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POOR DOCUMENT

THE EVENING GAZETTE

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JOHN A. BOWES, Editor and Publisher

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ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, MAR. 7, 1889.

THE GRIT CIRCULAR.

The Grits are evidently in a state of great alarm over the prospect of another election, and are resolved, if possible, to obtain by a manipulation of the election lists what they cannot hope to win byan honest appeal to the people. Their leaders have just issued an elaborate circular to the political bosses in each polling district, giving full instructions in regard to the system they are to pursue in preparing a list of voters. In every polling sub-division a committee of three is to be appointed, and this committee is to prepare a list of qualified voters, which is to be fully revised and perfected not later than the 1st of June next, when it is to be handed to the revising officer. If the circular is strictly obeyed by the persons to whom it is addressed, there can be no question that every Grit vote in Canada will be on the next list of electors. It now remains for the Conservatives to go and do likewise, and to see that no name is omitted from the list of voters which has a right to be there.

The very prospect of an election, in the near future, is terrifying to the Grits, for it would mean their total rout in every province in Canada. The Grits, by their scandalous conduct in Parliament and out of it, have proved themselves wholly unworthy to control the destinies of this country. The Liberal party is now in a state of disintegration, the result of the misconduct of some of their leaders and the folly of others. Men have crept into it who are wholly unworthy of public confidence, whose aims are disloyal and dishonest; men who would sell the country of their birth and the flag under which they have grown up and prospered, to the highest bidder. So long as the Liberal party cherishes such men and makes them its leaders it can expect on other fate than to be left in a hopeless minority. We do not believe that the rank and file of the Liberal party are disloyal, or that they have any other desire than the welfare of Canada. But so long as they choose for leaders such men as Laurier and Cartwright, so long as they elect to parliament such traitors as Ellis, how can they expect to succeed? An election, if held now, would sow them under so hopelessly, that the Liberal party, as at present constituted, would never be heard of again.

KEEP DOWN THE DEBT.

The debt of the Dominion of Canada is now, in round numbers $236,000,000. We have the assurance of the Finance Minister that by the year 1892, after providing for a number of public works now on hand or soon to be commenced, the net debt of the Dominion will not be increased, and that there is no reason why there should be any increase in the debt for many years. This is good news, and will be learned with gratification by every person, for there is a very general impression that no further increase of the debt of Canada is desirable. While we regard as wholly unwarranted, the criticisms of the opposition in reference to the public debt, and while we believe that the money has been well expended, as a rule, and for the benefit of Canada, we think the time has come when a halt may very well be called, and projectors of new enterprises, which have for their aim the depletion of the public treasury, given to understand that their claims can not be allowed. Sir John A. Macdonald intimated as much as this to a deputation quite recently, and the speech of the Finance Minister, will further reassure the public on this most important point. During the past twenty one years Canada has done wonders, the Intercolonial has been built, the canals have been deepened and the Canadian Pacific Railway completed, to say nothing of the numerous railways that have received subsidies from the Dominion Government. But now that the provinces are linked together by bands of steel, and the shores of the Pacific brought within five or six days travel of our Atlantic seaports, the necessity for large expenditures has ceased.

THE LEGISLATURE.

The Legislature of this Province opened today, and the speech from the throne will be found in its proper place in our news columns. The most important of the measures promised, is that relating to the franchise, which, it is pretty well understood, will be a bill involving manhood suffrage in Provincial elections or something very near to it. We shall reserve our comments on this bill for another time, and only remark in passing that, in our opinion, a very considerable enlargement of the franchise is absolutely necessary, our present restricted system keeping out a large number of intelligent voters, who are quite as fully qualified to exercise the franchise judiciously as the majority of those who now enjoy it. In connexion with the franchise bill a measure is promised consolidating and amending the law in reference to elections.

