over in safety. At low water vessels drawing 18 feet can go over the horse shoe, and proceed to sea without detention. As far as we can learn the dredging has been done in two sections, and there yet remains a space between the two, to be deepened, also a short piece at the outer end. About two months would accomplish this, then there would be water enough for nineteen feet at low water. On the bar again at the lump buoy a short channel requires to be dredged, to make the two bars correspond with the horse shoe. This would take about a month. The dredge therefore is required here about three months to complete the work of deepening the mouth of the river. She should be sent, however early in the season. The channel from Grandown Island to the horse shoe should be buoyed so that heavy vessels could all follow the same channel. This would prove a deep channel as the bottom is soft mud. A few picket buoys are all that is required for this purpose. When this is done, and the dredging completed, the detention of vessels for weeks at the mouth of the river, will be avoided, and the character of our port correspondingly raised. We trust to see the Dredge at work here not later than the middle of June. The placing of the buoys in the channel "through the Ray" should be attended to by the Harbor master, who, no doubt will give the matter careful attention. We will treat of other matters connected with our river in a future issue.

The Smelt Harvest.

The season is at an end for taking smelt and most people are satisfied with the results. Shipments from Chatham Station for the year were about equal to last years shipments although the catch on the main river was not above 50 per cent. as much as last years. The difference was made up from Kent, Gloucester and the smaller towns in our own County; but the proceeds from the sales were immensely greater than last years. This was almost entirely due to good management—first by the shippers, and secondly by the M. & F. Department. We advised our shippers all along to distribute their shipments properly; they did so, and thus kept the several markets merely, never over, supplied. When all the markets taken together could not use the fish sent, they were held over. In this way good price was kept up all the time, and the shipper and the fisherman reaped the results. Again the purchasers in our markets know the time had been shortened, and were more ambitious to buy, and therefore gave better prices; while our shippers held back till the season closed, what otherwise would have swamped the markets and destroyed the price. Had the other 3 days been granted, no one would have held back their fish, for a full moon occurring would have swamped the markets, and buyers in anticipation for long before would have kept down the price. The actual shipments from Chatham and Newcastle Stations for the season were something over 700 tons of frozen smelt, and these were worth \$49,000.

—Two bills were given in Glenelg Wednesday night, one to Mr Miela Lyanice, the other to Mr John Martins. There was a ball also at Daly's, Nelson, Thursday night.