Weekly Colonist

FRIDAY, JANUARY 21, 1887.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

A letter appeared quite recently in our columns on this subject which attracted much attention and was the subject of general comment. It stated very clearly the case of a litigant in our supreme court who had grown weary of the delays to which his case was subjected, and who had at last come to the conclusion that from one cause or another it would be finally "shelved." Is it a fact as stated by our correspondent, who seems to be well informed on the subject, that "one-half of the suits launched in the supreme court die a natural death, are never brought to trial," because of delays such as he has to complain of? If so, the administration of justice must be in a very bad state indeed, and requires an immediate and absolute remedy. The system which prevails in the supreme court of this province does not obtain, we think, in that of any of the other provinces of the Dominion. In the first place, it is perfectly absurd to find the chief justice and associate judges of the highest court of jurisdiction in the province also trying the pettiest of cases in a lower court. To properly perform the duties incumbent upon them as supreme court judges would seem to be inconsistent with their attendance in the county court. Here it seems to us the great fault in the system lies. As long as the judges are asked to perform the dual duties now incumbent upon them, litigants in our courts will still have reason to complain of the failure of justice, because of its long delay. Looking at the matter from a merely sentimental point of view it does not well comport with the high dignity of a justice of the supreme court of the province to be also compelled to adjudicate in trifling cases of debt or tort, which, in other provinces of the Dominion, are disposed of by justices of the peace or parish court commissioners. The institution of county courts, as in most other provinces of Canada, with their own judges having such jurisdiction as would not clash with the supreme court or the small debts court to which we have just referred, would solve the problem and render the proper facilitation of legal remedies possible. Their is no reason why the "Small Debts Act," passed last session, which is doing good service throughout the country should not also be applied to Victoria. This city, being the centre of the great bulk of the trade of the province requires some such easy and summary method for the collection of debts of small amounts. Thus with the supreme court, the county court and justices' court, each having its own duties and jurisdiction, we should not hear such complaints, as are frequently being made, of the utter uselessness of "going to law." People often prefer to waive their just rights rather than take their grievances into the courts, believing that after paying heavy costs it might be months or years before their cause comes to trial. By the establishment of such a system of courts as we have outlined the other matters to which our correspondent refers as impeding justice would have no place. It is perfectly absurd, and peculiar, we believe, to the courts of British Columbia, that "each step in a suit can be had before only the same judge who has the same suit in hand." Equally, if not more ridiculous, is it to await the convenience of this or that lawyer who may be unable at the appointed time to go on with his case. There are instances where such a courtesy should be extended, but as a matter of right or of custom it is entirely incompatible with the proper carrying out of the laws. Counsel who have not a good and sufficient reason for their failure to go on with a suit cannot object if it is dismissed—this is the usual practice. Every application for adjournment means costs for the unfortunate litigant, who ought not to be made to suffer from the failure of his counsel to proceed with the case at the appointed time. Little blame can be attached to either the judges or lawyers for the present condition of affairs. Interlocutory applications might, it is true, be disposed of much more rapidly in chambers. A score or more are easily disposed of in England, the United States or Eastern Canada, while here all parties think they are succeeding admirably if one or two are taken up. There is no reason why this should be. In eastern courts it is found absolutely necessary to carry on the business of the court as expeditiously as possible, and it is becoming quite as imperative here. The bench and bar ought, for their own sake, to agitate the reconstruction of our legal tribunals on a more modern basis. Otherwise they will find that would-be clients prefer to smooth over their difficulties the best way they can, or indeed not take the trouble to have their wrongs righted at all, rather than go into the courts to be mulcted in continued heavy costs with a verdict some time in the "sweet bye and bye," nobody can tell when. There are many "disgusted suitors" in the province at the present time who know to their sorrow, and by the diminished contents of their purses, what an "interlocutory" application in chambers means, but who find themselves no nearer the end than ever. This growing dissatisfaction with the administration of that justice which obtains in our courts at present will grow into such large proportions ere long, if it is not remedied in some way, as to compel the legal fraternity in pure self defence to take action looking to a different state of things. The bench and bar of this province need no words of praise. The fault does not lie so much with them as with the system and both would, we have no doubt, hail withdelight some such change as we have suggested. This matter ought to occupy the attention of the legislature at its ensuing session and such improvements should be effected as are within its power, to the end that the prevalent dissatisfaction with the courts may cease. This is preeminently a subject for careful discussion and immediate action—none more important could be dealt with. At the very least the "Small Debts Act" could be extended to Victoria, and this in itself would somewhat, however inadequately, simplify matters. In the event of another session of the commons an effort should be made by the representatives from this province to secure the establishment of county courts with their respective judges as in other provinces, and thus equipped there will be no cause to fear any impediments in the way of the prompt and satisfactory administration of justice.

THE MORMON QUESTION.

