ment accomplishes the task it has set itself, we hope, from its good faith, that it will fulfil the conditions of peace. But if it should not conquer, it is necessary for us to be so strong in France that we may contemplate every contingency with composure. The French Government has not been able to make any payment for the maintenance of German troops, fixed at £36,000,000. We have been promised arrears on the 25th. I am convinced that the Government will pay if it can, but if not we shall be obliged to have recourse to requisitions in kind. A case might then arise whether we should not put an end to the state of things in France, by intervention. I have not been able to make up my mind to advise the Emperor to take this step, for we must apprehend that, by an unexpected intervention on our part, we should unite all parties in France against us, and they would be inclined to ascribe all the evils under which France is now laboring to foreign interference."

A despatch from Berlin gives some additional particulars of the treaty of peace just negotiated at Frankfort. The French are to restore all ships captured during the war or to refund their value in cases where the vessels have been sold. The Navigation Treaty of 1862 is to be maintained.

Correspondence.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We cannot undertake to return rejected communications.—In all cases in which matters of fact are involved, Correspondents must furnish us with their names and addresses—not for publication, but as a guarantee of authenticity.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE HERALD.

SIRS:—Complaints having been made at the Police Office, by some meddlesome person, about some clean scraps of paper scattered by one dealer on Queen Street, after opening goods; and other parties allowed to have dirty straw and sweepings without being molested. This shows a partiality that ought not to be tolerated by the City Authorities. It is here, I suppose, as Daniel O'Connell used to observe about the English laws: they were very good, only wrongly administered—one law for the rich man and another for the poor one. If the City Fathers would make the police do their duty by having a couple of the force parade the town from 10 o'clock, p. m., to 4 o'clock, a. m., instead of telling ghost stories at the Station Room, or sleeping the hours of night away, such a scene would not have taken place a few nights ago, by a set of rowdies, as destroying inoffensive people's property. Let us have men in the Police force that will do their duty, or that will be made do it when they are ordered; if not, the sooner the tax-payers are relieved of the Corporation force, the better for all concerned. I hope the City Fathers and the Mayor will take notice of this in time, if not, the press will hear from me again.

A GOOD LOYAL CITIZEN.

Ch'town, May 23, 1871.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

SIR:—I would ask the veracious Secretary of the Anti-Railway Meeting held at Vernon River Bridge,—why but he reported the division as stated by the Chairman at said meeting? It is a fixed rule and one that should always be attended to, that the Chairman's report, as given by him, should be considered authentic, and in this case, the Secretary's report is in direct variance with the decision given by the Chairman, who positively stated that the amendment to the Anti-Railway Resolution was lost only by a very small majority; but the *always* veracious Secretary states that it was lost by a two-third vote, and indeed it is doubtful if there was a majority at all. At all events, the credibility of the Chairman, Edward Grant, Esquire, cannot be called in question by any one at all acquainted with him—the presumption of the truthful Secretary "to the contrary notwithstanding,"—being a gentleman who is far superior to the Secretary as one person can be to another.

Yours, &c., &c,

H.

Vernon River, May 25th, 1871.

(For the Herald.)

IMPRISONMENT FOR DEBT.

MR. EDITOR:—It is an old adage and a true one that "Law is not always justice." But not only is the present Act for the imprisonment for debt an imperfect and lame one, but it is unjust and tyrannical. I can at this moment name four prisoners who are now incarcerated in the City common prison for a period of fourteen weeks or longer, for sums not exceeding five pounds currency. All these debtors offered to satisfy their creditors, on conditions that the latter would allow them to pay the claims against them, by separate instalments, to allow them time for earning the necessary money. These terms, however, the creditors will not accept, but persist in confining the debtors in the common jail to the pecuniary detriment of both themselves and those whom they have incarcerated. Some of these unfortunate debtors possess not even the value of ten shillings in personal property or in any other effects. They have therefore taken the "benefit of the Insolvent Debtors' Act," and yet the same men, after being incarcerated for fourteen days or more, and after having proven to the Commissioners that they possess no means of supporting themselves in prison, have been remanded for a period of twelve weeks, thus putting it utterly out of their power to pay their debts or to earn anything for the support of themselves or their families, and are incurring an expense on their creditors of four shillings per week. This state of things is absurd and monstrous. This is a point in Legislation and jurisprudence, or rather jurisdiction, most disgraceful to any civilized community, and the sooner it is annulled, or revised, the better for society at large. As the Act now stands, a prisoner dares not even make up an article of wearing apparel for himself in the jail, though he were approaching a state of nudity. I have seen the Jail Keeper, (who by the way is the right man in the right place,) order off a piece of homespun which a friend sent to one of the prisoners to get made up for himself in jail, and which garment he greatly stood in need of, but could not be permitted to have it made within the precincts of the jail because to do so was against the rules of that Institution. Any candid person who will take the trouble of investigating the working of the Act for the imprisonment of debt, must be convinced of its utter inadequacy to the ends of justice. It is a monstrocity of legislation, and a disgrace to our Statute Book. It is only a breeder of rancour and spite between plaintiff and defendant, and injurious to both parties, both morally and pecuniarily. A debtor who is entirely destitute of property and pecuniary means wherewith to satisfy his creditor, but who is, nevertheless, willing to liquidate all his debts so soon as he is able to possess himself of the necessary means, should not be locked up in a gloomy prison, where he can neither better his own position nor that of any other living mortal.

