

EXTRACTS.

Steamers Destroyed by Ice.

A Memphis despatch of the 27th ult., to the "New York Tribune" says:—"On Wednesday an immense ice gorge, 15 feet high, a mile wide, and three miles long, formed in the Mississippi, 4 miles above here. A portion broken off that day caught the steamer "Celeste," and crushed and sunk her, with a cargo of cotton and corn, worth \$50,000 to \$60,000, the officers, crew, and passengers having barely time to escape in life boats. The steamer was worth \$20,000 and was not insured. That night the whole gorge broke from the heavy rise in the Ohio and came sweeping down, eight feet high, against twenty boats at the landing here, causing a million dollars injury. The hundred thousand bushels of coal in barges were swept away and sunk in ten minutes. The boats destroyed include the following steamers:—Belle, Pike, owned in St. Louis, worth \$40,000 and insured for half the amount, on her were 282 bales of cotton, owned in Boston; West Wind, crushed, worth \$10,000, owned in Nashville, uninsured; Undine, worth \$10,000, uninsured, swept down stream two miles, turned completely over and crushed; Summer Koon, worth \$5000, owned here, uninsured, 5,900,000 feet of lumber in logs was swept away with her, worth \$10,000; Glasgow, loaded with sugar and molasses, from New Orleans to St. Louis, badly broken; Arlington, with 1500 bales of cotton, broke seven hawsers, and was carried down, but was caught, with the loss of 100 bales. Over 50 barges and flat boats were also wrecked. The crash came at midnight, when those on board the boats were asleep and had barely time to escape to the shore. Three men on board the steamer Audy Baum were injured. One fell into the river, but got out on the ice. The steamer Clipper, with four barges, was carried down, and is not yet heard from. Another ice-ave is expected to-night. All the boats are securely fastened, but many must go, as the ice is strong enough to pull the ring bolts to which they are fastened out of the landing. Ice in such quantities was never known here before.

Murder of an Englishman in Belgium.

The Belgian journals give details of a dreadful murder. The victim was Mr. Thomas Robinson, an Englishman director of the spinning establishment of Loth. It seems he had dismissed one of the workmen of the factory, named Isadore Biesmans, for having insulted and struck a workman. The man had disappeared, and nothing led to a suspicion that he had any intention of taking revenge. A few days after, towards seven o'clock in the evening, he presented himself at the house of Mr. Robinson and asked to speak with him. The director was in his parlour reading a journal, and his wife was dozing in an armchair near the fire. He directed Biesmans to be introduced. The latter entered, and intimated to the maid-servant, who had preceded him, to withdraw, and as soon as she had shut the door he drew from under his coat a short gun and fired at Mr. Robinson, who fell dead on the spot, the ball having struck him in the region of the heart. The murderer then took to flight. At the noise of the detonation the wife started up, but only to see at her feet the corpse of her husband. Half distracted, she called for assistance with loud cries. A neighbour, the Doctor Vrebois, came to her aid, but could do no more than verify the death of the director. The criminal was arrested the next evening at Assche.

This is what an American paper says in reference to Newfoundland:—

NEWFOUNDLAND.—It is curious to find that the interior of Newfoundland, the largest Island of America, is at this day almost unexplored. Travellers have been searching out the mysterious source of the Nile and endeavouring to pierce the iron-barrier that guards the open Polar Sea, solving the problem of centuries—the northwestern passage; and yet here is an Island considerably larger than Ireland, nearly four times the size of Belgium, the most ancient of Britain's forty colonies, lying within easy distance of America and England, and far less known of its uninhabited interior than than of Africa—its internal lakes, plains, mountain ranges are unmapped, its river courses undetermined. About one hundred and forty-six thousand people are sprinkled around the coast, living chiefly by the harvest of the sea; while the interior is left to the deer, wolves and beavers. Almost fifty year ago in the autumn of 1822, a courageous traveller named Cormack, attended by a single Micmac Indian, accomplished a journey from the eastern to the western shores, through the very centre of the Island, and it is evident from the observations of this courageous traveller, that it is a mistake to suppose that the interior to this large island is an irreclaimable wilderness.