In the United States congress on Wednesday the house considered the Edmunds' anti-polygamy bill and the Tucker substitute therefor. The debate was opened by Taylor, of Ohio, who sketched the establishment of the Mormon church in Utah, showing that it disposed of life and liberty; it dictated laws, and in the name of religion it imposed the practice of polygamy. He declared that this pest and church defied the moral sense of civilization, and were antagonistic to the principles and institutions of the Republic. Caine, the Utah delegate, opposed the measure as undemocratic and wantonly destructive of human rights, and because it set at naught immutable principles on which the common rights of man were builded, and turned ed the Mormons and their church over to "insatiable spoilers." He claimed that it was preposterous to talk about the Mormon blot on the civilization of the age. There was a scant probability, he said, of the canker of Mormon polygamy endangering the morals of the world in the presence of such wide-spread and general demoralization of morals as are depicted in the Moral Statistics published in 1882. In the course of a really eloquent speech which contained all the stock arguments in favor of Mormonism, and a eulogy on their God-fearing and God-serving spirit he claimed that the Mormon church establishment was the thing aimed at in what he termed his "onslaught" on the Mormon people. He implored the house to pause and pledged his word and character that the statements upon which the desired legislation was based were without foundation, in fact Reed, of Maine, touched the heart of the matter when he said it was useless to call the bill an assault upon religion—it was an assault upon a band of men organized for the purpose of exclusively controlling a territory belonging to the people of the United States. Tucker, of Virginia, followed and declared that no question had ever been examined with more earnest care, and that something must be done if the Republic did not desire to declare that they were unable to cope with the question of Mormonism. The territory of the United States did not be long to the first squad of men which came and squatted upon it, and said we are monarchs of all we survey. It belonged to the United States and it was for her to say that the territory should not be monopolized by any class of men or any church. But, what was polygamy? he asked. It was a crime by the law of every state in Christendom ever since Christ interpreted the law, and gave it out that man should leave father and mother and cleave unto his wife, and they twain, "and not a whole bundle," shall be one flesh. The nucleus of a nation was in the home, peopled by one man and one woman, the one man loving supremely none but her, and the one woman loving supremely none but him. Grant that the affection of a husband was diffused among a number, and that was the basis of the civilization that went out 2,000 years ago, except in Asia. He believed that if the bill were enacted into law and supplemented by the proposed constitutional amendment Mormonism would go to pieces as a polygamist institution, and Utah would be a free people, and would be ready to enter the union. He declined to permit an amendment to the bill saying that he wanted the bill to pass at once, "so that the 12th of January would be memorable in the history of the country." The house substitute was then agreed to and the senate bill as amended was passed without division, only eight members arising to demand the yeas and nays. This anti-Mormon bill makes a lawful husband or wife of any person prosecuted for bigamy, polygamy or unlawful cohabitation, a competent witness against the accused, and further provides for the registration of all marriages, making it a misdemeanor for any person to violate the provisions relative to registration. It annuls all laws authorizing or providing for the identification of votes of electors at any election, and abolishes woman suffrage in Utah territory. Penalties are prescribed for unlawful intercourse, and polygamy is defined as a marriage between one person of one sex and more than one person of the other sex, and is declared to be a felony. The financial corporations known as the Church of Latter Day Saints, and the Perpetual Emigration Fund Company are dissolved, and the attorney-general is directed to wind them up by process of the courts, and all laws for the organized militia of the territory and the creation of the Nauvoo Legion are annulled. Polygamists are made ineligible to vote, and an oath is prescribed to all persons desiring to vote, that they will obey the laws of the United States, and especially the laws in respect to crimes defined in this and the original Edmunds act. The bill provides for the immediate appointment by the president of all judges and selectmen of the county and probate courts, and by the governor of all justices of the peace, sheriffs, constables and other county and district officers. The bill as amended by the adoption of the substitute will be transmitted to the senate for action by that body. Now that congress has taken decisive action on this question—too long a blight upon the fair fame of the Republic—it is to be hoped the good work will not be "burked," but that an immediate end will be made of one of the foulest institutions which the nineteenth century of man could have devised. So will the great blot on the escutcheon of our southern sister be erased and a cancerous growth on the body politic of the United States be plucked out by the roots.

THE SCHOOLHOUSES.

At the last meeting of the school board one of the trustees complained that the Johnson street schoolhouse had been used for the purposes of a meeting called to hear the views of candidates for municipal honors. The complaining trustee moved a resolution which in effect condemned the use of schoolhouses for meeting purposes. It was explained by the chairman that application for the room was made by members of the city council; that the city council had always allowed the use of the police court room for the holding of the board meetings, making no charge for gas, fuel or janitor; that it was customary in country districts to permit the use of schoolhouses for political and every other description of meeting; and that the courtesy extended the councillors was a very slight return for the many obligations under which the board had been placed by the city council. The resolution was withdrawn after some discussion, and the member of the board was subsequently astonished to hear through the columns of an evening paper that the chairman was "dressed down" by two of the trustees for allowing the use of the room. Had the evening paper sent a reporter to the meeting it would have known that the "dressing down" was purely imaginary. The control of the schoolhouse is vested in the government; and we can scarcely conceive—in view of the fact that the board is under deep obligations to the city council—that the weather was inclement, and that the people who were convenienced by the use of the room reside remote from the city hall—that the government would interpose any obstacle to the use of the room for municipal purposes.