If, in connection with the jail, manual labor, factories, and workshops for all kinds of mechanics and tradesmen were established, to enable all prisoners to earn something to defray government outlays, or for the support of themselves and families, or for the liquidation of their debts, then imprisonment for debt might be tolerated, and would, perhaps, even be just; but the Act under the present form and working is worse than barbarous.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE HERALD.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—In order to fulfil my former promise, I now send you a few more lines on matters in general. I see that your preservering enemy at the south side of the Bay half suspects your humble servant for the eulogy I honored him with in my last, and consequently places a guard around his tongue whenever I pay him a visit—It is a happiness for me to note, that the few words of truth addressed to him in my former letter have had the effect of checkmating my wily bird—the neighbors are beginning to look with an air of distrust upon one who "like the snake doth pride himself in his distorted cunning, deeming it wisdom" to do you every injury—A couple of your former friends feel a little bitter yet, but time that adjusts all things will I trust open their eyes to the enormity of the pernicious falsehoods circulated by this notable. Your excellent letter addressed to your colleague speedily went the rounds. Friends and even enemies admit your evidence to be proof as clear as Holy Writ of his silly malice. The little slanders such as he indulged in around his own fireside among a few cronies, and the contemptible manner in which he spoke of Irishmen a few weeks ago at Dingwell's wayside Inn, where he foolishly supposed that none of the chosen few, who heard him would carry the talk abroad, are being set down at their full value, for all of which he will receive his reward in due time from the true-hearted Irish electors of this District. I see by your late issues that tenders have been called for at the Colonial Secretary's Office for the Packet. As I have heretofore made some observations with respect to the benefits to be derived from her, I now only hope that the craft that has to perform this duty will not be a freighted coffin instead of a staunch light vessel. The Coalition Government receives throughout this country both praise and censure, the former far exceeds the latter. There is a lingering doubt that a political alliance with one of a race whose name in years gone by was of an unenviable notoriety, can result with benefit to the county, and this doubt the *Patriot* fosters with a zeal worthier of a better cause. It is well for the Hon. J. C. Pope that the *Patriot* is his accuser. The avidity with which it published the foul slanders in times past, and the fact that its columns every now and then float with insults against our creed and institutions, besides its being the cesspool for all items of filth against public and private individuals, far outweighs its pretended zeal for the colony, and instead of weakening the coalition or impairing the influence of the Premier, adds to both a tower of strength. Why should J. C. Pope more than any other mortal have to bear the weight of a brother's offences? It is said in Holy Writ that the sins of the Father will be punished in his offspring unto the fourth generation, but I have yet to learn that a younger brother should or has ever been sacrificed at the Altar of public opinion for the misdeeds of the Elder, particularly when the former was the first in his place in Parliament at that stormy period to denounce the cruel and uncalled for language of the latter. Sirs, the watchful eyes of friends and foes are fastened on the present leader of the Coalition Especially since the Railway has become law.—Every turn of the political wheel is narrowly scanned, and if found unsatisfactory the fault is found with him and him alone. Suspicions "though as light as air" are founded upon the passing of that Act, that it is and must be the stepping stone to Confederation; and as if to add to them weight and confirmation the *Patriot* asserts with an air of authority that J. S. Carvell, Esq., is to be one of the Commissioners. Mr. Carvell is reported to be a man of high Commercial standing and integrity, yet unfortunately for himself he is looked upon in this Colony with no little distrust, on account of his uncompromising adherence to the cause of Confederation as evinced in his transactions, (made public some time ago) with respect to the *Examiner* newspaper. Should the report of the *Patriot* have a shadow of truth in it, and such an appointment be duly gazetted it would indeed be a disastrous day for the Coalition. The people of this County are rapidly becoming reconciled to the Government; they are willing to look upon the Premier as a politician who has the way and the will to work for the advancement of this his native Colony. They believe that the bitter lessons of his former career are deeply engraved "on the Tablets of his memory" and that they will be useful for the future in piloting him clear of the Political shoals which were fatal in the past—they feel equally assured that he is well aware by tampering with Confederation until the people are willing to take up the question of their own accord, is in effect digging his own political grave. The papers in their reports of his speeches make him say, that the execution of the great Public Work (viz: the Railway) will be carried on with the strictest economy compatible with so gigantic an undertaking, and consistent with good material and workmanship, that it implies not a wedge, as rumored, to forward Confederation, or yet heavy taxation; but on the contrary, that the country at large will from its increasing prosperity scarcely feel the additional 2½ per cent tariff. There are two courses open to the Hon. J. C. Pope; the first, by acting in an honorable manner in the construction of a railroad as reported above, irrespective of family compactism or Confederate favoritism; the other course, is simply acting the traitor; the hon. Premier knows the wages of both.

