THE HERALD

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1, 1890.

ALL matter for publication in the HERALD should be in this office by noon on Tuesday. Persons wishing their advertisements changed *must* advise us Saturday forenoon.

THE INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC.

Influenza seems to have become epidemic, not only in Europe, but in some portions of America. Many have fled from the capitals of Continental Europe in the hope of escaping the disease only to find themselves in places as severely stricken by the malady as where they left. In Paris, Berlin and other places a number of cases have terminated fatally. The military barracks at Brussels are said to present the appearance of a vast hospital, most of the soldiers being ill with the disease.

Like all other diseases, this seems to be no respecter of persons, as is evident from the names of those attacked. Among them are found Count Von Tassie, Austrian Prime Minister; Archduke William of Austria, as well as the Queen of Sweeden; and Princess Stephanie, widow of the late Crown Prince Rudolph.

In Paris, M. Damaschino, a prominent physician, succumbed to an attack of the disease, complicated with an old affection of the heart. Several other deaths in Paris have been traced to the influenza. In Vienna it is found that a frequent sequel of cases of influenza, is an attack of inflammation of the lungs, several persons having died from such complications.

In Philadelphia and vicinities there are said to be over two thousand cases of the disease. This is said to be a milder type, the cases lasting from two to seven days. Fourteen nurses in the Philadelphia hospital were laid up with the disease the other day. It is thought by some physicians to be infectious, but not contagious.

1889.

IN obedience to the wave of Father Time's magic wand, the year 1889 has passed into oblivion, and shall, henceforth, be known only by the events to which it has given birth. These, according to their importance, have gone into the chronicles of the year, and will in due time, assume their proper place in the domain of history. The year just past has not been uneventful; yet it has, on the whole, been a peaceful one, and, so far at least as we, in this Dominion, are concerned a happy and prosperous one. Any attempt at a review of the events of the year is incompatible with the time and space at our disposal. We shall, therefore, have to content ourselves with a few references to those matters of general interest which have most prominently come under our notice.

The year just closed was not without its grave casualties; its disasters by sea and land; and of these the new world has had a larger proportion than perhaps ever before fell to her lot. Among the first to be mentioned, as well as among the most disastrous, was the hurricane, which on the 15th of March swept over the harbor of Apia, on the Samoan coast, and which caused such destruction to the warships of Germany and the United States, and resulted in the loss of about one hundred and forty human lives. But by far the most terrible disaster of the year, and possibly the most shocking that ever occurred in North America, was that unique and sad event, which happened to the people of Johnstown, Pa., in June last. The inhabitants of that city and its neighboring villages, in the valley of the Conemaugh, found themselves all of a sudden, at the mercy of a raging torrent, without opportunity of escape. In an incalculably brief space, scarcely anything remained but a mass of ruins where, just before, stood the happy homes of thirty thousand people. Some ten thousand human lives are supposed to have been lost in this disaster.

Twice during the year the city of Quebec was sorely tried. In May last a destructive conflagration swept away a great portion of the suburb of St. Sauveur, causing a loss of upwards of half a million dollars, and leaving many poor families homeless. The occasion was not without its heroic deeds. The gallant Major Short and Sergeant Wallack lost their lives in their attempt to render assistance to their fellow men. Again, in the month of September, a considerable portion of the cliff, in front of that rock-girt city, gave way, carrying death and destruction in its path. The particulars of this calamity are, no doubt, fresh in the minds of our readers.

Among the marine disasters, that which occurred on the St. Lawrence, on the 22nd of May, between the steamers Polynesian of the Allan line and the Cynthia of the Donaldson line, was of a most serious nature, was much commented on at the time, and caused the loss of some eight or ten human lives.

The recent destructive fires in Boston and Lynn, are so fresh in the minds of our readers, as not to need any extended reference to them in this place.

Two cases have recently been terminated in the courts, which have elicited an extraordinary amount of interest on account of the peculiar nature of the shocking deeds for which the culprits had been tried. We allude to the trial of the murderers of Dr. Cronin, in Chicago, and the trial of Macdonald for the poisoning of Mrs. Macrae, in St. John, N. B.

In the political world matters have been rather quiet. France, as usual was visited by one or two ripples of excitement. Early in the year, General Boulanger enjoyed an apparent popularity which caused the administration a little uneasiness. A change of ministry also took place in the early part of the year. The next excitement was caused by the general elections in October. These resulted favorably to the party in power and disasterously to Boulanger. Since then matters seem to be quiet.

In Great Britain matters political underwent no great change. In February the Parnell Commission, which had been dragging its slow length along, and lately became the centre of attraction. Evidence was brought before it, which at once vindicated the Irish members from the charges brought against them by the Times, and proved the instruments employed by the latter to be forgers and perjurers. All remember the fate of the unfortunate Pigott. All this must have gone a long way towards creating among the English people, a feeling in favor of Home Rule for Ireland. This, we sincerely trust, will be manifested in a practical way, whenever a general appeal is made to the electorate of Great Britain.