A LATE Washington dispatch says that the department of agriculture estimates of the area, product and value of corn, wheat and oats for permanent record, are completed. The official work of the year has been thoroughly reviewed with the aid of states, corporations and all available data of the crop production, and the aggregates are substantially those recently reported. The corn crop in round numbers aggregates 1,965,000,000 bushels, grown on 75,000,000 acres, and have farm value of $610,000,000. The yield is 22 bushels per acre, 4½ bushels less than last year. There is an increase of area of over 3 per cent, while the average price has increased 13 per cent, or from 32.8 cents to 36.6 cents per bushel. The aggregate product of wheat is 457,000,000 bushels, from an area of nearly 37,000,000 acres, having a farm value of $314,000,000. The average value has been 68.7 cents per bushel, against 77.1 for the previous crop, and 94.5 cents for the great crop of 1884. This is 35 per cent reduction from the value between 1870 and 1880. The yield of spring wheat centres is better than was expected in the season, but on the Pacific coast much worse.

TECHNICAL education in all countries is now receiving special attention. It is a generally recognized fact that only by careful scientific training in the most common trades can any nation hope to keep up with the age. Germany seems to have been the first country to recognize this nineteenth century necessity, and she comprehensive system of technical education for mechanics, which has been carried out for several years, is already bearing fruit in a superiority of German goods, both in texture and appearance, which is now recognized in all the markets of the world. In the different German states there are now numerous training schools for the mechanical education of young men and women in every department of skilled labor. A college for weavers at Mulheim on the Rhine, has given a full course of instruction to over seventeen hundred students. The education at these institutions is remarkably thorough to every detail of the trade studied; and no one can graduate until he has become practically proficient in his chosen profession. Perceiving what has been accomplished in Germany, the leaders of thought in other nations are now energetically taking steps to follow her example. In England there is some talk of establishing a technical university.

SIR CHARLES TUPPER.

The return of Sir Charles Tupper to Canada has led to the belief, as well in conservative as in liberal circles, that he will re-enter the cabinet as minister of finance. The story goes that a vacancy will be created for him by the appointment of the Hon. A. W. McLellan to the lieutenant-governorship of Nova Scotia, the present incumbent, Hon. Mr. Richey, being relegated to the wool-sack. It is not improbable that there is much fire in this smoke. Mr. McLellan, though a very worthy man and a most faithful minister, is not distinguished by any of the brilliant qualities which characterize Sir Charles, whom, however, on a very notable occasion, when they were not as good friends as they are now he denominated "the high priest of corruption." The announcement that Sir Charles Tupper had decided to tender his services to the Dominion and to again take his place beside his old chieftain would be hailed with delight in every province of the Dominion. Already at the prospect of his return to parliamentary life the loyal conservatives of Nova Scotia are jubilant with delight, while the secessionist grits are correspondingly depressed. There is no doubt that three-quarters of the Nova Scotia constituencies would feel honored by having him as their representative, but it is probable he would offer himself for Halifax, where his majority over A. G. Jones or any other opponent could not fail to be overwhelming. His influence will be felt not only throughout his native province, whose most distinguished son he is, but in the neighboring provinces of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island as well. In the former province he has long labored with Sir Leonard Tilley in the conservative cause, and it is doubtful if any of the parliamentary speakers have met with such ovations at the capital of the province as the "Great Thunderer" of Sir John's cabinet. Sir Charles deserves well of the country. In the Nova Scotia assembly, before confederation, he was one of its brightest lights, and his name is inseparably connected with the Union. After confederation he took a prominent position in the commons and was as highly honored by his friends as he was feared by his opponents. He had no peer in the house as a debater and none in a capacity for genuine hard work. His scoring of Sir Richard Cartwright is memorable in the debates and was, perhaps, one of the finest pieces of invective ever heard in parliament. His administrative talents are of a very high order, and his remarkable energy has always been a wonder and surprise to his co-workers. As our high commissioner he has done more than his duty. It is acknowledged by all Canadians who have visited the Colonial Exhibition that the success achieved was due in the largest degree to his untiring efforts. He toiled early and late, and left no stone unturned to bring the country he loves so well into prominence. We cannot over-estimate the good effect his able discharge of his onerous duties will have on the future of the Dominion. Now, happily, fully restored to health and vigor and desiring to vote, that they will obey the laws of the United States, and especially the laws in respect to crimes defined in this and the original Edmunds act. The bill provides for the immediate appointment by the president of all judges and selectmen of the county and probate courts, and by the governor of all justices of the peace, sheriffs, constables and other county and district officers. The bill as amended by the adoption of the substitute will be transmitted to the senate for action by that body. Now that congress has taken decisive action on this question—too long a blight upon the fair fame of the Republic—it is to be hoped the good work will not be "burked," but that an immediate end will be made of one of the foulest institutions which the nineteenth century of man could have devised. So will the great blot on the escutcheon of our southern sister be erased and a cancerous growth on the body politic of the United States be plucked out by the roots.