I intended to close these few remarks at this point, but having seen the *Patriot* of the 18th inst., containing a letter signed *Resident*, I must crave Messrs. Editors a further indulgence in order to reply. Before commenting on the letter, I must here remark that a *Resident* confines himself principally to the abuse of Mr. Reilly. Your humble servant is almost wholly ignored, and upon the serious charges I preferred against him in my last, viz: wilful and malicious slander, he is totally silent. Of his guilt then upon this point you can have no doubt. Truly *Resident* verifies the Italian Proverb "*Chi tace Confessa.*"

[WE take the liberty to divide P. McP's. letter into halves. The remainder will appear in next week's paper. We trust our correspondent will excuse us.—EDS. HERALD.]

NEW NAME FOR A SETTLEMENT.

A meeting was convened at Bull Creek, on Monday, the 22nd inst., for the purpose of ascertaining a new name for said place, and organized by voting Capt. John MacKenzie to the Chair, and appointing the undersigned as Secretary.

Moved by John McAulay and seconded by Neil McPhee.

Resolved, That that this meeting is of opinion and deem it necessary that said place, viz: from Glencorodale Road, East to James McAulay's, be known in future as "Springville."

A vote of thanks was given to the Chairman for his impartial conduct in the Chair.

JAMES McAULAY, Sec'y.

May 22, 1871.

The Herald.

Wednesday, May 31, 1871.

☞ *The circulation of the* HERALD *amounts, at the present time, to a weekly average of* 1,400 *copies. We beg to call the attention of merchants and others to this fact. An excellent medium is here available, for their Advertisements, and Business notices.*

DURING the current Session of the British Parliament, a report on the state of Education, in the Island of Trinidad, was laid before both Houses. It was drawn up by Mr. P. J. Keenan, Chief Inspector under the Irish national system of Education. That gentleman, accompanied by two others, was sent in 1869 to that distant settlement, in order to collect reliable information as to the working of the secular system of Education. No better field, for the investigation of this modern invention, could possibly be selected than that offered by Trinidad.—It had been twenty years in operation, and its effects could be readily perceived—it had had every advantage accorded to it which a system could need, in order to develop whatever merits it might possess. Therefore, it is, that this report upon the secular school system of Trinidad, has every claim to be considered an embodiment of the legitimate consequences of that system. Let us briefly glance at a few of them—they will be found instructive.

Trinidad, in area and population, closely approaches Prince Edward Island. In 1851, the date at which Lord Harris, then Governor, established the godless schools, there were on the Island 43,000 Catholics; 20,000 Protestants, and 5,500 Heathens, Mahomedans, &c. By the new system, all religious instruction was forbidden in the schools. Parents and pastors were to discharge that duty at any time and place—but never in the school. This, it will be observed, is pretty much what our own law allows and disallows. The Catholic clergy, says Mr. Keenan, were the determined enemies of the system. The leading members of the Catholic laity, supported their priests. "They pronounced the plan to be vicious in principle and baneful in result." The Protestant clergy were divided in opinion, some energetically stigmatized the system, others enthusiastically praised it. The Protestant laity were almost unanimous in their approval. But, adds Mr. Keenan, "few of those with whom I came in contact, had the faintest idea of the real condition of the ward schools." All this very much resembles our own present history. Thus are we divided in opinion, thus too, men among us speak commendingly of a system of whose results they are profoundly ignorant.