In the Dominion of Canada everything has gone on smoothly; notwithstanding that in some of the larger Provinces attempts have been made to create discontent, by appeals to prejudice. All such have proved abortive, and, under the guidance of Sir John Macdonald and the great Liberal Conservative party, the progress and prosperity of the country have rapidly advanced. In our island home the year has not been productive of any extraordinary event. The different reasons have been unusually fine; the labors of the husbandman have been fairly rewarded and, above all, we have been entirely free from any of those serious casualties which have proved so disasterous in other places. Taking all things into consideration, the people of this Province have great reason to be thankful as an earnest of our desire, that these blessings may be continued to our people, we wish all our readers a

HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE Sault Ste. Marie Railway Company will, at the next session of parliament, ask for incorporation, with power to construct a railway from Sault Ste. Marie to Hamilton Inlet, or some other point on the Atlantic seaboard.

THE owners of the saw mills at Chaudiere Falls have paid up the arrears of hydraulic rents due to the Dominion Government and obtained new leases. The amount of arrears was $64,687.

THE fishery *modus vivendi* expires in February, and it is rumored that the Dominion Government intend to revert to the treaty of 1818, as the American Government show no desire of negotiating for the settlement of the question.

IT is reported that the dispute between England and Portugal, regarding their African possessions will be submitted to Duke Ernest, of Saxe Coburg and Gotha, for arbitration. The Prime Minister at Lisbon has had several long interviews with Senor Gormes, Portuguese Foreign Minister on the questions at issue.

THREE Russian engineers, holding a commission to examine American railways to ascertain the method of construction to be adopted in the building of the proposed Siberian railway, arrived at Winnipeg the other day on their way to Ottawa to pay their respects to the Governor General, having been ordered to do so by the Russian government.

THE progress of the coal industry in the Maritime Provinces is plainly shown by the fact that the output from the Cape Breton mines is three times as great for the past twelve months as it was ten years ago. How important is this interest may be judged from the calculation that over a hundred thousand draw their means of living from it, in whole or in part. And this is without considering the coal mines in other parts of the Maritime Provinces, in British Columbia and in the North-west Territories.—*Exchange.*

THE imports into British Columbia for the first eleven months of the year are stated to be as follows: Butter and cheese, 194,863 lbs; fruits, 1,601,765 lbs; vegetables, 1,396,996 lbs; breadstuffs 148 518 lbs; biscuits, 235,520 lbs; eggs 57,329 dozens; cattle and horses, 649 head; hogs, 1,891 head, and sheep, 22,841. These figures indicate a promising future for the cultivation of agriculture in the province which has much fertile and suitable both for farming and sheep-raising. They show also that British Columbia opens to the farmers of the North-west Territories a good market for the products of mixed farming and fruit-growing.—*Exchange.*

INSURANCE is a business that grows. The railway managers are said to be turning their attention to the accident branch of it. Recently a large United States railway asked an accident insurance company what rate could be provided for insuring all the passengers—the idea being to issue a policy for $500 with every ticket. The scheme is certainly novel, and did not work in the case mentioned principally because the insurance company was not prepared with a satisfactory answer and gave to high a rate. Perhaps it may come to that yet, for railways are beginning to find it expensive to pay damages for the lives of passengers, and if they can insure themselves against loss will do it. But it shows how enormous the loss of life and money must be to suggest such an idea. The general public would probably prefer to do their own insuring—for themselves and families—and leave the railway companies to inaugurate such improved methods for safe travelling as would diminish accidents. Meanwhile we have entered upon another winter with the car stove literally in full blast.—*Empire.*

ONE of the political disputes in the United States which must come to a head before the next presidential election is the freedom of colored voters in the South, and the duty of the federal authorities to prevent intimidation and other irregularities which are said to keep negroes away from the poll. One proposition is to pass a federal law taking away from state control the management of federal elections. This power, it is contended, is possessed clearly by the general government. President Harrison in his message asserted it, and some of his party will likely act upon the suggestion either in this or the next session of congress. The Democrats who oppose such a policy ask by what right interference can be undertaken. They declare that the section of the United States constitution which says that "the right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States, or by any State, on account of race, color or previous condition of servitude," is not over-ridden by any State law, and no action has been taken to justify legislative measures. In theory that may be true, but the fact is freely asserted to be that the colored people are not allowed liberty of voting, and the Republicans may be expected to reply in Mr. Cleveland's own words that it is a condition and not a theory which confronts them.

Two cases have recently been terminated in the courts, which have elicited an extraordinary amount of interest on account of the peculiar nature of the shocking deeds for which the culprits had been tried. We allude to the trial of the murderers of Dr. Cronin, in Chicago, and the trial of Macdonald for the poisoning of Mrs. Macrae, in St. John, N. B.