THE GERMAN ARMY BILL.

Bismarck Becomes Passionate When Referring to France.

The Measure Unlikely to Pass—Russia to be Conciliated—English Press Comment.

BERLIN, Jan. 12.—Debate on the army bill was resumed in the Reichstag to-day. Dr. Windthorst again spoke in favor of a triennial term. Prince Bismarck replied: "In seven years we might be confronted with altered circumstances. To be sure, it is also impossible to calculate the position of affairs seven years hence, but during that period, he thought peace would be secured, and compromise would be possible. In the centre party, a number of heterogeneous political elements are becoming powerful, but will the union last? Is its continuance until next election certain? At the time when so many rights and privileges were granted to the Reichstag, by the constitution, there was no idea that they would lead to such disputes as have now arisen." In speaking of the imperial army, the chancellor said he had no intention to detract from the rights of sovereigns of the federal states, as heads of their respective domains, nor, he continued, would the government contest the right of the house to criticise the bill during the debate on the budget, provided the government proposals were now accepted. Referring to the question of the working classes, he declared that the government did not wish to drag it into the present discussion. He was sure, if called upon by the empire, the workingmen of Germany would be ready at all times to come forward in defence of the fatherland. In concluding, he again assured the house that he would not abandon a hair's breadth of the bill, and must insist upon the full scope of the measure. The Reichstag then adjourned.

Prince Bismarck has had long daily conferences with the emperor with reference, it is supposed, to the position of the Reichstag. In government circles it is believed that the decision on the bill will be reached to-morrow. The government's supporters despair of the passage of the measure.

Prince Bismarck became passionate when referring to France, and was apparently indifferent as to what impression his words were likely to make. There was a marked difference in his references to Russia. Every word he uttered showed his anxiety not to offend Russia or to make her suspicious. During his speech Prince Bismarck drank nine glasses of cold brandy and water. While the debate was going on the galleries in the Reichstag were crammed and the streets adjacent to the house were thronged with people.

LONDON, Jan. 11.—The *Daily News*, referring to Bismarck's speech in the Reichstag, says it will have a bad effect upon the peace of Europe, and that it tends to confirm the fears that Germany meditates an attack upon France.

The *Telegraph* thinks the speech will chill to the freezing point the martial ardor of the revanche party in France, and that the utterances of both Von Moltke and the chancellor will have a good effect in preserving peace.

The *Standard* says: "The speeches of Bismarck and Von Moltke make the situation look, if possible, darker than ever. Von Moltke's assurance that Germany's desire is for peace is doubtless sincere. Bismarck's possibly is so; but the stringent measures taken in the endeavor to maintain peace only shows how precarious is its continuance.

The *Times*, remarking the probability that Bismarck will be defeated, says: "His statement is discouraging both to those who looked to Germany as a minister of peace on the basis of a treaty of right, and to those who hoped to see Europe gradually relieved of the grievous burden of enormous armies and increasing taxation. He sees a threatened storm and is determined to provide for the safety of his own country."

THE QUESTION OF DISSOLUTION.

The Government Crumbling to its Fall—Lord Randy in High Spirits.

NEW YORK, Jan. 12.—Referring to the question of the dissolution of parliament about Easter, the *Post's* London correspondent says he is convinced it has passed from the region of political certainty. The government is simply crumbling to its fall. In eighteen months Lord Salisbury has lost three of his ablest followers, Carnarvon, Churchill and Iddesleigh. The unionist alliance is cracking all around. A considerable caste of the young tory members are ready to support Churchill. There will be great dissent in the cabinet on the coming local government bill, which was supposed to be an immense conservative success. The difference of opinion is so great that influential conservatives inside and outside the government are urging Salisbury not to attempt to introduce the measure. Although its introduction means the instant and complete collapse of the party, yet it is difficult to see how he can avoid doing so. The enforced retirement of Lord Iddesleigh was a piece of sharp practice on Salisbury's part. When coalition became necessary all the ministers sent in their resignations formally, in order to leave Salisbury free handed. Naturally among them was Iddesleigh, who never dreamed that he would be the one chosen for the massacre. Salisbury jumped at the opportunity and accepted the resignation by return post. Churchill is in high spirits. He said yesterday privately that everything was going as well as possible for him.

THEY FOUGHT THE BRIGANDS.

PARIS, Jan. 12.—An exciting scene occurred at the Fonte Fraide Monastery, in the vicinity of Narbonne, this evening. A dozen brigands descended upon the vicinity, scaled the monastery walls, well armed with daggers and revolvers. The father superior, who was resting quietly in his room, was surprised by revolvers being pressed at his head, a ruffian, backed by several others, demanded his money. The abbot, not losing his presence of mind, said: "We are sixty and you are twelve," and, springing to a rope near by, rang loudly the chapel bell. The monks hurriedly rushed in in response to the alarm. A short conflict resulted in the flight of the brigands, who fired a volley before they decamped by which three monks were severely wounded. The ruffians captured no treasure. The authorities were warned. Gendarmes are now in pursuit.