The people of St. John will be well pleased to learn that this city and county is to be relieved of some portion of the charges of the St. John public hospital, which has in reality become a Provincial establishment, a large proportion of those who are treated in it being residents of other counties. No one will be seriously disposed to question the necessity for a further extension of the Insane asylum which is now without sufficient accommodation for the increasing number of patients. The cost of maintaining the asylum is very considerable, and the necessity of increasing it is to be regretted, but it is inevitable, and neither the people nor the government of New Brunswick can evade the duty imposed upon them in respect to it. Our insane must be properly provided for.

The promise of a final settlement of the long pending eastern extension claims will be good news for every one, for it will be practically equal to the extinction of so much of our provincial indebtedness. The law for the registration of vital statistics is to be amended, a measure strongly advocated by THE GAZETTE, and absolutely necessary, unless we are content to allow our vital statistics to be the laughing-stock of the world. The promised measures for the better protection of our crown lands from fire; for the establishment of district courts, and for the amendment of the law, relating to the solemnization of marriage are all bills in the direction of good government, and no doubt will receive the due attention of the House. On the whole it may be said that while the bill of fare presented by the government is not as extensive as many thought it would be, it will be sufficient to engage the attention of the House for many weeks, and a session, in which all the promised measures are fully and fairly dealt with, will be relieved from the imputation of being barren.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

The Globe has invented a new device for delaying or preventing the placing of the harbor in commission. It has commenced an agitation for the expenditure of more money on harbor improvements by the Common council, and calls on a certain committee, to whom harbor matters were referred last October, to tell the council and the citizens what they propose to do. The committee will probably say that they intend to do nothing, until the electors have had an opportunity of deciding whether they want the harbor placed in commission or not.

A great many people are asking the question, why should all public business be stopped at Ottawa on Ash Wednesday? Parliament House was closed yesterday, but the Ottawa bars were open, and we dare say, some honorable members did not spend the day so innocently or so usefully as if they had been attending to the public business. We have altogether too many statutory holidays in Canada, and their number should be reduced. If the Imperial Parliament can attend to public business on Ash Wednesday, why not the Parliament of Canada?

The Toronto Mail, which finds itself involved in a libel suit, brought against it by the Jesuits for publishing what they say is a false version of the oath taken by their order now says:—"We did not undertake to prove nor can we undertake to disprove the document, any more than we could undertake to prove the authenticity of 'secret instructions,' which Jesuits also repudiate, but which are given in full in such standard work as Larousse's dictionnaire, du xix. siecle. Everything about the Society of Jesus is covered with mystery which even in processes instituted against them, by so many kings and nations has been but partially removed. If the authenticity of the oath is denied, we are perfectly ready to record the denial. What we are not ready to deny under any threats, is that the doctrines embodied in the oath are substantially those which have been preached by Jesuit doctors and exemplified in the history of the order." This looks very much like a back down on the part of the junior Grit organ of Toronto. If the Mail cannot undertake to prove the authenticity of the Jesuits' oath which it published, why did it give it to the world as a genuine document?

The closure was applied in the British Parliament yesterday, and the debate on the address summarily stopped by a vote of 247 to 66. The vote shows that the motion for closure was sprung suddenly on the opposition, and that the government party had been carefully warned of the intention to make the motion. The English Conservatives will probably live long enough to regret the introduction into Parliamentary procedure of gag laws, for the purpose of stifling debate and whipping every measure through by the power of a brutal majority When the Radicals come into power, as they assuredly will some time or another, the Conservatives will find themselves throttled by the very weapon they are now so free to use.

The Halifax Chamber of Commerce seems to have suddenly awakened from its usual drowsy state. The other day it passed a series of resolutions against the enforcement of the law forbidding the filling of the rivers with sawdust, and yesterday it was again engaged in the work of resolving. It declared that Sir John Macdonald's assurances regarding the completion of the Short Line railway via Fredericton and Moncton were unsatisfactory, and insisted that nothing but its speedy completion would satisfy the just demands of the people of Nova Scotia. The chamber condemed the expenditure of public money to build up foreign ports with trade and traffic that rightfully belongs to Canadian ports, and demanded that our subsidified steamers should make both their summer and winter terminus in Canada. The latter demand is all right, but why should Halifax be dissatisfied with the Premier's assurances which seem to have been so entirely satisfactory to the people of Moncton and Fredericton? Did they expect Sir John Macdonald to build one hundred and thirty miles of railway while the delegates waited in Ottawa? What else could the Premier do for them but give them assurances?