Coming next to the condition of religious knowledge among the people, after twenty years of secular teaching, we find the following deplorable picture:—"Most of the pupils, who could say their prayers very well, scarcely understood a single word of what they said. In fact some grown-up pupils, both Catholic and Protestant, who could read and write, said their prayers more like parrots than Christians; and when asked who is our Saviour? Could not give a proper answer. Some said He was Moses, others St. Peter, others Adam—and some even affirmed that He was Eve. Much less could they say why our Saviour came down to earth. This ignorance comes from their having learned their prayers from their parents, who either through knowing no better, or through total neglect, never explain to their children the meaning of the prayers they teach them, and never instruct them in any of the mysteries or truths of religion." The condition of the people is briefly summed up thus:—Chastity is in dishonor, knowledge is stagnant, and the simplest truths of the Christian faith are but dimly understood. Falsehood, theft, and the darker forms of concubinage are rife in Trinidad. Out of 672 children, born in one ward, 540 were illegitimate. Of 36 born in another, only one was legitimate. To these terrible facts, Mr. Keenen adds:—"Can it be a matter of surprise, that under a system of education which relegates the religious training altogether to the parents, to such parents as I have been describing, the results are as disheartening as I have found them?" The answer to the question is to us plain. Not only is it no matter of surprise that things, are as reported in Trinidad—but it is truly wonderful to find a vestige of morality and christianity left, after twenty years sway of secular education. If, after the same length of experience, Prince Edward Island can show a morality no lower, and a christianity no less impaired than in Trinidad, the Colony may rest contented. For it is in vain to flatter ourselves that we *may* escape the consequences of this secular school system. We have planted, tilled and fostered the tree—there need be no doubt, the fruit mellow and gushing, as that of Trinidad, will be gathered in due season.

With respect to the school houses, Mr. Keenan's report says:—"There is a complete indifference exhibited to neatness, to comfort, to health and decency. In some of them life is in danger; the wood under your feet is rotten; decay has seized the walls; the atmosphere is pestilential and the odors sickening and intolerable." Here we might ask the learned Members of our Board of Education to bear us out in our assertion, that some of the Government schools in this city have already arrived at an equality with the schools of Trinidad. We understand that our school Board has had laid before it a Report, from one of its Visitors, embracing every Educational establishment in the city. This report, if published, would, we are told, show that with the exception of the Prince of Wales College and the Normal School, there is not a Government school in the city, that is not from one cause or other unfitted for teaching purposes. Some are deficient in teaching apparatus; others are ill ventilated, and dangerous to health. On the other hand, the Denominational institutions are nearly all that could be desired; clean, well ventilated, well taught, and furnished with every appliance. Further, we would learn from that report, that about two hundred more children are in attendance at these denominational schools, than at the Government secular schools. All these things are set forth in this report, which the Board unaccountably delays to publish. We do not pretend to assign a cause for the delay, but it is open to a suspicion which is not creditable to certain functionaries of the Board, and which the speedy appearance of the report itself will alone dissipate. Is it, may we ask, intended to levy from the rate payers in Charlottetown, the same taxes for school purposes as were levied before these denominational schools sprang up? The Government schools educate less by two hundred than the other schools of the city. What becomes of the money so saved? If the majority of the parents in Charlottetown withdraw their children from the obvious dangers of a secular system of Education, and send them to denominational establishments, are they still to be compelled to pay the school tax? If so, we should much like to know what principle of political economy justifies the measure.

THE Summerside *Progress*, in its anti-railroad zeal, gives some queer information to its readers. In its issue of the 22nd, it asserts, in quite an oracular way, that the "Railway Ring," which is, we presume, the *Progress's* complimentary designation of the Government, never intended to build branch lines to Souris and Tignish. When the trunk-line is built, saith the man of *Progress*, "Souris, St. Peter's and Tignish, may clamor in vain for the promised branches;" and, further.—"it will be discovered one of these days, that Malpeque, New London, Cavendish, Rustico, and a dozen other places besides, have as good a right to branches as Souris, Tignish and St. Peter's, and they will, no doubt, object to being taxed for the exclusive benefit of those localities." If our contemporary is to be believed, the Government must be the greatest set of rascals that ever went unhanged; for they not only deceived the King's and Prince County members who supported the railway movement, by the most solemn promises of the extension of branches to St. Peter's, Souris and Tignish, but even went so far as to have those promises embodied in the railway bill, of which they now form part and parcel. Our friend would have us believe that the Act, in so far as it relates to the branches, and their completion within five years, is a fiction—possibly a pleasant one to him; but we can assure him it would prove a fatal one to the Government. Their tenure of office would not be worth a straw twenty-four hours after the Legislature met, if the King's County members found themselves attempted to be duped in the way hinted at by the *Progress*. They have both the power and the will to enforce the strict carrying out of the provisions of the Railway Act, both as regards the trunk-line and the branches. From our experience of the Government, we have found them honorable men, so far, in every sense of the word, and we have no such grovelling suspicion that they would act the deceptive part attributed to them by the *Progress*, even if they had the power to do so. By pursuing, in the future, the same straightforward and honorable course which has marked their administration up to the present time, they can have the Government of this country in their hands as long as they like, in spite of all the opposition of an unscrupulous press. We have every confidence that they will; and we would therefore advise our troubled friend to exercise his soul in patience, leaving to the Government and their parliamentary supporters, the task of looking after the railway from Tignish to Souris. However troublesome or disagreeable, therefore, the task may be in figuring up the losses of the railway, we would advise him to follow the example of his *confrere* in the city, and base all his calculations upon that length of road. We had no idea that he was so unjust and dishonest as to deny to King's County her *right* to the branch to St. Peter's and Souris. Queen's and Prince Counties will have, in the Trunk line, not to speak of branches at all, more than the lion's share of the railway in extent of miles, and it will be quite time enough for either of those counties to clamor for branches, when King's County has had ordinary justice done to her in the completion of the road to Souris, as provided for in the Bill. The insolence of the *Progress* in asserting that "dozens of places" in Queen's and Prince Counties have as good right to branches as Souris, Tignish and St. Peter's," is only equalled by its meanness in its appeal to the local prejudices of the people of Malpeque, New London, Cavendish and Rustico. The trunk-line will give King's County only twenty miles of railroad. How, then, can the people of the other two Counties be truthfully or honestly said to be possessed of as good a right to branches as those of King's? No candid person would hazard such an assertion. We would be very sorry to see the "exclusive" principle propounded by the *Progress*, put in practice in connection with the railway; but if the people of Malpeque, New London, Cavendish and Rustico, are going to unite in defrauding King's County out of what is properly her due, they will find that the people of that County will unite as one man to prevent any Government or Party from attempting to carry out so dishonest a policy. They are determined to have their rights, and will have them. They are satisfied to be taxed for the "exclusive" benefit of the people of Queen's and Prince Counties; the people of Queen's and Prince Counties will have to be satisfied to be taxed for the "exclusive" benefit of the people of King's; and, by all being equally taxed and receiving their just share of the railroad, "exclusiveness" will be done away with, and the general good promoted.