HARBOR GRACE, FEBRUARY 21, 1872

THE weather during the past few days has been very unfavourable. On Tuesday and Wednesday the Storm King raged to a degree seldom witnessed, leaving huge piles of snow as the result of his wild revelry. Early yesterday morning the wind veered from northeast to southeast, and blew with considerable violence, accompanied by heavy rain. To-day the streets are flooded to such an extent as to make pedestrian exercise almost impossible. We are glad, however, to notice that our Road Board are doing all in their power to remedy the latter evil, by clearing the drains and gratings and otherwise facilitating the progress of the surplus water to the sewers.

Flight of a Bridegroom.

The "Birmingham News" relates an exciting story of the disappearance under very extraordinary circumstances of a bridegroom. Some time ago a young clergyman took a curacy in a village not far from Stafford, and in a short time fell in love with the daughter of an attendant at the church—a gentleman who lived at a neighboring mansion, a county magistrate, and an ex-high-sheriff of Staffordshire. After a little time the curate proposed for the hand of the lady. Inquiries were made, which resulted in the fact being ascertained that the reverend gentleman came of a good family, was well connected, had some fortune and was waiting for a promised living. Under these circumstances he was accepted, and two years ago became engaged, his "fiancee" being then a charming girl 17 years of age. The wedding day was fixed for Thursday, Jan. 20, at the village church, the incumbent undertaking to unite the young couple. Preparations on a magnificent scale were made, the bridal dress was prepared, the cake, the breakfast, and blooming bridesmaids—all were ready. The bridegroom's uncle and brother came down to be present at the ceremony. The villagers decorated the house and the church, and even the streets. The presents were arranged in the drawing room. On Wednesday evening the bridegroom visited his betrothed, who put on her wedding dress to see how she looked in it. Her lover asked her, as if in anticipation of coming events, "What should you say if I were to run away, and not come to-morrow morning?" In her innocence and faith she only laughed. The morning came, the bride and her maids were up betimes, and the process of dressing was gone through. The carriages arrived, and the party were in the act of entering them when a note was delivered to the bride. She opened and read it, and fell back fainting in the arms of a friend. The missive contained the astounding intelligence that the bridegroom—stricken down at the last moment by a fit of Christian humility—felt he was unworthy of his bride, and could not, therefore, wed her. Subsequent information was to the effect that the reverend gentleman left by the midnight mail for Glasgow.

Triple Murder in Savoy.

A terrible crime has just been committed in Savoy. The local journals give the following partial details of the affair:—The cure of La Rochette was informed after vespers that a woman had been assassinated and was dying; he immediately went to see her. She proved to be a sister of the female servant of Mr. Revel, tax-collector of La Rochette, and was found lying in the courtyard of the house of the latter, with some frightful wounds on her head from blows by a hatchet, and her face covered with coagulated blood. The cure administered extreme unction, and directed that she should be carried into the house, the door of which had been opened by a locksmith. Then was discovered the bleeding and disfigured body of the domestic of M. Revel. The gendarmes, sent for by the cure, arrived in haste; they entered the chamber of M. Revel and found the unfortunate man stretched upon his bed with three deep wounds on his head from the same instrument. The crime was committed on Saturday evening between eight and nine o'clock. It is known that the woman found in the courtyard entered about that hour, and was doubtless met by the assassins as they retired. The amount stolen was probably ten or twelve thousand francs.

We understand that Count Schouvaloff, the chief of the third section—that of high police—of the imperial chancellery at St. Petersburg, and by repute the most intimate friend and confidential adviser of the Emperor of Russia, has arrived in England. Rumour connects the count's visit with important political interests.—London Daily News.

We regret that the non performance of the Mail service by the Quebec and Gulf Ports Steamship Company, causing such general dissatisfaction, has obliged the Government to annul the contract. Under these circumstances we are gratified to find that arrangements have been perfected by the Government, for the extension of the Contract entered into last August, with the Montreal Ocean Steamship Company, to one which provides for fortnightly direct steam communication with Great Britain and the Dominion of Canada for nine months in the year and monthly trips to Halifax during three months of winter.