The Jesuits of Quebec must feel very much like the successful litigant who, after winning his case, found that the amount of the verdict had been swallowed up in counsel fees. Of $400,000 given to them by the government of Quebec, in settlement of their real or imaginary claims, the Pope allows them to keep only $160,000. Of the remainder $140,000 goes to Laval University and $100,000 to the Bishops, $10,000 to each of the eight bishops, to be applied to the wants of his diocese, and $20,000 to be devoted to church work in Labrador. His Holiness evidently thinks the money will be better applied in the cause of higher education and in missionary work, than in increasing the already erroneous estates of the Jesuits.

The Sun very justly observes, that there is nothing sentimental about the ambition of cities to be credited with their full size and importanc. There is nothing sentimental about the desire of the people of St, John to have their city make as good a showing as possible in respect to its population, In the census returns St. John appears as the seventh city in the dominion, in point of population, coming after Montreal, Toronto, Hamilton, Quebec, Halifax and even Ottawa, whereas we know that, considering the community at the mouth of this river as St, John, it is actually the fourth in numbers, with a population of not less than 50,000 souls. There is nothing sentimental in our desire to appear as big as we are.

Hon. Mr. Foster has won a great deal of credit by his budget speech, which was a masterly exposition of the financial condition of the country. Ellis, M. P., did not like it of course, and telegraphed from Ottawa to his paper, the Globe, that it "was very long and tedious," but then the finance minister could scarcely have hoped to please Ellis, M. P., and probably did not try. The kind of budget speech that would have suited the taste of our traitor member would be one in which it would be declared that Canada was bankrupt and going to the dogs, and that nothing could save us from ruin but annexation to the United States.

King Milan, of Servia, has retired from the business of of monarchy and his little son, who is not yet thirteen years old, succeeds him. King Milan has enjoyed the distinguished honor of being the most disreputable and worthless creature who has sat on a European throne for half a century. His abdication has been in a measure forced upon him by the Servian Liberals, and public opinion in Europe has universallly denounced him for his treatment of his wife. So long, however, as he retains command of the Servian army, Milan will be a source of danger to the country. The Servians should insist of his going away bag and baggage, and if Queen Natalie returns to Servia they will probably do so.

We are informed that the correspondence between the Presbytery of St. John and the Provincial Government, in regard to the collection of vital statistics, will be available for publication, after to-day. We certainly think that it should be published, and the sooner the better. It is said that the letter sent by the Presbytery to Mr. Blair contained simply a curt refusal to obey the law, which requires ministers to notify the register of the funerals they have attended. We need hardly say that this news has produced a very painful feeling among many of the best friends of the Presbytery, and if there is any explanation of their attitude to modify this, it cannot be made too soon.

HERE AND THERE.

The great difficulty about common sense is that it is so tremendonsly scarce that it isn't common.

A professor of belles letters should be able to read inscriptions found in any language on old church bells.

Sophronia—Yes, a collection of old hats may be properly pronounced a bric-a-brac. They are antiquated tiles, you know.

Up to the present time 70,900,000 rabbit skins have been exported from New Zealand alone, and yet the number of rabbits in that conntry hae not perceptibly decreased.

When the Legislatures of the two Dakotas get to enacting laws for these two States they are likely to make it a penal offence for any person to own a themometer.

"England has applied electricity as a motive power to busses," says an exchange. As far back as we can remember, electricity has been the principal motive factor of the buss.—Burlington Free Press.

Twenty meters were added to the height of Mount Vesuvius during November and December last. Thousands of meters in this city are daily adding to Vesuvius gas bills. For further particulars see gas consumers.—Milwaukee Wisconsin.

New York Judge—The sentence of the court is that you be confined in the State prison at hard labor for the term of your natural life. Prisoner—For goodness sake, judge, don't condemn me to a life of idleness; electrify me at once.—Puck.