In the political world matters have been rather quiet. France, as usual was visited by one or two ripples of excitement. Early in the year, General Boulanger enjoyed an apparent popularity which caused the administration a little uneasiness. A change of ministry also took place in the early part of the year. The next excitement was caused by the general elections in October. These resulted favorably to the party in power and disasterously to Boulanger. Since then matters seem to be quiet.

In Great Britain matters political underwent no great change. In February the Parnell Commission, which had been dragging its slow length along, and lately became the centre of attraction. Evidence was brought before it, which at once vindicated the Irish members from the charges brought against them by the Times, and proved the instruments employed by the latter to be forgers and perjurers. All remember the fate of the unfortunate Pigott. All this must have gone a long way towards creating among the English people, a feeling in favor of Home Rule for Ireland. This, we sincerely trust, will be manifested in a practical way, whenever a general appeal is made to the electorate of Great Britain.

In the Dominion of Canada everything has gone on smoothly; notwithstanding that in some of the larger Provinces attempts have been made to create discontent, by appeals to prejudice. All such have proved abortive, and, under the guidance of Sir John Macdonald and the great Liberal Conservative party, the progress and prosperity of the country have rapidly advanced. In our island home the year has not been productive of any extraordinary event. The different reasons have been unusually fine; the labors of the husbandman have been fairly rewarded and, above all, we have been entirely free from any of those serious casualties which have proved so disasterous in other places. Taking all things into consideration, the people of this Province have great reason to be thankful as an earnest of our desire, that these blessings may be continued to our people, we wish all our readers a

HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.

LAND OFFICE COMMISSION.

The following additional evidence has been given before the Land Office Commission.

ARTHUR NEWBERY, Assistant Provincial Treasurer, (recalled)—The amounts which appear to the credit of the Land Office in the Treasurers books are the only amounts which have been received from that office. This statement which I now produce shows the receipts from the Land Office from the 1st July, 1876, to the 31st Dec. 1888.

JOHN HAMILTON (sworn)—I was appointed to a position in the Land Office on the 1st Feb., 1877, and came in a few days after. I left the office shortly after the 7th March, 1879. This memo. shows the nature of the duties I had to perform. I was paid $900 a year to the 31st Dec. 1878, but in Dec., 1878, I got notice from the Assistant Clerk of Council that I would only get the statutory allowance, which meant a reduction of $300 a year. I was paid at the rate of $300 from 1st Jan. until my resignation was accepted. Mr. McKinlay, John W. Scott and myself were employed for a few nights copying the Assessment Rolls in the Secretary's office and were paid extra. The other officials were Mr. Pope, Mr. Strong, Mr. Curtis, Mr. McKinlay, Mr. Scott and Mr. Benj. Davies. Our hours were from ten to 3 or 4. Mr. Pope was very punctual in his attendance. He was generally there perhaps a little late in the morning. He went home to his dinner and came back and remained until the office was closed. When he was in town he would be there every day except ween on a collecting tour or on his holidays. My business was outside of the accounts entirely. I was employed at endorsing and classifying the deeds. I seldom looked into the accounts. Mr. Strong kept the cash box. He was the man that would be responsible to the Commissioner. I know that whenever one of us would receive money he would hand it over to Mr. Strong, or if he would be away we would keep it on our desk until he would be ready to receive it. The practice was for anyone to receive money and give receipts. I think all the receipts were in books with counterfoils. I never knew of one being given except out of the books. I would not have thought of giving one except from the books. Mr. Hyndman used to come once a month, and he and Mr. Scott would audit the books. I do not know what books he would audit. The entries were made in the ledgers from the stubs of the receipt books, and the credits were also taken from the stubs of the receipt books. I know nothing of the cash book. When I speak of the credits in the ledger I mean when I made credits I took them from the receipt books, and I believe that was the general method. I am not in a position to say whether the township ledgers were audited by the Auditor. I must plead ignorance on that matter; it was outside of my work and I paid no attention to the auditor or his work. I do not think it was the practice to count over the cash with Mr. Strong and Mr. Pope. I never saw anyone count over the cash except Mr. Strong. Mr. Strong had complete charge of the cash. Mr. Pope had no other office or position under the Government at the time I was in the office.

ROBERT F. DEBLOIS, Provincial Auditor, (re-called) — Ques:—What moneys were paid to the Provincial Treasurer? Ans: Since the date of my appointment, and so far as I know, previously, no other money than that which appears in the Land Office cash book has been credited to the Land Office account in the Treasurer's books, but all the amounts appearing in the cash book would not be paid into the Treasury because refunds and Sheriff's expenses are kept out. Ques: If an amount appears to the credit of an account in the Township Ledger and does not appear in the cash book would such amount be credited in the Land Office account in the Treasurer's books? Ans: No. My attention was not drawn to the report made in 1876 by Messrs. Cundall, Shanks and DesBrisay. I never saw the report until some time during the past summer. No instructions were given me in consequence of that report. I do not remember of ever having seen any blank receipts of the old kind about the office. (Receipt book A 127, 128, 129, 166, 167, 168 shown.) I was satisfied with the explanation given by the Commissioner and officials about these missing receipts. I did not report to the Government. I noted them at the time. (Receipt book No. 90 Y produced). I saw myself that the receipt in this instance was destroyed. The word "cancelled" is in my writing. My duties as auditor did not extend to seeing where the cash was kept. I did not go into the vault to see how it was kept.