THE FISHERIES.

THE United States Senate has been much excited over the clandestine manner in which the Washington Treaty was obtained by the New York press, and prematurely published. It is likely to be still further aggravated by the publication of the Minutes of the Commission, which are much more secret than the Treaty, and never intended for publication. The New York *Herald* has managed to get hold of them, and they are now published all over the American continent. We quote those parts of the Minutes which refer to the Fisheries, feeling assured that they will be read with interest by our subscribers:—

"In articles 18 to 25, at the conference on the 9th of March, the British Commissioners stated that they were prepared to discuss the question of the fisheries, either in detail or generally, so as either to enter into an examination of the respective rights of the two countries under the Treaty of 1818, and the general law of nations, or to approach at once the settlement of the question on a comprehensive basis.

"The American Commissioners said that, with the view of avoiding the discussion of matters which subsequent negotiation might render it unnecessary to enter into, they thought it would be preferable to adopt the latter course, and inquire what in that case would be the basis which the British Commissioners desired to propose.

"The British Commissioners replied that they considered that the Reciprocity Treaty of June 5, 1854, should be restored in principle.

"The American Commissioners declined to assent to a renewal of the former Reciprocity Treaty.

"The British Commissioners then suggested, if any considerable modification were made in the tariff arrangement of that treaty, the coasting trade of the United States and Her Brittanic Majesty's possessions in North America should be reciprocally thrown open, and that the navigation of the river Saint Lawrence and of the Canadian canals, should be also thrown open to the citizens of the United States, on terms of equality with British subjects.

"The American Commissioners declined this proposal, and objected to a negotiation on the basis of the Reciprocity Treaty.—They said that that treaty had proved unsatisfactory to the people of the United States, and consequently had been terminated by notice from the Government of the United States, in pursuance of its provisions. Its renewal was not in their interest, and would not be in accordance with the sentiments of their people. They further said that they were not at liberty to treat of the opening of the coasting trade of the United States to the subjects of Her Majesty residing in North America.

"It was agreed that the question relating to navigation of the river St. Lawrence and of Canadian Canals, and to other commercial questions affecting Canada, should be treated by themselves. The subject of the fisheries was further discussed at the conference on the 17th, 20th, 22d and 25th of March. The American Commissioners stated that if a value of the inshore fisheries could be ascertained, the United States might prefer to purchase for a sum of money the right to enjoy in perpetuity the use of these inshore fisheries, in common with British fishermen, and mentioned one million dollars as the sum they were prepared to offer.

"The British Commissioners replied that this offer was, they thought, wholly inadequate, and that no arrangement would be acceptable, of which the admission into the United States free of duty, of fish, the produce of the British fisheries did not form a part, adding that any arrangement for the acquisition by purchase of the inshore fisheries in perpetuity, was open to grave objections.

"The American Commissioners inquired whether it would be necessary to refer any arrangement for purchase to the colonial or provincial Parliament.