THE LONDON board of trade returns for November were of a much more satisfactory character than those for any month for a long time past, and will probably convince the most sceptical observers that a revival of commercial activity has actually begun. The imports amounted to £23,051,000, an increase of £3,307,000, or about 11 per cent, and the exports to £17,570,000, an increase of £1,105,000, or about 6½ per cent. The increase in the imports is pretty general, the chief exceptions being timber, silk, and some classes of provisions. The arrivals of wheat show a slight increase in quantity and a nominal decrease in value. The shipments from the United States and from India were again very large, while those from Russia continue to diminish. The landings of raw cotton were about 600,000 cwt. in excess of those of November, 1885. The exports also show increases in the majority of cases, especially in cotton yarns and piece goods, woolen yarns, worsted manufactures, iron and steel, and machinery and millwork. In woolen fabrics and cutlery the increase is small. As regards iron and steel the increase is chiefly in pig iron, old iron, unwrought steel, and railroad materials. Of the latter, 70,000 tons were shipped, valued at £315,000, against 44,000 tons, valued at £239,000 last year. The entries and clearances of shipping, both foreign and otherwise, show increases.

POOR LETTER "A."—"Do you sell type?" "Type, sir! No, sir; this is an ironmonger's. You'll find type at the linendraper's, over the way." "I don't mean tape, man! Type for printing!" "Oh, type yer mean! I beg yer pardon, sir."—*Punch.*

LATE CANADIAN NEWS.

ONTARIO.

The cabinet changes expected before polling day are these; Tupper becomes minister of finance and McLelan lieutenant-governor of Nova Scotia, Richey, the present incumbent of the latter office, being made a judge. Patterson of Essex, enters the cabinet as postmaster-general, *vice* Campbell made lieutenant-governor of Ontario, Costigan receiving a permanent appointment and to be replaced by Landry, of Kent.

The grand jury, Toronto, has brought in true bills against Patrick Burns, John H. Venables and Thomas C. Johnson for conspiracy to defraud the city in connection with the delivery of coal.

An application was made out at Osgoode hall, Toronto, on behalf of Prowe, the defeated candidate in West Durham at the provincial election, for a *mandamus* to compel the county judge of Northumberland to grant a recount of the ballots, which it is said he refused on the ground that the proper notice had not been given in the case. The decision was reversed.

To-day's storm was the worst experienced this season. On the railroads all the trains are late and the freight trains are reported stuck at almost all points on the route.

Friendly & Co., Toronto, were unable to meet their paper and it went to protest, the amount being $6,000. Various reports are in circulation regarding the firm's standing. A settlement is expected.

The employes of H. E. Clark & Co., trunk manufacturers, Toronto, have been locked out. The firm, after giving the nine hour system a trial, resolved to go back to ten hours a day, which the employes refused to adopt.

The Church of the Ascension, Hamilton, has been burned. The fire started from a taper used by the organist while oiling the bellows at the back of the organ. Loss, $20,000; insurance, $11,000.

Rosenberger's bakery and Snell Bros. butcher shop, Exeter, have been burned. The loss is considerable.

The Sherbrooke house has been burned. Loss, $25,000; insurance, $18,000.

A double store owned by Mrs. Laycock, Paris, occupied by J. J. Guittard and W. D. Richards, clothiers, has been burned. Laycock's loss, $1,500; insurance $800. Guittard's loss, $2,500; insurance $2,000. Richards' loss, $2,000; insurance $1,300.

The Ontario legislature will meet on February 10th.

Thomas H. Johnson, assistant commissioner of crown lands, of Toronto, died suddenly from heart disease.

Sir John Macdonald has been asked to contest Russell county, which in the provincial contest elected a reformer by a considerable majority. It is thought his candidature would save the constituency to the party for the Dominion.

The Kingston conservatives have asked Speaker Kirkpatrick to be their candidate for the city at the Dominion elections, but have not yet received a definite reply. They think this is the only chance of defeating Gunn.

A special cablegram to the Mail says Lord Lansdowne gave as his reason for not joining the British cabinet, that Von Moltke and the chancellor will have a good effect in preserving peace.

Sir John Lester Kaye is in Ottawa. He has completed arrangements with the interior department for the establishment of large farms in the Northwest, and will leave for England shortly to organize the scheme. Operations on the farms will be commenced in the spring.