JOHN W. ELLIS (sworn)—I was purchasing 50 acres of land on Lot 12, from the Government. I went to my brother Thos. E. Ellis, who lived in Northam, in September, 1886, and told him to send to the Land Office $8.15 and to get an order from Wm. Ellis to change the name to mine in the office books. I afterwards got a receipt from Wm. Rendle, a clerk at the Post Office at Northam for the letter sent. The letter was directed to Robert A. Strong, the Assistant Commissioner. The letter appeared to be lost as there was no letter from Mr. Strong acknowledging my father went to the Postmaster and he wrote and got a reply that the letter went to Summerside, and then to Charlottetown, and was then delivered to Geo. R. Strong I came to Charlottetown on 23rd June, 1887, and paid $15 on account of the 50 acres and another fifty acres. I spoke to Robert A. Strong about the money sent by registered letter to him. He said he knew nothing about it, as he was away at the time. I had this letter from the post office showing that it had been delivered to George R. Strong. I showed him the letter and he said he would put the $8.15 down in the book, which he did in my presence. I received the letter dated the 17th May, 1887, from Mr. Strong. It was written in reply to a letter I wrote him about it. Of my own knowledge I do not know how much money was in the letter sent Mr. Strong. I showed Mr. Strong the receipt given for the letter when registered, and I think I left it with him. I did not get it back, whatever. My brother, Theodius Ellis, of Northam, was present when the letter was mailed. He put in the 16 cents to make up the amount. My other brother, Thomas E. Ellis, is now away.

JOHN MACKIE (sworn).—I live at Black Point, Prince County, I purchased 85 acres on Lot 1. I paid the Government two payments. I sold out to John Doucette in July, 1882. One of the payments was for $10 on November 9, 1881; the other was for an amount I cannot remember. This paper was got by me from John Doucette. Whatever receipts I got I gave up to Doucette. I remember promising Mr. Ferguson or Mr. Strong that I would give an order on the Education Office for a payment on account of my land. I gave an order on this office in 1880 or 1881. I do not remember the amount of the order.

REV. D. MCNEILL (sworn). I am Clerk of the Board of Education of this Province. I am convinced I had an order from John Mackie to pay $25 into the Land Office to his credit. (Teachers' receipt book, with entry of transaction therein, produced.) I have a sort of indistinct recollection of paying the amount. It was paid by cheque.

JOSEPH A. MCDONALD (sworn).—(Teachers' receipt book shown.) I signed this book. I was sent by Mr. Strong for the cheque and got it. This was on the 12th January, 1881. I immediately gave the cheque to Mr. Strong. He gave me a memorandum, and I showed this to Mr. McNeill and got the cheque. I thought no more about the cheque after giving it to Mr. Strong.

PERCY POPE, (sworn)—I am the manager of the Savings Bank at Charlottetown. On the 29th May, 1884, a cheque was issued by the Summerside Savings Bank in favor of Peter Gallant, for $100. The cheque was numbered 58, and drawn on the Bank of Nova Scotia. I received it back from the Bank and forwarded it to the Auditor-General, where all our cheques are sent.

DAVID C. CHALMERS, (sworn)—I am the manager of the Bank of Nova Scotia at Charlottetown. I was in the Bank at 1884. I produce the deposit receipt register under date of Jan. 16, 1884. A deposit receipt No. 830 was issued in favor of Rev. D. M. McDonald, Tignish, for $100, bearing interest at the rate of 1 per cent. This receipt was paid by the Bank at Charlottetown on Oct. 30, 1884. The whole amount of principal and interest was $101.03, and was paid through the Merchant's Bank of P. E. Island on that day. (Deposit ticket dated 28th October 1884, produced, showing this among the items.) I produce the ledger entry book of the Bank under date of 26th Oct. 1884. Under the heading of deposit receipts the entry is "No. 730, McDonald, 12th Jan., 1884, $100, $1.03 interest." This entry shows that this deposit receipt and accrued interest, in all $103.03, was paid. I produce the Current Account Ledger, Government account of the Bank. On the 30th June, 1884, the Bank paid a cheque drawn by the Savings Bank at Summerside. No. 68, for $100. I produce the register of cheques remitted on the 8th Nov., 1888. The Bank received on deposit to the credit of the Provincial Secretary a cheque drawn by T. H. Pope on the Merchant's Bank of Halifax at Summerside for $49. This deposit was made by the Land Office under this deposit ticket. (Deposit ticket already in evidence produced.) The item $49 under cheques is his cheque.

