

vagance of the proposed measure is less absurd than the method by which it is to be accomplished. No such proceedings can be adopted except by the sanction of the respective Governors acting in the name of that Imperial Crown which the malcontents desire to insult. Of course Australia, like any other dependency, may rebel, and Victoria may choose Mr. McCulloch to direct its disloyal action; but, within the limits of his office as one of Sir C. Darling's Ministers, he has no right or power to communicate on any subject with any other Government. If the Chief Secretary for Ireland were, on his own motion, to propose to the Prime Minister of Belgium the common discontinuance of intercourse with Holland, he would not be guilty of a more outrageous anomaly than Mr. McCulloch and his unknown colleagues.—*Saturday Review*

Local Items.

The Canada papers say the Imperial officers deputed to examine the Canadian and the American frontier, and to report on a system of defence, have reported that Canada can be effectively defended by a moderate force, against aggression, and have also devised a scheme of defence, which has been approved by the military authorities at home, and is about to be carried out as far as permanent works are required. This scheme is based upon the theory that no campaign in Canada can be continued during the winter, and includes the construction of entrenched camps and other works at vital points sufficient to arrest the progress of an invader, and compel him to resort to tedious siege operations by regular approaches.—*Et.*

THE CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT.—The utmost unanimity and harmony characterized the annual meeting of the Board of Fire Wards, held at Engine Hall on Wednesday evening last. Samuel R. Caldwell, Esq., and James Duggan, Esq., were re-elected to fill their former positions, as Chairman and Secretary, respectively. The usual Committees were appointed for the current year, and a special committee was named for the purpose of co-operating with the City Council in the matter of a Drying House and a new alarm bell. A communication from parties in Windsor, Hants County, was read during the evening. This is in connection with a proposition to procure a fire engine for that place. The Fire Wards are of course the best judges in the matter of selling one hand engine out of the Department; but we venture to think that considerable discretion should be used in connection therewith. It is the opinion of many persons that, notwithstanding the augmented supply of water in this city for fire purposes, the Department cannot spare any one of our present hand-engines, under existing circumstances. No doubt one of the hand-engines ought to be stationed at or near Freshwater Bridge, and a second in the upper part of Spring Garden Road. The location of a hand engine in the vicinity of the Wellington Barracks, near Isleview, was doubtless a step in the right direction. Halifax is rapidly extending in the three directions just named; and it is just precisely at the points named, two of them at least, where the existing supply of water is least efficient for fire purposes; so that it is indispensable that the fullest measures of protection possible should be afforded to property situated as above.—*Reporter.*

We learn that Admiral Hope will not leave for the West Indies until after the arrival of the next mail from England. We have also heard it stated that the gallant Admiral would remain at this port all the winter, but we believe, in this instance, the general wish of the public is "father to the thought."—*Col.*

Another attempt is to be made to place a steamer on the Quebec and North Shore route. The *Quebec News* says:

"The splendid side-wheel steamer Osprey, Capt. Patterson, will leave this port for Halifax, N. S., calling at the usual intermediate stopping places, on or about the 11th inst. The Osprey is quite new, with excellent accommodations for freight and passengers, and will prove an excellent substitute for the Acadia, which was found too expensive a boat to keep on the line. She was built to ply on the lakes, and is a staunch and thorough sea-going vessel in every respect. It is the intention of her owners to place her permanently on the route between Quebec and the lower ports next season."—*Pictou Standard.*

GYMNASIUM.—We are glad to learn that the premises, lately occupied by Mr. Coombs, in Granville Street, are to be fitted up as a gymnasium, which will be under the direction of Mr. Liechti, an excellent amateur gymnast, and a very worthy gentleman.—*Journal.*

TELEGRAPHIC EXTENSION.—During the past season new lines of Telegraph were erected from Pictou to Port Hood, and from thence to River Inhabitant—a distance of about one hundred and thirty miles, which are now in excellent working order, and have been pronounced by competent judges to be among the most substantial and best constructed lines of Telegraph on this continent. The construction was superintended by our old friend Joyce, who was assisted by Mr. Alexander Cunningham.—*Reporter.*

TURNING THE FIRST SOD OF THE PICTOU RAILWAY.—About 12 o'clock, when all the preliminary arrangements had been completed, the Hon. Provincial Secretary announced in a brief address the nature of the ceremony about to be performed.