"The British Commissioners explained that the fisheries, within the limits of maritime jurisdiction, were the property of the several British Colonies, and that it would be necessary to refer any arrangement which might affect colonial property or rights, to the colonial or provincial Parliaments, and that legislation would also be required on the part of the imperial Parliament. During these discussions the British Commissioners contended that these inshore fisheries were of great value, and that the most satisfactory arrangement for their use would be a reciprocal tariff arrangement and reciprocity in the coasting trade, and the American Commissioners replied that their value was over-estimated; that the United States desired to secure their enjoyment, not for their commercial or intrinsic value, but for the purpose of removing a source of irritation, and that they could hold out no hope that the Congress of the United States would give its assent to such a tariff arrangement as was proposed, or to any extended plan of reciprocal free admission of the products of the two countries; but that in smuch as one branch of Congress had recently more than once expressed itself in favor of the abolition of duties on coal and salt, they would propose that coal, salt and fish be reciprocally admitted free, and that inasmuch as Congress had removed the duty from a portion of the lumber heretofore subject to duty, and the tendency of the legislation in the United States was towards the reduction of the public debt and expenses, they would further propose that timber be admitted free from duty, from and after the 1st of July, 1874, subject to the approval of Congress, which was necessary on questions affecting important duties.

"The British Commissioners at the conference on the 17th of April, stated that they had referred this offer to their government, and were instructed to inform the American Commissioners that it was regarded as inadequate, and that Her Majesty's Government considered that free lumber trade should be granted at once, and that the proposed tariff concessions should be supplemented by a money payment.

"The American Commissioners then stated that they withdrew the proposal which had previously been made of the reciprocal free admission of coal, salt and fish, and of lumber, after July 1, 1874; that that proposal had been made entirely in the interest of peaceful settlement, and for the purpose of removing a source of irritation and anxiety; that its value had been beyond the commercial or intrinsic value of the rights to have been acquired in return, and that they could not consent to an arrangement on the basis now proposed by the British Commissioners, and they renewed their proposal to pay a money equivalent for the use of the inshore fisheries. They further proposed that in case the two governments should not be able to agree upon the sum to be paid as such an equivalent, the matter should be referred to an impartial commission for determination.

"The British Commissioners replied that this proposal was one on which they had no instructions, and that it would not be possible for them to come to any arrangement, except one for a term of years, and involving the concession of free fish and fish oil, by the American Commissioners; but that if free fish and fish oil were conceded they would inquire of their government whether they were prepared to assent to a reference to arbitration as to money payment.

"The American Commissioners replied that they were willing, subject to the action of Congress, to concede free fish and fish oil as an equivalent for the use of the inshore fisheries, and to make the arrangement for a term of years; that they were of opinion that free fish and fish oil would be more than an equivalent for these fisheries, but that they were also willing to agree to a reference to determine that question, and the amount of any money payment that might be found necessary to complete an equivalent, it being understood that legislation would be needed before legislation would be made.

"The subject was further discussed in the conference of April 18 and 19, and the British Commissioners, having referred the last proposal to their government, and received instructions to accept it, the treaty articles 18 to 25" were agreed to at the Conference on the 22d of April.

"Articles 26 to 33.—At the Conference on 7th March, the British Commissioners proposed that the reciprocity treaty of June 5, 1854, should be restored in principle, and that if any considerable modifications in the tariff arrangements in force under it, were made, the coasting trade of the United States and her Britannic Majesty's possessions in North America should be reciprocally thrown open, and that the navigation of the river St. Lawrence and of the Canadian canals should be thrown open to the citizens of the United States on terms of equality with British subjects.

"The American Commissioners declined this proposal, and in the subsequent negotiations the question of the fisheries was treated by itself, and settled as above."

The articles above referred to—18 to 25, both inclusive—relate to the Fisheries, and will be found on the fourth page of to-day's HERALD.

THE *Patriot* seems anxious for the Hon. Mr. Duncan to accept the Railroad Commissionership, so that Mr. David Laird may have a chance of contesting the Belfast District against him. By all means, give David another chance for a defeat, we say. Evidently, he has not been brought to his senses yet. He requires another crushing rejection to teach him that he is much better employed in watching over the interests of the *Patriot*, than in legislating for the people in the House of Assembly. The citizens will give him his *quietus* at the next civic election. Belfast will do the same if he pokes his nose there in the capacity of a candidate. And no wonder. How can any people have confidence in a man who is one day coquetting with the Catholics, offering them almost anything they choose to ask, if they only put him and his friends in power and office, and the next, abusing them, their clergymen and their institutions, and striving to bring about "coalitions" to proscribe them? Should there be an election in Belfast, which, bye the bye, is extremely doubtful, we would advise David to stay at home, and not make a goat of himself, meandering about the country, attempting to delude intelligent people with the idea, that in the event of his success, or that of his substitute, the Government would be broken up and the railway stopped. This is the burden of an editorial article in Saturday's *Patriot*, anticipating Mr. Duncan's acceptance of office, and constitutes all David's political stock-in-a-trade and statesmanship. Poor fellow! His friends ought to look after him in time.