PATRICK MCCLOSKEY (sworn)—I remember that in March, 1888, my father, James McCloskey, was paying money into the Land Office. I was present and saw Mr. Sutherland, of Davies & Sutherland, hand a cheque to Robert A. Strong, the Assistant Commissioner. The cheque was for $400, and was in payment of 150 acres on Lot 30. My father was present when the payment was made. There was no receipt given, but I got a deed a few months afterwards. At the time of payment, Mr. Sutherland said to Mr. Strong "Here is a cheque for $400."

WILLIAM G. STRONG, (re-called)—I remember in May or June, 1884, that Peter Gallant paid $100 on account of a purchase of Fidelle Gallant's land, sold under precept. The payment was made by a cheque drawn by James Gourlie, the manager of the Summerside branch of the Dominion Savings Bank in favor of Peter Gallant. I afterwards, on the 12th June, 1884, sent the cheque itself to the Land Office under cover of a letter of that date directed to Hon. D. Ferguson, Charlottetown. I produce the press copy of that letter. I have not had time to search for a letter acknowledging the receipt of the cheque.

PETER GALLANT (sworn)—I reside on Lot 1. I was going to purchase 100 acres of land on Lot 2 which was to be sold under precept against Fidelle Gallant. I went to the Court House in May, 1884, to purchase it. I found out the sale was not to take place until a week later. I could not wait, and went to the Savings Bank at Summerside to Mr. Gourlie and drew $100 and paid it to the Sheriff of Prince County. Mr. Wm. G. Strong, and I understood Mr. Ferguson would bid in the place for me. In July of the same year I came to Charlottetown and saw Mr. Robert A. Strong and got this statement from him. (Statement dated 31st July, 1884, signed Robert A. Strong, Assistant Commissioner, showing a credit of $100 as having been paid Sheriff).

JOHN LIVINGSTONE (sworn)—I reside at Hopefield, Lot 64. I am the brother of Kate Knight, of Cambridge, Mass., wife of A. B. Knight. She has been away for a good many years. I have been her agent since 1881. I came to the Land Office to purchase 99 acres on Lot 64 for my sister. I saw Mr. Robert Strong there and agreed with him for the purchase. This was on the 28th September, 1881. I paid him $27.36, signed Robert A. Strong, Assistant Commissioner, for deposit and deed, 99 acres, Lot 64, Gray's Road, No. 14.)

JAMES B. CHAISSON (sworn).—I am a son of Lemuel D. Chaisson, late of Lot 43, deceased. I remember my father going to Souris to meet Mr. Strong, the Assistant Commissioner of Public Lands, to buy 80 acres on Lot 43, in December, 1886. He went to Souris, and took $8 with him. He came back, and I have since paid $12.60 in full on the land. My father died on 17th May, 1888. I found this book among his papers. It is a book of original entry. This entry is in my fathers handwriting (Entry states: Bought of the Government from R. A. Strong, Dec. 18, '86, at Souris, 80 acres of land on B. River Line Road, on Lot 43, for $20, or 25c. per acre. Paid on land, $8.—Lemuel D. Chaisson.)

FRANCIS M. LONGWORTH, (re-called)—It has been the practice when on collecting tours to take sufficient money from the amounts collected and pay the expenses connected with the tour. When the collector comes home after the tour he makes up his accounts with vouchers, and receives a cheque from the Clerk of the Executive Council, and this cheque is cashed and the proceeds put to replace the amount taken for expenses. This has been the custom of the office since I went there. This was the first fall I went collecting and I followed this course. I came in from my last tour this fall on Monday, the 23rd Dec., and I made the deposit of the moneys collected by me on the tour less the expenses. The cash I deposited was in the box in the Land Office vault from Monday till this morning. Jos. A. McDonald has had charge of the moneys received in the office since I began this fall's tour.