After the sod was turned by Mrs. Scott, wife of James Scott, Superintendent of the Albion Mines, and wheeled away in a handsome barrow, by Mrs. McDonald, wife of the Chief Commissioner of Railways, Mr. McDonald took the stand and made a speech that was full of empty promises. Dr. Tupper followed, and in course of his observations, spoke of the projected confederation, of the unanimity of feeling which pervaded the several meetings of the conference, and of the glorious future that is in store for us when we become a part of that great British nation that is going to be built upon this side of the Atlantic.

After the close of the Hon. Provincial Secretary's address, Donald Fraser, Esq., M. P. P., introduced the Hon. Attorney General, who briefly addressed the multitude. His remarks referred principally to the advantages to be derived from the introduction of railways into a country.

After a few remarks from James Fraser, Esq., M. P. P., the Artillery Company fired a parting salute and the meeting dispersed.—*Chronicle*

ST ANDREW'S DAY.—Wednesday, the anniversary of the patron Saint of Old Scotland, was duly observed by the Scotchmen and their descendants in this city. Religious service was held in the various Scottish places of worship. The members of the Caledonia Club dined together at Wallace's in the evening—the attendance was numerous, and good natured conviviality reigned supreme. The dinner was served up in Wallace's usual good style, and we need scarcely say that it received ample justice from the participants. The memory of the bards of Old Scotland was duly honored, and after the cloth had been removed, toasts were proposed and drunk *ad infinitum* until a late hour, when the merry revellers separated and proceeded to their respective domiciles.—*Recorder*

Summary of the Telegraphic News of the Week.

Latest advices from the rebel General Hood estimate his army at 35,000 men which was marching on Pulaski, Tennessee. He intended to operate in Middle and East Tennessee and Kentucky. Breckenridge and Forrest are also demonstrating in Tennessee in connection with Hood. All reports shew a very active campaign progressing in the southwest.

The Federal forces in that region are said to be strong and fully prepared to drive back the enemy.

Rebel pickets around Richmond are forbidden to exchange newspapers with Federal pickets.

The Richmond *Enquirer* of 21st calls frantically for Soldiers to proceed South to head off Sherman, and demands vigorous enforcement of conscription and repeal of all exemptions.

By arrival of vessels with exchanged Union prisoners from Savannah, at Fortress Monroe, papers from the former place to the 23rd, are received. They are filled with reports concerning Sherman's expedition which is announced as one of burning and devastation. Among the places reported captured and partially burned are Macon, Milledgeville, Monticello, Hillsboro' and Canton. In the latter place Governor Brown's residence was burned, railroads and telegraph between Savannah and Macon and between Gordon and Milledgeville reported destroyed.

Beauregard has issued an appeal to Georgians to rally and drive back the Vandal invaders, and says he will be with them soon, Georgia Members of Confederate congress at Richmond also make an appeal to the same effect.

As nothing official has been heard from Sherman, we cannot tell how much credit is to be given to these reports; evidently he is causing a tremendous panic.

Steamers for Europe (26th inst), take about one million and a half in gold. During last night, (25th inst,) fires were set in New York all the hotels in New York, also in Barnum's Museum. Great panic was created and many robberies committed during the confusion. In each case the fire was extinguished without serious damage. Phosphorus was used—being placed in the beds of the several hotels.

A despatch from Louisville reports a strong rebel force in the vicinity of Columbia, and it was thought that a battle was fought there yesterday.

In Louisiana active military movements are reported.

Ten regiments of negro troops are being organized by the rebel Governor of the State.

General Buckner is reported at Alexandria with ten thousand rebel troops.

A Federal expedition to Lafourche district has defeated a Rebel force, destroyed their camps and captured a number of boats.

In consequence of the incendiary fires in New York, General Dix has issued a special order that parties arrested shall be immediately tried before a military court, and if convicted they will be executed without the delay of a single day.

A plot has also been discovered to set fire to the public buildings in Washington.

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