They were sitting in the theatre. One of them had got a little confused about the play. "What act is this? The fourth?" "No; it's the third." "No, it isn't; it's the fourth." "I know it's the third. I've only had two drinks."

Simonstern (the auctioneer)—"Here I hef a chenuine tiamont ring, vort' dree hundret unt feefty tollar. Der vidow ohf a man dot died sudden has godder sell it. How mooch am I offeot?' Customer (promptly) "two dollars"—"Take it avay, unt pay at der desk. Chakey pring up der nexd lot!"—Judge.

"I think that musicians must be an awfully conceited class of people." "What makes you think that?" "Why, their writings. Every once in a while you will see a portion of musical composition marked 'fine.' I think they ought to let other people be the judges of that, don't you."

"Books published 300 years ago sell from $25 to $500 a volume." Many modern authors, whose unsaleable editions are reposing on booksellers' shelves must regret that they didn't have their works printed in the fifteenth century. But we don't suppose they thought of that.

Prof. Goldwin Smith has another long letter in the Mail, declaring that commercial union is imminent, that protectionism, being admittedly a failure, free trade on this continent is Canada's best policy, as trade with England is diminishing yearly, and is in any case a precarious trade, for a maritime war, involving England, would cut Canada off from commercial intercourse with Europe.

Advices from St. Petersburg represent the Czar as incensed against Aitchinoff and as ordering his trial immediately on his arrival at Odessa. The Czar's anger extends to Gen. Ignatieff, through whom the Stravonic societies supplied funds to Aitchinoff. General Balanoff, Governor of Nevgorod, and another noted Slav. is involved and is threatened with suspension from office.

The enterprising Washington correspondent of a Western paper recently telegraphed to his paper an imaginary interview with Dr. Wharton, the acknowledged authority on international law. When he saw the paper next morning he was horrified to learn that Dr. Wharton had died early in the previous evening, at the time when he was represented as chatting with the corrospondent.

The Boston Courier, adversely criticicing the increase in the German squadron in Samoan waters, asserts that the order for the despatch of the warships was not given through Bismarck, but by superior authority. The report that Count von Waldersee was about to retire arose from the overtures of Bismarck towards his acceptance of a high diplomatic post, stated to be Vienna, in succession of Prince Henry of Reuss, upon whose discretion the Chancellor cannot rely. Von Waldersee declined placing himself within the grip of Bismarck and losing whatever hold his daily contact with the Emperor gives him.

A naturalized citizen of English birth being asked how he liked the birthday of the father of his adopted country, told this story. according to the New York Tribune; "The day before the Fourth of July last year the teacher to whom my boy goes to school explained to her class why the day was celebrated giving full particulars. The next morning the boy. who was born in this country said to me, 'Dad, this is the day we licked you. Simons tern.

General Lord Wolseley was the principal speaker at the dinner given by the volunteer medical staff on Friday evening. His address was chiefly confined to comments upon the condition of the national defences, and his remarks were earnestly endorsed by his hearers. In the course of his speech, Lord Wolseley declared that if England should ever be invaded by a foreign force the issue will be decided within a fortnight, The volunteer forces, he belived, would only require supplies wherein to support life for fourteen days, and the invaders would be driven from England's shores.

Spicy correspondence is published between Mr. Erastus Wiman and Colonel George Denison, in which the latter calls Mr. Wiman "the most attractive and most double-faced conspirator of the lot," referring to an alleged "traitorous conspiracy" to bring Canada into annexation. Mr. Wiman, however, vigorously hits back with the following: "Learn, sir, if you can, to discuss public questions with decency and candor. Learn to believe that the motives of those who differ from you may be not less patriotic and honorable than your own. Learn, if one who has risen from the ranks of labor tells you so, that the first qualities of a gentleman are courtesy and respect for the characters of others."