We are pleased to find that the Government will be in a position to perfect the coastal steam communication on the Southern and Western Mail Route, early next May, so that the requirements of the rapidly increasing trade with this important section of the country may be fully met.

We agree with your Excellency, that the reduction in Postal charges is a great public benefit, and we hope that ultimately increase of correspondence will produce a revenue proportionately remunerative.

In giving special attention to the extension to this Colony of the Articles of the Treaty of Washington, as far as they are applicable to Newfoundland, we trust such Legislation will ensue as shall prove beneficial.

It is a matter of congratulation to us, that the joint Address from both branches of the Legislature last year, with reference to the appointment of Magistrates, and the removal of restrictions affecting our Territorial Rights on the French Shore, has been so graciously received by Her Majesty, and is receiving due consideration from Her Majesty's Government and the French Minister.

We thank your Excellency for the promise that the Estimates will be laid before us, and we shall be pleased to readily grant Her Majesty the requisite supplies, for the effective maintenance of the Public Service.

It affords us much satisfaction to learn from your Excellency, that the extension of our Main and Local Roads has tended to the increase of agriculture, and that the future action of the Government will add to this most important branch of industry.

We are glad to learn that your Excellency has adopted means to prevent the illegal cutting of Timber on the Humber River, and hope that the Proclamation issued by your Excellency, will have the desired effect.

We note with pleasure the interest taken in our Mineral resources as evidenced by the increase in the number of licenses granted during the past year, and with your Excellency, we hope that the applicants will be successful in their operations. The condensed report of the Geological Survey, by Mr. Murray, with accompanying Map, referred to by your Excellency, will, we trust, when prepared, prove useful and interesting.

We are glad to know that the Fog Whistle will be erected at Cape Race the coming season, and hope that it will prove the means of saving life and property.

The House of Assembly are pleased to learn that the liberal provisions made by the Legislature last year for the erection of Ocean and Harbor Lights have been expended in the completion of Puffin Island Light and the partial erection of Light Houses at Rose Blanche, Belloram and Harbor Breton, and hope that the latter and those other Light Houses provided for, will be completed the coming season.

We are glad to learn from your Excellency that the special grants for the several Districts have been productive of great benefits, mainly by increasing facilities for the more successful prosecution of the fishery.

We agree with your Excellency that the immunity from crime throughout the Island is matter of sincere congratulation.

We are glad that the precautionary measures taken by the Government, and the exertions of the Health Medical Officers have, under Providence, checked the spread of that loathsome disease Small Pox.

We thank your Excellency for the promise that the Despatches from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, Documents pertaining to Steam and Postal Services, and the Correspondence, shall be laid before us.

In conclusion, we respectfully assure your Excellency that the interests of the Colony which you commit to our care, will command our earnest attention and due deliberation.

LEWIS TESSIER, Chairman. M. FENELON. ROBT. J. PARSONS.

Committee Room, House of Assembly, 10th February, 1873.

On motion of Mr. Tessier, seconded by Mr. Fenelon, Ordered that the Address be read a second time to-morrow.

Mr. Warren, pursuant to notice, asked the hon. Chairman of the Board of Works for a detailed return of patients in the Lunatic Asylum.

Hon. Chairman Board of Works.—The required information will be furnished without delay.

Mr. Warren, pursuant to notice, asked the hon. Chairman of the Board of Works for a return of the quantity and cost of stone flags, and beach stones purchased since Novr. last, &c.

Hon. Chairman Board of Works.—The required information will be furnished forthwith.

papers loosely on the table of the House, on the day on which the notices were given, and that it could only be conjectured that in a mistake the paper had been taken away and destroyed as useless, by some of the servants of the House.

Mr. Warren said the explanation given by the hon. Speaker was most improbable, and not satisfactory to him (Mr. W.)