DONALD FERGUSON (re-called)—I have no recollection of receiving the letter from Sheriff Strong enclosing the Peter Gallant check. I have searched for the letter but cannot find it. It might have been received by me, but I would hand it and the check to the cashier, Mr. Strong. In my absence letters addressed to me officially would be opened and dealt with by Mr. Strong. I produce a duplicate deposit ticket from the Bank of Nova Scotia dated 30th June, 1884, in which, as one of the items, appears a check for $100. There was no check or item of $100 in the cash book for the year 1884 between this deposit and the deposit previously made which was made in May. There was no $100 item in the book between the 8th May, 1884, and the 30th June, 1884. This deposit ticket is in Mr. Strong's handwriting. Ques: What is your opinion as to (1) The practicability of relinquishing altogether the system of country collection tours; (2) the advisability thereof? Ans: In my opinion the eastern tour should be abandoned. It is both practicable and advisable to do so, as the business done does not warrant the expense and the places are not so remote. The western tour has been a great advantage to the people. They have taken advantage of the collection tour. If continued at all, the staff in the office must be increased and one of the officials should be a draughtsman acquainted with the running of lines and laying out of boundaries. Two officials should always go on this tour. Most of the payments made up West are very small and in many cases the expense of coming to town would be 50 per cent more than they pay. The amounts now due are not very large, most of them have been paying up. The collecting tours add very much to the work and labor of the office and the plans have to go out and they get very much injured. The Commissioner cannot safely enter into any sales while the collectors are away. They have the plans with them, and it would not be safe for the Commissioner to enter into a sale in their absence, however pressing, for fear of a double sale taking place. Besides the actual expense incurred by Mr. Strong for collecting tours, he was allowed $100 extra over his statutory $800 salary for each year, for several years. There was an objection raised in Council after 1886. No allowance was made to any other official either before or since. Mr. McKinlay's salary, before being Assistant Commissioner, was $650. Mr. Longworth, who made the collecting tour this fall, just gets his statutory allowance of $500. Mr. Strong, besides myself, was the only official who gave bonds until after Mr. Strong's death. After that Mr. McKinlay, Mr. McDonald, and Mr. Longworth gave bonds. I produce a statement showing the expenses of the collecting tours of the officials of the Land Office from 1887 to 1889, inclusive; also a memorandum showing the names of the officials who went and the amounts collected from 1879 to 1889, inclusive. I may say that I have been absent on delegations on public business to Ottawa and England. The time I was away to England extended from the twenty-sixth of January, 1886, until the first or second week in April, and this was my longest absence from the office. During the times I would be on delegations Mr. Strong would have entire charge of the office. Ques: On your assumption of the position of Commissioner of Crown Lands, was your attention directed by the Government to the report of Messrs. Cundall, DesBrisay and Shanks, commissioners appointed to investigate the affairs of the Land Office in the year 1876, and did you carry out the recommendations or any of them contained therein? Ans: My attention was not specially referred to it by the Government or by any member of it. I was aware of the report, as I have had occasion to refer to it in dealing with individual cases reported upon by them. The report was four years old when I came into the office, and I was under the impression that all the changes recommended which were practicable had been adopted. The cash and all books are kept in the vault in connection with the office at night. There is no safe inside, but the door of the vault has a combination lock, and the Assistant Commissioner and Mr. McKinlay had the combination to my knowledge. I do not know the combination that never did. The following amounts were also received by Mr. Strong, and were entered by him in the county ledgers but not in the cash book or township ledgers: Lemuel D. Chaisson, Lot 43, $8; Alex. Miller, Lot 12, $20.37; Philip McKinnon, Lot 13, $13.16; David Sullivan, Lot 12, $10.63; Thomas Kennedy, $4.38. I wish to correct the statement made in my evidence, given in the earlier part of my examination, that Mr. D. Blois, the Auditor, had been in the habit of quite frequently making an examination at different times than his official visit once a month. I made this statement in consequence of a conversation I had with the Auditor, and under a misapprehension of what he told me. Ques: In the event of the collecting tours being discontinued, is your present staff sufficient for the work of the office? Ans: Certainly not. Ques: What assistants do you consider necessary in the office? Ans. There should be an accountant or book-keeper, a surveyor and draughtsman, and two clerks. The deputy head might be either surveyor or draughtsman, and one of the clerks be book-keeper and cashier. I think it doubtful if a competent man could be obtained for the salary paid the late Assistant Commissioner. A properly qualified draughtsman could, I think, be obtained for $600. A clerk, if acting as cashier, if daily deposits were made, could be obtained for $500. The arrears of work in the office consist of not a great many deeds to be issued, and in the proceedings against defaulters and those who have not attorned to the Government. No precepts were issued last year, but some were in 1887.

JAS. M. SUTHERLAND (sworn)—I am a member of the firm of Davies & Sutherland. On the 11th Feb., 1888, I gave a check of Davies & Sutherland to James McCloskey for $400 on the Merchants Bank of P. E. Island. This is the check now produced. I gave the check to James McCloskey and it was payable to his order. I do not think Robert A. Strong was present. I have no knowledge of the check after it passed out of my hands. The transaction took place in our own office. From my recollection I never saw Patrick McCloskey in my life. The loan was made on squatter land, and had no connection with the Land Office. I never went near the Land Office about it, nor handed the check to the Land Office. I don't believe I did. I have no knowledge or recollection of it. (Evidence of Patrick McCloskey read to witness). I contradict Patrick McCloskey's evidence about my going to the Land Office. I would not contradict the statement that I went to the office if the old man, James McCloskey made it, but I never saw the young man to my knowledge. I did all the business with the old man altogether.