WE beg to state that the figures given by the *Examiner* last week, as Mr. Boyd's estimate of the cost of the railway, were not the result of any investigations made by him since his arrival in Charlottetown. They were part of an estimate, roughly made by Mr. Boyd, from his recollections of the physical aspect of the Island and the nature of its soil, and sent in by him to the Government, last winter. From the manner in which the *Examiner* put forth the statement, we were led into the error that it was an authoritative, official estimate, published for the information of the people. The *Patriot* of Thursday seeks to make political capital out of the mare's nest. When Mr. Boyd's specifications and survey shall have been completed, an official estimate of the cost of the railway will doubtlessly be given to the public, and until then, it would be just as well for the press to be guarded in publishing non-official statements. The local papers are altogether too reckless in their dablings in figures. In their desire to give their readers early news, they often lead them astray and do much mischief—as the *Patriot* did by its incorrect abstract of the census, which found its way into some of the Island as well as Colonial papers as a true return of the various religious denominations. We hope there will be an amendment in this direction for the future. The *Examiner's* figures, whether intentional or not, are as mischievous as the *Islander's*, on the railway debentures. There are sharp eyes on all these extraordinary figurings.

OUT of all the tenders called for, by the Government, for packets to ply between the Outports and the Capital of the Colony, we learn that only one,—namely, for the route between Cascumpec, Charlottetown and Shediac—has been sent in. This is strange, considering the handsome subsidies granted by the Government for the service. Is there no person in King's County able or willing to take the contract to run a schr. between St. Peter's Bay and Charlottetown? We believe there is a chance to make money in the service, even without the Government bounty.

MR. LAIRD stated at the Vernon River Bridge meeting, that he was offered £300 to advocate the railway in the columns of the *Patriot*. He was asked—who made him the offer? But failed to give the name. Every body is now asking—who is the fool that made Laird so ridiculous an offer? And they are equally left in the dark. Laird is as silent as the grave—and people begin to believe, what they suspected all along, that the story of unsuccessful bribery is one of his characteristic "whoppers." The man is not to be believed in a matter of minor importance, and unless he gives the name of the would-be briber, he will be universally set down as an unprincipled manufacturer of *fibs*. Come, Mr. Laird, out with the name, if not a myth.

M. Norbert Lussier, for many years one of the proprietors of the *Moniteur Acadien*, in retiring from his position, addresses in the issue of 17th May, a grateful farewell to his readers. His concluding remarks are:—"May the infamous School Bill, which has just passed through the House, obstruct as little as possible the progress of the Acadian race; and despite all that the enemies of our religion do to drive religious instruction from your schools, be firm, demand of your school-masters to teach it, and ever preserve the beautiful and noble French language which your forefathers bequeathed to you along with your faith."

Two of the New York *Tribune's* correspondents have been arrested by order of the Senate, for their surreptitious obtainment and premature publication of the Washington Treaty. What should be done to the editor of the *Patriot* for giving to the public a garbled and unreliable abstract of the census, also surreptitiously obtained? This mean sort of pimping and pilfering on the part of the press should be punishable in all countries.

THE Legislature, last Session, having empowered the Government to bore the sandstone stratum of this Island, with the view of discovering oil or minerals, Prof. Dawson, of McGill College, has been corresponded with on the subject, and, we are pleased to learn, his services obtained to make the preliminary surveys. The money spent in the survey will be well expended, especially if it leads to the discovery of coal-beds within a workable distance from the surface of the earth. Prof. Dawson is expected here the first week in July. He will be glad to receive any geological information concerning the Island which it may be in the power of any of the colonists to give him.

THE Halifax *Express* says:—"All the avowed Annexationists—Kidston, Brown, Dickie, Dr. Murray, Chambers and Ryerson—got the 'go-by' at the recent elections." To use a common expression, we say "the duck mend them." We have no sympathy with that tribe.

"With its usual taste for small things, the HERALD wants to make out that we made the Catholics less by 500 than they really are, and increased the Presbyterians by several hundreds." Thus wrote the *Patriot* on Saturday last. If the question at issue be small, it is only a sample of the petty devices we are obliged to take notice of in our contemporary. He is constantly perpetrating mean acts, and he should remember that we do not take his honesty at his own estimate. We have excellent reasons for this. Here is one of them: Last Saturday, the *Patriot* wrote respecting the "proscription and exclusion" of Catholics from office, that "no *sane man* in the Opposition desires or intends anything of the kind." Now, is not the *Patriot* in opposition, and do not the writers in that sheet set up pretensions to being sane? How came they, then, when the Haythorne Administration was shattered, and the basis of a new Ministry was in course of construction, to write that Catholics would receive, in event of a strong Protestant Government being formed, their civil rights and nothing more? Did not the *Patriot* then call upon all Protestants to rally and form a strong Government? Was the *Patriot* at that time *insane*, and has adversity taught it wisdom? We would like enlightenment on this point, and in the *Patriot's* present light-dispensing humor, we have no doubt he will attend to us.