Hon. Mr. Carter did not suppose that the Clerk of the House could, on that occasion, have acted otherwise than with his usual care and attention. The papers in question had evidently been taken by some one who had opportunities of access to the Clerk's books and papers. It was of course impossible for the Clerk of the House effectually to guard against such an occurrence, and the disappearance of all the notices of motion given on that day was very singular. The absence of these original papers might have been productive of great inconvenience and mischief.

He (hon. Mr. C.) considered that it ought to be made the imperative duty of the assistant Clerk to take charge of all such papers, and that he should be responsible for their safe keeping. He (hon. Mr. C.) knew of nothing more calculated to excite feelings of disquietude and insecurity than the occurrence of such irregularities, for they naturally gave rise to suspicions which might fall upon hon. members on either side of the House.

Mr. Emerson said it might be that on the present occasion the loss of the papers had been accidental, and he did not suppose that any one could assert that it was not so. But he (Mr. E.) could refer to former cases in which there had been gross violations of the sanctity which ought to attach to the private and personal places and conveniences for the keeping of papers.

Hon. Premier said that imputations ought not to be made against hon. members on his side of the house without being supported by proof.

Several members of the Opposition—No such charge has been made.

Hon. Premier—he hoped the officers of the House would be more careful in future.

Hon. Chairman of Board of Works said that he hoped the storm in a despot which had been raised by the Opposition upon so trifling a matter would subside, after the explanation of the hon. Speaker. It was wrong to endeavor to point suspicion to the Government side of the house, and it was not probable that such a suspicion could have any foundation, since one of the papers which had disappeared was a notice given by the hon. member Mr. McKay.

Hon. Major Renouf gave notice that, on to-morrow, he would move the appointment of a Select Committee, on the reporting and contingencies of the present session.

Hon. Attorney General gave notice that, on to-morrow, he would ask leave to introduce a bill relating to the Treaty of Washington; also, that on to-morrow he would ask leave to introduce a bill to regulate the storing of Kerosene, Camphine oils, &c.

Hon. Mr. Carter gave notice that, on to-morrow, he would ask the hon. Colonial Secretary to furnish an account, in tabular form of the amounts agreed to be paid by contract or arrangement, for steam communication, for the years of 1872 and 1873, whether Intercolonial, direct from Great Britain and United States, Labrador, Westward and Northward of this Island, together with the amount actually paid for each of these services, when and to whom paid, also the amount paid for steamers for Judges on Circuit, when and to whom paid for 1872; also the amount paid for steamers otherwise employed in these several branches of the public service, from the end of 1871 to date of return; when and to whom paid, and on what particular service; how long employed, and rate per day.

Mr. Emerson gave notice that, on to-morrow he will ask leave to introduce a bill to amend the act for the incorporation of persons for Mercantile, Manufacturing, Mining, and other purposes.

Mr. Tessier, from the Select Committee to draft an address to his Excellency the Governor in reply to the speech from the throne, presented the address, which was received and read a first time as follows:—

To His Excellency STEPHEN JOHN HILL, Esquire, C.B., Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Island of Newfoundland and its Dependencies.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,--

We, the Representatives of Her Majesty's loyal subjects, the inhabitants of Newfoundland, beg to thank your Excellency for the gracious Speech with which you have been pleased to open the present Session of the Legislature; and we hope that the season at which the Assembly has been convened, will afford ample time to its Members to bestow on the several subjects to be brought before them, the consideration and attention which their importance deserves.

In conjunction with your Excellency, we regret that the review of the Fisheries of last year does not compare favorably with those of 1871. With regard to the Cod Fishery, although proving partial in many localities, the enhanced value of its produce will, to a considerable extent, compensate for the want of success in these localities.

We deeply regret that the failure of the Seal Fishery was attended with loss of property to a large extent, as well as the melancholy sacrifice of so many valuable lives. We trust, with your Excellency, that the prosperity of recent years has enabled our people to provide for the necessities of a less successful season.