The rumor that the Dominion elections are shortly to take place has created great excitement amongst all classes. The temperance party are active. Already Mayor Howland and Mr. S. H. Blake, Q. C., are mentioned as their candidates in East and Centre Toronto respectively. Mr. Robert Jaffray will be the reform nominee for one of the divisions. Mr. Sheppard and Mr. Dury are already in the field as labor candidates for West and East Toronto respectively. Hon. Beverly Robinson will probably seek the votes of his old constituents in West Toronto. Mr. Edward Guerney is mentioned as a likely conservative candidate in one of the divisions. Mr. Jas. Beaty, Mr. A. R. Boswell and Lieut.-Col. F. C. Denison, are prepared to do battle for their party, and Mr. John Small will run things hard in the east.

A Kingston grocer was fined $40 and costs for selling liquor to a boy ten years old.

Joseph Nichols, an old resident of Fullerton township, dropped dead from heart disease.

John Byers is reported missing from Wolf lake, on the Kippewa. It is supposed that he was drowned, or wandered away and perished in the woods.

Gen. Middleton has gone to Quebec to give evidence in the libel suit brought by Col. Amyot against the *Canadien* for stating that he characterized the volunteers as only fit to guard forts and provisions. Middleton's testimony is expected to be very interesting.

QUEBEC.

A movement is afoot to procure a permanent residence at Montreal for the governor-general. The city council is willing to donate the site which it has the power to do. Persons believed to represent the government have made Mr. Alex. Buntin an offer for his furnished residence. His figure is $800,000.

It was announced from the pulpit of St. Bartholomew Reformed Episcopal church, Montreal, that an unknown person had contributed $8,620 towards the liquidation of the debt on the building.

Judge Ouimet, of Montreal, has decided that the purchaser of the book debts of an insolvent firm has no right to their possession, and that the court can inspect them.

Judgment has been rendered in the Exchange bank case against M. P. Gault, of Montreal. The action was taken to recover $500,000 from Gault on the ground that he was responsible for the overdrafts of ex-President Thomas Craig. The action was dismissed with costs.

La Minerve, the French conservative organ at Montreal, has announced officially that the proprietors of the Toronto *Mail* having refused to continue to support the French Canadian party, the leaders of the party have determined to establish a new journal in Toronto, which shall be recognized as the organ of the conservative party.

Henry Venor, of Ogdensburg, N. Y., suicided by cutting his throat. His father is a chemist, and removed his business from Quebec to Ogdensburg a year ago. Overstudy deranged his son's mind.

A deputation composed of thirty engineers of the Canadian Pacific, between Port Arthur and Quebec, waited on Mr. Van Horne for an advance in wages. They considered the company's receipts justified an increase. What they asked for was an increase of from $2.50 to $2.40 per day, with an increase of 20 cents an hour for detention time.

It is announced at Montreal that Judge Andrews, the youngest of the superior court judges in that district, is to receive the late Judge Ramsay's seat on the Queen's Bench. Before his appointment, Judge Andrews was Sir Adolphe Caron's law partner. Judge Routhier, of Murray bay, will replace Judge Andrews at Quebec, and in turn will be replaced by Mr. Oliver, now a lawyer at Montmagny. Hon. Mr. Church, Mr. Chapleau's law partner, will replace the late Judge Torrance at Montreal.

It is stated in Montreal that a petition is in circulation asking Hon. Peter Mitchell to accept the liberal candidature for Montreal West at the Dominion elections.

The deputy collector of customs received a dispatch from the collector of the district of Vermont that until further orders the importation of horses from Montreal into the district of Vermont is prohibited, on account of the prevalence of glanders among horses in Montreal. Prominent horse dealers were thunderstruck on hearing the news, as they state there is no ground whatever for this action. J. H. Kim, of the Montreal Horse Exchange, has entered an action against the city for $5,000 damages. He bases the action on the report of the medical inspector, the officer declaring glanders to be epidemic.

The national members of Quebec district and their supporters will give Mercier and the national members from the western section a grand reception on January 26th, the eve of the opening of the legislature, eclipsing even the remarkable popular demonstration with which the ancient capital honored Blake on Sept. 6th, 1881.

NOVA SCOTIA.

The chief subject of conversation in political circles in Halifax is the authoritative announcement of Sir Charles Tupper's return to Canada. Liberal-conservatives are enthusiastic over the good news. The grits are correspondingly depressed. There is a strong feeling among the liberal-conservative masses here that Sir Charles should be invited to run in Halifax as it is fitting that Nova Scotia's capital city should be represented by her most distinguished son.

Word has been received at Cape George, Antigonish, of the recent murder in Colorado of a young man named Stephen McDonald, who formerly belonged to Cape George. He went out some time ago with his father, who died, leaving all his property to his son. His mother married again, and it is supposed the murder was committed by the stepfather, in order to acquire the property. The deceased was out attending sheep when killed, and eighteen buckshot were taken out of his back. The young man was only married last spring.

Two boys, sons of John Kennedy, of Loche Bain, aged respectively fourteen and seventeen years, while skating, broke through the ice and were drowned. Their bodies were recovered shortly after the accident occurred.