☞ THE third editorial article on the Fisheries is crowded out this week. In the meantime, we would advise our subscribers to read the minutes of the Commission, published in to-day's paper, wherein the Americans offered one million of dollars for ten years access to the fisheries, but which were refused by the British Commissioners as altogether inadequate. This shows the value in which both parties hold our fisheries. In this connection, we must express our surprise at the information telegraphed from Ottawa, that there is to be no special session of the Dominion Parliament to consider the Washington Treaty. The intelligence can hardly be true, seeing that the Treaty has been ratified by the Senate of the United States, has been set down for an early reading by the British House of Commons, and is undoubtedly expected to go into operation this season. Is Canada attempting to sell the Maritime Provinces? Let us hope that the Government of Prince Edward Island is not napping on this important subject. The minutes published in to-day's paper show that great power is placed in the hands of our local rulers, and fully corroborate our view, that the inshore fisheries belong exclusively to the colonists. Governor Robinson's advisers will, therefore, be held strictly accountable before the bar of Colonial public opinion, for the manner in which they exercise that power, and particularly before the bar of public opinion in this Island, which has now a chance of making such a bargain as may never again be within her reach.

ON Sunday last, the Feast of Pentecost, His Lordship the Right Rev. P. McIntyre, Bishop of Charlottetown, administered the Sacrament of Confirmation, in St. Dunstan's Cathedral, here, to 362 postulants. The spectacle which the ceremony afforded was grand and imposing. To the eye of the beholder, the universality of the church was represented as it were in miniature. English, Scotch, Irish, French, Aborigines, Africans, all were there mingling around their common altar, and soliciting the graces to make them strong and perfect Christians. His Lordship was assisted by the Very Rev. D. McDonald, V. G., and the Rev. Father Brophy. The Rev. Father Lafflont, St. Dunstan's, delivered an eloquent discourse on the Festival of the day.

WEDNESDAY, the 24th, was duly observed in Charlottetown, in honor of Her Majesty's birthday. There was more than the usual display of bunting from public and private buildings. A royal salute was fired at 12 o'clock from St. George's battery, and at half-past 12, His Honor the Lieut. Governor, held a Levee at Government House, which was pretty well attended. The merchants closed up their shops in the afternoon, and the citizens generally took half a holiday. The public offices were all closed during the day. In the evening, many invited guests—ladies and gentlemen—partook of the hospitalities of Government House, and a goodly number of citizens and their families flocked to the Market Hall, to participate in the Tea and Musical and Literary Entertainment provided by the Sons of Temperance.

SATISFACTORY.—The location of the railway line, will, in a great measure, be left to the Members of the Legislature, who supported the measure—each County having the line located by its own Members. The Government Engineer will afterwards come as near to their directions as it will be possible for him to do. This plan will, we conceive, give general satisfaction to the country, more so, at all events, than if the locating of the line were altogether left in the hands of the Government and their engineer.

FIRE.—On Monday, the 22d ult., the premises of Mr. Thomas Cullen, Baldwin's Road, was destroyed by fire—supposed to have originated from the chimney. Every assistance possible, rendered by his kind neighbors, who willingly hastened to the burning scene, was unable to check the flames. In less than a half an hour, the premises, furniture, clothing, potatoes, seed oats, &c., were reduced to a pile of ashes,—leaving poor Cullen a destitute man.

Some unknown person or persons honored our friend Fletcher, of the *Argus*, on Friday night last, by depositing outside of his door, a healthy male child, about twelve or fourteen months old, very carefully wrapped up. As our contemporary has favors enough of this kind of his own, he sought the assistance of the City Fathers for the stranger. It appears that the little stranger was an illegitimate child of a Miss Hannah McKinnon, of Rocky Point, who, as soon as the £35 which her seducer was compelled to pay, was expended, finding herself unable to support the child any longer, disposed of it in the manner above described.

On Tuesday, the 16th inst., a large fire took place at T. Wharf. Boston, destroying property to the value of over $20,000. The steamer *Commerce*, lying at the wharf, took fire and had to be towed away by a tug to save her. She was damaged to the extent of $500. A quantity of cargo and passengers' luggage, from Halifax and Prince Edward Island, which had been discharged from the steamer, was destroyed. Some Charlottetown merchants lost some hundreds of dollars worth of goods by this fire.

CHARACTERISTIC.—The *Patriot* of Saturday last gives the following piece of intelligence to its readers:—

"The Levee on Wednesday was the smallest here for a quarter of a century. His Excellency and Mrs. Robinson must not suppose that this is attributable to any fault of theirs. It is rather an evidence of the unpopularity of the Government, and nothing more." Comment is unnecessary.