The announcement by your Excellency, that notwithstanding the partial failure of the Fisheries, our Revenue has more than answered the expectations which were formed of it during the past season, leaving the state of our exchequer in such a sound condition must be highly gratifying.

ter] of spite and envy because the conferring of the title upon him had not been made the subject of special notice. It was evident that the distinction in question was the cause of sore feelings to the hon. Chairman of the Board of Works, or he would not have made it the occasion of so uncalculated and improper an allusion. There were few who did not believe that the honour conferred upon the hon. member Mr. Carter, by Her Majesty, was well deserved, and a graceful recognition of his high political character and valuable public services. It was not only an honour to the hon. member upon whom it had been conferred, and to the hon. gentleman, not a member of this House, but reflected credit on the country to which he belonged; and it ought to be a matter of congratulation to every native of the country, instead of being subject of a coarse and offensive allusion.

The notice of a Select Committee was then put and carried, and the following hon. members were appointed to form the Committee—viz: Messrs. Tessier, Fenelon Munn, Parsons, and Emerson.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

Mr. McKay, gave notice that on to-morrow he would bring in a bill to amend the Representation act of this Colony.

Mr. Warren, gave notice that he would ask the Hon. the Acting Chairman of the Board of Works, for a return of the number of Patients in the Lunatic Asylum with names and former occupation, length of time there, fees paid by them, from whom received, and amount of same.

Also that, on to-morrow he would ask the Hon. the Acting Chairman of the Board of Works, for a return of the quantity and cost of Stone Flags and Beach Stones purchased since November last, setting forth the names of persons from whom purchased, the quantity and amount in value to each person, and also, what said materials are required for, and what amount charged.

Also that, on to-morrow he would ask the Hon. Acting Chairman of the Board of Works, for a return of the number of Light Houses, distinguishing Sea Lights or Harbor Lights, erected the past year, number in course of erection, where situated, probable time of completion, amount expended to date, details of expenditure and to whom; also names of persons appointed as Keepers to same.

Also that on to-morrow, he would ask the hon. Acting Chairman of the Board of Works, for a return of all expenditure on the Main Lines and Local Roads in this Colony, within the years 1870 and 1871, with list of expenditure for all works performed by those authorised to expend the same, with lists of workmen and inspectors, number of days employed, rates of wages, amount paid to each, and the orders drawn for same; also the reports of the various Chairmen of the Road Boards, or others employed in carrying out the work in accordance with the Road service regulation Act.

Also that on to-morrow, he would ask the hon. Acting Chairman of the Board of Works by what authority the safety fence has been removed from the public cow adjoining the premises of Messrs. J. & W. Stewart, and why no other steps for security to life have been taken by the Board of Works, to prevent those accidents by drowning which have since occurred there.

Also that on to-morrow, he would move for a Committee of Audit to examine the accounts of the Board of Works, with power to send for books, persons and papers.

Mr. Emerson gave notice that on to-morrow he would bring in a Bill to regulate the practice on the Equity side of the Supreme Court on Circuit.

Hon. Mr. Carter gave notice that on to-morrow he would ask the Acting Surveyor General to furnish a detailed Account of all Licences and Grants for Mining purposes, applied for or issued since the end of 1869, with the names of parties, localities, dates of application and issue, fees paid, and when, opposite each lot and contents, also to mark those renewals of former applications when and by whom made, and why the first applicants, or discoverers if any, did not have their applications acceded to, and if any remuneration made to them, or any, and which of them, and by whom, before Licences or Grants were issued to others.

The House then adjourned until Monday day next at four o'clock, P.M.

MONDAY, Feb. 10, 1873.

The House met at four o'clock.

Mr. Warren, before the order of the day was entered upon, begged to call the attention of the House to a matter which was not at all creditable. On the last day of sitting he (Mr. W.) had given several notices of motion. On Saturday last he had learned that all the papers on which these notices were written, had been abstracted from the possession of the Clerk of the House, by some person unknown. He (Mr. W.) considered the conduct of the person who had committed such an act as not only dishonorable but dishonest, and that every exertion should be made to discover who had been the offender. He hoped that the House would make it a matter of duty to make the most diligent enquiry into the matter.

The hon. the Speaker would inform the hon. member that he had been told that the Clerk of the House had left the