Senator McDonald, Dr. Wm. McKay, Dr. Wm. Chisholm and Rev. Father Quinlan, the rest of the Cape Breton deputation, have arrived at Ottawa. The deputation will present to the government a very largely signed petition from the people of Cape Breton, asking that the route of the Cape Breton railway be changed, and that it be *via* Richmond. There is about $10,000,000 invested in the mineral interests of the country through which the line would pass if it ran to Richmond, and it is to benefit this mineral interest that the change is desired.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

The case of the seized Eastport schooner, George Linwood, was disposed of at Flagg's Cove by the captain paying a fine of $200, and the vessel was released. The seizure was made on an old charge of smuggling at Deer island.

At St. Andrews on Christmas day, Mr. Robert Glenn had on his table a bouquet of pansies picked in his garden that morning.

Oliver D. Smith, of Juvenile settlement, York county, about a week ago started through the woods to a neighbor's house, and has not been heard of since.

At Mill Branch, Kent county, every man and woman was converted at the revival. The solitary sinner is useful—his presence keeps the missionary spirit alive among the Christians.

John Marshall, aged 75 years, suicided at Hillsboro, Albert county, by hanging himself in his barn. He was a well-to-do farmer, but had been melancholy for some time.

A meeting of citizens of St. John was held to consider the celebration of the Queen's jubilee and the erection of a permanent memorial. A committee was appointed to report on each matter. The erection of a memorial hall seems assured.

At the Portage, Miramichi road, a few nights ago, the ten-year-old son of Mr. Allen Fairley went to the stable, and lifting up the feed hatch to see if the horse required more hay, the animal reared forward and bit off completely the boy's upper lip. His sufferings were terrible, and especially so as medical aid could not be secured until the following day. The lip bitten off measured 1½ inches by ¾ of an inch.

MANITOBA.

Chief of Police Murray's resignation to the police commissioners has been accepted. The name of Sergeant J. C. McRae is mentioned in connection with with the position. The sergeant is one of the most popular and efficient officers of the force, and his position as senior sergeant in a manner gives him a claim to the position.

The convention to nominate a conservative candidate in Selkirk for the coming Dominion election, held at Boissevain, T. M. Daly, barrister, of Brandon, was the choice of the convention. Mr. Daly was formerly of Stratford, Ont., and is a son of Mr. Daly, who formerly represented North Perth in the Dominion house for years.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

Judge Kelley, of Charlestor, has been violently assaulted by two drunken men. He was remonstrating with them for stealing a pair of skates from his son when they set upon him.

After working all day in the woods, a young man named Whelan was supplied with rum obtained from an Alberton justice of the Peace. Whelan imbibed freely and then started to walk home, two miles. When within half a mile of home he fell into a stupor, from the effects of the drink. He was carried home and died that night in a drunken sleep.

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES.

The weather has been extremely cold at Regina. Thermometer down as low as 52.

On Thursday, the 6th inst., a settler south of Moose Jaw, arrived at Regina from Pasqua, with his hands, feet and face badly frozen. Next morning he started for his home. Up to Saturday eve he has not been seen or heard of. It is feared he was frozen on his way. He is very thinly clad. His mind is slightly deranged. The police, citizens of Moose Jaw and settlers in his neighborhood have been in search of him since Thursday last.

The Edmonton *Bulletin* reports that "a collision took place on Friday between two freight trains near Regina."

M. Manning who was lost on the prairie turned up but badly frozen.

"ABSOLUTE INDEPENDENCE."

The Partnership Between the "Mail" and the Conservative Party Breaks Down.

OTTAWA, Jan. 10.—The *Mail* this morning has a long article addressed to the public in which it declares its absolute independence. It says: "The working partnership between us and the conservative party has broken down, and nothing remains for us but to accept the logical development of our former departure and make the *Mail* an independent journal, serving neither party and criticising both with freedom born of complete deliverance from political ties. The future is pregnant with issues that cannot fail to weaken existing party divisions, and our aim is to prepare the way for the birth of an independent organization that shall be British and Canadian and liberal in the highest and best sense." It then lays down its platform being briefly, protective tariff, manhood suffrage with educational qualifications, prohibition, reconstruction of the senate, reform of the civil service, development of the Northwest as rapidly as the finances will allow, religious and racial equality.

OVERSTOCKING THE RANGES.

MILES CITY, Mon., Jan. 10.—Cattle men are greatly alarmed owing to the overstocking of the ranges. Last year witnessed a heavy influx of cattle brought here to winter. Large herds were brought over the parched trails from the Rio Grande and in a famished condition were placed on the ranges which were already so fully stocked that only a phenomenally mild winter could prevent heavy losses. To make matters worse the calf crop was unusually large. Up to Christmas the weather was favorable and all went well, but since then the temperature has ranged as low as 40° below zero, and there have been blinding storms before which the cattle drift in spite of the cowboys. Heavy losses are inevitable if the cold weather contiues.

As a Mr. Miller, aged 60 years, of Hillsboro, was crossing Harris' bridge with his team on Thursday, the bridge fell, precipitating him into the stream thirty feet below. One horse was killed. Miller was badly injured, and the doctors say he cannot recover.