FRED. W. HYNDMAN (sworn)—In auditing the receipt book, if I would come across a receipt that was destroyed I would satisfy myself what came of the receipt. I would take the best means of satisfying myself of what became of it. I remember there were some old receipts in the office when the new system of receipts came in. I do not know what I did about them. It was the understanding that none but the new forms should be used. (No. 40 B receipt book shown). I must have satisfied myself of the loss of this receipt, No. 54,144. What I would do now would be to take the best means of ascertaining what became of it. If the commissioner would tell me it was all right I would likely pass it. If I would write "cancelled" I would be satisfied. I would refer to the Commissioner, and if he was satisfied I would pass it. (No. 392, 393, void F. W. H.) I must have seen this one. When I was Auditor my attention was not drawn by the Government to the report made in the year of 1876 by Messrs. Cundall, Shanks and DesBrisay. I remember hearing of the discrepancies in the Land Office at that time, but I do not remember of my attention having been called to it. I got a communication from the Government in reply to my suggestion to open a capital account in the Land Office, refusing to open it. I think one of the reasons given was that the officials were always changing. In all cases where there are no marks in the township ledgers showing an audit, it would be because Scott would hold the ledger and call them in. I swear positively that although there are no marks in the ledgers showing an audit, they were all audited for the complete years of 1877, and up to 31st December, 1878. Mr. Scott held the ledger and I held the cash book, and I never went through the ledgers to see if audit marks were made, or omissions or insertions of other amounts after the audit. It would be too much work; once would be enough. If a man wants to be dishonest he can deceive any auditor. There ought to be two men at the audit, as in the case of these township ledgers any auditor can be deceived if the official wants to be dishonest. I do not think that an audit would be sufficient unless the township ledgers were gone over and a thorough examination of the ledgers made after the comparison. The immense amount of work in the Land Office is my time would be sufficient to keep an auditor at work all the time between the 1st October and 31st December, especially as he has to embody the Land Office accounts in his printed report of the accounts for the Legislature, which meets in February. (Cash book and ledgers with pencil marks produced). I cannot say whose marks these are. Whenever I held a book I would make a mark. In cases when I held both books I would make marks in both of them, but when I held only one I won't swear I made any marks. I was not looking for frauds. I never discovered any. I considered when I saw that what a man paid went to his credit and to the Treasury it was all I had to do. If a man paid money which did not appear in the cash book it might not go to the Treasury, and under my system of auditing it might not be discovered.

TELEGRAPHIC NEWS.

MONTREAL, Dec. 29.—Interviews with several doctors brings out the fact that a dozen mild cases of "La Grippe" have appeared in this city.

OTTAWA, Dec. 29.—Messrs. R. G. Leckie and A. I. Patterson, of the Londonderry iron works, waited upon the minister of finance yesterday, and asked that some inequalities and inconsistencies in the tariff, with respect to iron, be removed at the coming session of parliament.

LONDON, Dec. 29.—The epidemic of influenza continues in Paris, and there are no signs of improvement. In Munich the disease is increasing. In Berlin it is accompanied by dangerous fever. Many officers of the Berlin garrison are affected. About one-third of the military and workmen at Spandau are ill with the disease.

CONCORD, N. H., Dec. 29.—Governor Goodall yesterday issued the following proclamation: In view of the various heinous crimes committed in this State within the last few weeks, directly traceable to the use of intoxicating liquors, in the sale of which the criminal laws of the State have been flagrantly violated, I hereby warn all persons engaged in this illegal and deadly traffic to desist therefrom immediately; and I call upon the attorney general, the solicitors and sheriffs of counties, mayors of cities, and selectmen of towns, and all other officers of the law of the State, and all good citizens of every party, sect and faith, to unite in one supreme effort to close up and suppress every liquor saloon of every description within our borders. Let no guilty man escape.

LISBON, Dec. 29.—The ceremonies attending the proclaiming of Don Carlos as king of Portugal and Algarves were continued to-day. The king and queen, accompanied by archduke Eugene of Austria and a brilliant suite, reviewed the garrison. All the foreign diplomatic representatives were present. The people received the king and queen with every token of sympathy and affection. In the evening a state banquet was given in the palace and two hundred guests were present.

The conservative leader, Pimental, writing in the Gazette de Portugal, congratulates the ministry upon their conduct of the Nyassa operations and promises the spontaneous support of all parties. Serpa Pinto's despatch to the government states that the Makololos have signed a declaration that they were instigated to attack him by the director of the Lake Nyassa company, Scott, English missionary at Blantyre, urged them to refrain. Major Pinto says he is convinced he has put an end to the slave trade and other acts of violence among the Makololo, besides opening the Nyassa route to commerce and occupying the Shire district.

LOCAL AND OTHER ITEMS.

LONDON advices say Essie Pasha has fled a relative, and great anxiety is felt.

WE have to thank Messrs Miller Bros. of this city, for an exceedingly handsome Calendar.

IT is said Germany will send an ironclad to Brazil to protect German colonists on the Rio Grande.

EARTHQUAKE shocks were experienced at Aci Raell, Sicily, on Christmas day. Several houses collapsed and many persons were buried under the ruins.

TWENTY-TWO THOUSAND immigrants settled in Manitoba and the Northwest territory, up to the 27th ult., against seventeen thousand last year.

A QUEBEC despatch of the 28th ult. says that Rev. Mr. Blais, Chaplain of Bon Pasteur Convent, has been named coadjutor to Bishop Langevin, of Rimouski.

MAYOR GREENER of Montreal, claims that the population of that city is nearly two hundred and fifty thousand, and is making arrangements for a census to be taken next year.