The question of the northern boundary of the province of Quebec is on the eve of being adjusted on a basis advantageous to that province. One hundred thousand square miles will be added to the territory of Quebec. The old boundary of Lower Canada is the basis of the settlement question put forward by the Quebec representatives. Sir. John Macdonald admitted the justice of the claim. That he suggested 52 latitude north about ten miles south of the mouth of Eastmain River be the boundary. The territory gained is rich in minerals, timber and arable land, and with a climate similar to that of Quebec but with less snow. It is thought that the ten miles spoken of could be obtained before the courts, bnt it is not regarded as of great importance.

In a Divorce Court.—Defendent lawyer—"If your honor pleases, I would like to ask a recess for ten minntes. A maiden annt of the defendant has died, and left him $500,000. I wish to consult wiih my client for a moment." Plaintiff's attorney (hurredly)—"The lady whom I have the honor to represent instructs me to withdraw this complaint. If the court pleases, I move that the case be dismissed.—Chicago Herald.

Literary Celebrities.

Margaret Deland, who wrote "John Ward, Preacher," is about 30 years of age, of medium height and has a face so strongly English that her American nationality would hardly be suspected.

Rider Haggard never rewrites a story before sending it to the press. The printer receives his original manuscript, upon which appear very few corrections or erasures.

Amanda M. Douglas, the popular novelist, has for the last fifteen years been the chief support of her father, mother and sister. During all these years she has written, on an average, two novels a year—in fact, she has been kept so busy that she has seldom been away from home for a week at a time. She can keep house, run a farm and make chickens pay.

Mrs. Augusta J. Evans-Wilson, the popular southern novelist, is short and stout, with an intelligent face. She has great taste for flowers and her camellias are the finest in the south. Her home is three miles from Mobile, and is the seat of a refined and generous hospitality.

Swinburne is the poet of love, but he is not a love of poet. Standing scarcely five feet in high heel boots, he has an immense head, covered with masses of wild, unkempt hair; his face is pale, livid, almost ghastly; his mouth is small, almost girlish in its expression. He is fond of the society of artists and men of letters, but keeps clear of the scented crush of London society.

George Augustus Sala, the English journalist, always wears a white waistcoat.

Mrs. Margaret J. Preston is not blind, as several newspapers have asserted, but she is suffering now from her merciless use of her eyes in her efforts to help southern literature. For many years after the war she did a great part of the literary editing of several southern quarterlies, magazines and journals, all gratis, and under the editor's name, not her's. This constant work wore out her eyesight.

Tolstoi, the Russian novelist, although of noble birth, affects the life of a peasant and the trade of a shoemaker. He dresses like a village artisan. His shirt is soiled with soot, his trousers begrimed with mud, and his whole appearance is that of a workingman, a day laborer, a down trodden Russian serf.

Robert Browning is short and stout, with a ruddy face, and looks like he enjoyed a good dinner, which he does, for he is one of the greatest diners out in England. He is very agreeable and to sit next to him at table is a privilege eagerly sought. He is not at all self conscious and is the least affected of men. He has none of Byron's poetical misanthropy and dandified airs.

Walter Besant is endeavoring to raise a public library of 400,000 volumes in London.

Julian Hawthorne is one of the handsomest of American literary men. His face does not possess the grand, majestic power that distinguished his father, but it is, perhaps, a countenance that possesses greater attractions for women. Over a beautifully shaped head fall curls of dark brown hair; his eyes are very fine, and would brighten a far less handsome face; he is tall, graceful and manly in figure.

Mrs. Margaret Wilson Oliphant, the novelist, better known simply as Mrs. Oliphant, is now 60 years of age. She makes her home in the town of Windsor, adjoining Queen Victoria's favorite palace. The fact that she is a Scotch woman has made her quite a favorite of the queen, who reads all her novels and takes every occasion to praise their healthy, moral tone.

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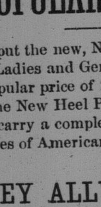
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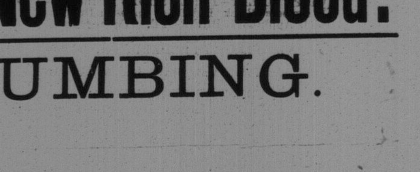

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