THE NEW CLERGYMAN FOR NEW WESTMINSTER.

A Farewell Address From His Late Congregation.

The Hamilton *Times* of January 1st says:

The school room in connection with Erskine church was crowded last evening. The congregation met for the purpose of bidding farewell to their pastor, Rev. Thomas Scouler, who departs for New Westminster, B. C., on Monday next. After a few preliminaries Mr. Scouler was called upon speak a few words. He believed that God had blessed his work among them and that he would bless him in the field to which he was going. He had done his best to serve his Master faithfully, and had, as far as it was within his power, done his duty to Erskine church. It had long been his desire to be engaged in foreign mission work. Circumstances rendered this impossible, but the field to which he was going was the next thing to it. If he had believed it would be detrimental to the interests of Erskine church he would not have gone, but he thought that it was God's will that he should go. He concluded by advising the congregation to cling closely together, ignoring slight differences of opinion, and they would surely be blessed. Mr. James Smellie then read the following address from the congregation to Mr. Scouller.

To Rev. Thomas Scouler:

We, the congregation of Erskine church, Hamilton, Ontario, on the occasion of your taking your departure from amongst us, desire to express the deep regret we experience in having to part with you who have labored amongst us for more than six years as a minister of the Word of Life; your efforts to promote our spiritual well-being, together with the many excellencies of mind and spirit which you possess, have endeared you to us and led us to desire that you should have remained with us; but the Lord of Glory, the Head of His own Church, who in His love and mercy lent you to us for a season, has in His Providence given indication both to you and to us that it is His will that you should labor henceforward in another portion of His vineyard; we bow in submission to His sovereign will, and do so neither in coldness nor indifference, but, while realizing our own loss, we would as a congregation desire in devotedness to our Lord and Master to manifest some of the fruits of your ministry to us by cheerfully making for His sake the sacrifice which He in His all-wise providence has called us to offer; we therefore, at the call of Him who by the Holy Spirit said to the Church at Antioch; "Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them," would desire to acknowledge the honor the Master is conferring on us by calling us to surrender to Him for work in another portion of His church one to whom we had become so deeply attached; and in a spirit like to that of the Christians at Antioch we would now commend you, Mrs. Scouler, and your son to the care of our Heavenly Father. May He watch over you to keep you in safety during your journey to the land whither you are going; may He bring you to your destination in health and peace and comfort; may He bless you and guide you in all your labors amongst the people to whom He is sending you, and in answer to our prayers for you and them may He grant to you to see abundant fruits of your ministry. May this dispensation which we are called now to experience result in enlarging the circle of our sympathies with God's people throughout the world, and when we shall have reached the home of the redeemed in glory we shall see that God hath made everything beautiful in his time; what we know not now we shall know hereafter. Signed on behalf of the congregation of Erskine church, James Newlands, Samuel Crawford.

The address was beautifully illuminated and framed.

Two handsome secretaries were then brought in, and Mr. James Newlands asked Mr. and Mrs. Scouler to accept these as slight tokens of the regard which the congregation felt towards them. Mr. Scouler was taken completely by surprise but made a few remarks thanking the donors. The doxology was sung and the benediction was pronounced by Rev. Thomas Scouler; after which the meeting dispersed with many expressions of regret at parting with so valued a friend.

PROJECTED RAILWAYS.

Proposals to Open Up the Province by the Mighty Civilizer.—List of Lines and Where it is Proposed to Begin and End Them.

A number of railway schemes will receive the attention of the house of assembly during the coming session. With the exception of the proposed Cariboo railway, all are the outcome of private enterprise. The following is a list of the railways and the sections of country through which, if constructed, they will pass:

Lower Cariboo railway—This line will probably run from Ashcroft to Barkerville. The government are having a preliminary survey made of the route, with a view to aiding in its construction. The propriety of building it will no doubt be thoroughly discussed, and the result may be that the line will, in the course of a year or two, be constructed. It would hasten the development of what is acknowledged to be the richest mineral district of the province.

Shuswap and Okanagan railway—The route to be followed by this line is well-known. It will run 50 miles from Sicka-moose Narrows, at the head of one of the arms of Shuswap lake, along the Spallumcheen river to the head of Okanagan lake, which is navigable for steamers. The line would bring a fine grain and fruit growing district within cheap and convenient access of the markets of the province. Larkin, Connolly & Co. are interested in the scheme, which has a warm advocate in M. Lumby, Esq. The chances are in favor of its being built.

Kootenay and Athabasca railway—This projected line will commence at Revelstoke (Farwell) and run south one hundred miles to the head of Kootenay lake, where steamers could connect for service on the lake, which is navigable at all seasons of the year, and also on Kootenay river. The company have already secured a charter from the Dominion house. It is proposed in course of time to extend the road northward to Dunvegan and Lake Athabasca and eventually to Hudson's bay. However, the 100 miles south to Kooten