A FIRE broke out on Thursday night last, in the livery stable of James Sullivan, Pownal street. The alarm was quickly given; but before the fire was completely controlled the building was pretty well destroyed.

THE principal collieries of the Great Wyoming region between Wilkesbarre and Carbondale, Pa. are about suspending operations owing to the dullness of the coal markets. This will throw about ten thousand persons out of employment.

PRAKE BROS & Co. received a cablegram yesterday from London, informing them that their vessel, the Erema, seventy-one days out from Liverpool and for whose safety fears were entertained, had arrived at St. Michael's, Azores, with cargo some what damaged. Crew all safe.

ON Friday last the tide in Charlottetown harbor was the highest that has been seen here for years. Some of the wharves were submerged, and the water entered several warehouses on the wharves, as well as some dwelling houses situated in the vicinities.

A LONDON despatch of the 27th says that Portugal, Germany and Italy will shortly send a collective note to the provisional government of Brazil, protesting against that government's scheme in regard to the naturalization of foreigners residing in Brazil.

PROFESSOR CAVEN will lecture in the Lyceum on Wednesday evening, the 15th inst., for the benefit of the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Subject: "Two Scenes from Canadian History." The Professor's reputation as a lecturer, as well as the worthy cause for which the lecture is given should crowd the Lyceum on the 15th.

D. MONTGOMERY ESQ., Superintendent of Education, will lecture at Emerald, on Monday evening, the 6th inst., Subject: "Practical Education." The subject is one of great importance, and Mr. Montgomery's ability and long experience in educational matters, can leave no room to doubt that it will be presented in a most interesting manner. There should be a full house.

A DESPATCH from Vancouver, B. C. dated the 27th ult. says that, on the previous day, while a party of six persons were driving in a sleigh through some woods on the north arm of the Fraser River, a large fir tree fell, striking the sleigh, and instantly killed four of the occupants. The other two escaped with slight injuries. One of the horses was killed and the other had to be shot owing to injuries received.

WE are pleased to notice that at the distribution of medals and conferring of degrees which took place at the Urban Collige of the Propaganda, Rome, on the 29th November last, the Island students took their share of the honors. Rev. Cornelius Campbell, of Millcove, took the degree of Doctor in Philosophy, and Rev. James Morrison, of St. Andrew's, the degree of Licentiate in Divinity. We congratulate our Island boys on their success.

WE are indebted to Mr. P. R. Bowers, editor of the St. John's, Nfld. Colonist, for a copy of the Christmas number of that publication, which is in the highest degree creditable to its projectors. It is a twenty-four page illustrated paper. The leading men of the Colony, as well as the principal churches and other public buildings, are the subjects of the engravings. The letter press is excellent and the reading matter of a high order of literary merit.

THE Birmingham, England Fire Brigade recently had a decidedly novel experience at a fire which broke out in the storeroom of a large bakery. There were seventy sacks of floor in the room, and as soon as the flames reached them they burst and scattered their contents all around. The whole brigade was soon ankle deep in flour and water, which, in consequence of the movements of the men, became transformed into dough. One of the men got stuck in this and had to be pulled out by his comrades, but to effect his release he had to part company with his boots, which remained fast in the dough.

RECENTLY some convicts escaped from the penitentiary at Kingston, Ont., and it is now thought may have been lost. In reference to the matter a Kingston despatch of the 26th ult. says; A great many people think that the convicts who made their escape on Tuesday night are now at the bottom of Lake Ontario. If they started out in the thirteen foot boat which was useless and had only broken pieces of boards to paddle with they could not help having been swamped as five men would have sunk the craft deep in the water. During Tuesday night the wind was very high from the west and the lake was exceedingly stormy. All officers in New York State have been notified to arrest the men, who, if caught, can be extradited for a murderous assault.

Marriage and Birth notices inserted at 50 cents each. Poetry accompanying Death notices will be charged for at the rate of 10 cents per line.

DIED.

At his late residence, Georgetown Royalty, of inflammation of the lungs, after a painful illness of six days duration, John L. Morrison, in the 55th year of his age, leaving a sorrowing wife and family of three children to mourn their loss. The deceased was generally esteemed as a sober, industrious man, a good, obliging neighbor, and a kind friend.

Dress Materials, Amazon Cloth, Foulards, Merinos and Cashmeres—the finest stock to select from. With Gimps to match at James Paton & Co's.

Ladies Felt Hats clearing out at a big discount at James Paton & Co's.

ABOUT EXCHANGE.

W. R. Grace, of New York, received a cablegram from Rio de Janeiro, on the 26th inst., which set him thinking a great deal. Those who read the cablegram got to thinking too. Exchange there is quoted at 24½ pence, which is a falling off of 3½ pence since Don Pedro was dethroned. Rubber has gone up accordingly, and rules at 2 milreis 400 reis to-day. Exchange at 24½ pence makes paper money below par. Merchants who are doing business with Brazil rather like this. In spe